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JENIN DISASTER 'A THREAT TO MUSLIM, ARAB IDENTITY' **Kuwait licenses charities to rush aid**



Mourners carry the bodies of Palestinian men draped in the flags of the Islamic Jihad militant group during their funeral, in the Jenin refugee camp, West Bank, Wednesday, July 5, 2023. The Israeli military says it withdrew its troops from the camp on Wednesday, ending an intense two-day operation that killed at least 13 Palestinians, drove thousands of people from their homes and left a wide swath of damage in its wake. One Israeli soldier was also killed. (AP)

Opinion

Your Highness, the Prime Minister... These are the issues that you should not overlook

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

ISSUES do not stagnate like commodities, but they turn with time into a crisis that cannot be resolved. They continue to disturb countries, and people become easy prey for anyone who trade in their affairs.

Unfortunately, this is what our governments failed to realize because they were originally built on an unsound basis, considering the executive authority to be "know it all", and anything other than that are statements that people should not take into account.

This theory is wrong and leads to destruction. If the behavior of the current government does not change, it will be like its predecessors, and will end up clashing with the greedy legislative authority to swallow everything, because the interests of the parliamentarians overshadow other aspects.

Therefore, in order for the government not to lose the people, it must carefully consider their demands, examine the causes of the crises, and uproot them from their

The first of these files is the Bedoun issue. The number of Bedoun residents did not exceed ten thousand in the past but they have become about 120 thousand today. After five or ten years, they will become 200 thousand.

Unfortunately, the state has never benefited from them, because some people see with a blunt eye and approach matters contrary to logic.

In some countries, citizenship is granted to those who buy real estate. Some others grant it because of their small population, as is the case in Germany, which brings in labor from other countries around the world, grants them full rights, and works to integrate them into

So here we ask - Why is it that a Kuwaiti woman who is married to a non-Kuwaiti does not qualify to grant her children nationality, especially if her husband is dead or has gone to his country? They should at least be given a "fullfat" passport so that they can find livelihood elsewhere. Retaining the situation as it is only means one thing, which is to increase resentment, generate crises, and put pressure on these people until they become resentful.

Some time ago, we said that there is no problem without a solution, and that the intelligent must realize the losses in order to avoid them. However, it seems there are no ears to listen.

There is also the issue of loans, which the deep state seems to be seeking to exaggerate, as well as the file of undetermined nationalities and investment in them.

While all Gulf countries have resolved the debt crisis of their peoples, Kuwait continues to stand still. In fact, it increases the complexity of the problem, although the solution is easy, as the government can drop interest rates, reschedule the debt, or use zakat funds to pay off debtors, especially for those who are in prisons as a result of their inability to pay back. There are international companies that buy debts, and deal with them in their own way, with the guarantee of the state.

The other issue is the prisoners of conscience and the convicts who fled the country because of their posts on Twitter. Because of some words, they were sentenced to 10 or 20 years, some even 60 years, in prison. Such harsh sentences remain a stain on the forehead of Kuwait, the country of tolerance.

Why not issue a general amnesty for them and amend the cybercrime law in order to end this crisis that has been ongoing for

If the government has the desire, it can solve these problems through decisions that are implemented instead of being ink on paper for smokescreen.

However, if it wants to exacerbate the problems and complicate the outstanding issues, then it will not do anything, and Kuwait will remain stagnant until the time

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downing case

a Ukrainian passenger jet and the deaths of all 176 passengers and

to apologize and pay compensa-

from Tehran to Kyiv on Jan. 8, after takeoff. The people killed included nationals and residents of Canada, Sweden, Ukraine and Afghanistan and Iran. Their ages ranged from 1 year to 74 years

Tehran faces

THE HAGUE, July 5, (AP): The United Kingdom, Canada, Sweden and Ukraine have launched a case against Iran at the United Nations' highest court Wednesday over the downing in 2020 of

The four countries want the International Court of Justice to rule that Iran illegally shot down the Ukraine International Airlines plane and to order Tehran

tion to the families of the victims. Flight PS752 was traveling 2020 when it was shot down soon the United Kingdom, as well as

"Today's legal action reflects our unwavering commitment to achieving transparency, justice and accountability for the families of the victims," the countries said in a joint statement Wednesday. They said they filed the case after Iran failed to respond to a December request for arbitration.

Newswatch

RIYADH: The natural resources of the offshore divided area, where Durra field lies, are fully owned by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the State of Kuwait, affirmed a Saudi Foreign Ministry source on Tuesday.

Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have exclusive sovereign rights to use the resources of this area, the source told the Saudi Press Agency on condition of anonymity. The source renewed calls to the Iranian side to start negotiations with the Saudi Kingdom and Kuwait as one party over the demarcation of the eastern border of the divided offshore area according to the international law. (KUNA)

KUWAIT CITY: The Constitutional Court on Wednesday declared that it delayed cross-examination into appeals against the National Assembly elections (Umma 2023) until July 23

The tribunal said in its rule that it had taken the decision to examine the case, prepare for replies and hearing. The court will address nine appeals.

The court had set July 5 as the date for examining the appeals. (KUNA)

GENEVA: The State of Kuwait delegate at the United Nations and International Organizations in Geneva, Ambassador Nasser Al-Hain, affirmed that Kuwait had hurriedly confronted, in the United Nations Human Rights Council, latest crime of burning the Holy Quran.

Ambassador Al-Hain, in a statement to KUNA, said the State of Kuwait has also supported a draft resolution, submitted to the UNHRC, to confront the phenomenon of burning the Quran, in line with human rights mechanisms that prohibit hatred rhetoric, namely blasphemy targeting religious sanctities.

This draft resolution is backed by the Arab and Islamic Groups at the UNHRC that unanimously agreed on

Rescue workers carry the body of a victim of a Ukrainian plane crash

in Shahedshahr, southwest of the capital Tehran, Iran, on Jan. 8,

2020. The United Kingdom, Canada, Sweden and Ukraine launched

a case against Iran at the United Nations' highest court Wednesday, July 5, 2023, over the downing in 2020 of a Ukrainian passenger jet and the deaths of all 176 passengers and crew. (AP)

standing firmly against such acts that contravene all principles, criteria and logic. (KUNA)

KUWAIT CITY: The State of **Kuwait** on Wednesday applauded the agreement between **Egypt** and **Turkiye** to raise diplomatic relations to the am-

bassadorial level. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed in a statement the State of Kuwait's support for the accord that would contribute to boosting dialogue, cooperation, relations of friendship and joint interests between the two countries. (KUNA)

DUBAl: Iran tried to seize two oil tankers near the strategic Strait of Hormuz early Wednesday, firing shots at

one of them, the US Navy said It said that in both cases, the Iranian naval vessels backed off after the US

Navy responded, and that both commercial ships continued their voyages. "The Iranian navy did make attempts to seize commercial tankers lawfully

transiting international waters," said Cmdr. Tim Hawkins, spokesman for the U.S. Navy's Fifth Fleet. "The U.S. Navy responded immediately and prevented those seizures." (AP)

LONDON: The United Kingdom and **Iraq** have agreed to stregthen their bilateral relations affirming joint commitment to work together for shared regional and global interests, the Foreign Office declared in a freshly released statement.

It said the agreement came during the second Strategic Dialogue (held July 3-4), comprising senior officials from the two countries, namely the Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein and James Cleverly, UK Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs. (KUNA)

THERE must be a solution to the 'Bedoun' crisis. The story of student Narges is a good example of the suffering that these people are subjected to, and whoever has the power to decide should look at the story of this girl as an example.

Day by Day

She topped in the exams and despite that, she is prevented from studying medicine because she is 'Bedoun'. Don't we take into account Kuwait's image in front of the world?

Narges will become a doctor one day and perhaps she will treat one of the sons of those who are put obstacles in the solution to the bedoun issue. We say the time is running

... Yet tomorrow is another

Zahed Matar

Israel ends West Bank raid

KUWAIT CITY, July 5, (Agencies): The Ministry of Social Affairs has agreed to grant licenses to charities in Kuwait, to send urgent relief and essential needs for the residents of the Jenin camp in Palestine, which was subjected to a military campaign by the Israeli occupation forces that left many dead and wounded, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Some charities have announced the launch of urgent campaigns to support the people of the camp, who are suffering from a stifling humanitarian crisis, where thousands of refugees live in difficult and inhumane condi-

The Balad Al-Khair Association indicated that its campaign aims to provide the needs for the camp residents, in light of the lack of clean water and safe sanitation facilities, the lack of food and medicine, and the lack of basic and educational

The camp is now facing a brutal military campaign by the occupation forces, and the charity campaigns are seeking to provide the necessary support to meet the needs of the camp residents to meet the daily needs of the people living there. Al-Safa Charitable Association also announced

an urgent aid to Palestine to provide urgent medical assistance, aid, food parcels, and medicinal materials, and to equip field hospitals to treat the injured and those interested can donate to the

Meanhwhile, Kuwait on Tuesday reaffirmed its rejection to "blatant" escalation and repeated attacks of the Israeli occupation forces against Palestinian people in Jenin city.

Violations

Speaking during an emergency meeting of the Arab League, Kuwait's permanent representative to the bloc Ambassador Ghanim Al-Ghanim said "those attacks form a new series of repeated violations of international humanitarian law and

"We are observing now a disaster which poses a threat to the Muslim and Arab identity, and raises doubt in the ability of international community to hold those violate internationally recognized laws accountable," Al-Ghanim said.

Today's meeting is being held in light of "disastrous" conditions facing the brotherly Palestinian people and the Arab world in the wake of the Israeli aggression on Jenin city in the Occupied West Bank that killed and wounded some people, he noted.

Al-Ghanim renewed Kuwait's firm stance of calling for rapid intervention from international community and the UN Security Council to shoulder their legal, political and humanitarian responsibilities, halt those attacks and hold the perpetrators accountable.

The ambassador also affirmed Kuwait's position on providing international protection to the brotherly Palestinian people, in line with interna-

tional law and charters. Palestinian delegate to the Arab League, Ambassador Mohannad Al-Aklouk, denounced, Tuesday, the "comprehensive Israeli war" on

Jenin in the West Bank. Al-Aklouk, during the Arab League extraordinary session at the level of permanent delegates, indicated that during the past two decades, Israeli occupation army killed about 2,250 Palestinian children, prevented thousands of children from accessing their schools freely and safely, targeted hundreds of schools and educational centers, and

arrested thousands of children. He called on the UN Secretary General to put Israel on the international list of shame for child killers, as well as to follow up the implementation of UN resolutions regarding the protection of the Palestinian people and to develop practical mechanisms to implement this protection.

Embarrassment

He stressed that Israel's crimes constitute a great embarrassment to the international commu-

In the latest development, Israel withdrew troops from a West Bank militant stronghold Wednesday, but warned that its most intense military operation in the occupied territory in nearly two decades could be repeated. Thirteen Palestinians and an Israeli soldier were killed in the two-

Residents of the Jenin refugee camp emerged from their homes to find alleys lined by piles of rubble and flattened or scorched cars. Shopkeepers and bulldozers started clearing the debris. Thousands who had fled the fighting began returning.

Kefah Dabayyah, a 33-year-old Jenin refugee camp resident, said that he and his family had returned Wednesday to find widespread destruction.

"Roads were destroyed and many houses were affected, glass from windows was everywhere," he said. His home was not hit, but there was no water, electricity or internet service.

The army claimed to have inflicted heavy damage on militant groups in the operation, which included a series of airstrikes and hundreds of ground troops. But it remained unclear whether there would be any lasting effect after more than a year of heavy fighting in the West Bank.

Ahead of the withdrawal, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed to carry out similar operations if needed.

"At these moments we are completing the mission, and I can say that our extensive operation in Jenin is not a one-off," he said during a visit to a military post on the outskirts of Jenin. "We will eradicate terrorism wherever we see it and we will strike at it.'

The Jenin raid was one of the most intense Israeli military operations in the West Bank since an armed Palestinian uprising against Israel's open-ended occupation ended two decades ago.

Continued on Page 4



French president weakened by crisis

Macron and marathons ... running out of road

 ${\bf E}^{
m ven}$ in normal times Emmanuel Macron needed the help of allies in governing France.

To get some things done the French president worked with the traditional right. The center-left helped him accomplish others. The challenge was bigger than any faced by a French leader in more than two decades: He had to convince politicians across the country's national assembly to support even minor domestic projects.

Now, governing his already-polarized country has gotten close to impossible for Macron because a suburban police officer stopped a yellow Mercedes and fired a fatal shot into the 17-year-old driver's chest, setting off days of tumult across the country.

Macron's far-right rivals, meanwhile, are emboldened. A controversial extreme-right figure started an online fundraising campaign for the family of the police officer who shot the teen, praising him as someone who "did his job and is paying a high price for it." The campaign quickly raised more than 1 million euros from tens of thousands of people, shocking many and prompting calls from antiracism groups and left-wing politicians for it to be shut down. The government fears it is fueling tensions.

Macron won his second five-year term last year with 58% of the votes in a runoff with far-right leader Marine Le Pen, but his centrist Renaissance party lost its majority in parliament two months later. Le Pen's National Rally won a record number of seats.

Macron dreamed big despite the close victory. His first big goal was raising the retirement age from 62 to 64, which he had to force through parliament. He then hoped to re-industrialize France, improve working conditions and finalize a new immigration bill. Abroad, Macron championed European sovereignty and independence in fields ranging from the economy and energy to defense.

But all that has had to fall by the wayside.

Macron shortened a visit to a European summit in Brussels last week

for a crisis meeting with his government. This week, he called a lastminute delay in a visit to Germany that had been meant to show the strength of the bilateral friendship despite disputes on energy, defense and the economy, among other issues.

The changes in his agenda echo another uncomfortable situation for the French leader three months ago, when the planned state visit of King Charles III to France was postponed due to violent protests against the pension changes.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said he was watching France's situation with concern.

"I hope very much, and I am convinced, that the French president will find ways for this situation to improve quickly," he told ARD television. "I don't expect France to become unstable, even if the pictures are of course very depressing."

The U.S., the U.K. and China were among those that called on citizens to exercise caution when traveling to France.

Last month, after a climate summit, Kenyan President William Ruto praised Macron's deep involvement. "You have run this like Kenyans do ... like a marathon," he told Macron.

The question now for Macron is whether he can marshal enough endurance to face the political situation at home.

"The problem is that he still has four more years sheed," said I have four more years sheed," said I have four more years sheed."

"The problem is that he still has four more years ahead," said Luc Rouban, a senior researcher at the National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS).

He noted that Macron has food a succession of protests and street.

He noted that Macron has faced a succession of protests and street unrest, starting with the yellow vest movement against social injustice that broke out in 2018.

An increasing proportion of the population "rejects institutions" as part of a broader criticism of "a social order that involves inequalities, that is ... basically quite hypocritical, with school in particular not allow-

ing people to succeed as it once did," Rouban said.

Schools, city halls, police stations and other public institutions have been attacked.

Macron "doesn't have much leeway except for distributing subsidies," which is also difficult because of France's heavy debt burden, Rouban said. Last month, Macron hosted the global summit on climate and finance

Last month, Macron hosted the global summit on climate and finance that brought over 50 heads of state and government and leaders of international organizations to the French capital, highlighting his international leadership.

Macron then traveled to Marseille last week to promote government efforts to inject billions into schools, housing and security and improve lives of residents of low-income neighborhoods in France's second largest city.

Macron met Tuesday at the presidential palace with the mayors of over 220 towns and cities who have been concerned by incidents and damage in recent days.

Le Par appears to be the one coming out of the situation in a stronger

Le Pen appears to be the one coming out of the situation in a stronger position, Rouban said. She keeps positioning herself as the main political opposition to Macron and continues her strategy of scrubbing the image of her National Rally party, he said.

"These appalling events bring our leaders back to reality," Le Pen said last week in a video posted on social media. "I intend to stick to our line of conduct, which is to do nothing to prevent or challenge the action of the legitimate authorities in charge of public order."

On Paris' Champs-Elysées on Monday, workers were preparing Bastille Day festivities, setting up seating and barriers for crowds expected to attend the traditional military parade on July 14th with guest of honor Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India.

Another major deadline is looming: next year's Olympics in Paris, suburbs and other French cities. Organizers and authorities promise the games will be safe. (AP)



Cars burn after a march for Nahel, Thursday, June 29, 2023 in Nanterre, outside Paris. The killing of 17-year-old Nahel during a traffic check Tuesday, captured on video, shocked the country and stirred up long-simmering tensions between young people and police in housing projects and other disadvantaged neighborhoods around France. After more than 3,400 arrests and signs that the violence is now abating, France is once again facing a reckoning (AP)

Flames of fury

Reveling in mayhem...a promise not kept

iberty, equality, fraternity': The lofty ideals to which France has long aspired are embossed on coins and carved above school doors across the land. Yet they are the polar opposite of what some French people who are Black or brown saw in a shocking video of a police officer shooting and killing a 17-year-old delivery driver of north African descent during a traffic stop.

That kid, some said to themselves, could have been me — or my children, or my friends. Within hours, the first fires of anger and revenge were lighting up the night skies of Nanterre, the Paris suburb where the teenager, Nahel, was declared dead at 9:15 a.m. last Tuesday. His left arm and chest had been pierced from left to right by a single shot fired before the yellow Mercedes he was driving then slammed into barriers on Nelson Mandela Square.

From the town on the fringe of the French capital's high-rise business district, with its disadvantaged housing projects, glaring wealth gaps, and melting-pot mix of races and cultural influences imported from France's former colonies, the flames of fury quickly spread.

More than 200 cities and towns reported arson attacks on public buildings, vehicle fires, clashes with police, looting and other mayhem in six nights of unrest. The violence was nationwide — from blue-collar ports on France's northern coast to southern towns overlooking the Pyrenees, from de-industrialized former mining basins to Nantes and La Rochelle on the western Atlantic coast, once hearts of the French slave trade.

After more than 3,400 arrests and signs that the violence is now abating, France is once again facing a reckoning — as it did after previous

riots in mixed-race, disadvantaged neighborhoods in the 1980s, 1990s, 2000s and 2010s.

And the uncomfortable central question remains the same: What is France doing wrong that prevents chunks of its population, particularly among non-whites, from being able to buy into its promise of equality and fraternity for all?

Among the factors being blamed and hotly disputed are problems both old and new: racism in police ranks and French society more broadly, poverty made more desperate by rising costs related to the war in Ukraine, decades of urban neglect, breakdowns in marriages and parental authority, and the ripples of the COVID-19 pandemic. Young teenagers whose schooling was interrupted by virus curfews and teaching shutdowns were among those smashing, burning, stealing and fighting with police — and reveling in the mayhem on social media.

For Yazid Kherfi, who spends his time driving from one housing project to the next, speaking to young people about how to avoid the route that he took into crime and prison, the violence was a cry of distress from a generation he says feels unloved and left by the wayside.

The minivan Kherfi uses has a quote from Martin Luther King painted on the back: "We must learn to live together as brothers or we will all perish together as fools." But on his rounds, Kherfi says he frequently hears young people complain that police single them out because of their

"The police aren't well trained to work in difficult neighborhoods. Some police are racist. There are violent police. They exist. I'm not say-

ing all the police but it's still a certain number," he says. "Blacks and Arabs are stopped far more frequently than whites."

"We are a long way from Liberty, equality, fraternity," he adds. "The reality is that people find all these situations very, very hard. It's been like this for more than 40 years. So of course, every time there are riots in France, it's linked to a young person's death related to a policing operation. And the police rarely blames itself."

From French President Emmanuel Macron down, government officials were quick to condemn the actions of the officer now incarcerated on a preliminary charge of voluntary homicide. Macron called the shooting "inexplicable and inexcusable." The officer's lawyer says his client feared, when the vehicle they'd stopped started moving again, that he and his colleague would be dragged along with it and crushed.

Measuring the scale of racism and racial inequality in France is complicated by its official policy of color blindness, with strict limits on data that can be collected. For critics, that guiding philosophy has made the state oblivious to discrimination. France's census has no questions about race or ethnicity.

Still, inequalities are too glaring to be ignored. The government's statistics agency found in 2020 that death rates among immigrants from sub-Saharan Africa doubled in France and tripled in the Paris region at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic — an acknowledgement of the virus's punishing and disproportionate impact on Black immigrants and members of other systemically overlooked minority groups. Other

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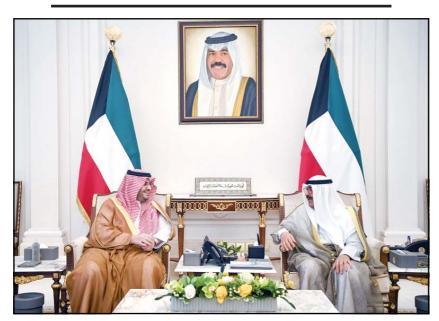


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Minister seeks report on condition of current schools

Preparation of schools for new academic year begins as Eid ends



Crown Prince Diwan photo

HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah in talks with Saudi State Minister and Cabinet Member Prince Turki bin Mohammad Al Saud.

HH CP receives Saudi minister

His Highness the Crown Prince (CP) Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received on Wednesday, at Bayan Palace, Saudi State Minister and Cabinet Member Prince Turki bin Mohammad Al Saud and his accompanying delegation.

Prince Turki conveyed the greetings of Saudi Arabia's King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Prince Mohammad bin Salman to His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, wishing continuous health to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Saah, the Crown Prince Shiekh Mishaal Al-Sabah and Kuwait.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah conveyed the greetings of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Saah to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Prince Mohammad bin Salman, wishing them continued health and further progress to Saudi Arabia. (KUNA)

Reveling in

Continued from Page 2

research has also exposed racism in workplaces and hiring.

"For 40, 45 years there have been warning signws about discrimination, says Abel Boyi, head of a group called "All Unique, All United" that aims to reconcile young people with France and its republican values

Boyi, who is Black, decries the state's colorblindness as "a French hypocrisy." He says he regularly encounters young people of color and also white people from disadvantaged neighborhoods who apply for dozens of jobs but aren't hired 'because the family name sounds foreign, because the address isn't a good one.

"Unfortunately, when there's an injustice, there's always a radical fringe that tips into violence. We saw these young pple, aged 12 to 19 ... at 1, 2, 3 o'clock in the morning burning cars, stoning police officers, stoning buses. It's terrible,' Boyi says. "The anger is righteous but the method is wrong.'

The video of Nahel's death also helps explains the rapid spread and sudden intensity of the violence. As was also the case with the footage of George Floyd's killing in the United States, the images left some people wondering whether police abuses sometimes go unpunished because they aren't captured on camera. Spray-painted graffiti in Nanterre read: "Without video, Nahel would be a statis-

Police officer Walid Hrar says, however, that the relationship between France's forces of law and order and disadvantaged neighborhoods he works in isn't as broken as the rioting made it seem.

He runs a volunteer group of officers, The Guardians of Fraternity, who meet with neighborhood kids to try to build understanding and help them see that behind their uniforms, they are people, too. "Sometimes, the talks are very hard, very stormy," he acknowledges.

But Hrar, who is of Moroccan descent and Muslim, says the police force has "changed enormously" and become more diverse since he joined up.

That was in 2004. France was swept by rioting the following year. He has spent his career in Paris' northern suburbs where that violence first erupted, when 15-year-old Bouna Traoré and 17-yearold Zyed Benna were electrocuted while hiding from police in a power substation in Clichy-sous-Bois.

One difference between then and now, Hrar says, is that the new generation of rioters seems to know no limits, trashing schools, town halls, police stations and other symbols of authority.

"With some, the breakdown is total, that is true," Hrar says. "There is real groundwork that needs to be done."

Another key difference: social networks. This generation weaned on Tik-Tok and Snapchat not only celebrated mayhem in short videos but, the government says, sometimes organized on their networks, too. Memes and hashtags about looting quickly swamped references about justice for Nahel. Macron said some rioters seemed to be acting out "the video games that have intoxicated them."

It all adds up to something toxic and dangerous, with deep cracks in the foundations of a country still unreconciled with its often violent colonial past and with engrained discrimination and inequalities that defy quick fixes.

"How do we bring together the multitude of histories into one common history that concerns us all, regardless of skin color and origin?" said Boyi. "That is France's great challenge for the 21st century." (AP)

News in Brief

RECEPTION: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received on Wednesday, at Bayan Palace, Saudi State Minister and Cabinet Member Prince Turki bin Mohammad Al Saud and his accompanying delegation.

The meeting was attended by Ambassador of the Custodian of the Two Holy

Mosques to Ku-wait Prince Sultan bin Saad Al Saud, Undersecretary of the Prime Minister's Diwan Sheikh Khaled Talal Al-Khaled Al-Sabah, Director of the Prime Minister's office Hamad Bader Al-Amer, and Di-rector General of

the Office of the



Sheikh Ahmad

and Cabinet Member Hamad bin Sulaiman Al-Saleem. (KUNA)

DISCUSSION: Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Talal Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah discussed with Saudi State Minister and Cabinet Member Prince Turki bin Mohammad Al-Saud several issues of common concern.

This came in a press statement issued by the General Directorate of Security Relations and Media at the Ministry of Interior Wednesday after Sheikh Talal received Prince Turki and his accompanying delegation during his visit to the country.

During the meeting, Sheikh Talal congratulated Saudi Arabia's leadership. government and people on the success of this year's Hajj season under the wise and rational leadership of Saudi King bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, the statement said.

He underlined the deep-rooted ties between both countries, wishing them a pleasant stay in Kuwait.

Meanwhile, Prince Turki thanked Sheikh Talal for discussing issues of common concern during the meeting. (KUNA)

COOPERATION: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Ahmad Fahad Al-Sabah on Wednesday discussed with Saudi State Minister and Cabinet Member Prince Turki bin Mohammad Al-Saud, aspects of joint bilateral cooperation between both sides and ways to strengthen and develop them.

Sheikh Ahmad received Prince Turki and his accompanying delegation in his office at Bayan Palace Wednesday during his visit to the country, the Ministry of Defense said in a statement.

The Minister of Defense welcomed the honorable guest and his accompanying delegation, commending the deep-rooted and close ties between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, which are based on the unity of religion, history, and solid ties under the wise leadership of both countries, it added.

Saudi Ambassador to Kuwait Prince Sultan bin Saad Al-Saud and Undersecretary of His Highness the Prime Minister's Diwan Sheikh Khaled Talal Al-Khaled Al-Sabah attended the meeting. (KUNA)

CONGRATULATIONS: Kuwait's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense

Sheikh Ahmad Fahad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a congratulatory cable to US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin on the occasion of the US Independency Day. In his cable, Sheikh Ahmad hailed the historical and strategic relations between

Kuwait and the United States. He reaffirmed the two countries' relentless effort to upgrade mutual military

and non-military cooperation. He wished the friendly United States further progress and prosperity and more development of bilateral relations. (KUNA)

KUWAIT CITY, July 5: The Ministry of Education has closed the doors of exams, and informed its senior and mid level leaders regarding the start of the preparation campaign for the next academic year of 2023/2024 after the Eid holidays that ended earlier this week on Sunday, reports Meanwhile, the Minister of Education Dr.

Hamad Al-Adwani asked the Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Establishments for reports on the conditions of operating schools with all their facilities for maintenance, as per a rehabilitation plan and a specific timetable. According to an educational source, most of

the late tenders and practices, the last of which were seven contracts that concluded to be extended in civil maintenance and air conditioning have been completed. Of these, six are for educational districts and the seventh for their central departments (Department of Development, Department of Special Education Schools and Department of Religious Education).

The source explained that the seven contracts are an extension of the expired contracts until March. During the past months, new contracts were introduced that are still in the corridors of the regulatory authorities and are likely to be approved at the beginning of the year 2024.

km/h.

Station

Kuwait City

Kuwait Airport

With this extension, the ministry has overcome the important obstacles that may stand in the way of preparing for the next academic year, especially after signing during the past month the tenders for books and school furniture.

There is a sufficient number of educational and supervisory bodies for the new schools and there are no pitfalls to prepare until this mo-

Regarding bus contracts, the source said three contracts have been signed in educational zones, and the remaining contracts are being signed, and the transportation service will return in all schools as it was before the COVID-19 crisis. Buses have been referred to include students of religious institutes and special education schools.

With regard to cleaning contracts, the source confirmed that they are valid in all educational zones as well as the ministry's head office. The administrative sector has concluded that about 1,100 additional workers are provided to the ministry's contracts by direct appointment, and the remaining 1,000 positions for external contracting are being

completed. This number of workers in the ministry is fully prepared to face any emergency, including labor strikes, and the failure of some companies to implement their contracts.

Regarding the new schools, he explained that the ministry has provided all their needs for office and school furniture, equipment and computers, in addition to a sufficient number of educational, supervisory and administrative staff. The administrative sector has finally opened the door for local contracting to provide the required number of male and female teachers and invest in the frozen job grades after ending the services of about 2,200 teachers and department heads at the end of the current academic year.

The engineering affairs departments had finished carrying out preventive maintenance of air conditioning in all schools. Preparing the schools for the elections also helped the ministry in this aspect, although some schools exceeded their maintenance budget of KD 1,000 approved by the ministry, which amounted to KD 1,500 to

The source highlighted a plan to fix insulation in schools that suffer from purulence as soon as

Bill seeks hike in basic pay

'Grant hazard allowance to MEW workers'

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CTY, July 5: MPs Khalid Al-Tamar, Muhammad Al-Mahan, Hamdan Al-Azmi, Mubarak Al-Tasha and Hamad Al-Obaid have submitted a bill on amending Civil Service Law number 61/1976.

The bill stipulates granting hazard allowance to the Ministry of Electricity and Water employees doing hazardous jobs like their counterparts at the Ministry of Oil. Aside from the hazard allowance, the bill allows these employees to opt for early retirement after 20 years in service maximum. It mandates the minister to specify the dangerous or hazardous jobs after consulting the health council.

MP Mubarak Al-Tasha submitted a proposal for the State Ministry for Housing Affairs to provide the National Assembly with a housing plan including the number of applicants, number of ongoing housing projects stating the achievement rate per project, timetable and available space for the establishment of residential areas in the next 10 years.

MPs Fares Al-Otaibi, Majed Al-Mutairi, Mubarak Al-Hajraf, Khalid Al-Otaibi and Badr Nashmi Al-Anzi have proposed amending decree number 14/1992 on the social allowance and pension of public sector employees

According to the bill, the basic salary of Kuwaitis working in the public sector and are covered by CSC regulations will be increased by 35 percent; as well as those appointed based on special recruitment regulations. It also stipulates increasing the children allowance from KD 50 to KD 75 per child.

MP Adel Al-Damkhi submitted a proposal to open a pediatric clinic in every dispensary in order to reduce the work load and crowds in public hospitals caused by the lack of pediatricians.

In addition, Al-Damkhi forwarded queries to Minister of Public Works Amani Bugamaz on the decision to extend the deadline for completion of the new Kuwait International Airport project until Nov 30, 2023. He asked why the project was not completed within the specified date, why the consultancy contract to supervise the execution of the project was extended until April 30, 2025 with a cost of KD 18 million, if the alleged shortage of workers in the contracting company (Limac) has been addressed, penalties imposed on the contractor for providing a lower number of workers, and if there is only one Internet network at Terminal Two; which means anyone can access confidential information.

Decision

He also asked the minister about the rationale behind the decision issued by the Civil Service Commission (CSC) on April 17 to suspend the shift allowance for those occupying supervisory posts at the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). He pointed out that the technical committee formed as per ministerial resolution number 70/2022 and its amendment (number 10/2023) recommended the cancellation of the

decision as it is erroneous. He wants to know the steps that will be taken in case the affected employees decide to resign, considering the lack of enthusiasm among the lower ranking employees to be promoted to supervisory positions as they do not want to lose the shift allowance.

Meanwhile, an "achievable" action plan draft was presented during the Kuwaiti Cabinet meeting, said Deputy Premier Essa Al-Kanderi on Tuesday.

The Cabinet, chaired by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, was briefed with the plan for the 17th legislative term (2023-2027); tasked with Finance Minister Manaf Al-Hajeri, noted Al-Kanderi, also Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs, after the meeting.

The proposed plan is in light of the Government's keenness to cooperate with the parliament, according to the Constitution and in an endeavor to manifest directives of His Highness the Amir on the ground, the deputy premier said.

Regarding this year's successful 'Hajj' (Muslim pilgrimage) season, the cabinet members expressed great appreciation of the exemplary efforts and generous care by King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, of sisterly Saudi Arabia, and Crown Prince Mohammad Salman bin Abdulaziz for the guest of Merciful God during their stay in the Kingdom.

The cabinet members fully appreciated the services and facilities offered by the Saudi authorities for pilgrims at the holy

They reviewed a range of political regional and international issues, including the recent burning of a copy of the holy Ouran in Stockholm.

They renewed Kuwait's strong condemnation of the despicable act by an extremist in Sweden, calling on the international community to act urgently against sentiments of hate and extremism, prevent recurrence of slanderous behaviors targeting Muslims, and bring to book anybody who might use the freedom of expression as a pretext to offend against the holy faith. The cabinet members strongly denounced the Israeli on-

slaught on Jenin city in the occupied Palestinian West Bank which resulted in dozens of casualties. They reaffirmed Kuwait's unequivocal rejection of the es-

calation and recurrent aggressions by the Israeli occupation authorities against the brotherly people of Palestine. They noted that the ongoing Israeli aggression is a new ring in a chain of flagrant violations of the international law and UN conventions, which require urgent intervention by the UN

Security Council. They urged international community and the UN Security Council, in particular, to shoulder their political, legal and humanitarian responsibilities, and provide the necessary protection for the Palestinian people pursuant to the rules of the

Other Voices

Casares and pollution here!

By Ahmad alsarraf

I have had in my conscience, since my childhood, the gloomy vision of day laborers. I saw them walking hungry through the streets of the city, confusing their torment with the torment of the afternoon, especially in winter. Blas Infante (1885-1936) from his book titled Ideal Andalusia.

My friend Felipe, while in Spain, advised me to visit Casares, a mountain town and municipality in Spain, located in Málaga province, in

the autonomous community Andalusia.

Casares discovered by the Phoenicians, followed by the Romans. It was said that Julius Caesar, who gave his name to the city, was treated in its

famous mineral waters for a liver

disease he was complaining about. My wife and I were attracted by the beauty of the city, with its narrow and winding streets, and its unique and charming cemetery, which lies at its highest point. I also noticed the presence of tourists in the streets, and a 5-storey car park, and I wondered about the secret behind all that?

alsarraf

The question showed that this sleepy city on a small mountain, sparsely populated, and which does not rise more than 435 meters above sea level, has an emotional importance for the Andalusians, as it is the birthplace, cemetery and museum of the Andalusian thinker, writer and politician Blas Infante (1885-1936), who fell in love with Arab civilization and the Muslims in his country, so he sought to achieve the dream of Andalusia's independence from Spain, and to make it culturally and intellectually linked with the countries of the Maghreb, and this prompted the dictator Franco, during the Spanish Civil War, to arrest him and execute him by firing squad in August 1936, but not before he succeeded in planting a seed of distinction in the region from the rest of Spain, and thus obtaining autonomy.

The story of Blas is worth reading. After the end of the Islamic state, the Andalusians, or Moriscos, lived a very difficult life at the hands of the men of the Inquisition, but they still adhered to their rights, and revolted against the Spanish authorities in 1568, and their revolution ended in failure after three years, but it was enough to put things in order. In a different path, and the resurrection of the Andalusian spirit from time to time over the centuries, to form the new Andalusian identity, far from Islam, but different from the rest of Spain, as it is Andalusian before it was Spanish!

Visitors to Marbella, do not forget to visit Casares.

Several parties, including the US embassy, agree on the high level of pollution in Kuwait's atmosphere, and warn its citizens, from time to time, not to leave the house except in cases of necessity. International indicators also place Kuwait among the ten most polluted countries in the world, and only Chad, Iraq, Pakistan and Bahrain precede us in terms of air pollution. The percentage of pollution in India, Egypt and Tajikistan is less than us!

I left Kuwait for Marbella about a month ago, and that was enough for me to feel that my health had improved, as the air was cleaner, compared to Kuwait, with less snoring, less mucus and dry mouth, and I could walk longer distances, and my skin sensitivity decreased significantly.

With all these warnings and real health risks in Kuwait, neither the Ministry of Health nor the Environment Center moved to reveal the truth of the matter, and this in itself is a crime, bearing in mind that there is a heavy penalty for those who publish incorrect news about the weather, but no one punishes the concerned authorities for their silence about reaching this level of pollution is serious.

Nor have I heard of any party that submitted proposals to remedy the dilapidated situation of all this amount of fumes and toxins emanating from the chimneys of dozens of factories and power plants, oil refining, and water distillation, all within a few kilometers!

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diwaniya المحيوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'System vital for police to follow up violations on streets'

"THERE are many phenomena and pictures that do not please the eye or the mind, and violations that seem to be never ending but they are in our streets or in other areas," columnist Eqbal Al-Ahmed wrote for

"Here we present many observations to the concerned authorities through pictures complete with titles, and in cooperation with teams of Kuwaiti youth who love their country and based on the principle of 'every citizen is a sentinel' to contribute to the modification and reform of what can be fixed at the various levels.

'There are also numbers to communicate with the concerned authorities in the country in the event of any violations, each in his specialty but unfortunately we find little response.

"If there was a decentralized system through the creation of youth work teams and specialists in each governorate and region under the supervision of the governors and the mayors of the regions, the single large central government eye would be transformed into smaller eyes spread in all the governorates and regions of Kuwait and through the outposts scattered in all regions of Kuwait.

"Why not have a system where patrols belonging to the district police stations constantly roaming the streets, following up on violations and cases of negligence, in order to report all violations in all their forms, and inform the concerned authorities immediately about

them, or alert the owner of the house or vehicle? "Let's get rid of the centralization system and distribute roles and responsibilities among the ministries' stations and centers in the regions and strengthen the role of governors and mukhtars to assume responsibilities related to their regions by following up on their affairs and

exploiting their work crews. "Let's create the principle of competition between regions in the field of order, cleanliness, beauty and interaction with all kinds of events.

"When we were young, there was a day in our schools for hygiene. We competed when we were young to clean our classrooms, wash and decorate them, to win, so that we could win with joy and pride. We competed in drawing, sports, music and all other fields within the framework of our educational curricula.

"There are areas for its chosen ones and their youth with fingerprints and private and personal initiatives (without anyone asking them) to distinguish their areas, such as Yarmouk, Mishref and others.

'Why does this not extend to all regions of Kuwait, why do we not benefit from the governors and the mukhtariah in completing their role and noticing what is missing from them and their other organs in daily life?

"State agencies, with all their internal, municipal, health, trade and other specializations, have lost their ability to monitor due to the expansion of regions and the large number of their residents, in addition to neglect on the part of these parties.

"If work teams were formed in each region to follow up on all violations and inform the concerned authorities immediately and take the necessary action immediately, deterrence would spread and the residents of the regions would make a thousand accounts before anyone thinks of stopping his car on the sidewalk and at U-turns or throwing food waste on the sidewalks to be eaten by birds, cats, dogs, etc.

"Unfortunately, with regret, we say that chaos, chaos and chaos have

become a feature of our regions because the concerned parties are in hibernation. We need everyone to wake up and remember that there is such a thing called a law that we must respect."

Also:

"The electronic and print media reported that a minister in the resigned government of Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, who is an elected deputy in the National Assembly, appointed Gulf nationals in the ministry, some of whom are outside the country, and exempted them from fingerprinting attendance," columnist Hassan Ali Karam wrote for Al-Seyassah daily.

"This comes at a time when the government is awaiting consideration of its resignation letter, at a time when the Civil Service Commission has prohibited the employment of foreigners, and at a time when the government has apologized for not attending the National Assembly sessions, especially the special session regarding the promised grant to retirees.

'The institution that employed foreign employees, denied that these were employed with a salary, but with fixed bonuses, and I do not know what the difference between salary and bonus is as long as it is money taken from the state treasury.

"The decision in any case is an insult to the state, and this does not happen except in Kuwait, in the form of duplicity and violating the laws, singling out decisions and making the ministry a backyard, serv-

'This is directed at His Highness the Prime Minister, who did not move a finger against a minister who trampled on the belly of the laws, and was singled out despite the constitution and the law, "and whoever does not like it hits his head with a raft."

"The Prime Minister, upon learning of the news, should have dismissed the minister immediately, submitting him to legal accountability, so that he would be an example and a lesson for those who transgress the law, whether he is a minister or an ordinary employee!

"Appointing foreign employees in government departments is not treason in the government of the State of Kuwait. Appointments are made behind closed doors and under the table, and your eyes are still continuing with the same force and pace, just check with any government department until you judge for yourself.

You might painfully ask, 'Where are the Kuwaitis?' The foreign employee behind a grandiose office sarcastically answers you, 'Sitting in coffee shops or snoring in their houses'. Then an official comes and brags that the services of foreign employees have been terminated and Kuwaitis have been appointed.'

"Kuwait's budget depends on oil and its derivatives. Before 2014, there was a budget surplus, then came the budget deficit due to the oil price drop. Economic experts presented solutions to the budget deficit problem that has been going on for years, such as diversifying the sources of income, economic reform and combating corruption including the embezzlement public money," columnist Abdullah Abduljader wrote for Al-Anba daily.

"According to the estimated budget for fiscal 2023/2024 on the website of the Ministry of Finance, the expected oil revenue is KD 17.168 billion plus KD 2.077 billion non-oil revenue, so the total expected revenues reached KD 19.245 billion.

"This is compared to the total expected expenses of KD 26.278 bil-

lion, with salaries and subsidies constituting 80 percent of the total. The expected deficit before calculating the profits of independent government agencies is KD 6.8 billion, while the deficit after calculating such profits is KD 5 billion. The deficit has been continuing since 2014, because of the decline of oil and gas prices and State revenues while expenditures keep on increasing.

Therefore, I offer advice and suggestions to the government and the National Assembly as follows:

■ Diversify revenue sources immediately and find appropriate solutions to the budget deficit problem,

■ Rationalize spending and address imbalances in the State's general

■ Improve the general reserve and future generations funds,

■ Collect outstanding payments for the public treasury.

■ Be serious and firm in combating corruption, bribery and embezzlement of public money regardless of the status of those involved, ■ Reconsider unnecessary expenses like financial rewards for mem-

bers of government councils and committees who are already receiving salaries, benefits and incentives especially those without achievements,

■ Address the issue of poorly performing companies that do not meet the conditions and objectives of contracting with the government, particularly since they take millions from the State budget,

■ Stop the theft of subsidized supplies (ration foods), which are then sold in and outside Kuwait. This means there has been no oversight, supervision or action to halt it. This costs the State millions, so it must

be stopped."

"We believe that the wheel of reform has started moving. We are optimistic that the government will work toward change and radical reform," columnist Major General Faisal Al-Jazaf wrote for Al-Seyassah daily.

'Without a doubt, the intense tone of criticism has subsided and everyone is waiting for the result in the coming days. There is hope for speeding up decisions to realize the vision and the results will be as desired. The country will catch up, as it is racing against time.

"Also, the National Assembly has started presenting draft laws. We hope it will focus on the interests of the country and avoid unnecessary laws or those far from the concerns of citizens. This requires careful governmental implementation.

The most important development is the continuation of governmental-parliamentary consensus in light of the agreed upon data. After that, people will not tolerate any deviation, which puts us back to square one. There is no time for conflict and political battles.

"Reform also requires the government to take decisions firmly and move from the stage of suspension to implementation.

We hope the vacant leadership positions will be filled soon, that the selection is based on the ability to lead and implement, and the evaluation of each leader will be based on the work he offers and the advancement in the institution he is responsible for. We hope for periodic evaluation of everyone who assumes responsibility.

"The stage is delicate and sensitive. We have had enough of what transpired in the past. There is no longer room for favoritism. Everyone must believe that the homeland is above all considerations.

— Compiled by Mai Elsoukary



Ministry of Defense Undersecretary Dr Abdullah Mishal while receiving UK Defense Export Advocate Lord Mark Lancaster.

Kuwait, UK army officials discuss co-op

Ministry of Defense Undersecretary Dr. Abdullah Mishal Al-Sabah, discussed on Tuesday with UK Defense Export Advocate Lord Mark Lancaster aspects of cooperation and joint coordination

between the two countries.

The meeting was attended by UK

Ambassador to Kuwait Belinda Lewis, UK Assistant Chief of the Air Staff Air Vice-Marshal Simon Edwards, Kuwait Air Force's Assistant Commander, Major General Bandar Al-Muzayen and Defense Attache, Captain Paul Mulvaney of the Royal Navy. (KUNA)

Amir congratulates Cape Verde and Venezuela on national days

KUWAIT CITY, July 5, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent Wednesday a cable of congratulations to Cape Verde President Jose Maria Neves on the occasion of his country's Independence Day.

His Highness the Amir wished President Neves everlasting health and further progress and prosperity for his country.

Also, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations to President Jose Maria Neves on the occasion of his country's Independence Day wishing him good health and wellness.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah also sent a cable of congratulations to President Jose Maria Neves on the occasion.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad sent a cable of congratulations to the President of Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela Nicolas Maduro on his country's National Day.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir wished the Venezuelan president and his people full-scale progress and

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad also sent a cable of congratulations to President Nicolas Maduro on his country's National Day.

His Highness the Crown Prince wished the president lasting good

Also, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf sent a cable of congratulations to President Maduro on his country's National

Kuwait licenses

Continued from Page 1

Some of the scenes from Jenin, including massive army bulldozers tearing through camp alleys, were eerily similar to those from a major Israeli incursion in 2002, which lasted for eight days and became known as the battle of Jenin.

Both operations, two decades apart, were meant to crush militant groups in the camp and deter and prevent attacks on Israelis emanating from the camp. In each case, the army claimed success.

However, the continued cycle of army raids and Palestinian attacks raised new

questions about Israel's tactics. This week's raid had wide support across Israel's political spectrum, but some critics in the country argued the impact is short-lived, with slain gunmen quickly replaced by others.

"As usual, these things are best taken in proportion. To the security establishment, this is a successful operation thus far, but it holds no real chance of effecting a fundamental change in the state of affairs in the West Bank," wrote Amos Harel, military affairs commentator for the Haaretz daily. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, whose autonomy government administers parts of the West Bank, has rejected violence against Israelis, but has effectively lost control over several strongholds of gunmen.

Court jails pharmacist to 5 yrs for selling psychotropic drugs

Firemen rescue people trapped in basement of house

KUWAIT CITY, July 5: The Court of Cassation sentenced an Egyptian pharmacist to five years in prison with hard labor for selling psychotropic drugs, reports Al-Qabas dai-

Investigations confirmed that the accused, who works in a pharmacy affiliated with a private company, sold Tramadol pills, which are classified as a psychotropic substance.

Call for legal action: First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled has instructed the concerned authorities in the Ministry of Interior to ask the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to take legal action against those who insulted the flag of Kuwait in a video clip that went viral on social media, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Hike to prison work grants: The Civil Service Commission (CSC) has approved the proposal of First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Talal Al-Khalid to increase the prison work allowance of Kuwaiti female employees who have direct contact with prisoners, reports Al-Qabas daily.

This is in line with the commitment of the minister to appreciate the efforts of employees; such that he issued a directive on the immediate disbursement of the increment.

Fire to house put out: The Public Relations and Media Department of the Directorate-General of Fire Department (DGFD) stated that after a report was received by the Central Operations Department, stating that a fire broke inside a house in the Al-Funaitees area, firemen from Al-Bairaq and Al-Qurain centers rushed to the spot and put out the fire, reports Al-Rai daily.

The daily added, the fire started in the basement of the house, so firemen controlled the blaze and rescued the people who were trapped inside and handed them over to the paramedics.

In other news, the department stated after a report was received by the Central Operations Department this morning, about a fire in a café in the Hawally area, firemen from the Hawally and Salmiya fire centers rushed to the spot and put out

No injuries have been reported.



Al-Jarida photo

Vehicles go up in flames

The Public Relations and Security Media Department of the Directorate-General of Fire Department announced Tuesday afternoon that three vehicles caught fire in the Jahra area, reports Al-

Jarida daily. The department stated fire engines from Al-Jahra Al-Harfi Fire Station rushed to the site of the accident and put out the fire. No significant injuries have been reported.

Eligible employees of KAC to get rewards for work during corona

Vehicles destroyed by fire

KUWAIT CITY, July 5: The Civil Service Commission has completed reviewing front-line reward lists for the employees of the Kuwait Airways Corporation, employees who worked during the Covid-19 pandemic, reports Al-Qabas

The daily said those eligible will be paid in accordance with the controls and mechanism specified by the government decision in this

In a letter sent to the Ministry of Finance by the senior KAC official no notes have been attached to the list of names as required by the controls and mechanism specified in Cabinet Resolution No. 686.

The official indicated that the total amount required to be paid according to the statements of the Kuwait Airways Company is estimated at 2,673,079 dinars.

However, the Ministry of Finance pointed out that the Kuwait Airways Company bears responsibility for the validity of the number of employees, the number of days calculated for each employee, and the correctness of their salaries contained in the attached statements, as the rewards must be based on the same salaries the employees earned during the period of granting the bonus, and that it must take into account the restrictions stipulated in Law No. 4 of 2021 when disbursing the reward.



Closing Ceremony

The American University of Kuwait (AUK) celebrated the graduation commencement of the class of 2023 on Wednesday, June 21st.
The ceremony, held at The Arena Kuwait (TAK), marked a significant milestone for 340 accomplished graduates. Among them were 142 graduates from the College of Arts and Sciences, 103 from the College of Business and Economics, and 95 from the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences. The distinguished class included 10 summa cum laude, 23 magna cum laude, and 27 cum laude graduates.

Distinguished guests in attendance at the graduation ceremony included Sheikha Dana Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, founder and chair of AUK's Board of Trustees, members of the AUK board of trustees, diplomats, dignitaries, and families of the graduates.

The ceremony commenced with the national anthem and the Holy Quran recitation, followed by a thought-provoking speech by AUK President, Dr. Rawda Awwad. In her address, Dr. Awwad emphasized the values cultivated by the graduates during their time at AUK, such as perseverance, collaboration, empathy, critical thinking, and lifelong learning. She encouraged the graduates to carry these lessons as guiding principles throughout their future endeavors.

The keynote speech was delivered by H.E. Sheikh Fahad Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, head of the Kuwait Olympic Committee and an AUK alumnus from the class of 2014. Sheikh Fahad inspired the graduates to embrace continuous learning, unlock their potential, and make choices that may surprise them. He concluded by urging the graduates to savor the summer and celebrate their hard-earned achievements.

The class valedictorian, Amal Kahwaji, who earned a Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing with a remarkable 3.99 GPA, was announced by Ms. Hala Al-Abdulrazzaq, AUK's dean of student affairs. Amal delivered a memorable speech, acknowledging the role failures played in shaping their successes. She emphasized the importance of celebrating the journey as a whole, learning from both victories and failures, and gaining the confidence to tackle the next phase of life.

The highlight of the ceremony was the distribution of degrees. President Awwad conferred the degrees upon the graduates based



Keynote Speaker, H.E. Sheikh Fahad Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah Head of Kuwait Olympic and AUK alumnus from the Class of 2014

on the recommendations of the deans—Dr.
Ali Charara, dean of the College of Arts and
Sciences; Dr. Ralph Palliam, dean of the
College of Business and Economics; and Dr.
Mohamed El-Abd, interim dean of the College
of Engineering and Applied Sciences. Each
graduate was presented with their diploma by
President Awwad and their respective college



AUK President, Dr. Rawda Awwad

In a symbolic gesture, the graduates shifted their tassels from right to left, signifying their official graduation from AUK. As the ceremony concluded, the graduates joyfully celebrated the momentous occasion and captured memories with their proud parents.

Recognized for its commitment to academic excellence, the American University of Kuwait (AUK) offers a diverse range of accredited



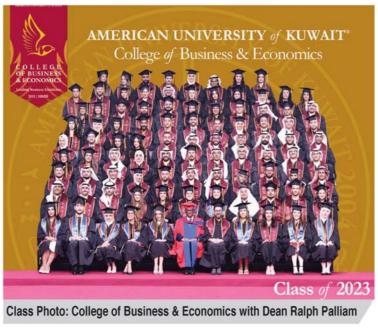
Amal Kahwaji, Class Valedictorian Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing

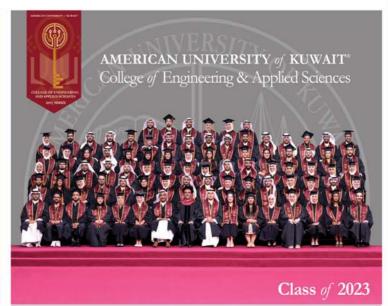
undergraduate programs. AUK's state-ofthe-art facilities include modern classrooms
equipped with cutting-edge technology, research
laboratories, and recreational amenities such
as the gymnasium and lounge. The institution
is dedicated to empowering students with
knowledge, skills, and experiences that
transcend the classroom, nurturing future
leaders and change-makers.



(From left) Mr. Meshal Ali, AUK Co-Founder and Vice Chair; Chargé d'Affaires Jim Holtsnider, H.E Ambassador Abdullah Bishara, AUK Board Members Mr. Samer Khanachet and Dr. Jawad Behbehani







Class Photo: College of Engineering and Applied Sciences with Interim Dean AlAbd

United Nations mission kicks off communications campaign

'UN plays key role in helping Kuwait achieve Sustainable Development Goals'

KUWAIT CITY, July 5, (KUNA): The United Nations in Kuwait is playing a key role by supporting the government to align their plans, enhance their role, and buildi national capacities to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), Moises Venancio, UN Resident Coordinator aid in Kuwait, said Wednesday.

This came in a news statement issued by the UN mission in the country on kicking off a communications campaign to rally for the Sustainable Develop-

The campaign comes before the 2023 SDG Summit that will gather world

leaders at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 18-19 September to reaffirm their collective commitments to the Goals and the promise to leave

Venancio called on the private sector, academic bodies, NGOs and all nationals

to contribute to achieving the agenda

of the global sustainable goals. Meanwhile, Secretary-General of

the Supreme Council for Planning and Development Dr. Khaled Mahdi stated that the State of Kuwait is based on a solid history of development and maintaining sustainability at the core of its policies and strategies.

Eight years ago, at the beginning of the SDGs, the government took a comprehensive decision to integrate all 17 SDG goals and 169 targets within the country's long-term vision, which was approved one year before the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, he noted.

Indeed, Vision 2035 - New Kuwait consists of wide-ranging pillars, which are fully endorsed and structurally integrated with the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, as well as their indicators, he said.

The State of Kuwait now intends to submit its second voluntary national report (VNR2) to the High-Level Political Forum in July 2023, with the aim of documenting the progress made in implementation in various relevant sectors in the country, checking for shortcomings and persistent challenges, and identifying strategies and approaches that require further attention at all levels of Governance and renew commitment to review it, he stated.

The campaign aims to amplify an urgent call for ambitious new action, display the Goals as the blueprint for sustainable progress globally, and stimulate the global public around this shared agenda for our common future.

British Cranfield University grants Al-Khaldi the Arthur Lefebure Prize in physics

Kuwaiti researcher awarded prize for work on renewable energy

LONDON, July 5, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Researcher, Dr. Abdullah Al-Khaldi, was awarded the Arthur Lefebvre Prize for his work on renewable energy and hydrogen fuel by British specialist postgraduate university, Cranfield. Al-Khaldi's thesis, proposing a new innovative

design for large hydrogen carrier ship, contributes to global carbon neutrality objectives as it employs the use of clean hydrogen fuel rather than regular fuel thus eliminating harmful carbon emissions.

Speaking to KUNA on Wednesday Al-Khaldi said he was quite proud of this achievement, saying that parts of his thesis were published by renowned journals.

His research handled technical, environmental and economic review of the new design as it examined and analyzed its performance in various simulated circumstances

PhD thesis in the field

Dr. Abdullah Al-Khaldi, Kuwaiti researcher and teacher at technological studies faculty

Dr. Al-Khaldi further clarified that his field

of study contributes to zero carbon emissions,

alleviating the consequences of climate change.

Cranfielda University to most distinguished

The Arthur Lefebvre prize is given out by

Kuwait cybersecurity expert Kuwaitis are among world's

British Cranfield University grants Arthur Lefebvre Prize in physics to Kuwaiti researcher

urges anti-online scam drive

'Anti-cyber crime act needs to be revised'

By Hanan Al-Saeedi

KUWAIT CITY, July 5, (KUNA): Online fraud and scam methods are being professionally devised and developed by individuals, networks and suspicious groups, a thing that necessitates fast-track response through a national strategy, cautioned a Kuwaiti expert.

Such constantly changing methods mainly embrace electronic fraud, fake links and accounts and use of ads in piracy as well as the use of celebrities' accounts and images, Head of Kuwait Society for Information Security Dr. Safaa Zaman said in an interview to KUNA.

Stupendous technological progress and advancement, and reliance upon online shopping



have made everyone subject to internet fraud schemes, she said, suggesting that a national strategy should be put in place in order to fight various types of scams and to promote cybersecurity nationwide.

She mainly blamed online scams involving malicious software, email and instant messaging services on lack of public awareness, abuse of social media, easy access

to data and dearth of legislation, accountability and oversight.

Internet fraud

The Kuwaiti cybersecurity expert cited the recent use by fake companies of celebrities' images in stock-selling ads as being one of the most complicated and common methods of internet fraud. Dr. Zaman sounded the alarm that with the university graduation season starting, mediators are now inventing a fresh way of deceiving university graduates by offering them jobs in some sectors in return for nearly KD 500.

In this context, she warned that the reluctance of some individuals and institutions to inform state bodies concerned against any electronic fraud has unfortunately added fuel to fire.

Asked what state bodies concerned should



KUNA photo

Director General of Kuwait News Agency held talks with the Indian Ambassador to Kuwait.

KUNA Chief discusses co-op with Indian envoy

Director General of Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) Dr. Fatma Al-Salem held talks on Wednesday with the Indian Ambassador to Kuwait Dr. Adarsh Swaika on boosting media cooperation between the two countries.

The discussions, held during a meeting at the KUNA director general's bureau, touched on various media issues of joint concern.

Dr. Al-Salem affirmed Kuwait's keenness on

do to fight fake accounts that usually spread misinformation and rumors in the society, she suggested that penalties and fines should be imposed on any company involved in any wrongdoing in this regard.

She cited that the US and European countries have already taken such steps in order to put all false accounts and platforms at bay.

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries should enact pieces of legislation aiming at combatting cybercrimes by means of incriminating anyone caught in malpractice on social media, particularly when it comes to their internal political boosting the media cooperation with sisterly and friendly states for serving its foreign policy. For his part, the Indian ambassador praised

role of the Kuwaiti media for cementing relations with the sisterly and friendly states, particularly with his nation. He underlined KUNA's presentation of its media message with credibility and objectivity, also lauding its up-to-date news services. (KUNA)

affairs, she suggested.

Furthermore, relevant national laws, including the anti-cyber crime act, need to be revised in a way that could bar users from making loopholes and innovative methods to run fake accounts and spread misinformation and fan out hatred with apparent impunity, the Kuwaiti expert urged.

She concluded by calling for establishing a digital forensic center, boosting inter-agency cooperation in the cybersecurity space, hammering out relevant treaties and agreements with world institutions involved, and promoting investment in cybersecurity.

Authority affirms keenness to operate city's public services

PAHW launches electricity supply to N11 suburb

KISR signs cooperation pact to produce 'biodegradable' bags

KUWAIT CITY, July 5: The Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research has signed a cooperation agreement with a specialized factory to produce biodegradable bags with the highest international standards, reports Al-Rai daily.

The agreement aims to reduce the negative effects of non-biodegradable plastic waste on human health, living organisms, and the environment

The director of the Petroleum Research Center of the Petrochemical Products Improvement and Development Program Institute, Dr. Salah Al-Enezi, said in a press statement Tuesday that the agreement between KISR and the factory aims to improve and develop the factory's production lines for biodegradable plastic products.

The agreement is part of the institute's commitment to environmental sustainability and social responsibility to promote the use of environmentally friendly products and practices.

KUWAIT CITY, July 5: The Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) announced the launch of supply of electricity to a number of public buildings in suburb N11 within the Mutla Residential City project, reports Aljarida daily.

In a statement issued recently, PAHW affirmed its keenness to operate the city's public services, in conjunction with the citizens' completion of building their plots, based on the directives of the Council of Ministers to speed up the delivery of electricity to residential plots and public buildings and the instructions of the Minister of State for Housing Affairs Mut-

laq Al-Otaibi. It revealed the supply of electricity to the municipality building and the citizen service center building in N11 suburb.

PAHW explained that electricity is scheduled to be supplied to a number of other buildings in the same suburb this week, including the police station, shops, the health center and the ambulance building. Work is underway to prepare for the delivery of electricity to a number of other public buildings in the N8, N10 and N11 suburbs during the current month.

PAHW affirmed its coordination with government agencies related to the operation of the buildings to receive them as service for the Kuwaiti residents of the city.

Per capita consumption 3.8 grams

largest 'consumers' of gold

KUWAIT CITY, July 5: A list published by the "Insider Monkey" website showed that Kuwait is among the 20 most gold-consuming countries in the world, and ranked 19th in the world and fourth among the four largest Arab countries in the world's gold acquisition, reports Al-Rai daily. The site mentioned that Kuwait's

annual consumption of gold is 16.16 metric tons, mostly due to the country's attraction to gold jewelry, explaining that this figure becomes more clear when looking at it on a per capita basis, as the per capita consumption of gold in the country is 3.8 grams. It is one of the highest rates in the world.

According to the data published by the site, quoting the World Gold Council, it is very clear that Kuwaitis have been keen on acquiring gold in the past three years, as the average gold consumption in Kuwait reached 18.9 metric tons in 2022, compared to 16.6 metric tons in 2021, and 13 metric tons in 2020.

Gold consumption

On the other hand, Saudi Arabia ranked first in the Arab countries and fourth in the world in average annual gold consumption with 220 metric tons, followed by the UAE ranked 13th in the world with an average consumption of 39.8 metric tons, then Egypt ranked third in the Arab world and 16th globally with an average con-

sumption of 31.8 metric tons. The site pointed out that it ranks the 20 most consuming countries for gold in the world based on the volume of its annual demand for gold, and its report covers gold demand trends for the entire year 2022 issued by the World Gold Council, as countries' demand for gold was used as an alternative to their consumption of gold given the reliable data on the use of gold. Gold in each country was limited, and the site also touched on per capita gold consumption in some countries to put average demand into perspective.

However, per capita figures may vary slightly depending on when they were calculated and the population of the country the source is using.

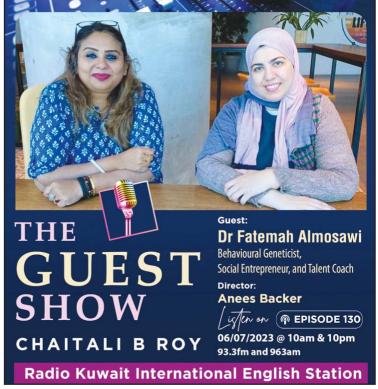
Largest consumers

On the other hand, the countries with the highest annual gold consumption have shown stability in the past decade. According to the data of the Gold Council, China and India were the largest consumers of gold in 2010, and the two countries maintained this situation in 2022 by consuming 824.9 and 774 metric tons, respectively. After China and India, the United States, Saudi Arabia, Germany, Turkey and Iran ranked from 3 to 7, respectively.

The global demand for gold reached 3,303 metric tons in 2022, which represents a post-pandemic recovery for countries with the highest annual gold consumption.

In 2020, the total consumption of gold in the world decreased to 2,301 metric tons, which is the lowest level since 2010, due to the suspension of the economic activity cycle in most countries.

It should be noted that the largest single buyer of gold are central banks in the world's leading economies, such as the US Federal Reserve, the People's Bank of China, and the Reserve Bank of India, to offset fiscal risks and enhance economic stability. According to the World Gold Council, net purchases by central banks amounted to 1,136 metric tons in 2022, with an estimated value of \$70 billion.



The Guest Show poster

TGS presents Dr Fatemah Almosawi

KUWAIT CITY, July 5: The Guest Show (TGS) is honored to present Dr Fatemah Almosawi, an extraordinary Kuwaiti woman who is also known as 'the dreammaker'

Dr Fatemah has invested years in study & research. She has done her Masters in Behavioural Science from the London School of Economics, and a master's in bioinformatics. She also has a PhD in Genetics from King's

College, London. After returning to Kuwait, Dr Fatemah embarked on a journey of self-discovery which enabled her to spot and nature talent, become a solution provider and to create a safe space that encourages creatives and helps promote thinking out of the box. Through her work as a social entrepreneur, and with her company Al Passion she has touched many lives.

In this episode of The Guest Show, she speaks to Chaitali B. Roy about the different hats she wears, the need for passion as motivation and her work as a social entrepreneur and a lot more.

UK mortgage rates spike to highest level

Homeowners and renters in the U.K. faced further grim news Tuesday as mortgage rates hit levels not seen since unfunded tax cuts announced by the government last fall spooked investors

With the Bank of England raising interest rates to a 15-year high of 5% to battle high inflation, it's natural for lenders to increase the cost of borrowing to consumers and businesses. But inflation

- KSE 100

PAKISTAN

is proving more stubborn than expected, and the bank is expected to keep hiking rates, potentially to 6%, a level not seen since 2001.

That prospect is having a knock-on effect in the cost of mortgages. According to financial information company Moneyfacts, the average rate for a five-year fixed rate mortgage in the U.K. hit 6.01% on Tuesday from 5.97% the previous day.

That's the highest since the aftermath of last fall's tax plan from Liz Truss' short-lived government, which caused investors to lose faith in the state of Britain's public finances.

The worry is that mortgage rates could surpass those levels if the central bank keeps hiking, creating another pain point amid a cost-of-living crisis that has fueled strikes by workers seeking higher pay. (AP)

China restricts exports of high-tech metals

China has imposed export curbs on two metals used in computer chips and solar cells, expanding a squabble with Washington over high-tech trade ahead of Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen's visit to Beijing this week.

The controls on gallium and germanium are intended to "safe-guard national security," the Commerce Ministry said late Monday. It said exports will require official permission once the rules take ef-

restrictions might be applied.
Chinese leader Xi Jinping's government is frustrated by U.S. curbs on access to advanced processor chips and other technology on security grounds. But Beijing has been slow to retaliate, possibly to avoid disrupting China's fledgling

fect Aug. 1 but did not say what

developers of chips, artificial intelligence and other technology.

Yellen is due to arrive Thursday as part of efforts by the Biden ad-

ministration to revive relations that have plunged to their lowest level in decades due to disputes about technology, China's military buildup, human rights and other irritants.

China is the biggest global source of gallium and germanium, which are produced in small amounts but are needed to make computer chips for mobile phones, cars and other products, as well as solar panels and military technology. (AP)

Market Movements

Change Closing ats

Change Closing pts +0.12 43,553.81

 UAE
 DFM

 JAPAN
 Nikkei

 PHILIPPINES
 PSEi

 SAUDI
 Tadawul

 EGYPT
 EGX 30

05-07-2023

Change Closing pts -0.17 3,924.41 -0.25 33,338.70 -0.03 6,512.39 -0.23 11,591.55 -0.04 17,380.33



Awards program recognizes global and regional leadership

Boursa Kuwait awarded for 'Outstanding Leaderships in Sustainable Finance and Sustainability Transparency'

KUWAIT CITY, July 5: Boursa Kuwait, the privatized and self-listed national stock exchange of the State of Kuwait, has received two esteemed awards at the third annual Sustainable Finance Awards ceremony hosted by Global Finance and held at Glaziers Hall in London.

Boursa Kuwait has been acknowledged for its exceptional achievements in "Outstanding Financial Leadership in Sustaining Communities Award" and "Outstanding Leadership in Sustainability Transparency" in the category of Middle East regional awards.

These distinguished awards serve as a testament to Boursa Kuwait's unwavering commitment to promoting sustainability initiatives and cultivating awareness regarding climate change within the community. The company recognizes the significance of assuming a pivotal role in achieving Kuwait's ambitious roadmap by advancing corporate sustainability practices within the capital market and aims to foster an investment climate in the State of Kuwait that attracts and nurtures sustainable investments from a diverse range of participants.

Global Finance's Sustainable Finance Awards are designed to honor remarkable accomplishments in sustainable finance worldwide, spanning global, regional, and national levels. Furthermore, they commend financial institutions for their endeavors in mitigating the adverse impacts of climate change. Award recipients are chosen based on their contributions to overall sustainable financing, community support, resource management, transparency and reporting, as well as their commitment to sustainable funding.

The awards and recognition programs presented by Global Finance boast an impressive legacy of 35 years, characterized by editorial accuracy and integrity. Over time, they have become a trusted and revered standard of excellence within the global financial community.

munity.

Outstanding Financial Leadership

Sustaining Communities Award

The recognition bestowed upon Boursa Kuwait by Global Finance not only highlights the exchange's exceptional financial leadership but also underscores its unwavering Boursa Kuwait awarded for its "Out-

Boursa Kuwait awarded for its "Outstanding Leadership in Sustainable Finance" and

"Outstanding Leadership in Sustainability Transparency" by Global Finance

5 July 2023 BOURSA KUWAIT Page 2 of 6

dedication to community development. By leveraging its influence, expertise, and resources, Boursa Kuwait continues to make a lasting and positive impact on Kuwait's society and economy, embodying the true spirit of corporate responsibility and sustainable growth.

Boursa Kuwait has integrated Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles into its sustainability strategic goals, sponsoring community initiatives and prioritizing the engagement, motivation, satisfaction, and productivity of its human capital and laying the foundation for its continued success.

The company's unwavering dedication to its employees underscores its understanding that investing in their well-being is paramount. Committed to addressing their pressing concerns, attracting and nurturing talent, fostering diversity and inclusion, and providing a safe and supportive workplace environment, Boursa Kuwait ensures that its employees feel valued and empowered to give their best.

Boursa Kuwait's sense of responsibility extends beyond its internal stakeholders, as the exchange is deeply committed to supporting and serving communities and people across Kuwait. Driven by a strong desire to be a force for good, Boursa Kuwait actively gives back and strives to create a positive impact through a diverse range of ongoing community and social initiatives.



The awards won by Boursa Kuwait.

Education and financial literacy form the core of many of Boursa Kuwait's initiatives, recognizing their pivotal role in fostering economic and social prosperity. Since its establishment, the exchange has been dedicated to elevating its status and positioning on both local and international stages by championing these causes. By equipping all stakeholders with the knowledge and skills needed to contribute to and benefit from the nation's exchange, Boursa Kuwait is committed to enhancing financial literacy, promoting best practices, and driving positive behavioral change, a commitment which is evident through a comprehensive range of in-person and virtual training programs, workshops, seminars and initiatives designed to empower listed companies, investment firms, brokerage companies, and individuals.

To make a lasting positive impact in the communities in which we operate, Boursa Kuwait partnered with several local and international organizations. The exchange contributed to the United Nations High Commission

for Refugees' Annual Winterization Programs and its initiatives to protect refugees and internally displaced people in the Middle East and North Africa since 2021. The bourse also renewed the strategic partnership with Kuwait Red Crescent Society as a Humanitarian Partner for the second consecutive year, sponsoring the Society's "Basic Education" initiative that helps underprivileged children gain an education.

Boursa Kuwait is also committed to minimizing the company's impact on the environment and have implemented several green programs and initiatives. The company is training Boursa Kuwait awarded for its "Out-

standing Leadership in Sustainable Finance" and

"Outstanding Leadership in Sustainability Transparency" by Global Finance

5 July 2023 BOURSA KUWAIT Page 3 of 6

their employees to operate the exchange's iconic building more sustainably and have started the process towards obtaining a LEED certification right after renovating the building to upgrade the facilities and reduce its carbon footprint.

Boursa Kuwait have also renewed the partnership for the third consecutive year with the Environmental Voluntary Foundation's Kuwait Dive Team, collaborating with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to sponsor the National Campaign to remove hundreds of tons of hazardous waste from Kuwait Bay and its beaches and supporting the Dive Team's efforts for the preservation of Kuwait's marine environment.

Boursa Kuwait has also partnered with the LOYAC Academy of Performing Arts (LAPA), sponsoring the Academy's "Green Darb" program, an initiative that provides practical training in agriculture to equip young trainees with advanced skills in the field, helping them secure employment opportunities in agricultural projects.

Outstanding Leadership in Sustainability Transparency

Boursa Kuwait strives to adopt the highest standards of accuracy and transparency in the dissemination of information about the company and listed companies, as it has a significant impact on enhancing investor confidence, attracting capital and improving liquidity within the market. In 2017, the exchange joined the United Nations-led Sustainable Stock Exchanges (SSE) initiative, demonstrating its unwavering dedication to driving Corporate Sustainability within financial markets.

The exchange has adopted a strategy that seeks to develop a more transparent and solvent capital market through the implementation of a group of enhancements and regulatory projects as well as the technology to raise the capital market's profile locally, regionally, and around the world. Companies listed in Boursa Kuwait's flagship "Premier" Market have an obligation to allocate an Investor Relations function that is responsible for educating shareholders about the company's activities as well

as answering shareholder inquiries and questions, communicating with shareholders to exercise their rights to attend and vote in general assemblies and building links between the company and its investors.

Additionally, "Premier" Market companies are required to host quarterly analyst meetings within five days of the disclosure of their annual and quarterly financials and publish the transcripts of the conference, as well as all their disclosures and announcements, in both Arabic and English.

The company also developed the Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Reporting Guide to support listed companies in disclosing ESG matters, catering to the growing demand for transparency from stakeholders, including investors, customers, suppliers, and regulators. The guide includes recommended sustainability metrics and indicators aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB), and Kuwait's 2035 Vision. Through this initiative, Boursa Kuwait aims to enhance transparency, advocate sustainable practices, and facilitate ongoing improvement in ESG efforts.

ESG reporting and implementation play a vital role in today's financial landscape, and the exchange is committed to demonstrating its role as one of the model issuers listed on the exchange to achieve a more sustainable future and a brighter tomorrow.

Boursa Kuwait's 2021 and 2022 Sustainability Reports marked the beginning of the company's long-term commitment to progressively report the latest results and impacts of their Corporate Sustainability (CS) strategies to stakeholders. This also inaugurates the ESG reporting apparatus of Boursa Kuwait, detailing their contributions to the "New Kuwait 2035" vision, which aims to transform Kuwait into a financial, cultural, and institutional leader in the region.

Issue concerns 'protected speech'

US judge limits Biden admin in working with social media cos

WASHINGTON, July 5, (AP): A judge has prohibited several federal agencies and officials of the Biden administration from working with social media companies about "protected speech," a decision called "a blow to censorship" by one of the Republican officials whose lawsuit prompted the ruling.

U.S. District Judge Terry Doughty of Louisiana granted the injunction in response to a 2022 lawsuit brought by attorneys general in Louisiana and Missouri. Their lawsuit alleged that the federal government overstepped in its efforts to convince social media companies to address postings that could result in vaccine hesitancy during the COVID-19 pandemic or affect elections.

Doughty cited "substantial evidence" of a far-reaching censorship campaign. He wrote that the "evidence produced thus far depicts an almost dystopian scenario. During the COV-ID-19 pandemic, a period perhaps best characterized by widespread doubt and uncertainty, the United States Government seems to have assumed a role similar to an Orwellian 'Ministry of Truth.'"

Republican U.S. Sen. Eric Schmitt, who was the Missouri attorney general when the lawsuit was filed, said on Twitter that the ruling was "a huge win for the First Amendment and a blow to censorship."

Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry said the injunction prevents the administration "from censoring the core political speech of ordinary Americans" on social media.

"The evidence in our case is shocking and offensive with senior federal officials deciding that they could dictate what Americans can and cannot say on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and other platforms about COVID-19, elections, criticism of the government, and more," Landry said in a statement.

The Justice Department is reviewing the injunction "and will evaluate its options in this case," said a White House official who was not authorized to discuss the case publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

"This administration has promoted responsible actions to protect public health, safety, and security when confronted by challenges like a deadly pandemic and foreign attacks on our elections," the official said. "Our con-

sistent view remains that social media platforms have a critical responsibility to take account of the effects their platforms are having on the American people, but make independent choices about the information they present."

The ruling listed several government agencies, including the Department of Health and Human Services and the FBI, that are prohibited by the injunction from discussions with social media companies aimed at "encouraging, pressuring, or inducing in any manner the removal, deletion, suppression, or reduction of content containing protected free speech."

The order mentions by name several officials, including Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra, Department of Homeland Security Secretary Aleiandro Mayorkas and others

tary Alejandro Mayorkas and others.

Doughty allowed several exceptions, such as informing social media companies of postings involving criminal activity and conspiracies; as well as notifying social media firms of national security threats and other threats post-

ed on platforms.

The plaintiffs in the lawsuit also included individuals, including conservative website owner Jim Hoft. The lawsuit accused the administration of using the possibility of favorable or unfavorable regulatory action to coerce social media platforms to squelch what it considered misinformation on masks and vaccines during the COVID-19 pandemic. It also touched on other topics, including claims about election integrity and news stories about material on a laptop owned by Hunter Biden,

the president's son.

Administration lawyers said the government left it up to social media companies to decide what constituted misinformation and how to combat it. In one brief, they likened the lawsuit to an attempt to put a legal gag order on the federal government and "suppress the speech of federal government officials under the guise of protecting the speech rights of others."

"Plaintiffs' proposed injunction would significantly hinder the Federal Government's ability to combat foreign malign influence campaigns, prosecute crimes, protect the national security, and provide accurate information to the public on matters of grave public concern such as health care and election integrity," the administration says in a May 3 court filing.

Wall Street drifts as markets worldwide pull back sharply

Asia sinks after a survey shows China's industrial activity is weakening

NEW YORK, July 5, (AP): Wall Street is drifting Wednesday following a rally that had sent it roaring 16% higher for the year so far.

The S&P 500 was 0.1% lower in morning trading and edging down from its highest level since April 2022. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 58 points, or 0.2%, at 34,368, as of 11:31 a.m. Eastern time, and the Nasdaq com-

posite was down 0.1%.

Other markets around the world fell more sharply following the latest discouraging signal from China's economy. Growth in China's services industry slowed by more than economists expected last month. It's the latest evidence showing the world's second-largest economy is stumbling in its recovery following the removal of anti-COVID restric-

tions.

The U.S. economy, meanwhile, has remained stronger than many investors feared. It's defied predictions for a recession because of a job market that's remained remarkably solid despite much higher interest rates meant to bring down inflation.

A report on Wednesday showed growth for U.S. factory orders held steady in May, though economists expected to see an acceleration.

Hope is rising that inflation is cooling enough to get the Federal Reserve to soon stop its hikes to rates, which undercut inflation by slowing the entire economy. The Fed may offer some clues about its next moves later this afternoon, when it releases the minutes from its latest meeting.

At that meeting, the Fed decided to hold rates steady. It was the first time in more than a year that it refrained from hiking rates, but it also hinted it may push through two more increases by the end of 2023.

KIPCO concludes debut Sukuk issuance

KUWAIT CITY, July 5: KIPCO – Kuwait Projects Company (Holding) – announced the successful completion of its first Sukuk issuance of KD 103.1 million (US\$ 335.8 million). This issuance is the first ever KD denominated Sukuk transaction by a Kuwait incorporated corporate.

The trust certificates in Sukuk format were issued by Kuwait Projects Company Sukuk Limited, incorporated in Cayman Islands as an exempted company with limited liability, with KIPCO as the obligor. This is the first issuance under KIPCO's US\$ 2 billion Trust Certificate Issuance Program.

The certificates have a six-year tenor. Floating Rate Certificates accounted for 36% of the total issuance, at KD 37.05 million (US\$ 120.7 million). The initial profit rate for these certificates was set as 7% per annum (i.e. 3% over the Central Bank of Kuwait Discount Rate; provided that the floating rate profit shall never exceed 7.5%). The Fixed Rate Certificates



Sunny Bhatia

offer 6.5% profit per annum and their total issuance amounted to KD 66.05 million (US\$ 215.1 million).

The proceeds from the issuance will be used for general corporate purposes. The certificates are Sukuk of Murabaha and Wakala, denominated in Kuwaiti Dinars and approved by the Sharia Advisor. The certificates will be listed on the International Securities Market of the London Stock Exchange.

the London Stock Exchange. KFH Capital, Kamco Invest and Warba Bank acted as joint lead managers and represents a landmark transaction, being the first ever KD denominated Sukuk transaction by a Kuwait incorporated corporate. We are excited to be tapping into the deep pool of Sharia compliant capital and contributing to its development in Kuwait. The transaction reflects the continued success of our proactive liability management

initiatives aimed at raising long-term

financing, extending the tenor of our

existing liabilities to strengthen KIP-

CO's capital structure and aligning the

liabilities profile with our investment

placement agents of the transaction.

Commenting on the transaction, Mr Sunny Bhatia, KIPCO's Group Chief

Financial Officer said: "This issuance

holding strategies."

He added: "We would like to thank the Kuwait Capital Markets Authority, our investors and our joint lead managers – KFH Capital, Kamco Invest and Warba Bank – for their support and continued confidence in KIPCO's capital markets initiatives."

Europe

In early trading, the FTSE 100 in London lost 0.4% to 7,486.89. The CAC 40 in Paris lost 0.5% to 7,332.92 and the DAX in Frankfurt retreated 0.4% to 15,966.73.

Asia

Asian stock markets sank Wednesday after a measure of Chinese service industry activity fell to its lowest level this year

Shanghai, Tokyo, Hong Kong and Sydney retreated. Oil prices were mixed. U.S. markets were closed Tuesday for a holiday.

A service industry index by a leading Chinese business magazine, Caixin, weakened sharply in June, adding to signs China's recovery following the

end of anti-virus controls is cooling. Growth in factory activity also slowed. "Without policy support, there's a

risk that weakening growth expectations could become self-fulfilling," said Stephen Innes of SPI Asset Management in a report.

The Shanghai Composite Index fell 0.6% to 3,225.68 and the Hang Seng in Hong Kong sank 1.4% to 19,147.37. Caixin's purchasing managers' index for services fell to 53.9 from May's 57.1 on a 100-point scale on which numbers above 50 show activity

increasing.
Tokyo's Nikkei 225 lost 0.4% to 33,277.33 and the Kospi in Seoul retreated 0.4% to 2,583.13.

treated 0.4% to 2,583.13.

Sydney's S&P-ASX 200 shed 0.3% to 7,254.50 and India's Sensex opened down 0.2% at 65,384.86. New Zealand

and Jakarta gained while Singapore and Bangkok declined.

China is the biggest trading partner for all of its Asian neighbors. Demand for imports got a boost when retailing and factory activity revived, but that rebound cooled faster than expected.

0il

In energy markets, benchmark U.S. crude rose \$1.11 to \$70.90 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Brent crude, the price basis for international oil trading, lost 43 cents to \$75.82 per barrel in London

Currencies

The dollar rose to 144.62 yen from Tuesday's 144.46 yen. The euro was unchanged at \$1.0870.

INVESTMENT STRATEGY & RESEARCH

KAMCO INVEST

GCC Markets Monthly Report

June 2023

Global optimism supported GCC market performance **™**CC equity markets closed in the green during June-2023 Tafter seeing declines during the previous month backed by optimism in global financial markets. The aggregate MSCI GCC index was up 2.8% during the month reflecting positive performance in most markets in the region. DFM was the best performing market in the GCC with a monthly return of 6.0% followed by Saudi Arabia's TASI and Kuwait with gains of 4.0% and 3.4%, respectively. Qatar and Bahrain, on the other hand, reported marginal declines of 0.8% and 0.3%, respectively. The gains in most global markets was reflected in the 5.9% gain in the MSCI World index in June-2023. This pushed 1H-2023 gains to 14.0% mainly backed by gain in US Tech stocks.

Gains during the month supported the aggregate MSCI GCC index to record a gain of 0.3% in 1H-2023 after falling in the red at the end of May-2023. Dubai was the best performing market this year with a double-digit gain of 13.7% followed by Saudi and Bahrain with gains of 9.4% and 3.3%, respectively. The rest of the markets recorded declines during 1H-2023, with ADX witnessing the biggest decline of 6.5% followed by Qatar and Kuwait with declines of 5.7% and 3.6%, respectively.

The sector performance chart for the month showed gains across the board barring the Retailing sector that declined by 3.7%. Insurance was the best performing sector during the month with a gain of 12.0% followed by 11.9% and 9.2% gains for Consumer Durable and F&B indices, respectively. Largecap sectors like banks and energy reported low single digit gains during the month. Performance in 1H-2023 was positive across the board but a decline of 1.6% in the large-cap banking sector and a 7.1% drop in the capital goods index almost fully offset the gains in the rest of the sectors.

Boursa Kuwait

Boursa Kuwait returned to growth with all four market segment indices witnessing gains during the June-2023. However, unlike the previous month, the gains during June-2023 was mainly led by large-cap stocks. The Premier Market Index outperformed the other indices on the exchange with a gain of 4.2% to close at 7,809.3 points. The Main Market Index witnessed a marginal monthly growth of 0.4% while the Main 50 index was up 0.2%. The All-Share Market Index reported a monthly growth of 3.4% and closed at 7,029.8 points. In terms of 1H-2023 performance, all the Kuwaiti benchmarks were in red with the Main 50 Index down by 6.0% followed by 3.8% decline for the Premier Market Index. The All-Share Market Index and Main Market Index dropped by 3.6% and 2.4%.

The monthly sector performance chart favored gainers. The Consumer Staples index topped the monthly sector performance during June-2023 with a double-digit gain of 22.3% followed by Utilities and Real Estate indices with returns of 8.7% and 8.3%, respectively. On the decliner's side, the Technology index witnessed the biggest decline of 2.1% during the month followed by Health Care and Basic Materials indices with declines of 2.0% and 1.2%, respectively. Gains in the Consumer Staples sector came mainly on the back of double-digit gains of 25.4% in shares of Mezzan Holding Co. Meanwhile, the performance of the Utilities index was supported by 8.7% gain in its sole constituent, Shamal Az-Zour AlOula Power and Water Co. Large-cap sectors like Banking and Telecom sector were up by 3.3% and 1.0% respectively. In the Policy of the Policy 3.3% and 1.9%, respectively. In the Banking sector five out of 10 banks gained during the month with Burgan Bank recording double-digit gains of 11.1%. On the other hand, the decline in the Technology sector was led by the fall in the shares of its sole constituent Automated Systems Co.

In terms of monthly stock performance, Ekttitab Holding Co. topped the chart with a gain of 137.8% followed by Al Kout for Industrial Projects Co. and Manazel Holding Co. with gains of 42.0% and 40.9%, respectively. On the decliners side, Ahli Bank of Kuwait topped with a fall of 23.2% followed by Gulf Franchising Co. and Warba Insurance and Reinsurance Co. with the declines of 20.0% and 10.4%, respectively. In terms of trading activity, volume traded during the month increased by 15.4% to reach 3.4 Bn shares in June-2023 as compared to 3.0 Bn shares in May-2023. The aggregate value of shares traded during the month declined by 13.3% to reach KWD 815.9 Mn as compared to KWD 941 Mn during May-2023. KFH topped the monthly value traded chart with KWD 201.2 Mn worth of shares traded followed by National Bank of Kuwait and Agility at KWD 72.1 Mn and KWD 45.2 Mn, respectively. On the monthly volume chart, GFH Financial Group topped with 291.6 Mn traded shares followed by KFH and Kuwait Real Estate Co. at 275.1 Mn and 173.1 Mn shares, respectively.

Saudi Arabia (Tadawul)

After reporting losses during the previous month, Saudi Arabia's TASI recorded the second-best monthly return in the GCC during June-2023. The benchmark TASI peaked at a closing high of 11,466.0 points on 21 June 2023 but trended downward by the end of the month to close with a gain of 4.0% at 11,459.0 points. The monthly performance pushed the 1H-2023 gains for TASI further into the positive zone to 9.4%, the second highest in the GCC after Dubai. The month also saw four listings in the main market of the Saudi stock exchange namely First Milling Co. in Food & Beverages sector, Morabaha Marina Financing Co. in Diversified Financials, Al Mawarid Manpower Co. in Commercial & Professional Svc, Jamjoom Pharmaceuticals Factory Co. in Pharma, Biotech & Life Science.

The sector performance chart for the month showed positive performance for most of the sectors barring the Retailing sector. The Software & Services index topped the monthly chart with a gain of 18.0% after most of the constituent stocks in the index reported gains. The Diversified Financials and Insurance sector was next with a gain of 11.2% followed by Consumer Durables & Apparel gains of 10.9%. The Pharma, Biotech & Life Science index topped in terms of 1H-2023 returns that came in at 74.7% followed by Software & Services and Capital Goods indices with gains of 54.5% and 45.3%, respectively. Most of the sectoral indices were in the green in terms of 1H-2023 returns barring Banking sector which recorded a decline.

Gains for the Diversified Financial sector was led by 17.5% gain in shares of Saudi Tadawul Group Holding Co. and 16.1% gain in shares of Al-Baha Investment and Development Co. In the Banking sector, nine out of ten listed banks reported gains during the month resulting in the sector gain of 2.6% during the month. Shares of Banque Saudi Fransi, Bank Aljazira, and Bank Albilad led the gains during the month at 4.8%, 4.2% and 4.0%, respectively.

The monthly gainer's chart was topped by Alaseel Co. with a gain of 30.3%. Arabian Contracting Services Co. was next on the monthly gainers chart with a gain of 24.5% followed by the Company for Cooperative Insurance with gain of 23.0%. On the decliner's side, Alinma Tokio Marine Co. topped with a decline of 22.0% followed by Saudi Enaya Cooperative Insurance Co. and Saudi Arabian Cooperative Insurance Co. with declines of 20.8% and 8.9%, respectively.

Trading activity on the exchange witnessed a m-o-m decline due to the Eid Holidays. Monthly volume of shares traded dropped by 12.9% m-o-m in June-2023 to reach 4.1 Bn shares as compared to 4.7 Bn shares during May-2023. Value of shares traded during the monthly declined by more than a quarter to reach SAR 100.1 Bn during June-2023 as compared to SAR 136.0 Bn during May-2023. Tourism Enterprise Co. topped the monthly volume chart with 1.2 Bn shares followed by Americana Restaurants International PLC and Batic Investments and Logistics Co. with 262.6 Mn shares and 144.7 Mn shares traded, respectively. On the monthly value traded chart, Al Rajhi Bank topped with SAR 4.7 Bn worth of shares traded during the month followed by Saudi Aramco Base Oil Co. and Saudi National Bank with trades worth SAR 2.4 Bn and SAR 2.3 Bn during the month, respectively.

The FTSE ADX index increased by 1.5% during June-2023 after suffering the third-biggest decline in the GCC during May 2023. In terms of sectoral indices, eight out of the ten sectors recorded growth during the month while the remaining two recorded declines. On the gainers side, the Utilities index led the way with 17.7% index gain to close the month at 13,994.5





points as the sectors only constituent company, Abu Dhabi National Energy Co, witnessed an equivalent share price decline of 17.7% during the month. The Industrial index followed with the second highest gain of 6.2% as significant number of constituent companies witnessed share price growth during the month led by Gulf Cement's 21.5% share price growth during the month. On the decliners' side, the Telecom index led the way with a 2.9% slide during the month to close the month at 5,535.2 points followed by the Energy index which witnessed a 2% drop during June-2023. Two of the three constituents of the Energy index witnessed share price declines during June-2023, including ADNOC Distribution (-5.8%) and ADNOC Drilling

In terms of monthly stock performance, Hayah Insurance Co topped the monthly gainers chart for June-2023 with a gain of 68.4% followed by Rak Properties and Sharjah Group To which recorded gains of 26.5% and 25.7%, respectively. Hayah Insurance Co which is one of the leading life insurance and protection companies in the UAE has recently launched a pioneering savings plan to provide easy and affordable access to wealth management. Moreover, RAK Property has recently announced the launch of four new residential projects as well as a hotel project in Ras Al Khaimah in 2023 and its goal to exceed last year's profitability on the back of higher sales. On the decliner's side, National Bank of Ras Al-Khaimah lead the way registering 13.5% fall in its share price during June-2023 followed by National Bank of Umm Al Qaiwain and Abu Dhabi Aviation Co which saw share price de

Trading activity decreased m-o-m during June-2023. Total volume of shares traded declined by 62% in June-2023 to reach 2.1 Bn as compared to 5.6 Bn in May-2023. Similarly, total value of traded fell 59.9% to reach AED 10.5 Bn. Multiply Group topped the list of the most active stocks table during the month with 417.5 Mn traded shares followed by GFH Financial Group and Eshraq Investments which traded 311.0 Mn shares and 231.4 Mn shares, respectively. In terms of value traded, IHC topped the table for the fifth month in a row with AED 4.1 Bn worth of shares changing hands during the month followed by Alpha Dhabi Holding Co and Multiply Group at AED 2.0 Bn and AED 1.3 Bn, respectively.

In economic news, according to the IMF the UAE's economy is expected to grow 3.6% in 2023 supported by strong domestic activity. The Emirates non-hydrocarbon economy is forecast to grow 3.8% mainly due to continued tourism activity as well as increased capital expenditure. The IMF has also penciled the UAE's inflation to grow at 3.4% in 2023. In its brief, the IMF has underlined the Emirates high fiscal and external surpluses which it expects to remain high throughout the year due to higher oil prices. Moreover, Abu Dhabi Statistics Center (SCAD) has published that Abu Dhabi's 2023 O1-2023 GDP growth expanded 3.9% as compared to Q1-2022 mainly driven by strong performance of the non-oil economic activities in the emirate. SCAD estimates Abu Dhabi's non-oil GDP to 6.1% during the first quarter of 2023. Abu Dhabi's non-oil GDP is estimated to have exceeded the highest quarterly value of the past nine years, reaching AED 146 Bn during Q1-2023.

Dubai Financial Market

The DFM General Index recorded its third consecutive monthly gain and the highest monthly gain among the GCC markets in June-2023 recording a 6.0% growth to close the month at 3,792.0 points. The monthly index performance was induced by increases in six out of the eight sectoral indices including Financials, Real Estate, and Industrials sectors. The Consumer Discretionary Index recorded the biggest monthly gain for the second consecutive month registering 48.0% growth to close the month at 1,530.3 points mainly driven by Al Firdous Holdings' nearly four-fold share price gain during June-2023. The Real Estate Index followed with a 7.2% gain during the month due to Union Properties' 22.3% share price increase during the month. The Industrial index followed registering 6.9% growth during June-2023 after three out of the six constituent companies of the sector recorded strong gains led by the 28.3% monthly gain of Gulf Navigation Holdings Co. On the other hand, the Materials index recorded the biggest monthly index decline with 8.7% fall to close the month at 86.5 points after the only constituent company, National Cement Co, suffered an 8.7% fall in share prices during June-2023. The Consumer Staples index followed as the only other index decliner among the sectors of the exchange with 5.9% monthly to close the month at 112.1 points.

According to Bloomberg data, Ekttitab Holding Company led the monthly gainers table with an 194.4% increase in share price followed by Ithmaar Holding and Takaful Emarat Insurance with gains of 101.3% and 68.3%, respectively. Ithmaar Holding Company has approved plans to improve the capital. The company which is listed in both Dubai and Bahrain exchanges but is based on Bahrain has approved plans which include the injection of Tier 1 Capital of up to USD 200 Mn during the first week of June-2023.

On the decliner's side, Arabian Scandinavian Insurance Company topped the table recording a share price decline of 15% during June-2023 followed by Dubai Refreshment Company and Dubai Islamic Insurance Company with share price declines of 10.6% and 8.8%, respectively. Dubai Refreshment Company has sold its Al QUOZ plot to Al Futtaim for USD 68.6 Mn in an all-cash transaction during June-2023. The plot was previously used by Dubai Refreshments as its factory, warehouse and offices for all Pepsi-related brands including In terms of monthly trading activity, total volume traded increased by 29.8% to reach 7.4 Bn shares in June-2023 as compared to 5.7 Bn shares during May-2023. Total value traded of shares traded during the month also witnessed double-digit growth recording 11.2% increase to reach AED 10.8 Bn in June-2023 as compared to AED 9.7 Bn during May-2023. Union Properties topped the monthly volumes traded chart recording 1.6 Bn shares traded during the month followed by Ithmaar Holding and DEWA which saw 1.6 Bn and 760.3 Mn of their shares change hands during the month, respectively. On the monthly value traded chart, DEWA topped the list with AED 2.0 Bn worth of shares changing hands during the month, followed by Emaar Properties and TAALEEM which saw AED 1.3 Bn

and AED 1.0 Bn value of their shares traded, respectively. In economic news, Dubai's economy has rebounded reaching 98% of pre-pandemic levels driven mainly by the Transportation and Retail sectors according to new research by BMI. The report underlined that the on-going rebound would continue at least throughout 2023. Moreover, Dubai's financial sector is forecasted to remain in its upward trajectory supported by the performance of the newly listing of new companies on the Dubai Financial Market.

Qatar Exchange

The declining streak in Qatar Stock Exchange continued during June-2023 with the QE General Index registering a decline for the fifth consecutive month, albeit marginally by 0.8% dura slightly bigger monthly decline of 1.1% to close at 3,397.7 points. This difference was also seen in the 1H-2023 performance of the two indices with the QE General index seeing a decline of 5.7% whereas the QE All Share index registered a marginal drop of 1.5% indicating underperformance of largecap stocks in the market. Separately, in terms of primary market performance, Meeza and QInvest announced the successful conclusion of IPO on June 19, with an oversubscribed order book for the total offering for 50% of the company's issued share capital, targeted to be listed for trading on the Qatar Stock exchange during July 2023. It is the first IPO in Qatar in over three years.

The sector performance chart remained mixed during the month. The Insurance sector recorded the biggest monthly gain of 4.2% during June-2023 followed by Telecoms and Transportation with gains of 2.8% and 2.0%, respectively. The Telecom index was the top performer in terms of 1H-2023 gains of 24.4% followed by Transportation and Insurance indices with gains of 10.0% and 8.1%, respectively. On the other hand, the Industrials index was the biggest decliner with a decline of 4.7% followed by Real Estate and Banks & Financial Services indices with declines of 2.8% and 1.0%, respectively. Gains for the Insurance index was mainly led by shares of Oatar General Insurance & Reinsurance and Oatar Insurance Company which were up by 8.4% and 6.2%, respectively, during the month, while shares of QLM Life & Medical Insurance company declined by 6.0%. In the telecom sector, shares of Ooredoo gained 3.1% while shares of Vodafone Qatar was up by 1.8%. The decline of the Banking & Finance index was led by fall in the shares of large-cap banks in the sector including QNB (-3.7%) and Doha Bank (•6.2%). In the Banking sector, four out of nine stocks reported a decline during the month, whereas Lesha Bank and The Commercial Bank reported gains of 17.8% and

Lesha Bank also topped the gainers chart for the month with a gain of 17.8% followed by Qatar General Insurance & Reinsurance and Qatar Fuel with gains of 8.4% and 7.1%, respectively. In terms of laggards, Widam Food Company led with a monthly stock price decline by over 18.4% followed by Qatar Aluminum Manufacturing Company and Inma Holding Company with declines of 16.9% and 16.5%, respectively.

Trading activity on the exchange declined during the month, in line with most other GCC markets. Total volume of shares traded declined by 47.8% to reach 3.4 Bn shares as compared to 6.5 Bn shares in the previous month. In terms of value traded, the decline was at 42.6% reaching QAR 9.2 Bn in June-2023 as compared to QAR 16.1 Bn in May-2023. Qatar Aluminum Manufacturing Company topped the monthly volume chart with 405.0 Mn traded shares followed by Mazaya Real Estate Development and Masraf Al Rayan at 333.6 Mn shares and 243.4 Mn traded shares, respectively. On the monthly value traded chart, Qatar National Bank topped with shares worth QAR 1.0 Bn traded during the month followed by Industries Qatar and Masraf Al Rayan with value traded at QAR 730.5 Mn and QAR 634.5 Mn, respectively.

Bahrain Bourse

The Bahrain Bourse All Share Index recorded the second biggest decline in the GCC during June-2023. The index was down for the first time after three consecutive months of gains recording a marginal drop of 0.3% during June-2023 to close the month at 1,957.87 points. In terms of sectoral performance, the declines of only two out of the seven sectors were enough to drag the Bourse benchmark into the red. The Materials index recorded a 2.2% drop during June-2023 to close the month at 4,989.3 points after Aluminum Bahrain, the only constituent of the sector, suffered 2.2% share drop during the month. Moreover, the Industrials index recorded a $0.9 \bar{\%}$ drop during June-2023 to close the month at 2,786.5 points. The Financial and Consumer Staples indices remained flat during June-2023. On the other hand, the Communications Services and Real Estate Indices recorded 0.1% growth each during the month.

In terms of share price performance, according to Bloomberg data, Ithmaar Holding topped the list of gainers with 128.6% share price gain during the month followed by Nass Corp Investments and GFH Financial Group with gains of 5% and 4.4%, respectively. Ithmaar Holding has recently approved the increase of capital in the bank. On the decliners side, APM Terminals Bahrain topped the list for the second consecutive month recording 4.3% share price decline during the month followed by Arab Banking Corp and Bahrain Kuwait Insurance Company with share price declines of 4.2% and 3.9%, respectively.

Trading activity on the exchange decreased during June-2023 after a growth in May-2023. Total volume traded on the exchange fell by 28.4% to 56.7 Mn as compared to 79.2 Mn in May-2023. Moreover, total value traded on the exchange witnessed a double-digit decline of 57.8% to reach BHD 12.5 Mn in June-2023 as compared to BHD 29.7 Mn during May-2023. Al Salam Bank-Bahrain topped the monthly volumes chart with 20.3 Mn traded shares followed by Ithmaar Holding Company and GFH Financial Group at 15.4 Mn and 4.3 Mn shares, respectively. On the monthly value traded chart, Kuwait Finance House -Bahrain topped this list with BHD 3.5 Mn worth of shares changing hands during the month followed by Aluminum Bahrain and Al Salam Bank-Bahrain which witnessed BHD 3.3 Mn and BHD 3.0 Mn values of their monthly shares traded, respectively.

In economic news, according to the latest Economic Insight report for the Middle East, Bahrain's GDP growth is expected to slow down to 2.2% in 2023 due to global economic activity slowdown, lower oil prices and lesser tax receipts. This slowdown is on the back of strong 4.9% growth in 2022 driven by high oil prices and the doubling of VAT rate which rose to 10% according to the report. The report underlined that Bahrain's fiscal position is likely to switch into a deficit in 2024. The Kingdom's economy, similar to those in the oil exporting GCC countries, is forecasted to be affected by constraints on oil production as well as global uncertainty, high inflation and contracting monetary policy. Comparatively, the IMF projects Bahrain's GDP to grow 2.7% in 2023 with non-oil GDP growing 3.2% reflecting fiscal consolidation and higher interest rates.

Muscat Securities Market

The MSX 30 index witnessed a monthly growth of 3.1% during June-2023 to close the month at 4,768.22 points recording three consecutive months of gains. In terms of sector performance, two out of three sector indices recorded gains during June•2023. The Financial Sector Index, which recorded the biggest monthly fall of 4.9% during May-2023 recovered and witnessed the biggest monthly gain among the indices with 3.6% growth closing the month at 7,830.13 points. The growth was primarily driven by the significant share price growth of certain companies such as Dhofar International Development and Investment Holding (+43.9%), National Finance Co (+11.1) and Ahli Bank (+6.7%). The Industrial Index followed recording a gain of 2.6% during June-2023 while the Services Index registered a marginal decline of 0.4% during the month to close the month at 1,695.3 points. Significant share price declines of companies like Arabia Falcon Insurance (-9.1%), Majan College (-8.7) and Oman Oil Marketing Co (-14.2%) contributed to the overall decline of indices' monthly drop.

In terms of company performance, Dhofar International Dev. & Inv. Holding Company topped the gainers list with a share price gain of 43.9% followed by Dhofar Cattle Feed and Al Ômaniya Financial Services Co with 14.1% and 13.7% monthly share gains, respectively. On the decliner's side, Barka Water and Power topped the monthly losers list with a share price drop of 34.5% followed by Oman Investment & Finance Co and Oman Oil Marketing Company which recorded 18.7% and 14.2% share price declines during the month, respectively.

Trading activity on the exchange decreased for the second consecutive month. Total volume of shares traded in the exchange fell 41.9% to 137.1 Mn shares as compared to 235.9 Mn in May-2023. Similarly, total value traded in the exchange declined by 41.2% to OMR 31.5 Mn against OMR 53.6 Mn in May-2023. Bank Muscat topped the monthly value traded chart with trades at OMR 16.3 Mn followed by Sohar Bank Galfar Engineering and Contracting with total value traded at OMR 9.9 Mn and OMR 7.8 Mn, respectively. In terms of monthly volume traded, Oman Telecommunications Company topped the table with 7.2 Mn shares followed by Bank Muscat and Oman Qatari Telecommunication Company with volumes at 4.4 Mn shares and 1.6 Mn shares, respectively.

In economic news, a consortium of companies led by the South Korean steel making company POSCÔ has won a USD 6.7 Bn hydrogen deal from Oman. The project aims to build the worlds largest hydrogen plant in Oman to achieve the country's 2050 net zero goal. The consortium which consists of four Korean companies, a French company and a Thai corporate will build the plant in the port town of Duqm. The Sultanate is expected to become the largest exporter of hydrogen in the Middle East and the sixth largest exporter of hydrogen globally. According to the IEA, the global green hydrogen market is expected to expand to USD 1.4 trillion by 2050 up from USD 642 Bn in 2030.

On the other hand, the IMF has revised down its GDP growth forecast for Oman from 1.7% to 1.3% in 2023. The IMF explained these years forecasted slowdown reflects oil production cuts by Opec+ and moderate growth in the non-hydrocarbon sector of the Sultanate.

Monthly Indicators	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23
Premier Market Index	8,603.0	8,594.6	7,949.9	8,190.9	8,491.9	8,115.7	8,085.4	8,069.8	7,821.7	7,912.5	7,494.7	7,809.3
Monthly % Change	4.4%	(0.1%)	(7.5%)	3.0%	3.7%	(4.4%)	(0.4%)	(0.2%)	(3.1%)	1.2%	(5.3%)	4.2%
Main 50 Index	6,192.0	6,143.7	5,511.4	5,648.8	5,829.7	5,719.0	5,725.5	5,703.1	5,593.1	5,644.1	5,365.8	5,375.0
Monthly % Change	5.1%	(0.8%)	(10.3%)	2.5%	3.2%	(1.9%)	0.1%	(0.4%)	(1.9%)	0.9%	(4.9%)	0.2%
Main Market Index	5,875.3	5,868.5	5,338.4	5,489.6	5,681.3	5,596.8	5,623.4	5,548.7	5,500.8	5,606.4	5,440.8	5,463.6
Monthly % Change	3.4%	(0.1%)	(9.0%)	2.8%	3.5%	(1.5%)	0.5%	(1.3%)	(0.9%)	1.9%	(3.0%)	0.4%
All Share Market Index	7,716.9	7,709.1	7,105.7	7,318.4	7,584.6	7,292.1	7,277.3	7,244.4	7,050.8	7,142.5	6,796.8	7,029.8
Monthly % Change	4.2%	(0.1%)	(7.8%)	3.0%	3.6%	(3.9%)	(0.2%)	(0.5%)	(2.7%)	1.3%	(4.8%)	3.4%
Market Cap (KWD Mn)	45,855	45,803	45,489	46,882	48,663	46,745	46,706	46,423	45,130	43,989	40,228	41,615
P/E (X) - TTM	17.23	17.46	16.20	16.34	20.39	19.66	17.99	17.94	16.72	14.10	13.10	13.41
P/BV (X) - TTM	1.71	1.75	1.63	1.66	1.74	1.67	1.67	1.66	1.09	0.80	0.79	0.82
Dividend Yield (%)	2.97%	2.83%	2.94%	2.86%	2.71%	2.83%	3.45%	3.46%	3.59%	2.76%	2.97%	2.88%
Volume (Mn Shares)	3,445.4	6,213.0	3,618.7	3,771.0	4,763.3	2,926.4	3,668.5	2,297.8	2,553.4	2,131.3	2,986.1	3,444.8
Value (KD Mn)	1,140.7	1,244.4	920.0	1,291.8	1,176.1	764.5	1,052.2	699.7	889.3	643.9	941.2	815.9
Trades ('000)	188.9	270.7	209.7	237.6	232.6	159.1	211.6	153.1	181.3	151.3	209.3	169.7

Source: Boursa Kuwait, Kamco Invest Research

The Conversation

Developing countries on the rise

Global South flexing political and economic muscles

By Jorge Heine Boston University

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

The unwillingness of many leading countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America The unwillingness of many leading countries in Alices, Asia countries to stand with NATO over the war in Ukraine has brought to the fore once again the term "Global South."

"Why does so much of the Global South support Russia?" inquired one recent headline; "Ukraine courts 'Global South' in push to challenge Russia," declared

But what is meant by that term, and why has it gained currency in recent years? The Global South refers to various countries around the world that are sometimes described as "developing," "less developed" or "underdeveloped." Many of these countries - although by no means all - are in the Southern Hemisphere,

largely in Africa, Asia and Latin America. In general, they are poorer, have higher levels of income inequality and suffer lower life expectancy and harsher living conditions than countries in the "Global North" - that is, richer nations that are located mostly in North America and Europe, with some additions in Oceania and elsewhere.

The term Global South appears to have been first used in 1969 by political activist Carl Oglesby. Writing in the liberal Catholic magazine Commonweal, Oglesby argued that the war in Vietnam was the culmination of a history of northern "dominance over the global south.'

But it was only after the 1991 breakup of the Soviet Union - which marked the end of the so-called "Second World" - that the term gained momentum.

Until then, the more common term for developing nations - countries that had yet to industrialize fully - was "Third World."

That term was coined by Alfred Sauvy in 1952, in an analogy with France's historical three estates: the nobility, the clergy and the bourgeoisie. The term "First World" referred to the advanced capitalist nations; the "Second World," to the socialist nations led by the Soviet Union; and the "Third World," to developing nations, many at the time still under the colonial voke.

Sociologist Peter Worsley's 1964 book, "The Third World: A Vital New Force in International Affairs," further popularized the term. The book also made note of the "Third World" forming the backbone of the Non-Aligned Movement, which had been founded just three years earlier as a riposte to bipolar Cold War align-

Though Worsley's view of this "Third World" was positive, the term became associated with countries plagued by poverty, squalor and instability. "Third World" became a synonym for banana republics ruled by tinpot dictators - a caricature spread by Western media

The fall of the Soviet Union - and with it the end of the so-called Second World gave a convenient pretext for the term "Third World" to disappear, too. Usage of the term fell rapidly in the 1990s.

Meanwhile "developed," "developing" and "underdeveloped" also faced criticism for holding up Western countries as the ideal, while portraying those outside that club as backwards.

Outlook

Increasingly the term that was being used to replace them was the more neutralsounding "Global South."

The term "Global South" is not geographical. In fact, the Global South's two largest countries - China and India - lie entirely in the Northern Hemisphere. Rather, its usage denotes a mix of political, geopolitical and economic commonalities between nations.

Countries in the Global South were mostly at the receiving end of imperialism and colonial rule, with African countries as perhaps the most visible example of this. It gives them a very different outlook on what dependency theorists have described as the relationship between the center and periphery in the world political economy - or, to put it in simple terms, the relationship between "the West and

Given the imbalanced past relationship between many of the countries of the Global South and the Global North - both during the age of empire and the Cold War - it is little wonder that today many opt not to be aligned with any one great

And whereas the terms "Third World" and "underdeveloped" convey images of economic powerlessness, that isn't true of the "Global South."

Since the turn of the 21st century, a "shift in wealth," as the World Bank has referred to it, from the North Atlantic to Asia Pacific has upended much of the conventional wisdom on where the world's riches are being generated.

By 2030 it is projected that three of the four largest economies will be from the Global South - with the order being China, India, the United States and Indonesia. Already the GDP in terms of purchasing power of the the Global South-dominated BRICS nations - Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa - surpasses that of the Global North's G7 club. And there are now more billionaires in Beijing than in New York City. This economic shift has gone hand in hand with enhanced political visibil-

ity. Countries in the Global South are increasingly asserting themselves on the global scene - be it China's brokering of Iran and Saudi Arabia's rapprochement or Brazil's attempt to push a peace plan to end the war in Ukraine. This shift in economic and political power has led experts in geopolitics like

Parag Khanna and Kishore Mahbubani to write about the coming of an "Asian Century." Others, like political scientist Oliver Stuenkel, have began talking about a "post-Western world."

One thing is for sure: The Global South is flexing political and economic muscles that the "developing countries" and the "Third World" never had.



Free trade advocate

Agility's Sultan named to WTO Biz Advisory Group

GENEVA, July 5: The head of the World Trade Organization has named Tarek Sultan, Vice Chairman of Agility, to a new 10-member Business Advisory Group created to share the views of businesses on trade and regulation. WTO Director-General Ngozi

Okonjo-Iweala said she created the group and a second Civil Society Advisory Group to strengthen her engagement with business and civil society. "I have observed a strong desire

to share perspectives on the impact of trade and trade rules on their constituents. By establishing the advisory groups, I aim to facilitate such exchanges on a more regular basis," she

The WTO, based in Geneva, has 164 member countries that account for 98% of global trade. The organization acts as a forum for multi-lateral trade negotiations, sets trade rules, provides technical assistance for developing countries, and handles trade disputes.

Sultan has been a forceful voice for free trade at the World Economic Forum and leading business organizations. He has urged the WTO and member countries to take steps to make trade fairer and more open for small businesses, women-led businesses, and emerging markets countries. In addition, he has called for faster digitization of customs and trade, and he has criticized the wave of non-tariff trade barriers erected by various countries in recent years.

Agility is a leader in supply chain services, infrastructure and investment intended to facilitate and boost trade. It is a leading developer of warehousing and industrial infrastructure in the Middle East, Africa and South Asia. It provides customs modernization, digital logistics, e-commerce, and aviation services that are crucial to cross-border trade.

"I'm honored to join the WTO Business Advisory Group and grateful for the chance to share my perspective with Director-General Okonjo-Iweala," Sultan said. "Trade is essential to global growth and prosperity. In my view, we must act now to expand trade and ensure that its benefits are broadly shared and used to build a fairer, cleaner, safer world. In addition to Sultan, other members

of the WTO Business Advisory Group

- Aigboje Aig-Imoukhuede, Founder and Chairman, Coronation Capital
- Thomas Cueni, Director General, International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers & Associations
- John Denton, Secretary General, International Chamber of Commerce Prasoon Kumar, Co-Founder and

CEO, BillionBricks

- Josie Morris, Managing Director, • Paul Polman, Business leader,
- campaigner, co-author of "Net Posi-• José Viñals, Group Chairman,
- Standard Chartered • Diane Wang, Founder, Chairper-
- son, CEO of DHgate Group
- Rosa Whitaker, President and CEO, The Whitaker Group

Diverse banking solution

Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait educates customers about its loan rights

KUWAIT CITY, July 5: In an effort to serve its customers and meet their banking requirements, Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) continues to educate customers about the loans it offers. This is in line with ABK's third year of support of the Central Bank of Kuwait and Kuwait Banking Association's ongoing 'Let's Be Aware' Diraya bank-

ing awareness campaign. On this occasion, Johair Marafi,

Acting General Manager of Retail Banking at ABK, affirmed, "Customer service and the facilitation of their needs are among the Bank's top priorities." She stated that ABK offers two types personal loans: install-



ment and consumer. Those seeking an installment loan can enjoy a repayment term not exceeding 15 years for a value not exceeding KD 70,000 used for buying, building, or renovating a private residence.

On the other hand, consumer loans allow customers to apply for 25 times their salary up to a maximum of KD 25,000 with a repayment term not exceeding five years, used to finance personal purchases, such as a car, furniture, or obtaining health or educational

She emphasized, "The Bank is dedicated to fulfilling its obligations to customers and prioritizes offering diverse banking solutions to meet their various needs to achieve overall satisfaction.

ABK employees are therefore fully prepared to respond to all inquiries, provide the necessary guidance and advice according to customers' financial capabilities, as well as explain the risks associated with increased financial obligations in the event of circumstantial changes related to employment, interest rates, among other factors."

Contract

Marafi added that ABK is committed to providing customers with two days to read the final copy of the loan contract they applied for prior to signing it. This details the loan type, amount, repayment term, interest rate, and monthly installments due, as well as the obligations and rights of both the Bank and the customer, ensuring the interests of both parties as well as affirming ABK's compliance with the instructions of the Central Bank of Kuwait in this regard.

Marafi concluded by urging customers to follow the 'Let's Be Aware' Diraya campaign to familiarize themselves with the array of topics it discusses as well as the Bank's social media accounts where ABK actively contributes to achieving the objective of financial inclusion among all members of society.

Since its establishment in 1967, ABK has progressed to become one of the leading Kuwaiti banks in the region that is today known for offering a simpler banking experience. The Bank offers personal, corporate, and private banking of which includes a wide array of products and services. ABK also provides a broad range of local, regional, and global investment solutions and services through its subsidiary, ABK Capital.



Lebanon, mainly in the digital and

tech sectors, are actively searching for

qualified candidates to fill full-time

positions, they are however unable to

find the right talent. Simplifearn, the world's largest bootcamp for Digital skills has successfully trained the first set of over 70 learners within four months in UI/UX Design Expert and DevOps Engineer roles. The training program included the latest curriculum co-created with top universities and companies, and comprised of live classes from industry experts and hands-on projects from top companies. Simplilearn has identified the top 25 critical digital roles in any organization and has built training

programs aligned to these roles. Speaking on the partnership with World Bank and Forward MENA to upskill youth in the Middle East, Mr. Eric Martorano, Chief Revenue Officer for Commercial Business, Simplilearn, said, "There is growing demand for digital skills in the Middle East where companies are short of talent. With the world swiftly embracing newer tech skills, we have seen a rising interest and enthusiasm among graduates and professionals to upskill. Simplilearn has partnered with World Bank to provide students with all the required expertise to help them carve out successful careers in the new economy. This aligns with our various government partnerships in the Middle East region by supporting their vision for building human capital through skills development."

Sharing thoughts on the partnership with Simplilearn, Mouhamad Rabah, President of Forward MENA, said, 'It is clear that the fast technological advancements are creating a gap between education and the labor market needs. We have partnered with the World Bank to equip young women and men with market-relevant digital skills, empowering them to fulfill the jobs of the future. We have successfully completed the pilot and are now well prepared to look into scaling up this initiative."



Bid to fulfill emerging jobs in Middle East

A photo from the event.

Boost biz collaboration between France and GCC

Markaz sponsors 'Golfe Vision' in Paris

KUWAIT CITY, July 5: Kuwait Financial Centre "Markaz" concluded its participation as a Gold Sponsor of "Golfe Vision 2023" conference, a new platform aimed at fostering greater business collaboration between France and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). The forum, held under the patronage of the President of the French Republic, Mr. Emmanuel Macron, and organized by Business France, took place from 13-14 June at the Ministry of the Economy, Finance, and Industrial and Digital Sovereignty in Paris. Mr. Diraar Yusuf Alghanim, Chairman of Markaz attended the event, in addition to Mr. Ali H. Khalil, CEO of Markaz, who participated in a panel discussion titled "GCC, The New Global Green Logistics Hub: Partnership & New Investment Opportunities.'

"Golfe Vision 2023" brought together influential decision-makers from the public and private sectors, including policymakers, ministries from the GCC and France, prominent business leaders, midcaps, SMEs, and startups. The event paved the way for a myriad of collaboration and investment opportunities, while also highlighting success stories of thriving partnerships in key sectors that actively contribute to localization strategies and Gulf Visions.

Development

Markaz's sponsorship and participation falls under the 'Aligning business environment with the principles of sustainable development' pillar of its corporate social responsibility (CSR) strategy. It showcased its commitment to both regional and global thought leadership, as well as its constant pursuit of innovative investment solutions. By actively engaging in collaborative dialogues with international experts and decision-makers, Markaz strives to cultivate economic policies and drive the implementation of best practices.

Commenting on Markaz's event participation, Mr. Alghanim stated: We are proud to have sponsored and participated in Golfe Vision 2023, a

It serves to note that Al Dirwaza ac-

count is a savings account for individ-

ual customers, based on the Wakala in-

vestment principle, launched by KIB as

one of its banking products for individ-

uals. The account is currently the best

of its kind in the sector, with annual

expected profits up to 2% disbursed on

monthly basis where the customer gets

an expected profit of 2% for the first 3

months from the account opening date

and up to 1% expected rate onward.

The expected profits are automatically

deposited into the customer's account

within the first day of the beginning of

Al Dirwaza is a draw account as

successful initiative that facilitated invaluable knowledge exchange and further strengthened ties between France and the GCC. As a trusted partner to our clients and investors, we recognize the significance of engaging in vital events such as this, where industry leaders come together to shape the future of our sectors. Through insightful discussions and exploration of investment opportunities, we will continue to promote economic diversification and the creation of sustainable business models."

Commenting on the importance of the event to Markaz's long-term development goals, Mr. Khalil said: "At Markaz, we take great pride in our role in creating and finding solutions that meet the evolving needs of our clients and the markets we operate in. Throughout the forum, we had the opportunity to connect with many of our valued stakeholders. This level of genuine engagement allowed us to exchange thoughts and visions, and to explore latest global trends."

Highest monthly expected returns

KIB announces winners of Al Dirwaza draw

KUWAIT CITY, July 5: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced the names of the winners in the sixth Al Dirwaza account monthly draw, based on customers' June deposits. The draw was held in the presence of representatives from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, as well as representatives from the Bank. In this draw, Saad Saqer Saad Althuwaini won KD 10,000, whilst the KD 1,000 prize was awarded to 10 winners in total: Majed Lahmoud Rwaihel Alshammari, Khawla Mohammed Abdullah Almesfeer, Mohammad Abdulrahim Mohammad Shaikhoun, Mohammad Mostafa Ahmad Abdulhaleem, Mohammad Mahdi Ali Basheer, Ali Hossain Anar Ali, Wafaa Mohammad Akram Aouda, Ahmad Majed Abdullah Alshatti, Abdullah Murtadha Ab-

Abdullah Dashti. Speaking about the draw, Ali Al-Sane, Manager - Product Development, Digital Transformation & Innovation at KIB, said: "We would like to extend our congratulations to our esteemed customers who were the lucky

dulsamad Alsaffar, Shareefah Hashem

winners in the sixth Al Dirwaza Account draw. We also wish the rest of Al Dirwaza account holders the best of luck in the upcoming monthly draws." He added: "At KIB, we remain committed to rewarding our customers and ensuring their loyalty to our products



AlSane

segments, while catering to their modern lifestyles.' In addition, AlSane affirmed that KIB continues to expand the benefits

of its campaign designed to encourage

customers to open an Al Dirwaza ac-

count digitally through the bank's digi-

tal platforms, whether via KIB Online

the best banking solutions for all customer

and services.

As part of ef-

forts to estab-

lish a closer

bond with our

customers, KIB

has been striv-

ing to continue

offering a pre-

mium banking each month. experience and well, whereby 11 winners will be an-

nounced every month, receiving prizes of KD 20,000, along with a grand prize at the end of the year of KD 100,000. Al Dirwaza account holders are eligible to enter the monthly and mega draws on the condition of maintaining at least KD 100 in their accounts. For the monthly draws, each KD 1 that has completed a full month's cycle in the account will count for one chance, and chances are calculated based on the lowest monthly balance preceding the draw. As for the mega draw, chances are calculated for each KD 1 that completes two months cycle in the account - based on the lowest two monthly balances prior to the draw.

Al Dirwaza account is also in compliance with the provisions of Islamic Sharia and approved by the KIB's Sharia Supervisory Board. Furthermore, the account comes with a wide range of benefits, including the ease of opening the account, which does not require a salary transfer, and the customer's ability to open it remotely without visiting a branch through KIB Online on the Bank's website or KIB Mobile application on smartphones.

Additionally, Al Dirwaza account automatically grants customers instant issuance of an ATM card, with a KD 2,000 ATM daily withdrawal limit, as well as the ability to issue credit cards against the cash collateral in the account. To open the account and participate in its draws, a minimum of KD 100 is required and can only be withdrawn upon account closure.

AMRA study highlights need for personalized medicine, going beyond just the BMI

Butanediol effectively induces and sustains ketosis

SAN DIEGO, July 5: Geno has announced the results of a new clinical trial exploring the effects of its exogenous ketone, Avela, when consumed in beverage form. The study, published in the peer-reviewed journal, Frontiers in Physiology, assessed BHB levels and tolerability in human subjects following consumption of Avela. Elevated BHB levels in the human body have been scientifically reported as providing benefits of increased energy, mental clarity and support for improved athletic endurance.

The study results provide further support that Avela is effective at raising BHB levels and generating ondemand ketosis within 30 minutes of ingestion. The ingredient induced and maintained ketosis for up to five hours when administered orally in a three-dose process. The study group of 26 people achieved peak BHB blood levels of 2.1 +/- 0.97 mmol/L one hour after consuming Avela and reported no significant side effects or adverse events.

Avela has a clinically demonstrated ability to provide sustained energy in the form of D-BHB ketone, an alternative energy source to glucose in humans. When (R)-1,3-Butanediol is ingested, it directly converts to D-BHB, the primary form humans can readily use for energy. After the final dose of Avela was administered, the cohort remained in ketosis for four hours, demonstrating a sustained elevation of BHB as an energy source.

As secondary objectives, gastrointestinal (GI) symptomology, sleepiness and other symptoms were assessed throughout the study. Overall, Avela was well tolerated, with no or mild GI symptoms reported by most participants, and no effect on subject sleepiness was reported.

Method

The clinical trial demonstrates the value of Avela as an effective method for raising BHB levels in humans to achieve nutritional ketosis. Geno launched Avela in the US in November 2022 as an ingredient for functional foods and beverages, especially in the keto, energy, and fitness and wellness categories, offering consumers an accessible alternative to fasting or restrictive dieting to achieve sustained ketosis.

The study was published in the multidisciplinary, open-access journal Frontiers in Physiology, "An Open-label, Acute Clinical Trial in Adults to Assess Ketone Production, Gastrointestinal Tolerability, and Sleepiness Following Consumption of (R)-1,3-Butanediol (AvelaTM)." A comprehensive article featuring the complete study can be found here.

James Lowder, M.D., Hematologist Oncologist, Study Principal Investigator, said: "In this study, Avela demonstrated good tolerability when taken in accordance with GRAS guidelines. The results tell us we can consider (R)-1,3-Butanediol effective at producing blood ketone levels comparable to those achieved through the diet alone."

Brianna Stubbs, DPhil, Lead Translational Scientist for The Buck Institute for Research on Aging, said: "Over the last ten years, scientists and consumers have realized that ketones are more than an emergency backup fuel. They are discovering the different effects ketones can have within the body. This is an energizing, exciting moment and a step forward for the industry."

ward for the industry."

Avela has been concluded to be generally recognized as safe ("self-GRAS") by a panel of independent, qualified scientists for use by the general population as a source of energy in beverages, bars and gels.

To learn more about Avela, request a sample or hear how it can help differentiate products and support label claims, contact Geno at info@avelaup.com and visit avelaup.com.

Geno (Genomatica, Inc) is harnessing biology to remake everyday products to be more sustainable and natural. Geno's technology, built over the last 22 years, now commercializes and scales sustainable alternatives to commonly used ingredients and materials across several industries, including functional foods and beverages, beauty, apparel, automotive, home and personal care, and packaging.

Also:

LINKÖPING, Sweden: AMRA researchers together with Linköping University used personalized imaging-derived obesity phenotypes, based on a large, population-based study, to investigate cardiometabolic risk stratification in individuals with

The study, which analyzed Magnetic Resonance Images (MRIs) from over 40,000 UK Biobank participants, found that the distribution of body fat - whether visceral, subcutaneous, or in the liver - can significantly impact an individual's risk of cardiovascular disease (CVD) and type 2 diabetes (T2D).

The study used 'body fat z-scores', describing how much each individual with obesity is deviating from the amount of visceral fat that is commonly observed with their sex and BMI. Results showed that excess accumulation of visceral fat (a high visceral fat z-score) at any given BMI was significantly associated with increased risk of CVD and T2D. Conversely, excess amounts of subcutaneous- and liver- fat was associated with a lower risk of cardiovascular disease indicating a potentially protective fat distribution pattern.

These findings suggest that personalized body fat z-scores may be used as a complement to BMI for identification of high-risk obesity phenotypes that could be considered for intensive obesity treatment options, such as metabolic surgery.

The study underscores the importance of personalized medicine and the need to look beyond BMI when assessing health risks associated with obegity.

The ground-breaking research from this study was selected for presentation at the prestigious annual ASMBS (American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery) conference in Las Vegas, NV.

"The ASMBS annual meeting is a leading international conference in the field, and the chance to present in the 'top paper session' is very prestigious," says **Torsten Olbers**, Professor of Metabolic surgery at Linköping University and one of the co-authors.

"The AMRA technology may help to better personalize the treatment for obesity by revealing the individual's body composition measurements and thereby assist clinicians in understanding medical risk and shift focus away from just BMI," he continues.

AMRA is a health informatics company at the forefront of medical imaging and precision medicine. The company has developed a gamechanging body composition assessment through their whole-body MRI-based technology, which accurately assesses key measurements, such as muscle composition (MFI and FFMV) and body fat distribution (visceral-, subcutaneous, and liver fat). AMRA provides services to support transformative care and vital decision-making, from clinical research to clinical care.

Vevye addresses underlying inflammatory root cause of DED

Novaliq's cyclosporine solution gets FDA OK for dry eye disease

CAMBRIDGE, MA., USA, July 5: Novaliq GmbH, a biopharmaceutical company focusing on first- and best-in-class ocular therapeutics, has announced that the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved Vevye™ (cyclosporine ophthalmic solution) 0.1% for the treatment of the signs and symptoms of dry eye disease. Vevye (development name CyclASol®) is the first and only cyclosporine solution indicated for the treatment of signs and symptoms of dry eye disease with efficacy demonstrated after 4 weeks of treatment.

"We are proud that FDA approved Vevye. The safety and efficacy of Vevye were assessed in a total of 1369 patients with dry eye disease, of which 738 received Vevye. Vevye and its novel vehicle were safe, well tolerated, and demonstrated early, consistent, and durable therapeutic effects," said Sonja Krösser, PhD, Vice President Medical Science & Regulatory Affairs at Novaliq. "It is an exciting moment when you have followed science that finally led into a new category of water-free ocular therapies addressing unmet medical needs for patients suffering from dry eye disease.

Dry eye disease (DED) affects millions of Americans and is one of the most common ocular surface disorders. A leading cause of DED is inflammation of the ocular surface. The chronic inflammatory nature causes progressive corneal surface damage that can lead to direct or indirect visual impairment.

Tolerable

Vevye is cyclosporine, solubilized in a novel, water-free excipient and was designed to address unmet needs, providing patients with a fast acting and well tolerable dry eye drug therapy. The solution does not contain water or anti-microbial preservatives, oils or surfactants. As a water-free product, there is no associated pH and no osmolarity.

"Vevye addresses the well documented underlying inflammatory root cause of dry eye disease, repeatedly demonstrating early and clinically meaningful efficacy upon both signs and symptoms," said John D. Sheppard, MD, MMSc, FACS, professor of ophthalmology at Eastern Virginia Medical School, and Mid-Atlantic Medical Director for Eye



Novaliq has announced that the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved Vevye™ (cyclosporine ophthalmic solution) 0.1% for the treatment of the signs and symptoms of dry eye disease.

'Game-changer'

Augmedics raises \$82.5 million to boost AR spine surgery adoption

CHICAGO, July 5: Augmedics, a pioneer in augmented reality (AR) surgical navigation, has announced the successful close of an \$82.5 million Series D financing. The round was led by Dallas-based CPMG and adds Evidity Health Capital as a syndicate partner, with participation from current investors H.I.G. Capital, Revival Healthcare Capital, Almeda Ventures and others. The news comes the same week the company marks its record 4,000th US patient treated with the xvision Spine System® which uses augmented reality to give surgeons "xray vision" during surgery.

The funds will support Augmedics' rapidly expanding US commercial footprint as well as the delivery of next-generation platform advancements which will enable mass-scale adoption of the xvision technology.

The funding news comes on the heels of a new commercial milestone for the medtech company which has long been a leader in the novel and growing field of augmented reality surgery.

Named for its ability to give surgeons "x-ray vision," xvision made history in December 2019 as the first FDA-approved AR navigation system for surgery. The cutting-edge technology superimposes critical data onto the surgical field, allowing surgeons to visualize patient anatomy through skin and tissue and to accurately navigate instruments and implants during spine surgery. Unlike traditional navigation systems, which require surgeons to continually look away to an ancillary screen, xvision allows surgeons to keep their eyes directly on the patient, lending better visualization, control, and accuracy during spine procedures.

Often described as a "gamechanger" by surgeons, xvision has seen rapid adoption since its US commercial launch in 2020, includ-



The xvision headset is purpose-built for surgeons, with the goal of allowing them to perform surgery exactly as they would naturally. The proprietary medical device integrates navigation capability to optimize surgical accuracy

ing by numerous premier academic institutions across the country.

Accelerates

As adoption accelerates, so do the system's capabilities; Augmedics launched a significant platform expansion in March 2023 including the system's first artificial intelligence (AI) application, laying the groundwork for future platform developments further supported by the financing.

"To close an \$82.5M round in the current fundraising environment is a testament to the dramatic impact Augmedics is making on the field of spine surgery. The accomplishment is underscored by the tremendous achievement of 4,000 patient lives impacted," said Augmedics President & CEO Kevin Hykes. "We are pleased to secure the resources to continue leading the market in the adoption of augmented reality spine surgery."

"In CPMG and Evidity, we are proud to welcome two world-class partners who bring tremendous expertise to the table," said Augmedics Chairman of the Board Rick Anderson. "This financing signifies the utmost confidence in the xvision technology and its role in redefining the standard of care for enabling technology in spine surgery. We are thrilled with this significant runway into the future as we execute against our mission to revolutionize surgery for patients and the surgeons who treat them."

CMPG's Kent McGaughy and Evidity's Paul Enever will join Augmedics' board of directors.

"In a field where many make claims about the benefits of augmented reality in surgery, Augmedics stands apart with a proprietary AR navigation solution, delivering best-in-class surgical accuracy daily to ORs across the country," said McGaughy. "For nearly two decades, we have studied and invested in enabling surgical technology. We are excited to partner with Augmedics, the clear leader in augmented reality surgery."

Care Partners and investigator in the development program. "The clinical trials consistently showed significant therapeutic improvements in ocular surface damage and associated symptoms, while pioneering visual function improvement analysis. Vevye is an exceptionally well tolerated formulation, combining a novel, first-in-class vehicular delivery system with by far the most established and safe topical active pharmaceutical ingredient, cyclosporine, providing a major advancement for our patients."

"I am thrilled that a novel waterfree, non-preserved pharmaceutical option for the treatment of the signs and symptoms of dry eye was approved by the FDA," commented Jade Coats OD, optometric physician at McDonald Eye Associates, Rogers, Arkansas and member of the Intrepid Eye Society. "With the most potent commercially available cyclosporine 0.1%, Vevye brings to the table excellent comfort and tolerability, fast onset of symptom relief, and a strategically effective drop size, providing patients and practitioners an additional anti-inflammatory, immunomodulating option for the treatment of dry eye disease."

Approval

"The US FDA approval of Vevye marks a milestone for patients and care takers by addressing a significant unmet need for millions of people suffering with this disease," said Christian Roesky, PhD, CEO Novaliq. "With now two EyeSol® based and water-free dry eye drug therapies approved by FDA Novaliq has established a novel cat-

egory of non-aqueous, non-preserved ophthalmic drugs with the opportunity to become a standard of care in ophthalmology in the future. We will continue to execute on our mission to transform ocular therapies by developing breakthrough novel EyeSol® therapies way beyond dry eye disease."

Potential for Eye Injury and Contamination. To avoid the potential for eye injury and/or contamination, patients should not touch the bottle tip to the eye or other surfaces.

Use with Contact Lenses. Vevye should not be administered while wearing contact lenses. If contact lenses are worn, they should be removed prior to administration of the solution. Lenses may be reinserted 15 minutes following administration of Vevye ophthelmic solution.



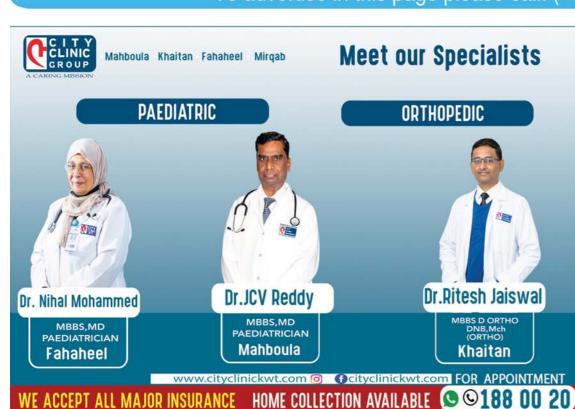
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Ukrainians honor award-winning writer killed in Russian missile

KYIV, Ukraine, July 5, (AP): Dozens of people with flowers, many unable to hold back tears, bid farewell Tuesday to an award-winning Ukrainian writer who was among those killed by a Russian missile attack on a popular restaurant in eastern Ukraine.

The memorial service for Victoria Amelina, 37, was held in the crowded main hall of Saint-Michael's Cathedral in Kyiv, where ceremonies are usually held for soldiers who were killed on the battlefield.

Amelina died in a hospital from injuries sustained in the June 27 strike on a popular restaurant frequently visited by journalists and aid workers in the city of Kramatorsk. Twelve other people also lost their lives in the attack

"Usually, we gather here to say goodbye to the most deserving," said Archimandrite Lavrentii, the Orthodox priest leading the service. "Considering the times we live in, leading a worthy and dignified life for each of us is the best tribute we can offer in memory of those who have passed away into eternity."

Around 100 people, including representatives from the Ukrainian literary community, relatives, and residents of Kyiv gathered at the church to honor Amelina, a prominent writer who had turned her attention from literature to documenting Russian war crimes after Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022.

Mourners approached the closed casket, gently touching the yellow and blue Ukrainian flag covering it. Many couldn't hold back tears. To the left of the casket, people laid flowers, some of which were adorned with ribbons in the colors of the Ukrainian flag. At the end of the farewell, a mountain of flowers stood next to a portrait of Amelina, a redhaired woman with a pale face and a penetrating gaze pictured against

made of wood.

a dark background.

A funeral was to be held Wednesday in Amelina's hometown of

Dmytro Kovalchuk, 31, was having dinner with Amelina at the restaurant when a Russian Iskander missile struck the building. He worked as a producer for a team of writers - Amelina and a group of

Colombian authors. He said Amelina was the first one to be evacuated to the hospital. She sustained an injury when the roof collapsed, and a piece of iron reinforcement struck her head.

Literature "Victoria remained in her seat as she was,"

recalled Dmytro. It seemed like she was fine, but she didn't respond when called by her name. "It was an honor to work with her," said Kovalchuk, adding that Amelina was a very polite

and kind person. After the service, the coffin and the flowers were loaded into a long black vehicle that departed for Lviv amid the strong and haunting sound of the trembita, a Ukrainian alpine horn

Victoria Amelina is one of over 60 artists killed in Ukraine since the start of the full-scale war, said Tetiana Teren, the head of PEN Ukraine. "She had doubts about whether literature and culture could have an impact and support the country during such a horrific genocidal war.

And she began to search for her own role, what she could contribute," said Teren, holding a Ukrainian flag, about Amelina's decision to document war crimes

"Victoria strongly believed that we not only have to win this war, but we must bring to justice and hold accountable all those who committed crimes, who continue to kill Ukrainians and undermine our culture"

Amelina was born Jan. 1, 1986, in Lviv. In 2014 she published her first novel, "The November Syndrome, or Homo Compatiens," which

was shortlisted for the Ukrainian Valeriy Shevchuk Prize. She went on to write two award-winning children's books and another novel. In 2017, her novel, "Dom's Dream Kingdom," received national and international accolades - including the UNESCO City of

Literature Prize and the European Union Prize for Literature. Her fiction and essays have been translated into many languages, including English, Polish, Italian, German, Croatian, Dutch, Czech,

and Hungarian. In 2021, she founded the New York Literature Festival, which takes place in a small town called New York in the Donetsk region of Ukraine. Since the start of the invasion, Amelina had devoted herself to documenting Russian war crimes in eastern Ukraine, PEN America said. In Kapytolivka, near Izium, she discovered the diary of Volodymyr Vakulenko, a Ukrainian writer killed by the Russians.

She also began writing her first work of English nonfiction shortly before her death. In "War and Justice Diary: Looking at Women Looking at War," Amelina recounts stories of Ukrainian women collecting evidence of Russian war crimes. It is expected to be published soon according to PEN Ukraine.

Variety



This image released by Amazon Prime Video shows Justina Machado in a scene from 'The Horror of Dolores Roach.' (AP)

Television

Machado brings rawness to dark comedy

actor Allison Mack, who pleaded guilty for her role in a sex-trafficking case tied to the cult-like group NXIVM, has been released from a California prison, according to a

Mack, best known for her role as a young Superman's close friend on "Smallville," was sentenced to three years behind bars in 2021 after pleading guilty two years earlier to charges that she manipulated women into becoming slaves for NXIVM leader

Online records maintained by the Federal Bureau of Prisons said Mack, 40, was released Monday from a federal prison in Dublin, California, near San Francisco. Her release was first reported by

Albany Times-Union. Mack avoided a longer prison term by cooperating with federal authorities in their case against Raniere, who was ultimately sentenced to 120 years in prison after being convicted on sex-trafficking

evidence showing how Raniere created a secret society that included brainwashed women who were branded with his initials. (AP)

A publicist for Harington confirmed Monday that the couple, who famously met on the set of "Game of Thrones" and are now both 36, have added a daughter to their family. Further details

Harington and Leslie's relationship began in 2011 on the set of the HBO megahit series, on which they played star-crossed lovers Jon Snow - a brother of the Night's Watch with kingdom-shattering secrets - and Ygritte, a rebel wildling. They married in 2018 at Leslie's ancestral castle in Scotland.

legal drama "The Good Fight," sci-fi romance series "The Time Traveler's Wife" and the Kenneth Branagh-directed Agatha Christie remake "Death on the Nile." Since "Game of Thrones" concluded

LOS ANGELES: The television

government website.

Keith Raniere.

charges.
Mack helped prosecutors mount

LONDON: Actors Rose Leslie and Kit Harington have welcomed

their second child. weren't immediately available.

In early 2021, the pair confirmed the birth of a son.

Since leaving "Game of Thrones" in 2014, Leslie has starred in the in 2019, Harington has had roles

Madness and laughs in 'Dolores Roach'

LOS ANGELES, July 5, (AP): When Justina Machado returns home to her native Chicago, she barely recognizes it. Machado grew up in Chicago's inner city, in the neighborhoods of Lincoln Park, Humboldt Park and Logan Square - all of which she says have been gentrified.

"You love the good restaurants, you love all this beauty, but you're sad that your people get pushed out because who doesn't want great restaurants and great places and safety? Who doesn't want that? The problem is, a lot of my people get pushed out... Taxes and property are like three times what you could buy

in the '80's, '90s and early 2000s. It's sad to watch.' Gentrification is also a catalyst for Machado's new dark comedy series "The Horror of Dolores Roach,"

debuting Friday on Prime Video. Machado plays Roach, a woman who has spent 16 years in prison on marijuana charges. When she gets released, the world around her looks completely different. Told she has "magic hands" as a masseuse in prison, Roach opens a massage parlor in the same building as an empanada shop. She has the best intentions and wants to live a normal life, until one day she has to use her special hands to save herself from a dangerous situation. The story unravels from there and those empanadas occasionally feature a mystery

meat that patrons find delicious. "Dolores says, 'I'm just like you, if everything went wrong," said Machado. "You empathize with her. Part of the reason that you have compassion for her is because you see this girl that gets 16 years of her life stolen for something that now you can buy in every corner with dispensaries. One day she's just let out and she has nowhere to go. She has nobody. And that's more of a common story than we like to think about because it's too hurtful to think about what happens to someone after they get out of jail and they have to survive. You don't want to think about those things.'

"The Horror of Dolores Roach" began as a onewoman play written by Aaron Mark and is inspired by the fictional story of "Sweeney Todd."

"I was a playwright in Washington Heights. I lived there for 10 years," said Mark. "I was watching the neighborhood gentrify at the speed of light and I felt like I was watching this neighborhood cannibalize itself. Really, That was the image. I felt like, 'Oh, my God, I'm watching a community feed on itself.' And that, sent me to 'Sweeney Todd.' I thought, 'OK, there's a cannibalism story to be set in this neighborhood. And what better cannibalism tale has our species ever produced than "Sweeney Todd""?"

Memorable

Mark wrote the play as "a contemporary 'Sweeney Todd' set in Washington Heights" with Daphne Rubin-Vega in mind to play Roach. She agreed and the play was staged off Broadway in 2015. Mark then pitched the story for TV where, he says, "people thought I was

out of my mind. I was laughed out of rooms.' He then decided he had enough material to make a serialized podcast with Rubin-Vega and Mark turned his focus to that. One month after the first season of the "Dolores Roach" podcast was released, Mark says there was a bidding war for the TV rights. Mark is now a co-

showrunner and co-executive producer on the series. "In the casting process, we had a Zoom with Justina and she said to me, 'I'm Dolores Roach. This is my part. What do I got to do?' And I just remember thinking, 'What do you have to do? We'd be lucky to have you.' You put the camera on Justina's face and innately we love her."

Machado has appeared in many memorable roles including "Six Feet Under," "Jane the Virgin" and the remake of "One Day at a Time," but "Dolores

Roach" is her first real lead role. "I was in every scene and every shot because this is told through Dolores' gaze. This is her P.O.V. So when Dolores walks out of the scene, the scene is over. If I wasn't on set, I was in my trailer or in my apartment in Toronto learning lines, so it was a much different process. A lonelier process, to be quite honest," said Machado.

Leaning in to the madness of Dolores' situation,

though, was fun. "It's so fun to play something that is outrageous and out there. There's no boundaries. There is no limit to what she does. It's just the rawness in even the way she looks... I mean, I didn't love it so much when I saw it later," said Machado with a laugh. "I was like, 'Oh, God!' But, everything was just free, Barely any makeup, just hair crazy, I loved it. It was

very, very freeing. Adds Mark: "I like to say Dolores Roach is a serial killer who is not a sociopath. That is debatable, but that's how I approach her. She's me. She's you.

She's relatable. She's all of us.' Also:

LOS ANGELES: The category? "Proper Name." The answer? Ryan Seacrest, who will become the new "Wheel of Fortune" host after Pat Sajak's retire-

ment next year. Seacrest and Sony Pictures Television announced Tuesday that Seacrest has signed a multiyear deal to host the long-running game show starting with Season 42. Sajak recently announced the upcoming 41st season would be his last on the show.

It's the latest hosting gig for Seacrest, the popular "American Idol" host who also now rings in the new year for many on "Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin'

"I'm truly humbled to be stepping into the footsteps of the legendary Pat Sajak," Seacrest said in a statement. "I can say, along with the rest of America, that it's been a privilege and pure joy to watch Pat and Vanna on our television screens for an unprecedented 40 years, making us smile every night and feel right at home with them."

Seacrest in his statement also praised Vanna White, another mainstay of "Wheel of Fortune," and signaled she would remain on the show after Sajak's retirement. Both White and Sajak have been on the show since the early 1980s.

in the anthology shows "Modern Love" and "Extrapolations" and in Marvel's "Eternals." (AP)

LOS ANGELES: Eating superstar Joev "Jaws" Chestnut shook off a rain delay and gobbled his way to another win at Nathan's Famous Fourth of July hot dog eating con-





test, downing 62 franks and buns in 10 minutes. Chestnut out ate runner-up

Geoffrey Esper and the rest of an international field of 15 competitive eaters by double digits to clinch his 16th title. Esper, of Oxford, Massachusetts managed to ingest 49 hot dogs and buns. In the women's contest, defend-

ing champion Miki Sudo forced down 39 1/2 hot dogs and buns to collect her ninth Mustard Belt. But before the men could compete, stormy weather moved over New York City's Coney Island and delayed the competition for two

"What a roller coaster, emotionally," Chestnut said after

riding out the rain and wondering whether the famed contest would go on at all. The 39-year-old from Westfield, Indiana first competed for the Nathan's title in 2005 and hasn't lost it since 2015.

His best finish was in 2021 when he tallied 76 hot dogs, but Tuesday's weather disruption made a repeat impossible. (AP)

But perhaps the most

quintessential Parisian touch was a fruit basket - a homage to the Parisienne of the 1970s.

and "Harry Potter" alum Clémence Poésy was in attendance at Chanel, and it seems the allure of the Seine-side "bouquinistes" had her under a spell. The scene, recreated by the house, was a charming tribute to Paris' iconic riverside

French actress Anna Mouglalis, known her role as Chanel in the movie "Coco Chanel & Igor Stravinsky," unraveled the romantic tale behind the creation of the iconic little black dress (LBD) in an interview with the AP

Giorgio Armani Privé

A rare commodity in the couture world - space - was generously offered by Giorgio Armani Privé on Tuesday

French actress

bookshops, so beloved by locals and tourists Armani Prive

night. VIPs gathered amid theatrical sidelights, hemmed in by giant beige silk curtains, emphasizing the private,

exclusive nature of the occasion. The scene was set on a runway streaked with shiny squares of black and white, an ode to Armani's couture trademark of geometry and sheen.

The collection unfolded, a vibrant

Alexis Mabille

blossoming of structured jackets shimmering with twinkling threads and 3D floral appliqués, transforming seamlessly into billowing, gleaming

floor-length gowns. One standout blue jacket, encrusted with jewels, evoked visions of marine crystal formations, showcasing Armani's detail-oriented

Armani Prive

craftsmanship.
Playful whimsy punctuated the collection with sculptural, giant black hoops encircling one model's figure, as well as one slightly awkwardly-moving top constructed in poppies. The gleam remained constant, a kaleidoscope of rainbow hues reflecting off the luxuri-

Alexis Mabille

ous fabrics. However, amidst the extravagant display, a minimalist yet stunning black velvet dress stole the show. Couture's chic answer to Morticia Addams, the floor-length gown was backless, tastefully embellished at the rear. It

ion soiree in the City of Light. Playfulness met

Armani Prive artistry as Mabille used his signature bows to sculpt a dress, while his enduring love for floral themes bloomed as

Alexis Mabille white chest adornments. As Parisian as a moonlit walk along the Seine, the collection boasted lacy bustiers atop sheer black Sahara pants, conjuring a modern yet sensual aesthetic.

In a pulse-quickening turn, the collection ignited with disco-era vigor. A radiant, earth-toned one-shoulder tunic gown brought a hint of the dancefloor to the runway, and a '70s-inspired magenta pleated skirt swirled with lively movement.

Stéphane Rolland

In true unapologetic Stéphane Rolland fashion, a Big Black Dress (BBD) opened his fall couture show. Complete with a provocative leg split and an exaggerated, whooshing collar, this piece was quintessentially Rolland, marrying structural audacity with elegant form.

The collection evolved from this daring opener, introducing more poetic designs that nonetheless maintained Rolland's raciness. (AP)

The Conversation

Death risk rise

Extreme heat plus air pollution can be fatal

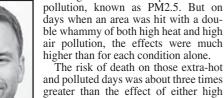
By Erika Garcia, Md Mostafijur Rahman and Rob Scot McConnell University of Southern California

The Conversation is an independent and nonprofit source of news, analysis and commentary from academ-

Heat waves and air pollution from wildfire smoke and other sources are each problematic for human health, particularly for vulnerable populations such as older adults. But what happens when they hit at the same time?

We examined over 1.5 million deaths from 2014 to 2020 registered in California - a state prone to summer heat waves

and air pollution from wildfires - to find out. The number of deaths rose both on hot days and on days with high levels of fine particulate air



heat or high air pollution alone. The more extreme the temperatures and pollution, the higher the risk. During the top 10% of hottest and most polluted days, the risk of death increased

by 4% compared to days without extremes. During the top 1%, it increased by 21%; and among older adults over age 75, the risk of death increased by more than a third on those days.

There are several ways the combined exposure to extreme heat and particulate air pollution can harm human health.

Oxidative stress is the most common biological pathway linked with particulate air pollution and heat exposure. Oxidative stress is an imbalance between production of highly reactive molecules known as reactive oxygen species, or ROS, and the body's ability to remove them. It's been linked with lung diseases, among other illnesses.

Antioxidants help clean up these molecules, but particulate air pollution and heat disrupt this balance through excessive metabolic ROS production and lowered antioxidant activity.

Temperature

Our research also showed that the effects of particulate air pollution and heat extremes were larger when high nighttime temperature and pollution occurred together. High nighttime temperatures can interfere with normal sleep and potentially contribute to chronic health conditions such as heart disease and obesity, and disrupt how the body regulates temperature.

Older adults may be more susceptible to effects of extreme heat and air pollution exposure, in part because this stress comes on top of age-related chronic health conditions like heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes or chronic lung disease. Impaired body temperature regulation in response to heat can also occur with aging. And older adults may be less mobile and therefore less able to get to cooling centers or to medical care and be less able to afford air conditioning.

This isn't just a California problem. Climate change will increase exposure to high heat and air pollution in many parts of the country.

Yearly average temperatures in the US are already more than 1.8 degrees Fahrenheit (1 degree Celsius) warmer than at the beginning of the 1900s. By the end of this century, global temperatures are on pace to be nearly 5 F (2.7 C) warmer. Dangerous extreme heat waves, currently rare, will become more

Changing climate is also affecting levels of outdoor fine particulate pollution - for example, through weather changes such as air stagnation events, wind and dust storms, and drier and warmer conditions that contribute to increasingly frequent and intense wildfires.

Further research is needed to better understand these effects, such as the full impact of wildfire smoke exposure. However, enough is known that people should take measures to reduce their risk of harm during periods of extreme heat or air pollu-

That means staying well hydrated and keeping cool. Shopping malls and other air-conditioned public spaces can provide a refuge from heat. Home air conditioning, especially during nighttime, can reduce mortality. A portable air filter in the bed-

room can markedly reduce particle pollution levels. People with symptoms of heat stress, such as headache, nausea, dizziness or confusion, especially the elderly, should seek medical care.

Many county and state health departments already provide alerts about extreme heat and extreme air pollution. Developing a special category of alert during co-occurring extremes may be beneficial to public health.

Governments also need to take steps now to avoid the worst future climate change scenarios. Some best practices for cities include creating cooling shade cover and green space that will also reduce particle pollution.

Also:

NEW YORK: By the time **Martin DuPain** got back home from a short walk Thursday afternoon, he was covered with a smattering of tiny flying critters. They were in his hair, on his shirt and in his nose.

When he sneezed, the bugs came flying out.

As if the smoke and haze sweeping in from wildfires in Canada weren't enough, New York City has been invaded in recent days with plumes of flying insects that have become both a nuisance and a source of fascination - what were they, where'd they come from and will they ever go away? Another unwanted Canadian export?

At first, DuPain, who lives in **Queens**, thought it might have been wind-driven ash, but he soon found out otherwise. Some were alive and flying. He quickly jumped in the shower.

The startling scene was nothing short of a "gnatural disaster," quipped a post on Twitter, which has been abuzz with reports of swarms in some neighborhoods, while others remain bug-free.

As they entered clouds of bugs, some people tried to wave them away. Others covered their mouths and noses. Others put on surgical masks before venturing outdoors.

Professor David Lohman, an entomologist at the City University of New York, hadn't seen any of the insects himself, but he concluded from photos and videos circulating on social media that they were winged aphids - not gnats, as amateur bugologists assumed.

Aphids are common all over the United States, even in New York City. They are small, pear-shaped insects that come in a variety of colors, from green, red and yellow to black, brown and gray.

While he is not an aphid expert - there are very few - Lohman said the swarms are unusual, given that aphids don't usually come out in New York City until after summer. He theorized that warm winter temps might have contributed by causing the bug's biological clock to go off-kilter.

On Friday, Lohman went in search of aphid experts who could chime in.

"Aphids fly at all times of the growing season," Natalie Hernandez, who specializes in aphids, wrote in an email to Lohman. "If a colony gets too large, too dense, it will produce winged morphs to disperse."

The wildfires in Canada and extreme temperatures "could be messing with them too," she added.

That theory sounded plausible to Andy Jensen, another aphid researcher.

"The smoke might be allowing aphids to remain abundant longer into summer than normal," Jensen said. "Many aphids slow down or stop reproduction in the heat of summer." (AP)



Nurse May Parsons walks in the procession at the start of the service, carrying the George Cross which the late Queen Elizabeth II awarded to the NHS for services to COVID-19, during the NHS anniversary ceremony at Westminster Abbey, part of the health service's 75th anniversary celebrations, in London, Wednesday, July 5, 2023. The U.K. is celebrating the 75th birthday of its beloved but increasingly creaky National Health Service. The date is being marked with charity tea parties, royal visits and a service of thanksgiving at London's Westminster Abbey. (AP)



A commercial airliner flies Northwest across Lake Michigan in front of the "Full Buck" supermoon, the first of four supermoons in 2023, Monday, July 3, in Chicago. The July supermoon is arriving to its closest point to Earth at 224,895 miles. (AP)



Harrison

Gorman

Ecology

'Shark attacks' prompt patrols: Two swimmers were apparently attacked by sharks off the shores of Long Island on Tuesday, a day after two others reported being attacked while enjoying the water at popular New York beaches.

At least one beach delayed opening to holiday revelers Tuesday, after officials said drones spotted some 50 sand sharks that morning near a popular beach park. When the beach reopened, swimmers were advised to stay close to shore.

'We want to make sure swimmers are safe," Long Island State Parks Regional Director George Gorman told Newsday.

The beach was closed once more after a possible shark sighting, but officials determined it was a dolphin.

After a spate of attacks last year, state parks officials have increased patrols and deployed more drones to scout the waters for possible danger. 'We did have a season last year where we

had six swimmers bitten from sharks, so this

has turned into a bit of a concern," Suffolk County Police Commissioner Rodney Harrison told WABC. Tuesday's incidents happened about 60 miles (95 kilometers) apart, including one

off Fire Island Pines - not far from another attack the day before when a 15-year-old reported being bitten on one of his feet by a shark while surfing.

Earlier Monday, another 15-year-old girl was treated for an apparent shark bite to a

leg.
"She didn't see what bit her, the lifeguards didn't know what bit her, the drone operator checked the area, we didn't see," Gorman said. "So we can't definitively say what bit her.'

Tuesday's shark encounters both occurred just before 2 pm. A 47-year-old man was in chest-deep

water off Quogue Village Beach in the Hamptons when he felt an apparent bite to his right knee, Quogue police said. He told authorities that he did not see a shark. As a precaution, Quogue police advised

swimmers to stay out of the water until officials could assess the risks. Soon after, miles (kilometers) away, a 49-year-old man reported having a hand bit-

ten while swimming near Fire Island Pines Despite the attacks, holiday revelers re-

mained on the beach. "That's nature and maybe we are taking over their domain and they don't like it," 90-year-old Diana Fratello told WCBS. (AP)

Bobcat attacks camper: A bobcat attacked a camper sleeping in a hammock at a Connecticut state park Friday, state environmental officials said.

The man was among several adults leading a group of youth campers on an outing to Selden Neck State Park, an island in the Connecticut river in Lyme, according to a

Health

Condition critical? UK's beloved but battered NHS turns 75

LONDON, July 5, (AP): It's unusual to throw a birthday party for a health care system, but that's exactly what the UK is doing for the National Health Service, a beloved but increasingly creaky institution that turns 75 on Wednesday.

The date is being marked with charity tea parties, royal visits and a service of thanksgiving at London's Westminster Abbey. The events are a fitting tribute for an institution that is often likened to Britain's secular religion - though one in which some people are losing faith.

Backlogs, treatment delays, funding gaps and an unhappy workforce have created an increasingly threadbare and overstretched system. Three respected health think tanks warned Wednesday that the NHS is "in critical condition" and won't make it to 100 without more money and better long-term planning.

"Pressures on services are extreme, and public satisfaction is at its lowest since it first began to be tracked 40 years ago," the King's Fund, Health Foundation and Nuffield Trust said in an open letter. But, they added, "despite this, public support for the NHS as an institution is rock solid."

Britain's affection for what politicians call "our NHS" is striking, and at times puzzling, to outsiders. Dancing nurses pushing children on hospital beds formed a key part of the opening ceremony for the 2012 London Olympics, to the bemusement of many non-British viewers.

Founded in a country determined to build a fairer society out of the ruins of World War II, the NHS provides free health care to citizens and residents, funded through taxation.

Its anniversary is also the 75th birthday of Aneira Thomas, the first person born into the new health service, just after midnight on July 5, 1948.

"I used to be introduced by my mother as 'This is my National Health baby," said Thomas, whose parents named her after the country's post-war health minister, Aneurin "Nye" Bevin, considered the father of the NHS.

"As a child, I didn't understand the significance of it," she said. "It was when I had children myself that I appreciated the care that I had. Ellie Orton, chief executive of

NHS Charities Together, a network of groups that supports the health service, said the NHS regularly comes up on top when people are asked "what's the thing that they hold most dear in the U.K. "And when we ask them what's the

career that they hold in the highest esteem, they say it's the NHS workforce," she said.

Critics say that affection prevents discussion of the flaws of an unwieldy behemoth that employs more than 1 million people and has struggled for years to cope with increasing life expectancy, rising demand and fluctuating political priorities.

Demand

Sajid Javid, who served as health secretary under former Prime Minister Boris Johnson, argued this week that the service was "unsustainable" but politicians are afraid to say so because most proposals for change - whether fees, higher taxes or major restructuring - are politically unpalatable.
"Without fundamental change, the

supply of health care will continue to be unable to keep up with surging demand," Javid wrote in the Times of London, calling for an independent commission to look at reform op-

The UK is not alone in having a health care system under increasing pressure. Most wealthy Western countries - bar the United States have built their health systems on a form of socialized medicine. The UK model is unusual in relying almost entirely on taxation rather than insurance or a blend of the two.

Since a Conservative-led government introduced public spending cuts in 2010 in the wake of the global financial crisis, NHS funding has grown by about 1 percent a year in real terms, apart from a surge during the coronavirus pandemic. But demand is growing much faster, as the British population grows larger

The pandemic also sucked up resources, drained staff physically and emotionally, and created a huge backlog of delayed tests and treatments.

Britain's departure from the European Union in 2020, which ended the automatic right of EU citizens to live in Britain, made it harder to recruit medical staff from other European countries to fill staffing gaps.

The King's Fund compared health systems in almost 20 nations and found the NHS at best placed in the middle of the pack.

"The UK performs well on protecting people from some of the financial costs of ill health but lags behind its peers on important health care outcomes, including life expectancy and deaths," the health charity said in a report published last week.

All the main UK political parties pay tribute to the NHS and promise to protect it. Conservative Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, the son of a doctor and a pharmacist, was attending Wednesday's Westminster Abbey service.

But Sunak's government has been at loggerheads for a year with unions representing nurses, doctors and ambulance crews, who have staged a series of strikes to seek pay raises to match surging inflation. Thomas, the NHS baby, worked as

a mental health nurse in the NHS and remains a passionate advocate for the service. It treated her children when they were seriously ill and allowed her family a quality of care it could once only have dreamed of in the coal mining valleys of Wales.

"My own grandparents, I never knew them. Both sets died between the ages of 30 and 50," Thomas told The Associated Press. "In comparison, my own mother lived into her 96th year, and she would often say, 'Look what the NHS has done for me. I've lived to this age, I've seen my seven children grow up, my 21 grandchildren and 65 great- and great-great grandchildren.'

"It should be preserved, protected and cherished at all costs. It touches all our lives at some point."

Bear bites homeowner: A Connecticut

homeowner was bitten by a black bear after

his dog chased it into the yard and attacked

the pet, officials said. Both were recovering

Monday, though the bear escaped into the

The dog spotted the bear as it was in-

specting a bird feeder on a porch Saturday in

the western Connecticut town of Litchfield

and chased it, state environmental officials

said. The bear attacked the dog and bit the

65-year-old homeowner on the hand when

he tried to intervene, officials said.

testing. (AP)

release from the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

The man was sleeping early Friday morning when the bobcat attacked him, the DEEP said. He and two other adult leaders were able to subdue the animal and kill it, officials said. The department did not say how that was accomplished. None of the children on the trip came into

contact with the animal, the agency said. "Due to their courageous and outstanding efforts, the safety of the youth was main-

tained, and they were not harmed," Deputy

Commissioner Michael Williams said in a

All three men were taken to a local hospital for treatment of various injuries inflicted by the cat during the encounter, officials said. Their conditions were not released. Spokesman Paul Copleman said the de-

partment was still gathering information Friday afternoon. The remaining campers were evacuated

from the island, officials said. The bobcat's remains were sent to the

State Public Health Laboratory for rabies

The man was treated at a hospital, and the dog was sent to a veterinary hospital. The state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection did not have an update on the dog's condition. A 74-year-old woman was bitten on her arms and legs in April when she was attacked by a bear while walking her dog in Avon, a Hartford suburb. There were two attacks last year, including one in October in which a 10-year-old boy was mauled in a backyard. Statistics compiled by the environmental department show that there were a record 67 reports of bears entering Connecticut homes in 2022. The previous record was 45 The state General Assembly passed legislation this spring that makes it legal to kill a bear if people feel threatened by the animal

or are protecting themselves, a family mem-"Birdfeeders, along with trashcans, are

one of leading causes of bear conflicts and damage reports," the department said in a



the Charles River, Saturday, July 1, in Cambridge, Mass. (AP)

Dingley takes over at Forest Green

English men's soccer has its first female head coach

MANCHESTER, England, July, (AP): While women's soccer is growing in popularity in the U.K., opportunities for women in the men's game remain few and far between.

That changed this week when Forest Green Rovers became the first professional soccer team in England to appoint a female head

Change Name

I, Zahra, Holder of Indian Passport No. L9759691 having permanent address Rajasthan, India- 327024 residing in Kuwait at present, do hereby change my name to Zahra (as Given Name) Abul Fazal (as Surname) for all purposes. I will henceforth be known in the name Zahra Abul Fazal and I also undertake to carry out this name change in all my documents.

Nationality: Any

· Visa: 18 transferable

Language: English and Arabic

coach.

Hannah Dingley, who was already in charge of the fourth division club's academy, has been made caretaker head coach following the departure of Duncan Ferguson on Tuesday.

"It's perhaps telling for the men's game that in making this appointment on merit, we'll break new ground - and Hannah will be the first female head coach in English (men's) football," Forest Green chairman Dale Vince said.

Dingley was already the only woman in charge of a men's English Football League academy. And while no timeframe has been put on her interim appointment, it is a chance for her to make her mark as a manager

"I'm really excited for this next step of my career," she said. "Pre-season has

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just begun and the full season kicks off very soon. It's an exciting time in football. I am grateful for the oppor-



club." England's women's national team won the European Championship last year and goes to the World Cup in Australia and New Zealand this month as one of the favorites to win the tournament.

Domestically, women's soccer is also on the rise in the U.K. with a record crowd of 77,390 watching the FA Cup final at Wembley Stadium in May.

But there has been little in the way of women getting prominent jobs in the men's game.

SOCCER

Chelsea women's manager Emma Hayes is seen as one of leading coaches in the sport.

In 2021 she described reports that she could take over at third division men's team Wimbledon as an "insult."

Forest Green has a reputation for breaking down barriers, having been officially recognized by the United Nations as the greenest soccer club in the world due to its drive to be carbon neutral.

The team, based in Gloucestershire, England, uses solar power, an electric team bus, only eats vegan food and avoids single-use packaging. It also has an organic playing field that

uses recycled rain water for irrigation.

Bayer Leverkusen has signed Germany forward Hofmann Bundesliga rival Borussia Mönchengladbach.

Hofmann, who will be 31 on July 14, signed a deal through June 2027, Leverkusen said in a statement.

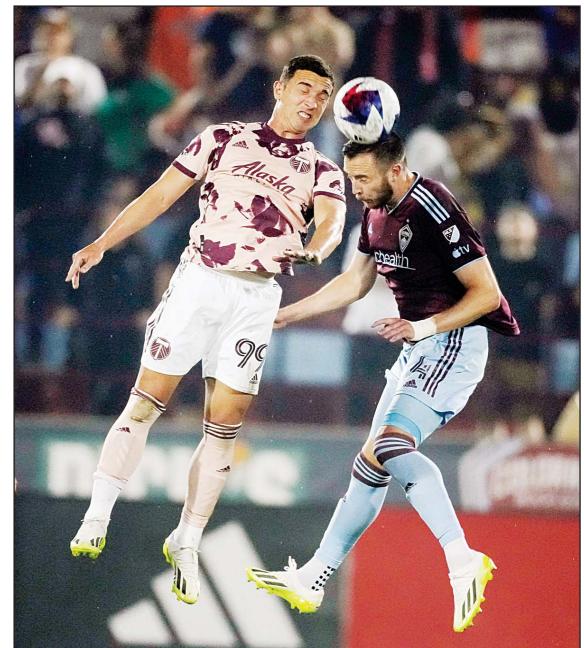
"Jonas has been on our radar for a long time and we're happy that he chose Bayer 04," sporting director Simon Rolfes said. "He's the type of player we were looking for for our squad thanks to his oversight of the game, his outstanding technical ability and his experience."

Hofmann started his career at Hoffenheim before joining Borussia Dortmund. He switched to Gladbach in January 2016 and went on to score 40 goals and set up 40 more in 184 Bundesliga games for "the Foals."

Kicker magazine reported that Leverkusen was paying 10 million euros (\$10.9 million) to activate an exit clause in the contract that Hofmann signed with Gladbach last year. The player's previous contract with Gladbach was due to expire in 2023 but he extended it by two years with the option for another year after that - albeit with the possibility of leaving if another club agreed to pay a fixed

Gladbach managing director Roland Virkus expressed his frustration.

"We had intensive talks with Jonas and fought to keep him at Borussia," Virkus told the club website. "The talks were very open and in the end we made an offer that met all the conditions set by Jonas. The fact that he still decided to activate the release clause doesn't leave a good feeling. Nevertheless, his decision should be respected.'



Portland Timbers forward Nathan Fogaca (left), heads the ball as Colorado Rapids defender Danny Wilson defends in the first half of an MLS soccer match in Commerce City, Colo. (AP)

Galaxy hold off LAFC before record crowd at Rose Bowl

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D.C. United pip FC Dallas

PASADENA, Calif., July 5, (AP): If Riqui Puig is the LA Galaxy's best hope to help turn around a dismal season, he certainly put on a great display in their biggest game of the year.

The Spanish midfielder had a goal and an assist as the Galaxy defeated Los Angeles Football Club 2-1 on Tuesday night before an MLS record crowd of 82,110 at the Rose Bowl.

The 18th edition of the LA rivalry known as El Trafico broke the previous mark of 74,479, set last year when Charlotte FC played its first home game against the Galaxy. It was originally scheduled for Feb. 25 as the showcase game on the first day of the MLS regular season, but it got postponed due to heavy rain and wind in Southern California. "The atmosphere was amazing. We came

here and won. It was a spectacular match," Puig said through an interpreter. "I'm a player who likes to play these big games with a lot of pressure and fans.' The Galaxy called the Rose Bowl home

from 1996-2002, until they moved into their own stadium. Coach Greg Vanney was a player during the first six seasons and acknowledged he felt a rush of memories as the bus pulled in before the game.

"For me personally, to be back here and see it full shows how far the league has come. It was an incredible atmosphere," he said.

SOCCER

Puig, who is used to playing big games after spending four seasons with Barcelona, assisted on Tyler Boyd's goal in the 26th minute and then had the go-ahead score in the 73rd minute for the Galaxy, who are unbeaten in their last six matches with two

wins and four ties. It was only Puig's second goal of the season. He will need to provide more highlights like Tuesday's performance if the Galaxy are going to rebound from an awful start and make the playoffs. Puig is considered the Galaxy's top scoring threat after Javier "Chicharito" Hernandez had season-ending knee surgery on June 23.

"Given the moment and the stadium and amount of people, he was outstanding. He plays at a different speed," Vanney said.

LAFC's goal came from Ilie Sanchez in the 57th minute. The defending MLS Cup champions have dropped three straight and five of seven.

LAFC is tied with Seattle for second place in the Western Conference and is three points behind surprising St. Louis FC.

"It was a great atmosphere all around. We're disappointed we couldn't get a win, but when you are chasing the game it is difficult," LAFC coach Steve Cherundolo said.

Douglas Costa was near midfield when he sent a pass up the left side, where Boyd chased it downfield. Boyd then delivered a centering pass as Puig outran LAFC midfielder Timothy Tillman and put it past goalkeeper John Mc-Carthy for his first goal in 12 games. His previous one came on April 22 against Austin.

LAFC evened it 1-1 off a set piece. Tillman delivered a corner kick toward the near post and Sanchez put a perfect header past Galaxy goalie Jonathan Klinsmann, who came in at halftime after Jonathan Bond injured his hamstring.

The Galaxy struck first in the 26th minute when Boyd took a pass from Puig, spun away from Erik Duenas near the left side of the box and blasted a right-footer into the top right corner.

LAFC appeared to tie it in the 84th minute, but Carlos Vela was called offside. "This game felt like it should, a real game that matters to the 82,000 here and in LA. At times it

was not the best football, but it was an exciting

and passionate match," Cherundolo said.

D.C. United 1, FC Dallas 0 In Frisco, Taxi Fountas scored his fifth goal of the season in the 73rd minute and D.C. Unit-

ed beat FC Dallas 1-0 on Tuesday night. It was the first meeting between Dallas and D.C. United in exactly four years after a

playing on Independence Day in 2019. D.C. United (8-9-5), which had lost three of its last four MLS matches, won for the first time in Dallas since the 2007 season. Dallas (8-8-5) had been unbeaten in eight

straight home matches against D.C. United. Fountas' initial shot was blocked by a Dallas defender, but the ball fell to his feet for a curled finish inside the far post.

Orlando 4, Toronto FC 0

Orlando, César Araújo and Dagur Thórhallsson each scored their first MLS goal and Orlando routed Toronto FC 4-0 .

Orlando (9-5-7) is unbeaten in its last seven regular-season matches against Toronto, including winning both meetings last season. It's the first time the Lions have gone unbeaten in seven straight against a single opponent.

Araújo opened the scoring in the 16th minute with a diving header of Rafael Santos' cross. Rookie Duncan McGuire made it 2-0 in the 22nd by poking in a deflected cross for his seventh goal of the season.

Thórhallsson scored in the 77th by beating Toronto goalkeeper Greg Ranjitsingh to a through ball and sending it into an empty net. Ercan Kara added another goal in the 84th minute off a back-heel pass from Martín Ojeda. Toronto (3-9-10) is winless in 14 straight

away matches. Inter Miami 2, Crew 2

In Fort Lauderdale, Josef Martínez scored his sixth goal of the season in the 90th minute to reach 104 for his career and Inter Miami tied the Columbus Crew 2-2. Miami (5-13-2) was coming off its first

draw of the season to end a seven-match losing streak. Miami had gone 28 straight regular-season matches without a draw. Martínez, who also scored in Miami's

1-1 draw with Austin on Saturday, is tied with Dwavne De Rosario for the ninth-most goals in MLS history.

Miami tied it at 1-all in the 57th when

Leonardo Campana headed in a corner for his fourth goal of the season. Three of his four goals have come against Columbus. Columbus (10-6-5) has two draws and

five wins in its last seven matches. The Crew have won just two of their last 17 regular-season away matches.

Darlington Nagbe opened the scoring for Columbus in the 23rd by volleying home a loose ball outside of the 18-yard box. Christian Ramírez gave Columbus a 2-1 lead in the 69th with a sliding finish of Cucho Hernández's cross.



Toronto FC's Shane O'Neill (right), moves the ball away from Orlando City's Ramiro Enrique during the second half of an MLS soccer match in Orlando, Fla.

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San Diego Cleveland

Cincinnati

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Los Angeles

Chicago Cubs

MLB Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, July 5, (AP): Results and standings

Kansas City

Tampa Bay

LA Angels

Chicago W. Sox

Milwaukee 11 inn

Pct .648 .583 .558 .535 .500 31 35 38 40 43

Pct .506 .494 .440 .425 .291

5-1/2

7 18-1/2

Washington St Louis

LA Dodgers

American League East Division

Fry stars as Guardians end Braves' winning streak

Palacios delivers clutch double in 9th as Pirates rally past Dodgers

CLEVELAND, July 5, (AP): David Fry had a game-ending hit and the Cleveland Guardians stopped the Atlanta **Braves' nine-game winning** streak with a 6-5 victory in 10 innings Tuesday night.

Fry drove an 0-1 pitch over the head of left fielder Eddie Rosario to score José Ramírez from third base. Braves closer Raisel Iglesias (3-3) intentionally walked Andrés Giménez, bringing Fry to the plate with two outs.

Guardians center fielder Myles Straw threw out Sam Hilliard at the plate to keep the game tied in the top of the inning. Hilliard was the automatic runner and took third on a fly ball. Straw fielded Eddie Rosario's line drive and made a perfect throw to Fry at the plate for the double play. Ennyel De Los Santos (4-1) pitched

the 10th for Cleveland. Atlanta had won 17 of 18 and 24 of 27. The Braves, who have eight All-Stars, own MLB's best record

Amed Rosario drove in four runs, including a go-ahead single in the seventh. Ozzie Albies, who hit a tworun homer in the fifth, tied the game with a leadoff homer in the ninth off

BASEBALL

closer Emmanuel Clase.

Ronald Acuña Jr. stole his 41st base of the season for the Braves in their four-run fifth, but the bullpen couldn't hold a 4-2 lead.

Amed Rosario hit a two-run double in the third that gave Cleveland an early lead. Atlanta went ahead in the fifth, but Rosario's leadoff homer in the sixth that cut Atlanta's lead to

Pirates 9, Dodgers 7

In Los Angeles, pinch-hitter Josh Palacios came through with a tiebreaking two-run double in a threerun ninth inning that rallied the Pittsburgh Pirates to a 9-7 victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers to snap a three-

Dodgers reliever Evan Phillips struck out Carlos Santana, then issued consecutive walks to Jack Suwinski and Nick Gonzales. Suwinski scored on Jared Triolo's single that tied it at 7.

Palacios batted for Rodolfo Castro and doubled into left field, scoring Gonzales and Triolo for a 9-7 lead.

The Pirates bounced back after pinch-hitter Jonny Deluca's solo homer in the eighth gave the Dodgers a 7-6 lead.

David Bednar (3-0) got five outs for the win after being added to the NL All-Star roster earlier in the day as an injury replacement.

James Outman slugged a pair of two-run homers, both times giving Los Angeles the lead, and Mookie Betts added his 23rd homer for the Dodgers. Jason Heyward went 2 for 3 and scored twice.

Deluca batted for Heyward and went deep to left field off Angel Perdomo for his first major league homer. The 24-year-old outfielder from Thousand Oaks in Ventura County took a curtain call in front of 51,487

cheering fans. The Pirates tied the game at 6 in the sixth. Henry Davis singled to left off Gavin Stone, and David Peralta's throw kicked off the glove of catcher Will Smith as Austin Hedges made a headfirst slide home. The throw put runners at second and third before Stone walked Santana to load the

Suwinski took a called third strike. Gonzales grounded into a fielder's choice to shortstop and Santana was out at second to end the inning.

Suwinski went deep for the Pirates leading off the fourth - his 442-shot was the longest of the game - and Hedges' bases-loaded sacrifice fly tied it at 4. Bryan Reynolds' RBI single off Caleb Ferguson put the Pirates

The Dodgers rallied to take a 6-5 lead in the bottom of the inning on Outman's 407-foot shot that scored Heyward, who singled leading off against starter Luis Ortiz.

Outman's first homer in the second traveled 436 feet to right-center and scored Heyman, who singled. Two batters later, Betts homered for a 4-1

Will Smith's sacrifice fly in the first scored Betts and left the Dodgers trailing 2-1.

Dodgers rookie Emmet Sheehan had a shaky 37-pitch first. After he loaded the bases on three consecutive two-out walks, Gonzales hit a ground-rule double to left, scoring Davis and Santana for a 2-0 lead.

Padres 8, Angels 5

In San Diego, two-way All-Star Shohei Ohtani of the Los Angeles Angels left Tuesday's game with a blister on his right middle finger after allowing consecutive home runs to Xander Bogaerts and Jake Cronenworth in the sixth inning of an 8-5 loss to Joe Musgrove and the San

Diego Padres. Ohtani's exit came a few hours after the Angels found out they'll be without All-Star slugger Mike Trout for several weeks because of a broken

left wrist. Ohtani (7-4) allowed a line-drive, two-run homer by Bogaerts to left field and then Cronenworth's shot to right-center. A trainer came out with



Oakland Athletics' JP Sears pitches against the Detroit Tigers during the second inning of a baseball game in Detroit. (AP)

an interpreter to check on Ohtani and they were soon joined by manager Phil Nevin. Ohtani then exited. He allowed five runs and seven hits, struck out five and walked four.

The right-hander's start had been pushed back a day due to a cracked fingernail. He left his previous start as a pitcher but remained in the game as the designated hitter and homered, giving him 10 strikeouts and two home runs in a 4-2 win against the Chicago White Sox.

This time, Ohtani made the last out at the plate in the top of the sixth and was replaced by pinch-hitter Jo Adell at DH in the ninth.

Cronenworth also had two doubles to become the first player with three extra-base hits in a game against Ohtani, who came to the majors in 2018. Cronenworth and B

Athletics 1, Tigers 0

In Detroit, Ryan Noda had an RBI single in the 10th inning as the MLBworst Oakland Athletics edged the Detroit Tigers after being no-hit into the seventh inning.

Jace Peterson bunted pinch-runner Tyler Wade to third to start the 10th. Tyler Horton (0-1) struck out Shea Langeliers for the second out before Noda slapped a single to left - one of iust two hits for Oakland in the game

- to break the scoreless struggle. Shintaro Fujinami (5-7) got the win after striking out the side in the ninth. Trevor May pitched a scoreless 10th for his sixth save.

The Athletics were the last team in baseball to record a shutout.

The Tigers had runners on first and third with one out in the eighth. Lucas Erceg struck out Spencer Torkelson, and after Kerry Carpenter drew a pinch-hit walk to load the bases, Javier Báez took a called third strike, ending the threat.

Cubs 7, Brewers 6 11innings

In Milwaukee, left fielder Ian Happ threw out two runners at the plate in extra innings, and the Chicago Cubs pulled out a wild 7-6 win over the Milwaukee Brewers in 11 innings after squandering a late lead for the second consecutive game.

Dansby Swanson homered and Miguel Amaya hit a two-run double to help the Cubs build a 6-2 cushion. But the Brewers scored twice in the eighth and twice more in the ninth to

In the bottom of the 10th, pinchrunner Andruw Monasterio was placed at second base as the automatic runner. He tried to score the winning run on Owen Miller's oneout single to left but was cut down at home by Happ on a call that stood following a replay review.

Miller was thrown out trying to advance to second, ending the inning.

Chicago went ahead in the 11th. Automatic runner Cody Bellinger moved to third with one out on a wild pitch by Clayton Andrews (0-1). After Amaya struck out, Nico Hoerner beat out an infield single to put the Cubs up by a run.

Mariners 6, Giants 0

In San Francisco, Logan Gilbert felt the need to apologize for his awkward dance moves, though he sure looked plenty graceful for a big guy - and nobody would have cared otherwise after his masterpiece on the

Seattle's 6-foot-6 right-hander had never before let loose shuffling around in the Mariners' postgame winning circle in what has become ritual for the finishing pitcher and his fielders after the final out.

Gilbert struck out seven pitching a five-hit gem for his first career complete game, Mike Ford homered during a four-hit performance and AJ Pollock added a late two-run shot as the Seattle Mariners beat the San Francisco Giants 6-0 for their fourth straight win.

After striking out Mike Yastrzemski swinging to end the 2-hour, 20-minute Fourth of July matinee, the 26-year-old Gilbert clapped his hand into his glove and quickly went to embrace catcher Tom Murphy.

Julio Rodríguez contributed an RBI single and doubled as the Seattle offense did plenty to back right-hander Gilbert (6-5) in his winning effort facing the Giants for the first time in his career. Seattle's four-game winning streak matches its season best with the other four-game unbeaten run coming in a sweep of Oakland from May 22-25.

Mets 8, Diamondbacks 5

In Phoenix, Max Scherzer gave up three homers, all solo shots. New York hit three homers, just one a solo The difference in dingers allowed

the Mets to extend a rare win streak during a difficult season. Starling Marte hit a three-run homer, Scherzer struck out nine to re-

main undefeated in 10 straight starts and New York beat the Arizona Diamondbacks 8-5 on Tuesday. Scherzer (8-2) gave up homers to Corbin Carroll, Cristian Walker and

Lourdes Gurriel Jr. while walking

another run in six innings. The Mets made the most of their long balls to help the right-hander win his sixth

straight decision. Marte hit his fifth homer of the season off Diamondbacks starter Zach



in 2014.

fourth inning and Brandon Nimmo added a solo shot in the fifth. Francisco Alvarez hit a 467-foot, two-run homer off Miguel Castro (4-3) in the seventh inning to break Travis D'Arnaud's single-season team record by a rookie catcher set

Dunning

That put the Mets up 6-4 and they tacked on two more runs - not on homers - to win three straight for the first time in a month.

Astros 4, Rockies 1

In Houston, rookie Grae Kessinger hit his first career home run and fellow rookie Corey Julks had a careerhigh four hits to lead the Houston Astros to a 4-1 win over the Colorado

Julks had a double and RBI after being inserted into the lineup at designated hitter after Jose Altuve was scratched about 90 minutes before the game with discomfort in his left

Manager Dusty Baker said after the game that Altuve was injured during batting practice, but that he didn't

have any more information on his injury. Although Baker didn't know the extent of Altuve's injury, he was disheartened to be dealing with another injury in a season that has already been filled with them.

Baker talked about the offense his young players provided Tuesday for a team that is also missing star slugger Yordan Alvarez.

Brandon Bielak (4-4) allowed two hits in seven scoreless innings for the win. He tied a career-high by walking four batters, but was helped by a defense that turned double plays in the first and fifth innings.

Mauricio Dubón had two hits, including a triple, to help the Astros extend their winning streak to three

Colorado starter Kyle Freeland (4-9) yielded nine hits for the third time in four games and gave up four runs to remain winless since May 14.

The Rockies didn't get on the board until a solo homer by Kris Bryant with one out in the ninth inning. It was his first home run since returning from the injured list Friday.

Phillies 3, Rays 1

In St. Petersburg, Aaron Nola tied a career-high with 12 strikeouts and beat former teammate Zach Eflin as the Philadelphia Phillies won their 10th consecutive road game, 3-1 over the AL-leading Tampa Bay Rays.

It's the Phillies' longest winning streak away from home since the 1976 club won a franchise-best 13

Tampa Bay has lost nine of 15. Nola (8-5) allowed one run and five hits over 7 1/3 innings. The last batter he faced, Wander Franco, homered. Craig Kimbrel worked the ninth and earned his 13th save in 13 chances. Nola and Eflin spent part of Mon-

day's off-day together. Eflin (9-4) was making his first start against his old team after signing a \$40 million, three-year contract, the largest free-agent deal in Rays' history. The 29-year-old right-hander, who had won each of his first eight home starts, gave up two runs, four hits and struck out nine in seven in-

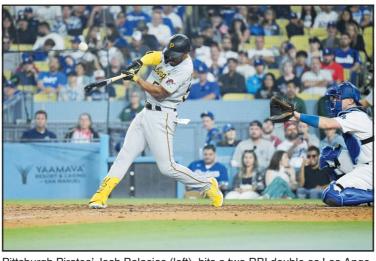
Effin was the eighth pitcher, and the first since Rick Sutcliffe led the Chicago Cubs in 1984 to their first playoff trip in 39 years, to win his first eight home starts with a club since 1901.

Rangers 6, Red Sox 2

In Boston, Mitch Garver hit a threerun homer, Dane Dunning pitched six solid innings and the AL West-leading Texas Rangers had a rain-delayed 6-2 victory over the Boston Red Sox.

Robbie Grossman and Josh Jung each added an RBI double for the Rangers, who won for just the second time in six games. Garver also had a bases-loaded walk.

Jarren Duran had a triple and double, and Justin Turner an RBI single



Pittsburgh Pirates' Josh Palacios (left), hits a two RBI double as Los Angeles Dodgers catcher Will Smith watches during the ninth inning of a baseball game in Los Angeles. (AP)

for Boston, which had its three-game

The game was delayed for 1 hour,

With a light rain falling early in

the game and turning heavier in the middle innings until the umpires

called for the tarp with the Red Sox

batting in the eighth, the 28-year-old

Dunning (8-1) kept Boston's offense

in check, giving up a run and six hits

Will Smith got Alex Verdugo to

pop out with two runners on for the

Boston had moved in front when

Duran tripled into the triangle in cent-

er and scored on Verdugo's grounder

Yankees 8, Orioles 4

a two-run homer and scored the go-

ahead run from first base on Gian-

carlo Stanton's fifth-inning single,

leading the New York Yankees over

Aaron Hicks homered in his sec-

ond game back in the Bronx after

Yankees released him on May 26 and

Adam Frazier followed with a tying

two-run homer in a three-run fifth

against Clarke Schmidt. Frazier went

deep after a catchable fly by Jordan

Westburg that left fielder Oswaldo

Cabrera broke in on and played into

res walked and was running on a full-

count, two-out pitch to Stanton, who

singled up the middle. Center fielder

Cedric Mullins tossed the ball to sec-

ond as Torres ran through third base

coach Luis Rojas' stop sign and slid

Jose Trevino added an opposite-

field homer to right in the seventh

against Nick Vespi. Harrison Bader

followed a two-run double against

Bryan Baker, a day after Bader's

tiebreaking, three-run homer lifted

New York to a 6-3 win in the series

first off Kyle Gibson and Isiah Kiner-

Falefa's fourth-inning sacrifice fly

Twins 9 Royals 3

four RBIs, including a three-run hom-

er, while Kenta Maeda continued his

strong comeback from the injured list

for the Minnesota Twins in a 9-3 win

ton each had three hits and added

back-to-back homers in the fifth in-

ning for Minnesota, which has won

four of five after being swept in At-

lanta that caused manager Rocco

Baldelli to criticize his team's effort.

Carlos Correa added a third-inning

single for his 1,000th career hit at 28

Maeda (2-5) made his third start

since coming off the injured list for

a right triceps strain. He gave up two

runs and three hits in a season-high

seven innings. He struck out nine. In

the three starts, Maeda has given up

Marlins 15, Cardinals 2

singled twice and had four RBIs and

the Miami Marlins beat St. Louis

15-2 in another short outing by Car-

Jorge Soler and Joey Wendle each

doubled twice while Garrett Cooper

also went deep and had two singles

for the Marlins, who finished with

a season high in runs against Wain-

struck out eight in six scoreless in-

and walked twice, dropping his ma-

jor league-leading batting average to

Marlins starter Jesús Luzardo (7-5)

Miami's Luis Arraez went 1-for-3

wright and four relievers.

nings.

dinals starter Adam Wainwright.

In Miami, Jesús Sánchez homered,

just three earned runs in 17 innings.

Donovan Solano and Byron Bux-

against the Kansas City Royals.

In Minneapolis, Max Kepler had

boosted the Yankees' lead to 3-0.

Torres hit his 13th homer in the

headfirst across the plate.

With the score 3-3 in the fifth, Tor-

the Baltimore Orioles 8-4

a double.

opener.

vears old.

In New York, Gleyber Torres hit

with four strikeouts and a walk.

final out, recording his 15th save.

winning streak halted.

47 minutes

 Pct
 GB

 .593
 —

 .558
 3

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 8

 .276
 27-1/2
 25 38 43 42 63 28 37 39 46 51 Pct .671 .575 .536 .459 .400 New York
 Pct
 GB

 .547
 —

 .535
 1

 .471
 6-1/2

 .464
 7

 .412
 11-1/2
 Pittsburgh West Division
 Pct
 GB

 .581
 —

 .553
 2-1/2

 .535
 4

 .465
 10

 .379
 17-1/2
 2-1/2 Los Angeles San Francisco

Wainwright (3-4) had his third consecutive outing of less than four innings. He was lifted after consecutive one-out walks in the fourth. The 41-year-old Wainwright gave up seven runs, four earned, and seven hits.

Cardinals manager Oliver Marmol said the two-time NL Cy Young Award runner-up will go on the injured list. Wainwright, who will retire at the end of the season, has been dealing with shoulder discomfort.

Reds 8, Nationals 4

In Washington, Brett Kennedy won his first major league appearance in five years, Elly De La Cruz went 4 for 5 with hits from both sides of the plate and the Cincinnati Reds beat the . Washington Nationals 8-4.

Kennedy struck out three and allowed four runs and five hits in fiveplus innings, only getting into trouble late in his 86-pitch outing.

De La Cruz had three singles bating right-handed and one left-handed. The switch-hitting rookie sensation was robbed of his first career five-hit game by Nationals center fielder Derek Hill's diving catch on a line drive in the eighth.

Jonathan India hit two home runs, Nick Senzel had a three-run shot and the Reds stole five bases. They've won three in a row and six of their past seven.

This one had special meaning for Kennedy, a 28-year-old who has bounced around the minors since last being in the majors with San Diego in 2018. He began this season as the opening day starter for the Long Island Ducks of the independent Atlantic League. Since his most recent major league

game Sept. 7, 2018, Kennedy pitched in an Arizona rookie league and for teams in El Paso, Worcester and Portland. He joined the Reds organization in Louisville in May and got the call earlier this week to start on the Fourth

Blue Jays 4, White Sox 3

In Chicago, Vladimir Guerrero Jr. stepped to the plate looking for a pitch up in the zone that he could drive. He got a high slider and parked it in a party deck.

Guerrero hit a two-run homer in the eighth inning, and the Toronto Blue Jays beat the Chicago White Sox 4-3.

Guerrero singled and scored in a two-run fourth. But his biggest hit came just in time for the Blue Jays.

He gave Toronto a 4-3 lead when he connected against Joe Kelly (1-4) after Brandon Belt led off the eighth with a walk. The three-time All-Star went the opposite way on a 2-1 pitch, driving it out to right for his 13th home run.

All-Star Whit Merrifield had two hits and two RBIs, and the Blue Jays got back to winning coming off a three-game sweep by Boston. White Sox All-Star Luis Robert Jr.

made it 3-2 in the sixth with a long three-run drive against Chris Bassitt for his 25th homer. But Chicago lost again after dropping two of three at struggling Oakland.

Bassitt threw six innings, allowing three runs and six hits.

Nate Pearson (5-1) worked the seventh. Erik Swanson pitched around a triple by Tim Anderson in the eighth.

Jordan Romano pitched the ninth for his 25th save in 28 chances, and the Blue Jays came away with a tight win after pounding Chicago 20-2 in a three-game sweep at Toronto in

Toronto took a 2-0 lead on Merrifield's two-run, bases-loaded double in the fourth against Lucas Giolito.

16

Poland's Iga Swiatek plays a return to Spain's Sara Sorribes Tormo during the women's singles match on day three of the Wimbledon tennis championships in London. (AP)

5 ports

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Swiatek eases into Wimbledon 3rd round

Rain and environmental activists affect play on Day 3

WIMBLEDON, England, July 5, (AP): Rain was again affecting play at Wimbledon on Day 3 of the grasscourt tournament, and environmental

activists halted two matches as well.

Intermittent showers Wednesday forced matches on the outside courts to be suspended twice, while play in the main stadiums was also stopped for a short time because of the weather.

Two Just Stop Oil protestors were arrested after disrupting one match by running onto Court 18 and throwing orange confetti onto the grass, before being led off by security. That stopped the first-round encounter between Grigor Dimitrov and Sho Shimabukuro early in the second set, and the rain then came before the confetti could be cleared.

The match resumed with the others after the rain delay. The two protestors were arrested "on suspicion of aggravated trespass and criminal damage, the All England Club said in a statement

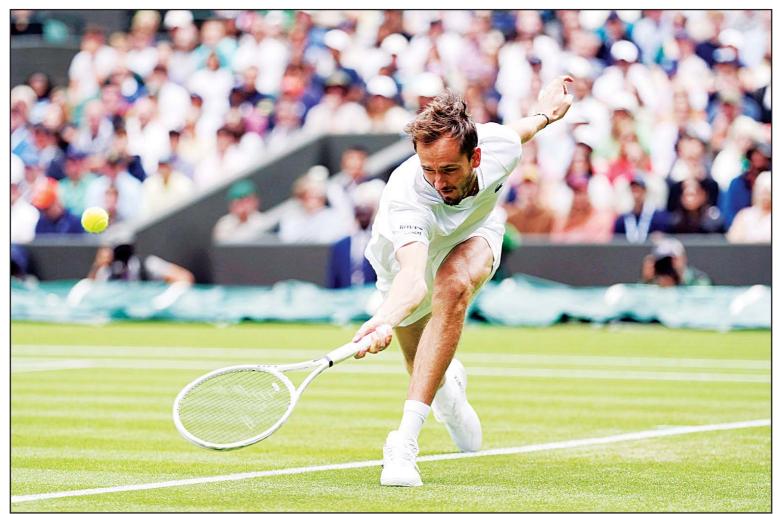
TENNIS

A few hours later during the next match on the same court, another man representing the same organization also threw orange confetti on the grass before security guards corralled him and dragged him away.

"Obviously it's not pleasant," Dimitrov said about the disruption after winning his match in straight sets. "In the end of the day there is not much you can do. I think everyone in a way did their part as quick as possible. I mean, rain was coming so it was also a little bit fortunate to come off the court and have some time to kind of like regroup a little bit and shake it off."

Wimbledon increased its security in coordination with London police and other agencies for this year's tournament, in part as a result of protests at other major sports venues in Britain this year.

The rain had already created a major backlog of matches after the first two days, and only eight matches were completed



Russia's Daniil Medvedev returns to Britain's Arthur Fery in a first round men's singles match on day three of the Wimbledon tennis championships in

on Tuesday. Several matches scheduled for the outside courts on Wednesday were pushed back to Thursday.

Only Centre Court and No. 1 Court at the All England Club have roofs.

On Centre Court on Wednesday, top-seeded woman Iga Swiatek eased into the third round with a 6-2, 6-0 win over Sara Sorribes Tormo, hitting 27

winners compared to just three for her opponent.

Defending men's champion Novak Djokovic was up next, facing Jordan Thompson of Australia in the second

On No. 1 Court, third-seeded Daniil Medvedev beat British 20-year-old Arthur Fery 7-5, 6-4, 6-3.

American duo Taylor Fritz and Frances Tiafoe both reached the second round, but in contrasting fashion. The ninth-seeded Fritz came from a set down to beat Yannick Hanfmann of Germany 6-4, 2-6, 4-6, 7-5, 6-3 on No. 2 Court, while Tiafoe beat Yibing Wu

in straight sets on No. 3 Court. Soccer royalty made its way into the Royal Box at Wimbledon on Wednesday when David Beckham took his place on Centre Court.

Beckham, one of the most famous players in soccer history for both his ability on the field and his persona off it, attended Day 3 of the grass-court tournament a day after Kate, the Princess of Wales, was in the stands.

Guatemala qualify

Canada top Cuba to play US in India win South Asian Football Championship **CONCACAF Gold Cup quarters**

HOUSTON, July 5, (AP): Canada advanced to a quarterfinal matchup against the United States in the CONCACAF Gold Cup, beating Cuba 4-2 on Tuesday night.

Guatemala also advanced with a 3-2 victory over Guadeloupe at Harrison, New Jersey, and will play Jamaica in the opener of a quarterfinal doubleheader at Cincinnati on Sunday, followed by the U.S.-Canada matchup.

In the other quarterfinal doubleheader, Mexico will play Costa Rica on Saturday after Panama meets invited guest Qatar at Arlington, Texas.

Junior Hoilett converted a 21stminute penalty kick for No. 45 Canada after a hand ball on Eduardo Hernandez on Hoilett's cross.

Jonathan Osorio scored in the 26th off Lucas Cavallini's pass, Jayden Nelson on a rebound of Cavallini's shot in the 47th and Liam Millar in the 61st on a header from Hoilett's corner kick.

Cuba, ranked 166th, scored on penalty kicks by Luis Paradela in the fourth minute of first-half stoppage time and Maikel Reyes in the 89th.

No. 116 Guatemala won Group C with six points and Canada finished second with five. Guadeloupe had four and Cuba zero.

SOCCER

No. 42 Costa Rica defeated Martinique 6-4 at Harrison to advance, and 57th-ranked Panama, already assured a quarterfinal berth, drew No. 76 El Salvador 2-2. Guadeloupe and Martinique are not ranked because they are not FIFA members.

San Jose midfielder Jackson Yueill was added to the U.S. roster for the knockout rounds for the CONCACAF Gold Cup as the replacement for Alan Soñora, who strained his right hamstring.

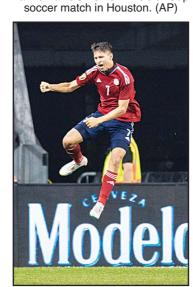
The U.S. Soccer Federation announced the change Monday, six days ahead of the Americans' quarterfinal against Canada in Cincinnati.

The 26-year-old Yueill has 16 international appearances and last played in a December 2021 exhibition against Bosnia and Herzegovina. He was on the roster for an April exhibition against Mexico this year

Editor-in-Chief



Canada's Junior Hoilett (10) advances the ball as Cuba's Yunior Pérez (15) defends during the first half of a CONCACAF Gold Cup



Costa Rica forward Anthony Contreras (7) celebrates a goal against Martinique during a CONCACAF Gold Cup soccer match in Harrison, N.J. (AP)

but did not get into the match. Other possibilities were bypassed

because they are regaining fitness. Los Angeles midfielder Kellyn Acosta was sidelined by a lower extremity injury from May 13 until Saturday, when he played the second half at Dallas. Teammate Timothy Tillman also had a lower extremity injury that sidelined him after May 20. He returned to play 10 minutes against Vancouver on June 24 and started Saturday, when Acosta replaced him at the start of the second half.

Editorial Office:

Airport Road, Shuwaikh

Kuwait lose on penalty shootout

NEW DELHI, July 5, (KUNA): Ku-Shabib al Khaldi netted the first wait national football team lost on final match of the South Asian Footgoal in the 14th minutes helping Kuwait to lead in the first half but

ball Federation Championship to India 5-4 in penalty shootout. Kuwait team staged a stellar performance but could not lift the cup as the final match held in the Sree Kan-

south India went into penalty kicks

teerava Stadium in Bangalore city in as both teams netted one goal each in

Lallianzuala Chhangte equalized for India in the 38th minute.

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The second half of the match pro-

ceeded without any goal and in the extra time too both the teams could not advance against the other.

In earlier matches, Kuwait held India to draw 1-1 while it defeated opponents Nepal (3-1) and Pakistan

4-0 in style to top the Group A. In the semifinal, Kuwait defeated Bangladesh (1-0) while India overpowered Lebanon in the penalty

UEFA removes Osasuna from European competition

Napoli to kick off title defense at Frosinone

MILAN, July 5, (AP): Serie A champion Napoli will kick off its title defense at newly-promoted Frosinone.

That will mark Rudi Garcia's first match as Napoli coach after he replaced Luciano Spalletti at the end of last season.

The upcoming Serie A schedule was announced Wednesday. Runnerup Lazio visits Lecce on the opening weekend, while Inter Milan hosts Monza and AC Milan visits Bologna. Juventus also plays at Udinese.

The season starts the weekend of Aug. 19 and the final day will be on May 26. In a break with tradition there will be no pause over the Christmas period, with matches played on Dec. 23 and 30.

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There will also be only one midweek round, on Sept. 27, and four international breaks.

The first matches between the top teams come in the third round when Napoli hosts Lazio and AC Milan visits Roma. That weekend also sees Inter host fierce rival Fiorentina.

The first derby match between the Milan teams takes place the following weekend, Sept. 17, with Lazio also encountering back-to-back difficult matches as it visits Juventus.

The first Rome derby - between Roma and Lazio - will be the weekend of Nov. 12.

The final round sees Napoli host Lecce, Lazio at home to Sassuolo, Inter at Hellas Verona, Milan playing Salernitana and Juventus against



Spanish club Osasuna was removed from the Europa Conference League on Wednesday by UEFA because former club officials were implicated in fixing matches a decade ago.

Osasuna said in a statement it will appeal the ruling to the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

By finishing seventh in La Liga last season, Osasuna earned a place in the playoff round of the third-tier European club competition, needing to beat one opponent in August to advance to

the group stage. UEFA's verdict lifts eighth-place Athletic Bilbao into the competition instead. A CAS ruling likely will be needed ahead of Athletic's scheduled

first-leg game on Aug. 24. Osasuna officials who are no longer with the club were implicated in fixing matches between 2012 and 2014.

Inspired by Kaka, anxious to join up with former Chelsea teammate Fikayo Tomori and ready to bring his box-tobox play to Italy, Ruben Loftus-Cheek is looking forward to his debut for AC Milan at the San Siro.

The English midfielder recently signed a four-year deal with Milan following a transfer from Chelsea that was reportedly worth 16 million euros (\$17.5 million).

"I was at Chelsea for 20 years of my life. This is a special time for me to finally break away from the club, start a new chapter in my life," Loftus-Cheek said in a video posted on Milan's website Tuesday.

Having coming up through Chelsea's youth system, Loftus-Cheek played seven seasons for the Blues with 155 appearances and 13 goals. He won two Premier League titles with Chelsea, a Club World Cup, a European Super Cup and a League Cup. He also had loan spells at Crystal Palace and Fulham.



Tour de France cycling race over 163 kilometers (101 miles) with start in Pau and finish in Laruns, France. (AP)

PSG fire Galtier

Mason 'becomes' Man U 1st signing

MANCHESTER, England, July 5, (AP): After 18 years at Chelsea, Mason Mount became Manchester United's first signing of the off-season on Wednesday in a move worth 55 million pounds (\$69 million).

The England international has signed a five-year deal with the option of a further 12 months.

The comes week ter United reached agreement with Chelsea, following protracted negotiations since



the end of the season "It's never easy leaving the club where you grew up, but Manchester United will provide an exciting new challenge for the next phase of my career,' Mount said. "Having competed against them, I know just how strong a squad it is that I'm joining, and I can't wait to be part of this group's drive to win major trophies."

United will have to pay a further 5 million pounds (\$6.3 million) based on Mount meeting certain targets relating to appearances and success.

Mount, 24, was one of United manager Erik ten Hag's leading targets ahead of the Dutchman's second season in charge at Old Trafford. He also wants to sign a top class striker to replace Cristiano Ronaldo, who left in November.

Ten Hag is looking to build a squad capable of challenging for the Premier League title next season, as well as compete in the Champions League.

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"Everyone can see that the club has made big steps forward under Erik ten Hag,' said. "Having met with the manager and discussed his plans, I couldn't be more excited for the seasons ahead, and am ready for the hard work expected here. I am hugely ambitious; I know how amazing it feels to win major trophies and what it takes to do it. I will be giving everything to experience that again at Manchester United."

Mount was part of Chelsea's League-winning Champions team of 2021 and has emerged as one of the Premier League's leading midfielders after coming through the club's academy. He also won the European Super Cup and Club World Cup with his former club.

He made 195 appearances for Chelsea and scored 33 goals. In his time at the club he also established himself as a regular for

'Mason is an extremely intelligent footballer and has so many fantastic technical qualities that will significantly add to our squad," United football director John Murtough said. "We have admired his talents for a long time, so we are delighted that he has chosen to take the next steps in his career here at Old Trafford.

"Mason himself is a worldclass player but he also has the ability to improve the players around him through his game intelligence and tactical awareness.

Mount posted an emotional video message to Chelsea fans on Tuesday to confirm he was leaving the club he joined as a six-year-old.

"Given the speculation over the last six months this may not come as a surprise to you, but it doesn't make it any easier to tell that I've made the decision to leave Chelsea," he said on Instagram. "I know some of you won't be happy with my decision but it is what's right for me at this moment in my career.'

Mount is the latest player to leave Chelsea as part of a summer clear out by the London

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