

Temps soar

Power load at yellow

KUWAIT CITY, July 9: The power load index touched the yellow line Saturday, reaching 15,999 megawatts, the highest since the beginning of this summer as the temperatures reached 48 degrees Celsius, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The Ministry of Electricity and Water had confirmed its readiness for the current summer by conducting the necessary maintenance for its power stations during the last winter preparing for the summer season while at the same time calling on all consumers not to use energy-consuming devices during peak load times.

In a related context, MEW sources indicated violations committed by some real estate owners has led to an increase in loads, including the conversion of some of the private housing into investment in violation of the Ministry's decisions in this regard.

The sources indicated that the municipality's campaigns on those homes with the participation of the judicial police are continuing to reduce these violations.

Russia-harassed US drones fly on to kill 'DAESH' leader

Target ID Usamah Al-Muhajir

PWASHINGTON, July 9, (AP): A U.S. drone strike killed an Islamic State group leader in Syria hours after the same MQ-9 Reaper drones were harassed by Russian military jets over the western part of the country, according to the Defense Department.

Three Reapers had been flying overhead searching for the militant on Friday, a

U.S. defense official said, when they were harassed for about two hours by Russian aircraft. Shortly after that, the drones struck and killed Usamah Al-Muhajir, who was riding a motorcycle in the Aleppo region, said the official, who was not authorized to publicly discuss the matter and spoke on condition of anonymity to describe details of the military operation.

The official said Al-Muhajir was in northwest Syria at the time of the strike, but that he usually operated in the east.

It was not immediately clear how the U.S. military confirmed that the person killed was Al-Muhajir; no other details were provided.

In a statement Sunday, U.S. Central Command said there are no indications any civilians were killed in the strike. The military was assessing reports a civilian may have been injured.

Friday was the third day in a row that U.S. officials complained that Russian fighter jets in the region had conducted unsafe and harassing flights around American drones.

Lt. Gen. Alex Grynkevicz, head of U.S. Air Forces Central Command, said in a statement that during the Friday encounter, the Russian planes "flew 18 unprofessional close passes that caused the MQ-9s to react to avoid unsafe situations."

The first friction occurred Wednesday morning when Russian military aircraft "engaged in unsafe and unprofessional behavior" as three American MQ-9 drones were conducting a mission against IS, the U.S. military said. On Thursday, the U.S. military said Russian fighter aircraft flew "incredibly unsafe and unprofessionally" against both French and U.S. aircraft over Syria.

Col. Michael Andrews, Air Forces Central Command spokesman, said the Thursday incident lasted almost an hour and included close fly-bys, by one SU-34 and one SU-35 and that they deployed flares directly into the MQ-9.

U.S. officials said the drones were unarmed in the earlier flights, but were carrying weapons on Friday, as they were hunting Al-Muhajir.

T2 lauded

KUWAIT CITY, July 9, (KUNA): His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah said on Sunday that the new airport project "T2" is one of the national projects that aims to modernize the country's infrastructure to serve Kuwait Vision 2035.

This came in a statement during his visit to the new passenger terminal in Kuwait International Airport.

His Highness the Prime Minister said Sudan was on the brink of a "full-scale civil war" as fierce clashes between rival generals continued unabated Sunday in the capital, Khartoum.

He expressed his pride and appreciation for the Kuwaiti youth energies participating in this project.

He also affirmed the government's interest and keenness to harness all capabilities.

His Highness the Prime Minister was accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs Essa Ahmad Al-Kandari, Minister of Public Works Amani Suliman Bougammaz, Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Dr. Jassim Mohammad Al-Ostad and several senior officials.



His Highness Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Prime Minister, during his visit to the new passenger terminal 'T2' project of Kuwait International Airport.

Opinion

Prime Minister, governor and corrupt judges expelled by king

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah
Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

WHEN corruption is rampant in a country, the judiciary becomes the point of salvation. This is because judges serve as watchful guards to achieve justice. However, when the virus of interests enters this edifice, it becomes necessary for someone to urgently straighten the process, even if there is a great risk, such as a bold judge losing his privileges but eventually achieving justice and taking the risk.

In this regard, I remembered the story of Judge Shams al-Din al-Hariri who was an official in one of the provinces in an ancient Muslim country. He was known to be bold in his judgments and not afraid of anyone. He did not receive any gifts from anyone, and due to his firm stances regarding the law, he made many enemies.

At one time, when the district judge died, Shams al-Din was appointed in his place. He soon discovered that the one in charge of the district was corrupt, violated people's rights, dishonored their women, and killed everyone who stood in his way. It was difficult to confront him for his crimes without an explicit confession from him either personally or with clear evidence.

Therefore, Shams al-Din worked to consolidate his relationship with the official, who was nicknamed Ashram, such that the latter entrusted him with his secrets. When he was reassured of him, Shams al-Din devised a plot for him, which was to tell him that the governor had lost his favor with the Prime Minister, due to which Ashram became a danger to them.

Sham al-Din advised him to write a letter to his friend the governor about all his crimes in the hope that the latter would help him.

Shams al-Din delivered the letter to the governor but only after making a copy of the letter, and keeping the original copy.

He traveled to the capital city to meet the king. As soon as the king learned of the charges, he ordered the formation of a court session immediately headed by the chief of judges. Because the latter was a partner in corruption, he tried to pressure Shams al-Din into withdrawing his case, but Shams al-Din persisted.

At that point, the chief justice set a date for the court to convene. On the morning of that day, a fire broke out in his house and burnt a set of documents including Ashram's confession letter and the governor's letter to him that reassured him of his support and protection and claimed that no one can

touch him. The Chief Justice then sought to conclude a deal with Shams al-Din, which was that the latter would withdraw his case in exchange for recommending him before the king. He accepted the deal, but when he appeared before the head of state, he said, "I accuse the Chief Justice, and the Prime Minister, as well as the governor of covering up a corrupt and immoral criminal. This is my evidence". He then pulled out from his pocket the original copy of Ashram's confessions, and the governor's letter to him.

The king became angry and said, "When corruption spreads, even among senior officials, devastation will prevail in the country, and the state will collapse".

He then ordered the dismissal of the prime minister and his grandson - the governor, and also ordered the arrest of Ashram. He then appointed Shams al-Din as the Prime Minister due to his honesty and his pursuit of justice at all costs.

When there is a ruler who fears for his country, he must seek the truth from its owners, and choose officials who are not blinded by greed.

This is why during World War II, the British Prime Minister Winston Churchill wanted to inspect the destruction that befell London as a result of the bombing of German planes. As he inspected the damage, he inquired about neither the economy nor health, fuel, or the exchange rate of the sterling pound. He instead asked about the judiciary, and whether it was okay and still far from bribery and corruption. When he was given the answer "Yes", his response was decisive, "Rest assured, as long as the judiciary is fine, then Britain is fine."

Here, Churchill wanted to establish the principle that the continuity of justice in the state is evidence of its strength and ability to get out of its crisis, because judges are the salt of the homeland.

If this edifice is damaged in any country, then things start to fall apart. We have in a group of Arab countries the best example of the failure of institutions because justice is absent in the judiciary.

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UN says Sudan on brink of 'civil war'

CAIRO, July 9, (AP): U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said Sudan was on the brink of a "full-scale civil war" as fierce clashes between rival generals continued unabated Sunday in the capital, Khartoum.

He warned on Saturday evening that the war between the Sudanese military and a powerful paramilitary force is likely to destabilize the entire region, according to Farhan Haq, deputy spokesperson for the secretary-general.

Sudan descended into chaos after months of tension between military chief Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan, and his rival Gen. Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo, commander of the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, exploded into open fighting in mid-April.

Health Minister Haitham Mohammed Ibrahim said in televised comments last month that the clashes have killed over 3,000 people and wounded over 6,000 others. The death tally, however, is highly likely to be much higher. More than 2.9 million people have fled their homes to safer areas inside Sudan or crossed into neighboring countries, according to U.N. figures.

The fighting came 18 months after the two generals led a military coup in October 2021 that toppled a Western-backed civilian transitional government. The conflict dashed Sudanese hopes of a peaceful transition to democracy after a popular upris-

ing forced the military removal of longtime autocrat Omar al-Bashir in April 2019.

The war has turned the capital Khartoum and other urban areas across the country into battlefields.

Residents in Khartoum said fierce fighting was underway early Sunday south of the capital. The warring factions were using heavy weapons in the battles in the Kalaka neighborhood and the military's aircraft were seen hovering over the area, said resident Abdalla al-Fatih.

In his statement, Guterres also condemned an airstrike Saturday that health authorities said killed at least 22 people in Omdurman, a city just across the Nile from the capital, Khartoum. The assault was one of the deadliest in the conflict.

The RSF blamed the military for the attack in Omdurman. The military, in turn, denied the accusation saying in a statement Sunday that its air force didn't carry out any airstrikes in the city that day.

The secretary-general also decried the large-scale violence and casualties in the western region of Darfur, which has experienced some of the worst fighting in the ongoing conflict, Haq said in a statement.

"There is an utter disregard for humanitarian and human rights law that is dangerous and disturbing," Guterres said.

U.N. officials have said the violence in the region has recently taken an ethnic dimension, with the RSF and Arab militias reportedly targeting non-Arab tribes in Darfur, a sprawling region consisting of five provinces. Last month, the governor of Darfur, Mini Arko Minawi, said the region was sliding back to its past genocide, referring to the conflict that engulfed the region in the early 2000s.

Entire towns and villages in West Darfur province were overrun by the RSF and their allied militias, forcing tens of thousands of residents to flee to neighboring Chad. Activists have reported many residents killed, women and girls raped, and properties looted and burned to the ground.



U.N. Secretary General Antonio Guterres addresses the media during a visit to the U.N. office in the capital Nairobi, Kenya Wednesday, May 3, 2023. (AP)

Kuwait, Saudi to expedite 'neutral zone' oil projects

KUWAIT CITY, July 9, (KUNA): Kuwait and Saudi Arabia agreed during talks on Sunday to accelerate efforts aiming to complete joint oil projects in the neutral zone linking the two Gulf Arab neighbors, underlining that such endeavors are imperative to meet local energy demands.

The Kuwaiti-Saudi joint permanent committee convened to monitor the progress on a number of vital oil projects, making sure to eliminate any "impediments" that could hinder their completion, Kuwaiti Oil Ministry undersecretary Dr. Nimr Al-Sabah said in a statement.

These efforts include plans to draw up a "future vision" when dealing with operations at the sites of these projects, chiefly, plans to ensure the "safe and seamless" transportation of

workers and equipment alike, according to the statement. The neutral zone spanning more than 5,700 square kilometers, is jointly managed to run its main oil fields; the onshore Wafra and offshore Khafji.

Such plans fall in line with a previous deal signed between the Gulf Arab neighbors back in 2019, which backed all efforts aiming to expedite joint oil projects linking Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, added the statement, citing regular talks as a strategy to bring that goal to fruition.

Since its inception in 1965, the Kuwaiti-Saudi joint permanent committee has acted as a monitoring body to examine the progress and development of common endeavors, particularly those carried out in zones linking the two countries.

NewsWatch

TEHRAN: Four militants attacked a police station in southeastern Iran and killed two security forces, state TV reported Saturday.

The assault took place in Zahedan, a city in Iran's Sistan and Baluchistan province, about 30 kilometers (19 miles) from the border with Pakistan. It triggered a shootout that left two security forces killed, the report said.

Iran's powerful Revolutionary Guard said in a statement that the four militants were killed.

The report quoted Alireza Marhamati, the province's deputy governor, as saying the militants were trying to gain access to the police station and were equipped with grenades, but did not elaborate. (AP)

TEHRAN: Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi called for upgrading the relations with Algeria in all areas, notably economy and trade.

During his meeting with Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmad Attaf in Tehran on Saturday, Raisi said his country was ready to share its scientific and technological potentials with Algeria, according to a statement by the Iranian presidency.

On his part, Attaf said President Abdelmadjid Tebboune tasked him with conveyed Algeria's desire to push the relations with Iran to the highest possible level. (KUNA)

ABU DHABI: The United Arab Emirates has decided to grant Kosovo euro 25 million to build a children hospital in the country.

The official news agency, Wam, said on Saturday that Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs, discussed, during a phone call with Albin Kurti, Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo, bilateral relations and ways to enhance them across various domains in order to achieve the

mutual interests of the two countries and benefit their people. (KUNA)

AMMAN: Jordanian security forces killed three men, including two escaped inmates, in a shootout in a remote part of the country, authorities said Sunday.

The Public Security Directorate said that the two prisoners had recently fled from jail, prompting a search that ended with the gunbattle. The third man killed had alleged ties to a militant group and was wanted in connection with unspecified crimes, the directorate said.

One of the two escaped inmates was charged in connection with the 2022 killing of a senior police officer. (AP)

RIYADH: The 6th joint strategic dialogue meeting between the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and Russia will be hosted by Moscow Monday to enhance bilateral ties and serve common interests, GCC Secretary General Jassim Al-Budaiwi said Saturday.

The meeting will discuss the agenda's topics, which aim to boost cooperation between the two sides on one hand and provide opportunities to share views on some regional and international dossiers on the other hand, Al-Budaiwi added in a statement issued by the GCC Secretariat. (KUNA)

WASHINGTON: At 31 years old, Nasratt Ahmad Yar had spent most of his adult life working with the U.S. military in Afghanistan before escaping to America in search of a better life for his wife and four children.

He found work as a ride-share driver and even managed to send money back to Afghanistan to help family and friends. He liked to play volleyball with friends in the Washington suburb where many Afghans who fled their country now live. At 6-foot-5 inches, he had a powerful serve. (AP)



OPINION OTHER VOICES

Paris promises great season despite simmering discontent

French government paints a rosy picture for tourism

The Eiffel Tower, chateaus in the Loire Valley - and cars on fire. Tourists to France faced a new reality during an eruption of nationwide anger following the police killing of 17-year-old Nahel Merzouk.

While hotel owners cite a drop in bookings in some areas, the French government insisted on Thursday that the overall picture for the tourism industry remains rosy, and promised a "great season" for visitors despite the simmering discontent.

Officials from the Ministry of Economy and Finance held a meeting Thursday with representatives of the tourism industry to discuss the consequences that the nationwide unrest following Nahel's death has had on France's tourist activity and international image.

The fatal shooting sparked anger across France and stirred up already existing tensions about racial and class-related discrimination in policing, which often targets neighborhoods with low-income families with origins from former French colonies. The violence ebbed this week, but the roots of the tensions remain.

The Union of Hotel Trades and Industries (UMIH) reported that hotel cancellations in Marseille had reached up to 30% in the wake of the protests, and anticipated that attendance at bars and restaurants in Paris could plummet by half.

Local and national reports cited international flight and hotel cancellations driven by fear, added to the property damages that businesses suffered during several days of violence.

But the minister overseeing trade and tourism, Olivia Grégoire, refuted those numbers during Thursday's meeting, which included representatives from UMIH. She called the figures "pessimistic and wrong," yet acknowledged that the government is currently unable to provide official data about damage caused.

The ministry vowed to help tourism establishments impacted by the violence, which included days of clashes between young people and police, the burning of cars and public buildings, and the looting of stores. Incidents hit about 500 cities and towns around France, including Paris.

Some of the measures include postponing or erasing debt for those businesses and offering partial unemployment benefits to employees who are unable to work because of the unrest.

"Let's not add anguish to anguish, and problems to problems," Grégoire said. "We have everything to make this season a great season."

She said that there's "no wave of cancellation or postponements of flights from or to Paris."

"The fact is that restaurants, hotels, and shops are open today in Paris,

Marseille, and Lyon, and this is the most important thing."

The tourists thronging to the French capital this week took extra precautions, but seem largely unfazed.

"Basically, we're looking around and making sure that where we are seems safe (and) if there's any police presence," said Valisha Ismail, a 40-year-old visiting from South Africa. "If there's a large crowd, then we try to move away from that."

Others said they felt safe because of the prominent police presence in the streets of the French capital. Heavily armed officers patrolled past Dior and Cartier boutiques on the Champs-Élysées avenue this week as part of an exceptional, 45,000-strong nationwide police deployment that led to more than 3,000 arrests - and new concerns about police excesses.

Johan and Jenna Haukbrauer, a couple visiting from Germany for the first time, said they were aware of what was unfolding but were nonetheless not discouraged.

"We checked the news, but we were fine because there are lots of policemen here and security forces, so for us it's fine," Johan said.

Gilda Stanbery, visiting her daughter outside Paris, said they weren't able to come downtown during the most intense days of rioting. But a few days later, they could, and she said, "We are here now." (AP)



Police stand amid firecrackers on the third night of protests sparked by the fatal police shooting of a 17-year-old driver in the Paris suburb of Nanterre, France, Friday, June 30, 2023. The June 27 shooting of the teen, identified as Nahel, triggered urban violence and stirred up tensions between police and young people in housing projects and other neighborhoods. After more than 3,400 arrests and signs that the vio-

lence is now abating, France is once again facing a reckoning. Inset: Tourists pose for a selfie with the Eiffel Tower in background, Thursday, July 6, 2023 in Paris. French government officials met with representatives of the tourism industry to discuss repercussions of unrest sparked by the police killing of a 17-year-old boy on tourist activity and on France's international image. (AP)

'They say we are all French'

Liberte, egalite, fraternite ... a work in progress

The race of the police officer who fatally shot a French teenager during a traffic stop last week hasn't been disclosed, and there's no reason why it would be. Officially, race doesn't exist in France.

But the death of the French-born 17-year-old with North African roots, which sent rioters into the streets, has again exposed deep feelings about systemic racism under the surface of the country's ideal of colorblind equality.

With his killing captured on video, what could be seen as France's George Floyd moment has produced a very French national discussion that leaves out what many Americans would consider the essential point: color.

One can't address race, much less racism, if it doesn't exist, according to French policy. The Paris police chief, Laurent Nunez, said Sunday he was shocked by the U.N. human rights office's use of the term "racism" in its criticism of French law enforcement. The police have none of it, he said.

France, especially white France, doesn't tend to frame discussion of discrimination and inequality in black-and-white terms. Some French consider it racist to even discuss skin color. No one knows how many people of various races live in the country, as such data is not recorded. "They say we are all French ... so for them, it's racist to do something like that," said Iman Essaifi, a 25-year-old resident of Nanterre, the Paris suburb where the teen, Nahel Merzouk, was killed.

While the subject of race remains taboo, Essaifi believes the events of the past week were a step toward speaking more openly about it. She noted that the people who marched in the streets of Nanterre after Nahel's death were "not necessarily Arabs, not necessarily Blacks. There were whites, there were the 'vrai Français,'" - the "real French."

France's Constitution says the French Republic and its values are considered universal, meaning that all citizens have the same rights regardless of origin, race or religion.

Trying to discuss racial inequality without mentioning race leads to some linguistic gymnastics. Instead of terms like Black or mixed-race neighborhoods, French people instead often speak of "communities" or "banlieues" (suburbs) and "quartiers" (neighborhoods). They're widely understood to mean often disadvantaged urban areas of housing projects and large immigrant populations.

Amid the unrest after Nahel's death, such nonspecific language has

ranged from supportive to insulting. Nanterre's mayor, Patrick Jarry, spoke on Monday of the suburb "in all its diversity." A statement last week by a large police union, the Alliance Police Nationale, described the rioters as "vermin."

Of course there's racism in France, some people said. "For example, if your parents come from another country, even you are poorly accepted," said Stella Assi, a 17-year-old born in Paris who was passing by the city hall in Nanterre. "If I were white, that wouldn't happen."

The National Consultative Commission on Human Rights in its annual report to the government this week said racism is still "largely estimated and largely under-reported."

France's legacy of colonialism, largely in Africa and the Caribbean, plays out in some attitudes that continue generations later. More recently, migration has caused debate and division. The result is a government that openly addresses certain issues around race, but not necessarily in relation to its citizens' daily lives.

On Wednesday, for example, a court in France is scheduled to review a request for reparations for the descendants of enslaved people. And on a notice board in Nanterre, now scrawled with graffiti saying "Cops, get out of our lives," a city hall announcement from May advertised a ceremony commemorating the abolition of slavery.

Ahmed Djamaï, 58, the president of an organization in Nanterre that connects youth with work opportunities, recalled being stopped by police recently and asked for his residence permit. He was born in France. "Our second-, third- and fourth-generation children face the same problem when they go out to get a job," he said. "People lump them together with things that happen in the suburbs. They're not accepted. So, to date, the problem is social, but it's also one of identity."

The stunning procession of hundreds of men who walked from a mosque in Nanterre to the cemetery for Nahel's burial stood out in France not only because many were Black or Arab, but because even the demonstration of religious identity can be sensitive. In addition to being officially colorblind, France is officially secular, too.

Some people with immigrant roots fear that France's success stories of generations of assimilation under that policy are being lost amid the rioting and criticism.

Gilles Djeyaramane is a municipal councilor in Poissy, a town west of Paris. His French-born wife is of Madagascan origin. He was born in French Guiana, of parents from India, and moved to France when he was 18.

"I'm always saying to my children, 'Your mom and dad would never have met if France didn't exist,'" he said. "I'm not at all utopian. I know there's work to do in some areas. But we are on the right path."

Those who knew Nahel, and some who identify with him, said it's not fair to pretend that differences, and discrimination, don't exist. With anger, some pointed out that a funding campaign for the family of the police officer accused of shooting Nahel already topped 1 million euros (\$1.09 million).

The frustration and violence in many communities come from other issues as well, including the rising cost of living and policing in general. In 2021, Amnesty International and five other rights groups filed a class-action lawsuit against the French state alleging ethnic profiling by police during ID checks.

Dozens of organizations and political parties are calling for "citizens' marches" on Saturday across France to call for police reforms, saying that long-running tensions between officers and the people are part of a history of "systematic racism that runs through society at large."

Police officers reject accusations that some single out people because of their color. Officer Walid Hrar, who is of Moroccan descent and Muslim, said that if it sometimes seems that people of color are stopped more than others, it's a reflection of the mixed-race density of populations in disadvantaged urban neighborhoods.

In rural France, with fewer people with immigrant backgrounds, police also stop people but "they are called François, Paul and Pierre and Jacques," Hrar said.

But Mariam Lambert, a 39-year-old who said Nahel was a friend of her son, stressed the pressure of feeling that she and others, including fellow Muslims, had to muffle their identity.

"If I put a scarf on my head ... they would see me as from another world, and everything would change for me," said Lambert, who thinks she would be insulted in the streets. She spoke on the margins of a gathering at Nanterre city hall as events were held there and across France on Monday in support of authorities and a return to calm. (AP)

editor's choice



Prayer Timings

Fajr	03:22	Asr	15:27
Sunrise ..	04:56	Maghrib ..	18:51
Zohr	11:53	Isha	20:22

Local

Expected weather for the next 24 hours:

By Day: Very hot and relatively humid specially over coastal areas with light variable wind to light to moderate southeasterly wind with speeds of 08-30 km/h.

Weather

By Night: Hot to rather hot and relatively humid over coastal areas with light to moderate southeasterly wind to light variable wind with speeds of 08-28 km/h.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	48	35

Kuwait Airport	49	33
Abdaly	49	28
Jahra	50	34
Salmiyah	42	34
Ahmadi	41	33
Nuwaisib	46	31
Wafra	48	27

BIOMETRIC/FINGERPRINT APPOINTMENT: <https://meta.e.gov.kw/En/>

Global food prices fell in April to June quarter: FAO

Over 66,000 doctors, technicians, nurses working in Health Ministry

KUWAIT CITY, July 9: According to a report issued recently by the Ministry of Health, the total workforce in the ministry is 66,202, including administrators, doctors, technicians, pharmacists, nursing staff, and others, reports Aljarida daily.

The report explained that the total number of administrators working in the facilities of the Ministry of Health amounted to 12,020 male and female employees.

The total number of doctors working in the ministry reached 10,326 male and female doctors in all the ministry's facilities, including hospitals and various health centers.

The total number of dentists working in the Ministry of Health reached 2,549 male and female dentists.

The total number of pharmacists working in the Ministry of Health's facilities reached 2,160 male and female pharmacists.

The total nursing staff working in the Ministry of Health amounted to 22,586 male and female nurses, and the total number of medical technicians amounted to 12,415.

The Kuwaiti administrators working in the Ministry of Health constitute 38 percent of the total workforce in the ministry. The percentage of Kuwaiti technicians reached 32 percent, the percentage of Kuwaiti doctors reached 15 percent, Kuwaiti dentists 6 percent, Kuwaiti nursing staff

4 percent, Kuwaiti pharmacists 3 percent, in addition to 2 percent of Kuwaitis in other support jobs.

There are 1,303 male and female doctors working in Capital Health Zone, 1,427 male and female doctors in Hawally Health Zone, 1,616 male and female doctors in Ahmadi Health Zone, 995 male and female doctors in Jahra Health Zone, 1,641 male and female doctors in Farwaniya Health Zone, 2,425 male and female doctors in Sabah Medical Zone, and 399 male and female doctors in Mubarak Al-Kabeer Health Zone.

In addition, there are 307 dentists in Capital Health Zone, 341 in Hawally Health Zone, 279 in Ahmadi Health Zone, 139 in Jahra Health Zone, 197 in Farwaniya Health Zone, and 3 in Mubarak Al-Kabeer Health Zone.

Food prices fall: The world price index of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations fell in June to its lowest level in more than two years, driven by lower costs for sugar, vegetable oils, cereals and dairy products, reports Al-Rai daily.

The organization stated, Friday, that its index, which tracks the prices of the most traded food commodities globally, averaged 122.3 points in June, compared to 124.0 points after adjustment in the previous month.

June's reading was the lowest since April 2021,

meaning the index is now 23.4 percent below the high it reached in March 2022 after the start of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

In a separate report on cereal supply and demand, the FAO expected global cereal production this year to reach 2.819 billion tons, up slightly from last month's estimate and 1.1 percent higher than 2022 levels.

Housing services: Statistics issued by the Public Authority for Housing Welfare for the month of December showed that the number of existing applications reached 91,229 and that the number of housing services provided to citizens was to 66,650 applicants at the service center in addition to 187,249 applications through "Sahel" portal, and 4,905 applications through the Ministry's website, reports Al-Anba daily.

Regarding the housing projects under distribution, the report showed that the total housing units in the Jaber Al-Ahmad project amounted to 114 units, and that the allocations for applicants until December 1999 amounted to 125.

As for the housing projects under distribution in the south of Sabah Al-Ahmad City, the number of housing units reached 20,380 housing units, and the total number allocated to them until December 2020 was 307, and the total number of units distributed in the project was 19,111 units.



Diplomatic Attache Rashed Al-Abhouh

'Address 'Rohingya' refugees crisis'

The State of Kuwait called on Thomas Andrews, UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, to review the practical steps he made to address the causes of Muslims' crisis, Rohingya, to reach a fair and sustainable solution.

This came in Kuwait's speech delivered by Diplomatic Attache Rashed Al-Abhouh before the UN Human Rights Council, as part of the interactive dialogue on situation in Myanmar.

The State of Kuwait welcomes the initiative of relocating those vulnerable refugees in Bangladesh, as a good step

to face the forcible unprecedented displacement of large numbers all over the world due to war and oppression, Al-Abhouh said.

In this regard, Kuwait commended efforts and endeavors of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Bangladesh's government and the US to facilitate dealing with those refugees, he said.

Al-Abhouh further extolled efforts of Andrews aiming to highlight situation of human rights in Myanmar through monitoring human rights 'violations' in that country. (KUNA)

Call to set up new schools

Hike allowance for govt sector workers: MPs

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh

Arab Times Staff

We count on youth: envoy

Strong cultural ties with US eyed

WASHINGTON, July 9, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait Ambassador to the US Al-Sheikha Al-Zain Al-Sabah affirmed on Saturday her aspiration to bolster cultural bridges with America in various realms and involving Kuwaiti youth in this approach.

The ambassador's remarks came during her meeting with the founder and CEO of Reconnaissance Research Center, Abdulaziz Al-Anjari, according to a statement by the US embassy in a statement provided to KUNA.

Al-Sheikha Al-Zain Al-Sabah expressed during the meeting confidence in the Kuwaiti youth capacity to make initiatives useful for the State of Kuwait and for cementing its relations with the US.

Keeness

She affirmed keeness on boosting cooperation between the State of Kuwait and the United States of America by means of employing potentials of the successful Kuwaiti youth, with emphasis on enhancing their understanding of the international relations and mechanisms of making public policies.

The Kuwaiti ambassador indicated that bolstering the relations with US would warrant empowerment of gifted Kuwaiti youth.

For his part, Al-Anjari lauded Kuwait's foreign policy for enhancing



Kuwait's Ambassador to the US meets CEO of Reconnaissance Research Center.

the relations between the two countries, praising the ambassador's initiative for engaging the Kuwaiti youth for attaining the aspired goals in this respect.

He also indicated that think tanks, research institutes and NGOs could play a role in evolving the relations between Kuwait and the US and providing opportunities for serious Kuwaiti youngsters.

KUWAIT CITY, July 9: MPs Adel Al-Damkhi, Muhammad Al-Mutair, Abdullah Al-Anbai, Falah bin Jame'e and Badr Nashmi Al-Anzi have submitted a bill on amending Public Tenders Law No. 49/2016.

The bill stipulates the cancellation of the exemption of tenders for military constructions from the abovementioned law. The MPs clarified that such exemption and the formation of a purchasing committee as per Decree No. 49/2017 have been proven erroneous. After five years of implementing the decree, it has been proven that the committee did not obtain the required technical capabilities; which resulted in several violations as stated in the reports of the State Audit Bureau (SAB), they added.

MPs Fares Al-Otaibi, Majed Al-Mutairi, Khalid Al-Otaibi, Mubarak Al-Hajraf and Badr Nashmi Al-Anzi have proposed 100 percent increase in the social allowance of public sector employees.

On the other hand, MP Hani Shams forwarded queries to Minister of Education Hamad Al-Adwani about the plan to establish new schools in Abu Fateera, Funaitees and Masayel.

Shams asked if the plots and budget have been allocated for the establishment of new schools. If no, he wants to know the reasons. He also inquired about the number of existing schools for boys and girls in the above-mentioned areas.

Floated

MP Saleh Al-Fawzan asked Minister of Finance Manaf Al-Hajri about the number of public tenders valued at more than KD 100,000 floated by his ministry in and outside Kuwait from March 1, 2013 to June 30, 2023. He wants to know the winning contractors and committees tasked to qualify the contractors and specify the requirements and conditions. He asked for more details like number of variation orders, their costs and penalties imposed on erring contractors.

Al-Fawzan forwarded queries to all ministers about the steps taken to protect public funds and combat corruption. He wants to know the number of corruption cases that each ministry referred to the Public Prosecution and Nazaha, number of cases in which they lost in the last five years and the corresponding costs.

Meanwhile, National Assembly Speaker Ahmed Al-Saadoun received a delegation consisting of Chairman of the Consultative National Council for Retirees Dr Salah Abdulqader Al-Abduljader and members Tariq Abdullah Al-Farhan, Anwar Jassem Burahma and Awateh Abdulrahman Al-Qattan.

Al-Saadoun also received Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha) Chairman Abdulaziz Al-Ibrahim who handed over a copy of the semi-annual report of Nazaha.

Plan to review salaries of top govt sector staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 9: The government is expected to approve new procedures related to the salary scale for chairpersons and members of the boards of directors of various government agencies and departments; including some entities with independent budgets, reports Al-Rai daily quoting sources.

Sources revealed this step is a prelude to laying down a comprehensive strategy to organize the oversight work of the abovementioned entities as per the plan on achieving common good.

Sources said "the amendments include granting board chairpersons a monthly salary of about KD6,000; KD5,000 for vice chairpersons and KD4,000 for the members."

Sources unveiled that the plan to review the salaries and pensions of the board chairpersons and members includes their privileges like the stipends for travel and foreign missions and other expenses, which have been burdening the State budget.

Sources pointed out these entities have different oversight and regulatory functions like the Capital Markets Authority, Insurance Regulatory Unit, Communications Authority and other bodies that are expected to be covered by the new government procedures.

Other Voices

Oh Abu Fahd, you will be back with 'dignity' in tact

By Ahmad alsarraf

Any country that respects the minds of its citizens, acts with wisdom and care in everything related to its resources, and is keen to ensure the validity and nature of all that is spent from public money.

The state, like any respectable company, has an office that audits its accounts, audits its expenses, and puts notes on every exchange process, and it is ensured that what is spent is characterized by economic and legal efficiency, away from misuse.

When the company or the state dismisses its auditor, without a clear and known reason, its reputation collapses and doubts arise about the purpose of the dismissal, and that serious financial matters are to be covered up, or that what is to be spent in the future will become difficult, with the presence of the current auditor.

Chairman of State Audit Bureau (SAB), which represents the auditing arm of the parliament, Faisal Al Shaya submitted his resignation to National Assembly Speaker Ahmad Al Sa'adoun. It is widely circulated that Al Shaya was forced to resign with no accusations against him. If he was a subject of violations or negligence of fulfilling the tasks assigned to him, it is then a must to dismiss and refer him for interrogation.

Reading the resignation letter of Al Shaya, I felt deep pain because of the injustice he was a target of. Al Shaya said, "... after the intentions had become too bad and after the loss of compass, and since the statement of SAB which represents the Parliament's auditing arm has become a subject of devastation and dam-

age because of politics from one side and personal interests from the other, then I have to press the button, and sensing my national liability I submit my resignation hopefully it awakes up the consciousness of patriot figures to defend SAB which represents the citizens' eye on their fortune" before it is too late.

It was remarkable the negative position that His Excellency the Speaker of the National Assembly stopped regarding the resignation, and he had always stressed his respect for national personalities, with a clean political legacy, but it seems that his personal accounts may have overpowered the accounts of his political history!

The reasoned resignation of the Chief of the Bureau exposes the nature of the next stage, and warns of things that we will often regret our silence about, just as we have been silent about what came before and after it. We specifically mention the circumstances of the resignation of former Attorney General Dirar Al-Asousi.

Pushing for the resignation or dismissal of the head of the Audit Bureau - if the rumor is true - means that we are entering a different period, steeped in politics, and far from professionalism and accuracy in carrying out the duties entrusted to senior statesmen. The political dispute, on the basis of which the resignation took place, will often prevail, and will include all the work of the Bureau in the future and this is what Kuwait has not known since its establishment sixty years ago.

I know enough of Faisal Fahd Al-Shaya, and I fully realize the extent of his patriotism and integrity, and above that his competence, as a politician, administrator, and former deputy, but it seems that today he has to pay the price for his previous national positions in the National Assembly, and his criticisms of some symbols of the current stage, and this is sad and bad for the future of our small and beautiful homeland!

e-mail: a.alsarraf@alqabas.com.

159 Arab schools: report

'585 private schools in Kuwait'

KUWAIT CITY, July 9: In its annual bulletin on education statistics for the year 2021/2022, the Central Statistical Bureau revealed that there are 585 private schools in Kuwait, 426 of which teach foreign curricula and has 255,140 students, with about 74,893 Kuwaitis and 180,247 non-Kuwaitis. On the other hand, there are only 159 Arab schools with about 94,150 students of whom 74,743 are non-Kuwaitis, reports Al-Rai daily.

According to the bulletin, there are 448 mixed schools in the foreign system, and 38 in the Arab system. However, schools for people with special needs do not exceed ten schools in the two systems.

The schools with the foreign system are distributed over the educational stages in the following manner - 109 kindergartens, 112 primary schools, 109 intermediate schools, 90 secondary schools and 6 schools for people with special needs. In the Arab system, there are 15 kindergartens, 44 primary schools, 50 intermediate schools and 46 secondary schools and 4 schools for people with special needs.

Furthermore, the bulletin, which attributed its information to the Ministry of Education, highlighted that there are about 853 schools in the public education sector distributed over all educational zones.

It explained that the number of students enrolled in these schools is 425,501 male and female students, of

whom 65,565 are non-Kuwaitis. The number of teachers in these schools is 73,335 of both genders, of whom 23,251 are non-Kuwaitis.

The number of students enrolled in public education schools in the year 2021/2022 among citizens of the Gulf Cooperation Council was 16,259 distributed in the three educational stages in the following manner - 6,863 students in primary schools, 5,380 in intermediate schools, and 4,016 in secondary schools.

Students

Saudi students constitute the majority with 15,405 students, followed by Bahrainis with 411, Omanis with 348, Qataris with 51, and the last among them are UAE students with only 44 male and female students.

There are 11 religious institutes in Kuwait distributed among three governorates, namely Ahmadi, Hawally and Farwaniya, and they include 2,188 Kuwaiti students and 1,042 non-Kuwaiti students. The number of teachers in the religious institutes is about 746 male and female teachers.

There are 151 centers for literacy and adult education, which include about 28,225 male and female students. Regarding special education schools, the bulletin stated that there are 16 such schools, which include about 895 Kuwaitis and 426 non-Kuwaitis, and their educational staff totals 1,380 teachers in number.



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Data shows that commercial sector plummeted by 74 percent

Real estate transactions continue to decline in first half of 2023

By Sulieman Redha

KUWAIT CITY, July 9, (KUNA): Prices of real estate transactions have been on a steady downward slope since the first half of 2022, this decline is accompanied by a price rate hike especially within Asima and Hawally governorates, as per Ministry of Justice data.

The first half of this current year marked a sharp 41 percent plunge in the number of transactions within the residential sector with 1,526 deals struck (total value of KD 736 million) compared to 2,592 in the same period last year (total value of KD 1.75 billion).

Despite this obvious decline in the number of deals, the average value of a single deal increased to KD 483,000 per deal from KD 414,000 in 2022, a 16.6 increase, this speaks to private residence price increases namely within Asima and Hawally while prices in other governorates remain intact. The investments sector was also subject to decrease as 589 deals were registered in first half of 2023 compared to 687 deals in the first half of the previous year, marking a 14.2 percent decrease.

However, unlike the residential sector, average value of single transaction within investments sector declined by 9.8 percent from KD 854,000 per deal last year to KD 770,000 this year.

Data shows that the commercial sector plummeted by 74 percent from 111 deals in first half of 2022 to only 39 deals first half of this current year, whereas average value of single deal shot up from KD 3.513 million to more than KD 5 million.

Transactions

Commenting on the real estate market, expert Mohammad Al-Sughair attributed decrease in transactions to the dwindling number of offers and new land plots, this very same reason contributes to the increase of prices.

Chair of real estate company Al-Moasher Ahmad Al-Nabhan, spoke of the increasing interest rate on Kuwaiti dinar saying this drove brokers in the private residents sector to revert to local bank trusts rather than invest in residential houses and flipping them to apartments for rent.

Al-Nabhan also spoke the investments sector in areas further away from the capital, within Al-Ahmadi and Farwaniya governorates, saying that decrease in these areas could be linked to recent government decision relating to visas.

Knowledge economy one of main axes for nation to attain sustainable development

'Forums provide opportunity to reformulate procedures and policies to achieve its goals'

KUWAIT CITY, July 9, (KUNA): The Al-Saad Foundation for Knowledge and Scientific Research affirmed its keenness to follow up on the latest scientific developments and shed light on the knowledge economy as one of the main axes on which countries and economic societies focus and rely on it as a vital indicator in achieving sustainable development.

The head of the foundation, Sheikha Fadia Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, said in a statement to reporters today, Sunday, during the opening of the Scientific Forum for Knowledge Economy under the slogan 'Knowledge wealth is the basis of economic development', that these forums would contribute to building an integrated knowledge economy society and provide an opportunity to reformulate procedures and policies to meet the need and achieve its goals.

Sheikha Fadia Al-Saad, who is the sponsor of the forum, added that the participation of a distinguished group of specialists in Kuwait, the Gulf and the Arab world in the activities of the forum is an opportunity to shed light on the most important issues of the knowledge economy to come up with recommendations that can be presented to the concerned government agencies to contribute to achieving development.

For her part, the chair of the forum, Sheikha Nabila Salman Al-Homoud Al-Sabah, said in her speech during the opening ceremony that the forum aims to spread the culture of the knowledge economy, shed light on the most important basic pillars of the knowledge economy, and support the principle of optimal investment in the human element of the knowledge economy.

Concept

Sheikha Nabila Al-Sabah explained that the forum discusses a number of axes, including identifying the concept of the knowledge economy and its relationship to digital transformation, the basics of building capabilities and skills in the knowledge economy society, and the role of society and government and private sector institutions in building the knowledge economy.

The themes end with a discussion of the role of women and their contribution to the knowledge economy society and she added that the forum 'comes as we witness and interact with an important scientific economic event with the participation of a group of experts and specialists and a group of young people interested in scientific research and the knowledge economy.'

She stated that the launch of the Middle East Women's Inventors & Innovators Network (MEWIIN) in Kuwait comes from the foundation's belief in the importance of empowering women in the Middle East region and with the aim of combining technology and knowledge transfer to help women promote their ideas so that other young women are urged to follow their steps and consider professions related to creativity and innovation.

For her part, Deputy Director General of the Central Agency for Information Technology Maha Al-Duaij said in her speech that the economic outlook in the 21st century has shifted from an economy of industries and natural resources to an economy of information and knowledge resources, and data and artificial intelligence have contributed to a massive transformation in commercial activities and vital sectors.

Growth

Al-Duaij pointed out that the continuous growth in the volume of data and the tremendous development in the field of technical industries led to discoveries and radical change in many economic sectors, which led to the emergence of a new economic term called 'knowledge economy'.

She explained that given the compatibility of the vision and goals of the agency with the goals of Al-Saad Foundation for Knowledge and Scientific Research, which is keen to keep abreast of scientific developments, prepare young people, and invest creative human capabilities to build a knowledge-based economy society, constructive cooperation was to promote innovation, transform knowledge opportunities into economic growth, and generate new and innovative solutions in order to contribute to the advancement of scientific fields.

For his part, Acting Director General of the Public Authority for Youth, Meshaal Al-Subaie, said that the knowledge economy is one of the modern concepts that is classified as one of the vital indicators for the development and prosperity of nations, which the United Nations Development Program defined as the dissemination, production and employment of knowledge in all areas of economic societal activity.

Al-Subaie added in his speech that the vision and objectives of this scientific forum are in line with the role of the Public Authority for Youth in keenness to support scientific institutions, promote innovation and entrepreneurship, and encourage modern scientific research and studies, pointing to the keenness to activate the concept of community partnership and give opportunities to exchange experiences, knowledge and resources to achieve development, progress and societal development.



Sheikha Fadia Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah during the Scientific Forum for Knowledge Economy, honoring the success partners.

As for forecast for upcoming six months, Al-Nabhan reported blurry vision with most investors and observes awaiting whether The American Federal Reserve continues to in-

crease interest rate. Al-Nabhan stated that the Kuwait market could rejuvenate if American interest rate seizes to increase in second quarter of 2024

prompting decrease in local interest rate, thus causing bank trusts to loner appeal to investors and driving them back to the more robust markets of real estate or the stock exchange.

Close proportions

Number of 'private' and investment housing rise

KUWAIT CITY, July 9: According to the Modon Group, the number of private and investment housing facilities has increased to more than 173,500 facilities as of the end of 2022. They are inhabited by about 4.74 million citizens and expatriates. The number of these facilities represents about 81 percent of the total number of facilities in Kuwait, which is estimated at about 215 thousand, reports Al-Rai daily.

The report was issued by the group based on the data of the Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI).

It revealed that the number of investment housing establishments (residential buildings) has increased to about 12,500 buildings that include about 400,000 apartments, with an average of 32 apartments in each building, inhabited by at least two million expatriates, representing about two-thirds of the expatriate population, taking into account the majority of domestic workers who live with Kuwaiti families in private housing, in addition to the presence of a number of non-Kuwaiti families in private housing facilities, and a number of non-Kuwaiti workers in farms and some other production facilities.

The report indicated an increase in the density of investment housing facilities, with an average of 154 individuals per building and six individuals per apartment, taking into account that there are about 70,000 vacant apartments, i.e. 330,000 static apartments, and the high densities in collective housing facilities for security personnel and company workers.

While private housing facilities were distributed among the six governorates of Kuwait in close proportions, investment housing facilities, which are mostly inhabited by non-Kuwaitis, witnessed a relative concentration in a limited number of governorates. Hawally ranked first with a share of 43 percent, followed by Ahmadi in second place with a share 25 percent, then Farwaniya in third place with a share of 21 percent, and a total share of 89 percent for all the three governorates.

Accordingly, the three governorates of Hawally, Ahmadi and Farwaniya acquired an estimated share of 74 percent of the total non-Kuwaiti population in Kuwait.

Contract with British Royal College of General Practitioners approved

KUWAIT CITY, July 9: According to informed sources in the Ministry of Health, regulatory authorities have finally approved the ministry's request to contract directly with the British Royal College of General Practitioners to train and evaluate graduates and trainees of Family Medicine program for the British Fellowship, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The sources revealed that the cost of the contract amounts to about KD 206,000.

They affirmed the ministry's keenness to raise the level of general practitioners so that they can provide advanced health services to all patients in various public centers and hospitals, especially with the increase in the number of health facilities in the country during recent years.

The sources explained that there are a number of agreements between the

Kuwait Institute for Medical Specialization (KIMS) and international colleges, including an agreement with the British Royal College of General Practitioners, which has existed since the 1980s and is renewed at intervals.

The ministry is keen to open new channels of communication with some countries for scholarships with the aim of diversifying schools for scholarships, and developing the level of health care.

The College of Primary Care at the Kuwait Institute for Medical Specialization is working on preparing trained and qualified cadres to train family doctors and general practitioners.

The Family Medicine program in Kuwait was established in 1983 under the umbrella of the KIMS Institute, and with the cooperation of the British Royal College.

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Part of students participation.

KUNA photo

600 cadets enroll in Saad Abdullah Police Academy

Event photos by Hammad Al-Mutairi

Kuwait's Saad Abdullah Police Academy announced on Saturday the enrollment of 600 cadets and 100 reservists out of 5,590 candidates for the 48 batch from high school graduates.

The names of those enrolled were drawn from a lottery among qualified candidates under auspices of First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Talal Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and in the presence of Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior Lt-Gen.

Anwar Abdullatif Al-Barjas and Assistant Undersecretary Maj.-Gen. Badr Al-Baloul.

Several senior police officers attended the lottery, according to a statement from the Ministry's General Directorate of Security Relations and Media. (KUNA)

Opinion

Congratulations Sheikh Talal Al-Fahd

By Sattam Ahmed Al-Jarallah
CEO, the Arab Times

Sheikh Talal Al-Fahd is no stranger to the sports arena. His election as President of the Olympic Council of Asia is a kind of tribute to the Kuwaiti sports, which of course, has suffered in the recent past due to several problems, but with the return of Sheikh Talal at the helm of affairs we see a silver lining on the horizon because the man is full of wisdom, and has the ability to promote Asian sports and put Kuwait back on the pedestal of glorious past.

Whoever is well-versed with the performance of Sheikh Talal in several positions that he held previously, most notably as the President of the Kuwait Olympic Committee and the Kuwait Football Association, know that with Sheikh Talal back at the helm the lean years of Kuwaiti sports have come to an end as we look forward for glory.

This man is a leader, not an employee. He is aware of the problems that Kuwait and Asian sports suffer from. He has the ability to pull the strings together as he focuses on good governance, financial sustainability and development programs for sports and athletes as head of the Olympic Council of Asia.

In this regard he has promised to renew the diplomatic agreement with the Kuwaiti authorities as well as education programs and high-quality Asian games.



Al-Jarallah

It is true the health problems that Sheikh Talal Al-Fahd was subjected to were seen by some as an obstacle to his career, but in fact he was able to rest since despite the pain, he was fully aware of the conditions of sports in Kuwait and Asia. With him taking the mantle of the Olympic Council of Asia, the sun is shining bright on the faces of those who know the great influence Sheikh Talal Al-Fahd has on local and regional sports, as well as cementing the pillars of all sports, which he sees as a message from Kuwait to the world about what Kuwaiti champions can offer in international forums.

Sheikh Talal Al-Fahd was honest when he said after his victory, "I come from a home and a sports school dating back to sixty years. My father was one of the founders of the Olympic Council of Asia.

My brother was a leader and chairman of the board with your support. I will follow their footsteps. I promise you that within an hour from now I will unite Asia again, and nothing will threaten the games or the council staff. I promise you that you will never be a victim of the past scenario; and you will not close the door to anyone from Asia as we will keep our doors open.

His vision is to unify and develop the institution that are entrusted to him and we are sure the ability of the man who is part and parcel of the 60-year-old sports school.

Congratulations to Kuwait on the assumption of Sheikh Talal Al-Fahd the presidency of the Olympic Council of Asia.

diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

We in GCC states in deep sleep ... how about cybersecurity, national security?'

"Western powers do not prefer dealing with Muslims because they believe in jihad and do not believe in superstitions, hearing and obedience to dictators like Gaddafi and others. The West does not want a believing Muslim, but rather a Muslim who believes in Western culture, gay rights and cohabitation outside wedlock," columnist Dr. **Abdullah Mohammad Al Sheikh** wrote for *Al-Qabas* daily.

"Therefore, the West watches the killing of the Palestinians, Syrians, Yemenis, Iraqis, and Libyans, and let Lebanon die of starvation and oppression, and Iran destroy Lebanon, Syria, and Yemen, as if the West supports and applauds it, but rather deals with it so that the Arabs do not have a spirit, conscience, and ambition, and this is what the West and Iran strive for.

"Why don't we consult the Arab peoples before taking any fateful stance, such as normalization with the Zionist enemy, normalization with the Syrian regime, or normalization with repressive regimes? Do not the Arab people have the right to such fateful situations? Just listen to the opinion of the people.

"Iran deals with us from its own standpoint of view, and we and the whole world deals with it from a political standpoint. Iran aims to dominate the Arab world, and one of the symbols of the Revolutionary Guards said that Iran has occupied four Arab capitals and the rest is on the way.

"Pay attention before it is too late. Lebanon, Syria, Yemen and Iraq are lost. We do not know who is next.

"We need a crisis management committee, and if you wish, an expectations committee, that diagnoses the expected disease and prescribes the appropriate medicine at the right time. Take an example: Iran is about to become a nuclear power, so where are we or what will be our fate?

"Iran has taken over Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and Yemen, and now it is beginning to penetrate North Africa while we in the GCC countries are in a deep sleep. Have we thought about cybersecurity, national security, economic security, educational security, and social security?

"This is the role of the committee or the commis-

sion to put solutions before the axe falls on the head, disregarding the distribution of positions, elections, conflicts, salaries, loans, fraud, thefts, and the raging storm on the way."

□ □ □

"Retirees are an integral part of the State's entity and are eyewitnesses to its contemporary history. They spent the flower of their youth in serving the State and gained its trust. At a relatively distant time, they were digging oil wells with foreign companies, enduring the hardship and fatigue as they toil in these wells," columnist **Mefarah Al-Anzi** wrote for *Al-Anba* daily.

"Some of them worked, supervised and managed the administrative, security, military, health and service structures of the State. Some of them witnessed the beginnings of the State's renaissance, and built it in the 1960s and 1970s when Kuwait was the jewel of the Gulf. Some of them left their families to participate in Arab wars against the Zionist occupiers.

"Some of them were martyred and some are still alive. Some of them took the men of this generation to the Entertainment City, Green Island and Andalus Cinema when they were young.

"Some of them confronted Saddam's brutal invasion of Kuwait. All of them gathered around the political leadership and rejected any alternative to the nation. Some of them fought against the occupier — may God grant them martyrdom. Some of them reconstructed Kuwait after the liberation.

"They now live among us without affectation. They are silent in the political ups and downs. They either say good things or return to their silence. They are very loyal to their homeland and political leadership. They played a prominent and wise role in curbing youthful exuberance during the Arab Spring to ensure the stability and security of the country and its people.

"They are the capital of Kuwaiti families. They deserve to be repaid for the good they have done for the country and for this generation that took upon itself the responsibility over Kuwait. We implore God Almighty to make them the best successor of the best predecessor.

"The retirees are considered the hidden wing of the State that supports security and stability in the midst of global intellectual changes."

— Compiled by **Mai Elsoukary**

Fact-finding panel to 'study' 24 SAB observations on KPA

'Granting of financial benefits tops observations'

KUWAIT CITY, July 9: According to informed sources, the fact-finding committee of the observations raised by the State Audit Bureau on the Kuwait Ports Authority, which was recently formed by the Minister of State for Communications Affairs Fahad Al-Shula, will study 24 observations included in the report, reports *Al-Qabas* daily.

They explained that the most prominent of these observations was the granting of financial benefits to the acting assistant undersecretaries, despite the fact that no decree was issued for them, the State Audit Bureau was not enabled to carry out its functions, the delay in implementing development plan's projects and the lack of spending on them.

Minister Al-Shula will take executive steps to hold the transgressors accountable in the event that the officials' failure is proven.

Studying The committee is still studying the observations. In the event that the violations are proven, legal measures will be taken, including referral to the Public Prosecution.

The aim of forming the committee is to address all the observations of the State Audit Bureau, activate the oversight role and monitor weaknesses in the executive apparatus in a way that contributes to achieving effective oversight of public money, guarantees its protection, ensures its optimal use, and ensures that the plans and programs set for its goals are achieved.

The oversight reports stress the fact that the Kuwait Ports Authority annually granted financial benefits amounting to a total of about KD 56 thousand to the assistant undersecretaries who were in an acting capacity, despite the fact that no decree was issued for them.

The supervisory authorities made it clear that those in the acting capacity are not entitled to be granted these benefits during the secondment period because there is no organization within the institution that gives them the privileges of the job awarded in an acting capacity during the secondment period.

The sources emphasized that another prominent observation was the institution's failure to provide the State Audit Bureau with some of the required data and documents, which resulted in its failure to fully perform its oversight role.

They stressed that the Kuwait Ports Authority refused to provide the bureau with the minutes of the Board of Directors' meetings and the decisions emanating from it, which disrupted the integrated auditing process, adding that the authority also did not provide some correspondence, and incoming and outgoing files.

Rights bureau recommends use of e-bracelet for inmates

KUWAIT CITY, July 9: The National Bureau for Human Rights has submitted a number of recommendations to the administration of correctional institutions, most notably the use of electronic bracelet to include the largest number of prisoners, and the need to work on the completion of the new prison project that was put forward since 2013, reports *Al-Qabas* daily.

Meanwhile, semi-annual report of the Permanent Committee for Complaints and Grievances at the bureau revealed that the committee received 67 complaints from January 1 to June 30 — 35 complaints from citizens and 32 from non-Kuwaitis.

According to the report, of which the daily obtained a copy, these complaints were distributed as 12 labor complaints, 5 complaints related to administrative deportation of expatriates, 12 complaints of people with disabilities, and 5 complaints of abuse of power, in addition to a number of other complaints.

In its recommendations, the committee demanded the need to allocate a financial pension for prison workers in order to encourage them to join the correctional institutions sector, given the nature of work and the difficulty of dealing with prisoners, as well as the involvement of the National Bureau in committees formed to investigate issues related to human rights.

One dies in accident

94 violators in police net

KUWAIT CITY, July 9: Residence Affairs Investigation Department of the Criminal Security Sector in cooperation with the Public Morals Protection Investigation have arrested 94 violators of the residence and labor law, and 8 people on charges of practicing immoral acts, reports *Al-Rai* daily.

The Public Relations and Security Media Department of the Ministry of Interior said the violators were arrested during security campaigns in Farwaniya, Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, Mahboula, Khaitan, and the Ahmadi Governorate.

The department added the eight people arrested for violating public morals were taken in custody from Mahboula.

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The Public Relations and Media Department of the Directorate-General of Fire Department (DGFD) stated after a report was received on a two-vehicle collision on the Wafra Road on Saturday, police, paramedics and firemen rushed to the spot and discovered one man had died on the spot, reports *Al-Rai* daily.

Three other persons who were injured were handed over to emergency medical personnel and the corpse of the victim was referred to Forensics.

The cause of the accident is not known.

□ □ □

Windshield shades: The General Traffic Department in the Interior Ministry recently issued a public reminder that it is prohibited to put reflective shades on the front and rear windshields of vehicles, clarifying it is allowed to put shades only on not more than 70 percent of the side windshields, reports *Al-Anba* daily.

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Mol denies rumor: The Ministry of Interior has denied the rumor spread on social media that Undersecretary Lieutenant General Anwar Al-Barjas has been referred for retirement, reports *Al-Rai* daily.

The ministry emphasized that the undersecretary will continue to perform his work duties until the end of his service in the security institution, calling on everyone to ensure the accuracy of information prior to publication and obtain it only from official sources.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry said it is in the process of modernizing and developing its main network, reports *Al-Rai* daily.

"Mujezat Al-Shifa": A study reveals the importance of propolis in relieving uterine fibroids

The nutrition consultant at Mujezat Al-Shifa Company said: Uterine fibrosis is a type of benign tumor, but it causes a lot of uterine bleeding and contractions, and it is treated with types of hormones before resorting to surgery. Many studies have been conducted to benefit from the great health properties of propolis as an antioxidant and anti-proliferation of cell mutations that turn into Tumors, and among these studies were those conducted by consultants at Heliopolis Hospital in Cairo, to compare the effect of propolis on uterine fibroids and the effect of ovarian-stimulating hormone therapy, during which 30 women with uterine fibrosis were selected and divided into two groups, one taking hormonal treatment and the second taking 500 mg of propolis 3 times a day and each That's for 12 weeks.



Examinations were conducted before and after the experiment on the size of the tumor, uterus, hemoglobin, and hormones. The results were in favor of propolis, as the tumor shrank, bleeding receded, hormones were regulated, and hot flashes disappeared.



JOINT OPERATIONS WAFRA

SAUDI ARABIAN CHEVRON INC. (SAC) - KUWAIT GULF OIL COMPANY



Joint Operations (Saudi Arabian Chevron Inc. / Kuwait Gulf Oil Company), announces the under-mentioned Public Tenders for procurement of materials.

Kuwaiti and Saudi Merchants, registered with either Company wishing to participate in any of the under-mentioned Tenders are invited to collect the Tender documents from Purchasing Section, Purchasing & Logistic Division, Administration Building, Ground Floor, Joint Operations, Wafra, during the official working hours from **11 JUL 2023** up to **30 JUL 2023** for a non-refundable fee mentioned against each tender.

Tender Fees to be deposited in the National bank of Kuwait (NBK) Account No. 1001132057. Saudi Suppliers can collect the tender documents from Saudi Arabian Chevron office in Al-Khobar Telephone No.: (013) 8645104 - Fax No.: (013) 8985436

The closing date for the following tenders will be on **Monday, 7 AUG 2023 @ 09:00 A.M.**

S.NO.	TENDER NO.	MATERIALS	FEES (KD)
1	2874519	CASINGS OCTG	35
2	2874521	CONTROL VALVES	25
3	2875340	VALVES (BALL - CHECK - GLOBE)	15

Notes:

Gate Passes are required for Suppliers entering JO-Wafra Administrative Offices to collect the tender document and gate pass processing time is 48 hours. Please fill request for gate pass along with legible copies of Authorization letter, Civil ID, Car Registration, Supplier Registration (KGOC or SAC) to e-mail HBJH@chevron.com and ZIQB@chevron.com at least 48 hours prior to arrival.

For additional information, you may contact :

Telephone No.: **23983639** - Ext. : **2502 - 3477**

The Conversation

COVID-19 interrupted public health interventions, increased inequality

TB on the rise for first time in decades, deaths up globally

By Carlos Franco-Paredes
Colorado State University

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

Before SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, spread across the world in 2020, tuberculosis was responsible for more deaths globally than any other infectious disease. But thanks to targeted public health efforts in the US and globally, tuberculosis cases had been steadily falling for decades.

I am an infectious disease clinician and public health practitioner who has been caring for underserved communities in the US for more than two decades.

During the pandemic, it at first appeared that, as with many other common illnesses like the flu, COVID-19 prevention efforts reduced tuberculosis cases, too. But tuberculosis numbers have quickly climbed back up to pre-pandemic levels, marking the first time in decades that cases and deaths have risen globally.

The pandemic not only interrupted important health interventions for tuberculosis, it also caused a decrease in social and economic opportunities for marginalized people around the globe. Together, these effects appear to have put a serious dent in the fight against tuberculosis.

Tuberculosis is a contagious bacterial infection of the lungs that is normally spread through the air. Most tuberculosis infections are asymptomatic and not contagious.

About 5% to 10% of infected individuals develop active tuberculosis, which is characterized by cough, fever, decreased appetite and weight loss. If left untreated, tuberculosis is a very contagious and dangerous disease that can result in death.

Total estimated tuberculosis infections globally have been falling for years. The lowest number, 10.1 million cases, occurred in 2020, according to the World Health Organization. 2021 saw a significant increase in infections, to 10.5 million.

the first rise in more than a decade. Global tuberculosis deaths followed a similar pattern, reaching a low point of an estimated 1.4 million deaths in 2019, then rising to 1.5 million in 2020 and 1.6 million in 2021.

The number of confirmed cases of tuberculosis - infections detected through direct testing - tells a different part of the story. As testing efforts have improved, confirmed cases have been rising globally to a peak in 2019. As the coronavirus disrupted lives in 2020, confirmed cases of tuberculosis fell significantly before quickly rising again in 2021.

A similar pattern played out in the US. There was a sharp drop in confirmed cases in 2020 - mostly driven by lack of testing - followed by a sharp rise back to pre-pandemic levels.

Testing

Tuberculosis is a preventable disease, thanks to effective vaccines, testing and treatments. But millions of people around the world still suffer from this disease, not because of a lack of medical knowledge, but because of persistent social inequities.

Unequal access to economic opportunities, limited health care, poor sanitation, crowded living conditions, malnutrition and illnesses such as diabetes or HIV are all associated with increased risk of tuberculosis.

In the US in 2021, racial and ethnic minority groups accounted for more than 85% of tuberculosis cases, with 71% of cases occurring in persons born outside the US.

Even as the world witnessed a rapid decline in confirmed cases in 2020, experts were worried that interruption of prevention and treatment efforts might result in a rise in tuberculosis.

These fears were warranted. Many health experts, along with the US Centers for

Disease Control and Prevention, have confirmed the pandemic disrupted access to tuberculosis testing and diagnosis. It is likely that many cases were missed because of the interruption of tuberculosis control activities, since funding, resources and staff were reassigned to assist in COVID-19 control efforts. Additionally, during health encounters, similarities in symptoms between COVID-19 and tuberculosis may have led to missed diagnoses.

The drop in confirmed cases seems to be, in large part, driven by a lack of testing. The rapid increase since the pandemic, and especially the rise in deaths, confirms that progress made in tuberculosis control over the past 20 years has stalled, slowed or reversed. These two troubling trends are also almost certainly connected to the increase in inequality brought about by the pandemic.

The existence of multigenerational households, overcrowding in low-income neighborhoods, lack of paid sick leave, inability to shield from the pandemic, use of public transportation and lack of health insurance all converged to heighten the risk of both COVID-19 and tuberculosis among the most vulnerable people.

Of course, the pandemic is not the only factor that has increased human hardship - and therefore, tuberculosis - in recent years. For example, Ukraine now has one of the world's highest tuberculosis disease burdens as a result of Russia's invasion and the resulting harm to Ukraine's medical, social and economic systems. Ongoing conflicts in other parts of the world, energy shortages and the effects of climate change and associated impacts on food security are expected to worsen the broader social and political determinants of tuberculosis.

There are many neglected diseases of poverty, and tuberculosis is a great example of how social forces produce human disease. With an estimated one-third of the world's population at risk for tuberculosis today, fostering social justice interventions to reduce health inequities is a critically important step to relieving the global medical burden of this relentless disease. (AP)

The Conversation

Pivotal points in pandemic

COVID emergency end is not end of pandemic

By Amanda Mascarelli
The Conversation

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

Experts have made it clear that the end of the COVID-19 national emergency, which was lifted on May 11, 2023, does not mean an end to the pandemic. But this shift signals a remarkable turning point in a pandemic that is well into its fourth year - something that few could have imagined when the US national emergency went into effect in March 2020.

Likewise, the World Health Organization's announcement on May 5 that it was ending the COVID-19 public health emergency of international concern that had been in place since January 2020 is indicative that the pandemic has entered a new chapter.

It's daunting to look back at our coverage and narrow it down to just a handful of standout stories amid all the twists and turns of the pandemic. But here are five stories from The Conversation's archives that resonated with us, written by scholars who helped to illuminate complex issues at pivotal moments in the pandemic.

1. A whole new vocabulary

It's a little hard to remember the days when words like pandemic, endemic diseases, mRNA, variant and spike proteins were not a part of our vernacular or everyday conversations. But I vividly recall the day that the COVID-19 pandemic was declared and a friend asked me "What exactly is a pandemic?" It turns out a lot of people were asking that question and wondering about the difference between an outbreak of an infectious disease, an epidemic and a pandemic.

Rebecca S.B. Fischer, an assistant professor of epidemiology at Texas A&M University, put it in straightforward terms: An outbreak is a small but unusual increase in the expected number of cases of a given disease, while the term epidemic is used when an infectious disease outbreak is getting bigger and spreading over a broader geographic area. A pandemic, on the other hand, is used when a disease is "international and out of control."

She went on to say that some epidemiologists reserve the term pandemic for when a disease is being sustained in newly affected regions through local transmission - a good characterization of the state of COVID-19 in March 2020.

2. Comparisons to the 1918 flu ran rife

From the earliest days of the COVID-19 pandemic, it was impossible to miss the haunting similarities between it and the 1918 flu pandemic, which led to at least 50 million deaths worldwide between 1918 and 1920. Health care experts and the media made frequent comparisons between the two, pointing to similarities in attitudes about mask-wearing and school closures as well as in the patterns of disease waves, spikes and surges.

But while the two once-in-a-century events have shared plenty of likenesses, the comparison also sometimes led to public misunderstandings about how the COVID-19 pandemic could play out, wrote historian Mari Webel and pediatric infectious disease specialist Megan Culler Freeman, both from the University of Pittsburgh. They explain that key differences in the sociopolitical context of the 1918 flu period, as well as marked differences between the virology behind the two diseases, set the 1918 flu and COVID-19 on different paths.

"People seek answers from the experiences of influenza in 1918-19 for a

fundamental reason: It ended."

3. How and when pandemics end

In late 2020, people were naturally wondering when and how the COVID-19 pandemic would end, and how we would know it was over.

Nukhet Varlik, a historian from Rutgers University who studies disease, medicine and public health, wrote an astute piece in October 2020 about the difficulties of predicting how the pandemic might play out. She presciently noted that "whether bacterial, viral or parasitic, virtually every disease pathogen that has affected people over the last several thousand years is still with us, because it is nearly impossible to fully eradicate them." These include diseases like tuberculosis, leprosy, measles and plague.

"Hopefully COVID-19 will not persist for millennia," Varlik wrote. But she went on to say that politics are crucial, noting how when vaccination programs are weakened, infections can "come roaring back."

"Given such historical and contemporary precedents, humanity can only hope that the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 will prove to be a tractable and eradicable pathogen. But the history of pandemics teaches us to expect otherwise."

4. The midway point

The summer of 2021 felt like a particularly grueling moment in time - when excitement and optimism over the launch of the first vaccines to protect against COVID-19 had given way to despair over the stronghold of vaccine resistance and general exhaustion with all things COVID. And then came the delta variant.

Epidemiologist Katelyn Jetelina, formerly from the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, captured 18 months of the COVID-19 pandemic in a series of seven retrospective charts that put all of the high and low points into stark relief. "The race between vaccination and variant spread was upon us," Jetelina wrote. "The fight was far from over."

5. How omicron altered the course of the pandemic

When the omicron variant arrived on the scene in late 2021 and spread globally in early 2022, it soon became clear that it could bring about a shift in the pandemic. With its ability to spread easily and to also cause milder disease than prior variants, omicron had the potential to act as a natural vaccine of sorts - producing widespread immunity with the help of the existing COVID-19 vaccines.

But the omicron variant had plenty of surprises in store. For one, it gave rise to a family of variants and sublineages that to this day are keeping researchers guessing, with the latest omicron subvariant, XBB.1.16, gaining ground across the US and worldwide as of mid-May 2023.

In January 2022, immunology researchers Prakash Nagarkatti and Mitzi Nagarkatti, from the University of South Carolina, explained how the immune system responds to infections and how it remembers those threats through "immunological memory."

This left room for hope, they wrote, that "when new variants of SARS-CoV-2 inevitably arise, omicron will have left the population better equipped to fight them. So the COVID-19 vaccines combined with the omicron variant could feasibly move the world to a new stage in the pandemic - one where the virus doesn't dominate our lives and where hospitalization and death are far less common." (AP)



Photos from the event.

Over 40 doctors from IDF and IDAK join hands for noble cause

Mar Baselios Movement conducts free medical camp

KUWAIT CITY, July 9: Mar Baselios Movement, a spiritual and charitable organization of St. Gregorios Indian Orthodox Maha Edavaka has successfully conducted a free medical camp in association with Indian Doctor's Forum (IDF), Indian Dentists' Alliance Kuwait (IDAK) and The Basil Arts Kuwait at Indian Central School, Jleeb.

The Medical Camp was inaugurated by Shibu Mathew, CFO and HR Manager of Royal Hayat Hospital. He congratulated all the doctors, medical staff and all the volunteers for making this event a grand success in his inaugural address. Rev. Fr. Dr. Biju George Parackal, Vicar of St. Gregorios Orthodox Maha Edavaka and the President of Mar Baselios Movement presided over the meeting and Dr. Diwakara Chaluvaiyah,

President of IDF, Dr. Syed Mahmoodur Rahman, Community Services Secretary of IDF, Dr. Jagan Baskaradoss, General Secretary of IDAK, Dr. Rayavaram Raghunandan, Jt. Community Services Secretary of IDF delivered felicitation speeches during the function. Shaji Varghese, Vice President of Mar Baselios Movement welcomed the dignitaries and Jerry John Koshy, General Convener of Baselio 2023-24 thanked all the doctors, medical staff, sponsors and all those worked behind the event.

More than 40 doctors from various specialties like General Internal Medicine, Neurology, Gastro Oncology, Cardiology, Orthopaedics, Gastroenterology, ENT, Ophthalmology, Nephrology, Gynaecology, Paediatrics, Urology, Dermatology

and Dental, in addition to that, more than 40 medical staff and more than 50 volunteers from MBM joined hands together to make this camp a grand success. Various medical diagnoses like blood sugar, blood pressure, ECG, ultra sound scan, dental checkup and eye testing were provided for free of cost in the camp.

The free medical camp was in connection with the Golden Jubilee celebrations of Mar Baselios Movement and around 500 people attended and utilized the facilities of Camp. This camp was a great opportunity for those who have limited access to health care and was intended mainly to benefit inmates of camps, housemaids, and those who have no other chance of getting medical services in Kuwait.

call for entries for Mozilla's Rise 25 Awards

Mozilla, the nonprofit-backed tech company whose mission is to ensure the internet is a global public resource that is open and accessible to all, today announced their Rise 25 Awards final deadline for entry as July 17, 2023.

The awards will recognize and celebrate the 25 game-changers who are shaping the future of the internet to be more ethical, responsible and inclusive, ensuring a positive future for all.

To commemorate Mozilla's 25th anniversary, a ceremony will be held in October in

Berlin, with details including programming updates to be announced in the near future.

"Mozilla's mission has always been to benefit public interest, from when we first open-sourced our Firefox browser code 25 years ago, to the technologies we create today that spark innovation, more competition, and more choice online," said Lindsey O'Brien, Chief Marketing Officer at Mozilla.

"With Rise 25, we celebrate our 25th anniversary and honor the innovators who are shaping the future of the internet, creating

technologies to be more ethical, responsible and equitable, and content that is more inclusive and diverse."

Five honorees will be selected for the following categories:

The 25 honorees will receive roundtrip transportation to Berlin, as well as accommodations to attend the ceremony in person. To submit a nominee for consideration, visit <https://www.mozilla.org/en-US/rise25> by Monday, July 17, 2023, at 11:59 p.m. PT. The 25 honorees will be announced at a later date. (PRNewswire)



Lindsey O'Brien, Chief Marketing Officer at Mozilla.

Market Movements

09-07-2023

	Change	Closing pts		Change	Closing pts		
UAE	- DFM	+0.97	3,962.42	JAPAN	- Nikkei	-1.17	32,388.42
PAKISTAN	- KSE 100	+0.17	44,284.92	PHILIPPINES	- PSEI	-1.47	6,379.03
SAUDI	- Tadawul	+0.05	11,597.91	EGYPT	- EGX 30	-1.60	17,102.30

Business

Manufacturing output falls to an 8-month low in Euro zone

Tight labor market remains in the US

The US dollar index dropped drastically on Friday, reaching a three-week low of 102.272, after reaching a weekly high of 103.572, prompting the EUR/USD currency pair to rise to a two-week high of 1.0967. Similarly, the GBP strengthened against the greenback, ending the week at 1.2836 and reaching a daily high of 1.2849, a figure not seen since April 25, 2022. The Japanese yen, as well, did not hesitate to follow suit by strengthening against the dollar, forcing the USD/JPY currency pair to a three-week low of 142.07.

United States

Employment Change

As the Fed contemplates its next moves in regards to interest rate hikes, significant data was released on Friday. The latest non-farm employment change increased by 209K this month, after last month's seven-month high reading of 306K. The latest reading came even lower than the expected 224K increase. The unemployment rate on the other hand expectedly came in at 3.6%, a slight slip from May's reading of 3.7%. On the other hand, wage gains remained firmly strong, with the latest average hourly earnings m/m beating expectations by increasing 0.4%. The labor market remains tight, even with job growth slowing more than expected, leading markets to believe that another interest rate hike in the Fed's next meeting is almost certain, especially with wages remaining too high for the Fed's 2% inflation target.

Fed Meeting Minutes

The Federal reserve meeting minutes for June revealed that "almost all" voting members at the FOMC opted for a June rate skip, with Fed officials feeling that "leaving the target range unchanged at this meeting would allow them more time to assess the economy's progress toward the Committee's goals." Moreover, all but two Fed officials believe that further tightening would be appropriate this year, while 12 of the 18 officials expect at least two more rate hikes before the end of the year.

Europe

Manufacturing Output Continues to Drop

Manufacturing output in the Euro zone fell to an eight-month low, settling at 43.4. According to the HCOB, "Eurozone manufacturing production contracted for the third month in a row in June, according to the PMI output

Highlights

- Strong wage gains continue in the US, despite job growth slowing down more than expected.
- A vast majority of Fed officials believe that further tightening would be appropriate this year.
- Over in the Euro zone, manufacturing output falls to an eight-month low of 43.4, with the zone's economic powerhouses Germany, France and Italy all experiencing a weak demand for new factory orders.
- This month marks the first that has seen the Swiss National Bank reach its 2% inflation target.
- The Reserve Bank of Australia holds its official cash rate at 4.10%, in line with expectations.
- Saudi Arabia confirms that it will extend its 1 million barrels per day cut until at least August, with Russia following suit by announcing it would reduce oil exports to 500,000 barrels per day until at least August as well.

index, with the rate of decline accelerating and pointing to a worsening of factory conditions. New orders also fell at a faster rate, which further increases the likelihood that industrial production, which contracted by 0.9% month-on-month in the first quarter according to Eurostat, will drop again in the second quarter." With countries like Germany, France and Italy experiencing a weakness in demand for new factory orders, it is natural for the Euro zone as a whole to experience such low demand. The HCOB's final PMI for manufacturing dropped from 43.2 in May, to 40.6, marking a fifth consecutive monthly drop. Markets are pricing in a 25bps hike in the ECB's next meeting at the end of July.

Swiss Inflation

The latest CPI m/m reading came in at 0.1%, from 0.3% previously, and exceeding the forecasted 0.2% reading. On a year-on-year level, Swiss inflation dipped

to 1.7% in June, from its previous rate of 2.2%, and yet again below its respective expected reading of 1.8%. This marks the first month that inflation has returned to SNB's 0-2% target for price stability. The latest data, published by Procure, showed that PMI soared to 44.2 in June, from its previous reading of 43.2. As the latest reading still remains below 50, the manufacturing sector is still contracting. Markets were last seen pricing in a 60% probability of a 25bps rate hike to 2%.

Asia Pacific

The RBA's Cash Rate

In line with market expectations, the Reserve Bank of Australia held its official cash rate to 4.10%, with the RBA highlighting that this decision is in line with the consensus that the bank's officials believe that they should wait for the impact of their previous hikes to be embedded into the economy before deciding on their next move. Nevertheless, the bank delivered a hawkish message by stating that "some further tightening of monetary policy may be required to ensure that inflation returns to target in a reasonable timeframe." The RBA understands the peak inflation has been passed, although it "is still too high and will remain so for some time."

Commodities

OPEC+

On Monday, Saudi confirmed that they would extend

their 1 million barrels per day (bpd) cut until at least August. The two powerhouses of the organization, Russia and Saudi Arabia, appeared to be on the same page in the latest OPEC meeting that took place on Wednesday in Vienna, with Russia following Saudi's lead by announcing that it would reduce oil exports to 500,000 bpd in August. Saudi Arabia's energy minister, Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman Al Saud, hailed his Russian counterparts on their "meaningful decision" by stating that "in the last move this week, yes, we are all continuing with our voluntary cut, but again, part of what we have had done with our colleagues from Russia was also to mitigate the cynical side of spectators about what was going on with Saudi Arabia and Russia."

The Saudi energy minister continues to refer to oil short sellers as critical contributors to lowering oil prices, as he did in the previous meeting, when he famously advised "them [oil short sellers] that they will be ouching, they did ouch in April." Prince Abdulaziz brushed off remarks that the Russian might not honor their oil exports pledge, by stating that "It was a voluntary cut that was not imposed on them ... including delivering, that they will do it from their exports, because it is more meaningful."

Kuwait

Kuwaiti Dinar

USD/KWD closed last week at 0.30730.

Rates - 9th July, 2023

Currencies	Previous Week Levels				This Week's Expected Range		3-Month Forward
	Open	Low	High	Close	Minimum	Maximum	
EUR	1.0909	1.0832	1.0973	1.0967	1.0835	1.1045	1.1019
GBP	1.2684	1.2656	1.2849	1.2836	1.2695	1.3055	1.2839
JPY	144.35	142.06	144.93	142.07	139.35	143.45	140.06
CHF	0.8940	0.8874	0.9004	0.8882	0.8615	0.9010	0.8798

Bid to promote renewable energy

Saudi & France to work together to advance hydrogen production

RIYADH, July 9, (KUNA): The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Republic of France adopted on Saturday a joint communique on joining forces to search for innovative solutions to produce hydrogen and promote renewable energy.

The communique followed a meeting between Saudi Minister of Energy Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman and French Minister for Energy Transition Agnes Pannier-Runacher in Riyadh, according to the Saudi Press Agency (SPA).

"Both countries acknowledge the importance of advancing the implementation of the United Nations Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement in accordance with the principles, objectives and goals defined therein, including pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C," the communique reads.

They recognize that clean hydrogen is an essential fuel to reach the shared objective of promoting a sustainable economic development while mitigating the impact of climate change.

Both countries agreed to enhance cooperation in the field of electricity, and exchange experiences in the field of electricity generation from renewable energy resources, grid interconnection projects, as well as encouraging the participation of private sectors in power sector projects including generation, transmission, distribution, storage and network automation technologies.

They have agreed to engage in joint efforts to enhance energy efficiency, and to enhance their cooperation in the field of nuclear energy in a peaceful and safe framework, the management of radioactive waste and the nuclear applications, and the development of human capabilities.

Both countries agreed to cooperate on advancing climate technologies and solutions including carbon capture utilization and storage for hard-to-abate sectors such as cement, aviation, marine, and petrochemicals, among others.

The Kingdom aims to become the leading exporter of hydrogen and electricity produced from low emission resources globally, capitalizing on its ability to produce hydrogen and electricity produced from low emission resources at competitive cost.

The Kingdom has the necessary

resources of renewable energy, natural gas and carbon sinks, to export hydrogen in addition to its strategic location with proximity to major global demand centers.

The French strategy for the development of decarbonized hydrogen aims at having a significant contribution to the de-carbonization of industry and transport.

France and Saudi Arabia have placed hydrogen and electricity produced from low emission and renewable resources at the core of their respective energy transition.

Both countries decided to join forces in the search for innovative solutions to produce hydrogen in the most effective and competitive way, and to develop its use in industry, mobility, power generation, buildings and other relevant applications.

To this end, France and Saudi Arabia agreed on a hydrogen co-operation and electricity produced from renewable resources roadmap focusing on three pillars:

First, Technology development: Cooperation will advance hydrogen and electricity produced from renewable technology deployment from production, transportation and conversion at demand centers;

Second, Business co-operation: the private sector has a critical role to play, Saudi - France cooperation welcomes joint efforts between Saudi and French companies to partner in the entire energy supply chain to unlock business and hydrogen trade;

And third, Policies and regulation: the roadmap will further promote the development of the hydrogen industry through a mutual recognition of certification framework including emission life cycle assessment from all possible sources necessary for consistency in international trade.

Both countries will work to enhance their cooperation in developing and sustaining supply chains for the energy sectors and to enable cooperation between companies to maximize the utilization of local resources in both countries, which contributes to achieving flexibility and effectiveness of energy supplies.

The parties support the creation of a "French-Saudi Task-Force" aiming to deliver desired outcomes from cooperation in hydrogen and other domains, the joint communique added.

Yellen: Washington might 'respond to unintended consequences' for China

Fallout from tech export curbs

BEIJING, July 9, (AP): Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen on Sunday said she agreed Washington will listen to Chinese complaints about security-related curbs on U.S. technology exports and might "respond to unintended consequences" as she ended a visit to Beijing aimed at reviving strained relations.

Yellen defended "targeted measures" on trade that China's leaders complain are aimed at hurting its fledgling tech industries. She said the Biden administration wants to "avoid unnecessary repercussions" but gave no indication of possible changes.

Relations between the two biggest economies are at their lowest level in decades due to disputes about technology, security and other irritants. A key Chinese complaint is limits on access to processor chips and other U.S. technology on security grounds that threaten to hamper the ruling Communist Party's development of smartphones, artificial intelligence and other industries.

"We will open up channels so that they can express concerns about our actions, and we can explain and possibly in some situations respond to unintended consequences of our actions," Yellen said at a news conference.

Yellen talked with China's No. 2 leader, Premier Li Qiang, and other officials during 10 hours of meetings. She had a five-hour session Saturday with her Chinese counterpart, Vice Premier He Lifeng. Treasury officials said in advance there were no plans for her to meet Chinese leader Xi Jinping.

Yellen received a warm welcome and prominent coverage by the state press, but Chinese officials gave no sign they would change industrial or other policies that Washington and other governments say violate Beijing's free-trade commitments. On Saturday, He said Washington should "adopt a rational and pragmatic attitude" to improve relations.

On Sunday, Yellen announced no agreements on major disputes or plans for future activity but said her department and Chinese officials would have "more frequent and regular" communication.



Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen speaks during a press conference at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing, China, Sunday, July 9, 2023. (AP)

U.S.-Chinese political strains are adding to uncertainty that is dampening the willingness of consumers and businesses to spend and invest.

China's economic growth rebounded to 4.5% in the first quarter of 2023 from last year's 3% after anti-virus controls on travel and business activity were lifted in December. But factory activity and consumer spending decelerated in the quarter ending in June.

Xi accused Washington in March of trying to hold back China's industrial development.

Beijing has been slow to retaliate for U.S. technology restrictions, possibly to avoid disrupting its own industries. But three days before Yellen's arrival, the government announced unspecified controls on exports of gallium and germanium, metals used in making semiconductors and solar panels. China is the biggest producer of both.

Yellen said she tried to reassure officials Washington doesn't want to decouple or separate its economy from China, while it tries to "de-risk" trade.

The Biden administration is pressuring semiconductor makers to move production to the United States to reduce reliance on Taiwan and other Asian suppliers, which is seen as a security risk. Washington wants to develop alternatives to Chinese supplies of rare earth elements, metals used in smartphones, wind turbines and other products.

"They have expressed some concern that de-risking amounts to decoupling," Yellen said. She said she tried to "assure my Chinese counterparts that this is by no means the same thing."

"The de-risking involves attention to clearly articulated and narrowly targeted national security concerns, as well as broader concern with diversifying our supply chains, which the United States is doing in a few important sectors," she said.

Throughout her visit, Yellen appealed for "healthy economic competition," a reference to complaints Beijing violates its free-trade commitments by subsidizing and shielding politically favored industries from private and foreign competition.

Yellen said she had expressed concern to Chinese officials about "coercive activities" against U.S. companies.

That follows raids on consulting firms and the detention of staff members without explanation and what the U.S. government says is arbitrary detention or prohibitions on people leaving China that some complain are used to pressure them in business disputes.

Chinese leaders are trying to revive investor interest, but foreign companies are uneasy about their status after Xi and other officials called for economic self-reliance. The ruling party has also expanded an anti-spying law that has fueled uncertainty about what law firms or consultants can do.

On Saturday, Yellen appealed to He for cooperation on climate change, the debt burdens of developing countries and other global challenges. She said their governments shouldn't let disagreements about trade and security derail economic and financial relations.

Beijing broke off climate discussions with Washington last August in retaliation for a visit by then-Speaker Nancy Pelosi of the House of Representatives to Taiwan, the self-ruled island democracy claimed by China as part of its territory.

new research highlights defence's contribution to British jobs and the economy

Newly-released research carried out by Oxford Economics shows the extent of BAE Systems' contribution to the UK economy, including creating highly skilled jobs, funding world-leading research and sustaining a vibrant national supply chain. BAE Systems is delivering some of the world's most advanced defence programmes, from Dreadnought submarines to next-generation combat air systems. This critical work relies on the skill, expertise and dedication of employees, contractors, trade unions and suppliers across the

country. Last year, BAE Systems' operations supported 132,000 full-time equivalent jobs nationwide, benefiting every region of the UK and the Company contributed £11 billion to GDP – equivalent to 0.4% of the domestic economy. Charles Woodburn, BAE Systems Chief Executive, said: "As one of the UK's largest employers, we recognise our responsibility to help deliver economic prosperity as well as national security. Our continued investment in skills, technology and the

communities where we live and work supports thousands of jobs and is creating opportunities for people to play an important role in helping to keep our country and our allies safe." Lord Johnson, Minister for Investment, said: "Our defence sector is driving growth, investment and jobs in every corner of the UK, helping to grow the economy and keeping us at the cutting edge of innovation. "BAE Systems' contribution to this cannot be overstated, and this new research underlines just how vital they are to our

world-leading defence industry." James Cartledge, Minister for Defence Procurement, said: "We cannot keep the nation safe without the extensive support of the UK Defence industry. "Defence companies support jobs and provide important boosts to local economies across the country. BAE Systems is no exception, driving prosperity and putting skills-building at the heart of their work." Data published in the 'BAE Systems' contribution to the UK economy' report shows that since 2020, the Company has

grown its UK workforce by more than 10%. In 2022, BAE Systems directly employed almost 40,000 people, supported a further 49,000 jobs across the supply chain and thousands more in local communities. Almost 40% of BAE Systems employees are based in the UK's most deprived areas, where long-term employment opportunities are crucial for local economies to grow. Last year, the Company spent £730 million with suppliers in these locations and provided mentorship and support for SMEs to help boost regional businesses. (AP)

The Conversation

How to fix some of the underlying problems

Why insurance companies are pulling out of California and Florida

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

By **Melanie Gall**,
Arizona State University

When the nation's No. 1 and No. 4 property and casualty insurance companies – State Farm and Allstate – confirmed that they would stop issuing new home insurance policies in California, it may have been a shock but shouldn't have been a surprise. It's a trend Florida and other hurricane- and flood-prone states know well.

Insurers have been retreating from high-risk, high-loss markets for years after catastrophic events. Hurricane Andrew's unprecedented US\$16 billion in insured losses across Florida in 1992 set off alarm bells. Multibillion-dollar disasters since then have left several insurers insolvent and pushed many others to reevaluate what they're willing to insure.

I co-direct the Center for Emergency Management and Homeland Security at Arizona State University, where I study disaster losses and manage the Spatial Hazard Events and Losses database (SHELUDS). As losses from natural hazards steadily increase, research shows it's not a question of if insurance will become unavailable or unaffordable in high-risk areas – it's a question of when.

Insurance is a vehicle to transfer risk. When an individual buys an insurance policy, that person pays to transfer the risk of expensive repairs to the insurer if the home is damaged by a covered event, like a fire or thunderstorm. Most policyholders don't experience major disasters, so insurance companies make money.

However, disasters are extremely costly when they do occur, so insurers also buy their own insurance, called reinsurance.

Reinsurance costs have been rising fast in response to expensive disasters around the world in recent years. Reinsurers' risk-adjusted property-catastrophe prices rose 33% on average at their June 1, 2023, renewal, after a 25% rise in 2022, according to reinsurance broker Howden Tiger's analysis.

If prices are too high and insurers can no longer transfer excessive risk to the reinsurance market, they are stuck "holding the risk" – meaning the cost of claims when disasters strike. A big enough disaster can put insurance companies out of business, or they can decide to leave the state, as seen in California, Louisiana and elsewhere.

Responsible insurers are not in the business of gambling, so they do what State Farm and Allstate did: They reevaluate their portfolios – the various lines of insurance they offer, such as auto, life, property insurance and health insurance – and their prices. Insurance is a highly data-driven business and uses some of the most sophisticated climate and risk modeling in the world to forecast future risks, including the likelihood a property will be damaged by wildfire or other natural hazards.

State Farm cited "catastrophe exposure" as a reason for ending new high-risk personal and commercial property and casualty policies in California. That refers to the likelihood that costly claims would exceed the risk State Farm was willing to accept.

So, why did State Farm and Allstate only stop new policies in California and not in other wildfire-prone states like Colorado or Arizona?

The answer can only be speculative since State Farm or Allstate

don't publicly disclose their exposure. That's calculated based on how many personal and commercial property and casualty policies the company holds in the state, particularly in the wildland-urban interface where fire risk is higher, and at what value.

State Farm did cite California's increasing wildfire risk and home construction prices, but there are other influences to consider.

One is state insurance regulations that can limit premium increases, prohibit policy cancellations and require certain levels of coverage. Insurer Chubb's chief executive mentioned restrictions that left it unable to charge "an adequate price for the risk" as part of the reason for its 2022 decision to not renew policies for expensive homes in high-risk areas of California. California also has a unique "efficient proximate cause" rule that forces property insurers to also cover post-fire flooding, such as mudslides. Rainy winters like 2023's often trigger destructive mudslides in wildfire burn areas.

When insurers pull out of a community, residents and companies without access to property and casualty insurance are left holding their own risk – and paying the price if a disaster strikes. From a societal and political perspective, that's a problem.

Residents and businesses without insurance tend to recover more slowly. Uninsured residents often depend on donations, loans or federal individual assistance. The latter, however, is only available for catastrophic disasters and covers only immediate needs.

To fill the gap and provide access to insurance, states including California, Florida, Louisiana and Texas have created either private or public insurance options of last resort with generally very pricey premiums.

Residents covered by these options transfer their risk to the state, such as in Louisiana and Florida – meaning state taxpayers, who fund the state insurance programs, hold the risk directly or indirectly. In California, the privately insured FAIR Plan, in existence since 1968, wrote close to 270,000 policies in 2021, nearly double the number in 2018.

Similarly, anyone purchasing flood insurance through the National Flood Insurance Program since 1968 is transferring their risk to federal taxpayers. The NFIP currently insures almost \$1.3 trillion in value across 5 million policies.

Politicians are not catastrophe risk experts, though, and do not make decisions based on data alone.

In the short term, I expect that insurance pools, as well as federal- and state-run insurers of last resort, will add more policies, and that state legislators will incentivize the return of insurers. But while the political willingness to support such a trend exists, the financial resources do not.

The National Flood Insurance Program has plenty of lessons to teach about the challenges of balancing exposure and keeping premiums affordable: It is more than \$20 billion in debt. Texas has resorted to charging insurers operating in the state to help cover its program's costs.

Despite the risk of properties becoming uninsurable, communities today continue to permit development in floodplains, along coastlines and in the wildfire-prone wildland urban interface. Inadequate building codes allow developers to build homes that cannot withstand severe weather. These practices have placed millions of residents and the things they value in harm's way.

Survey signals widespread corruption in EU countries

BRUSSELS, July 9, (KUNA): Across the 27-member European Union, an average of 70 percent of citizens consider corruption to be widespread in their countries.

Similarly, most companies (65 percent) think corruption is widespread with favoritism in public institutions the most common practice of corruption in the EU, according to the results of a survey released Wednesday by the European Commission.

The survey was conducted on citizens' and businesses' attitudes towards corruption in the EU. The results show that a growing majority of Europeans consider corruption to be unacceptable.

Europeans are increasingly sceptical about efforts to address corruption. 67% of respondents believe that high-level corruption cases are not sufficiently pursued, and 60% do not think that government efforts to combat corruption are effective.

The European Commission in a statement said it has recently taken decisive action to fight corruption in the EU and worldwide.

With the anti-corruption proposals presented on 3 May, the EU's executive body said it will build on measures in place and strengthen efforts to integrate the prevention of corruption into the design of EU policies and programs.

By **Michael R. Blood**

Two insurance industry giants have pulled back from California's home insurance marketplace, saying that increasing wildfire risk and soaring construction costs have prompted them to stop writing new policies in the nation's most populous state.

State Farm announced last week it would stop accepting applications for all business and personal lines of property and casualty insurance, citing inflation, a challenging reinsurance market and "rapidly growing catastrophe exposure." The decision did not impact personal auto insurance.

"We take seriously our responsibility to manage risk," State Farm said. "It's necessary to take these actions now to improve the company's financial strength."

Allstate, another insurance powerhouse, announced in November it would pause new homeowners, condo and commercial insurance policies in California to protect current customers.

"The cost to insure new home customers in California is far higher than the price they would pay for policies due to wildfires, higher costs for repairing homes and higher reinsurance premiums," Allstate said in a statement.

California's unsettled market aligns

with trends across the country in which companies are boosting rates, limiting coverage or pulling out completely from regions susceptible to wildfires and other natural disasters in the era of climate change. Florida and Louisiana have struggled to keep healthy insurance markets following extensive damage from hurricanes. Premiums are rising in Colorado amid wildfire threats, and an Oregon effort to map wildfire risk was rejected last year because of fears it would cause premiums to skyrocket.

Scientists say climate change has made the West warmer and drier over the last three decades and will continue to make weather more extreme and wildfires more frequent and destructive. In recent years, California has experienced the largest and most destructive fires in state history.

Some California homeowners already are going without coverage, and a shortage of new policies could make it more difficult to buy a home. A state-run pool that serves as the insurer of last resort for many could face pressure as enrollments surge.

The state pool – the California Fair Access to Insurance Requirements Plan – provides basic fire insurance coverage for properties in high-risk areas when traditional insurance companies will not. Enrollments have jumped in recent years to 272,846 homes in

2022. "We just don't have a stable insurance market," said state Sen. Bill Dodd, a Democrat from Napa, whose Northern California district has been charred by wildfires. "What's happening is a lot of people in my district and frankly other districts are ... going naked – they have no insurance."

According to data compiled by the industry-supported Insurance Information Institute, California has more than 1.2 million homes at risk for extreme wildfire, far more than any other state.

"The number of acres burned in California has grown steadily in recent years, as more people are moving into fire-prone areas of the state," the institute said in a statement on the company departures from California. "More homes in harm's way – combined with rising costs of repairing or replacing houses either damaged or lost to fire – leads to increased insured losses."

In Colorado, which has been hit by devastating wildfires, insurance premiums have been rising significantly, and some smaller insurance companies have been pulling back from covering properties. A study commissioned by state lawmakers found that 76% of carriers decreased their exposures in Colorado in 2022, leaving the five largest insurance companies to dominate the market.

Florida has struggled to keep the insurance market healthy since 1992, when Hurricane Andrew flattened Homestead, wiped out some insurance carriers and left many remaining companies fearful to write or renew policies in Florida. Risks for carriers also have been growing as climate change increases the strength of hurricanes and intensity of rainstorms.

Louisiana is in the midst of an insurance crisis, exacerbated by hurricanes Delta, Laura, Zeta and Ida in 2020 and 2021. As claims piled up, companies that wrote homeowners policies in the state went insolvent or left, canceling or refusing to renew existing policies.

In California, the loss of large insurers could create more pressure to loosen consumer-minded policies that have held down rates in the state for years. Voters approved Proposition 103 in 1988, which allows the state insurance commissioner to reject proposed rate increases and order refunds. It has been credited with saving consumers billions of dollars, but the industry says it places constraints on accurate underwriting and pricing risk.

Last year, Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara advanced regulations requiring insurers to give discounts to customers if they followed new standards like building fire-resistance roofs and creating defensible space around their homes.

Ford looking to turn car sensors into features customers will buy

Insider Q&A

Property financing solutions for customers

Nomo and Blueprint in partnership

DEARBORN, Mich., July 9, (AP): **Across the room from Ford Advanced Product Development chief Doug Field was a pile of two-dozen auto parts, each with its own small computer, and software written by the parts manufacturer.**

Field, who was hired away from running Apple's secret auto project two years ago, and before that served as Tesla head of engineering, explained at an investor event that the automaker is moving to get rid of the pile, consolidating most computing decisions into a central processor running software written by Ford.

The change will fundamentally change how people use their cars. Most automakers are counting on software services to boost future profit margins.

Field, 57, also Ford's chief technology officer, talked to The Associated Press about the change and the transformation to electric vehicles. The interview is edited for length and clarity.

Q: How far along is Ford on moving to this central computing system?

A: The transition has happened where we designed the hardware and the software for the immediate user interface, the center screen. That's gone into both the F-150 Lightning EV as well as the internal combustion F-Series. The next step is with our next generation of electric vehicles (coming in 2025). We're expanding to control the overall vehicle and control over the autonomy system. There will be software in parts that comes from suppliers that is appropriate. The reason for that is to make it as fast as possible. A great example is firing the air bag. We don't want that coming back through the central passage.

Q: As a driver, why should I care about this?

A: The car's a robot, which means the interaction with the software includes pieces of hardware. So something like an Amazon interface where you know a delivery is coming. A one-time code opens the trunk. Doesn't open the rest of the car. They get to drop it off. That requires an interaction between centralized software and what today is a locking-unlocking module. There also are sensors that we don't have access to the information. An easy example is an autonomy system that's supposed to keep you in the lane. There's a camera. We can't say to the customer

Al-Tuwaijri: We strive to provide the best property investment consultation to ensure maximum benefits for our investor clients

M. Al Melhem: Blueprint presents with Nomo the best real estate opportunities in London

KUWAIT CITY, July 9: Nomo Bank, the digital Sharia-compliant bank in the United Kingdom that is part of the Bank of London and the Middle East (BLME) of the Boubyan Bank Group, announced the signing of a strategic partnership with Blueprint Company to provide a set of integrated investment advisory services related to the real estate market in the United Kingdom to its clients in Kuwait and the region.

Abdullah Al-Tuwaijri, BLME's Board Member, stated: "Since the launch of Nomo Bank, our main goal has been to provide our customers with a new dimension of solutions, integrated services, and investment opportunities that are unique, competitive, and in line with the high quality service and flexibility provided by UK banks, and we managed to achieve that in a short period of time."

that we're going to give you a dash cam for free or for a subscription where it's always running. And if we detect any kind of a bump or anything like that, you've got a 30-second recording. We will be able to do that. We talked a little bit about our ability to predict if the car is heading toward a failure or a wear-out situation. I want to count wiper strokes combined with how much water is coming down and where it's being driven and how dirty it is. Maybe develop an algorithm that knows exactly when your wiper blades are wearing out.

Q: How do you come up with something that's compelling enough to get me to part with my hard-earned money and subscribe?

A: The model is already transitioning from 'you check a box when you buy the car' to 'you can get a free trial.' You only part with your hard-earned money after you are on the road trying it and say, 'this is pretty great.' A big part of how I try to guide the engineers is you must earn the right to collect money. You're going to come up with things, you're going to try them.

Q: You've shown the bear cam,



Abdullah Al Tuwaijri



Eng. Mishaal Al Milhem

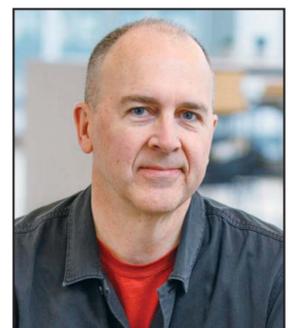
He explained that the importance of owning a property in the United Kingdom has been well known lately and is considered one of the most important pillars of successful property investment for investors, whether residential or rental. However, venturing into this type of investment requires the availability of flexible financing options and integrated investment solutions. This is where Nomo Bank comes in to provide

property investment solutions that are Shariah-compliant.

He added that through our partnership with Blueprint, a leading real estate investment consultancy in the UK, we offer our clients investment opportunities based on realistic foundations after conducting studies and analysis of the real estate market and then obtaining the best advice to ensure the maximum benefits for the investor.

where a Bronco parked at a campsite recognizes a bear nearby and may honk the horn to scare it away. How important is security?

A: We are going to build a whole set



This undated photo provided by Ford shows Doug Field, product development chief. Field, 57, also Ford's chief technology officer, talked to The Associated Press about the change and the transformation to electric vehicles. (AP)

of services around this. The car is the most sophisticated sensor that you have in your life, and the number of accelerometers and microphones and cameras and things on it will allow it to be not only something that protects you when you're in the car, but it'll actually be useful when you're not there. Even acting as a remote sentry if there's stuff going on outside the house.

Q: Does having a centralized computer open you more to the possibility of hacking?

A: Anything where you are allowing the car to be software-updated opens you to that possibility. You need to have an architecture where that has been really carefully thought through. And the more you go toward things like firing the airbags or controlling the steering, the more that becomes a pretty involved process to actually update your access.

Q: How long will Ford still be selling internal combustion vehicles?

A: There are a number of applications where it is going to be near impossible for an EV to perform the same mission. There will be many, many places where EVs are a slam dunk.

The Conversation

Social media platforms tend not to last forever

Threads surging, but migration from Twitter an uphill battle

By Casey Fiesler
University of Colorado Boulder

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

Twitter's move on July 1, 2023, to limit the number of tweets users can see in a day was the latest in a series of decisions that has spurred millions of users to sign up with alternative microblogging platforms since Elon Musk acquired Twitter last year.

In addition to a surge in numbers on Mastodon, the acquisition and subsequent changes boosted small existing platforms like Hive Social and has spawned brand new upstarts like Spoutie and Spill.

Most recently the microblogging platform backed by Twitter founder Jack Dorsey, Bluesky, saw a surge of sign-ups in the days following Twitter's rate limit, and Meta launched its microblogging platform Threads on July 5. Threads claimed 30 million users on its first day. Even very different forms of social media such as TikTok are benefiting from what many see as Twitter's imminent demise.

As an information scientist who studies online communities, this feels like something I've seen before. Social media platforms tend not to last forever. Depending on your age and online habits, there's probably some platform that you miss, even if it still exists in some form. Think of MySpace, LiveJournal, Google+ and Vine.

When social media platforms fall, sometimes the online communities that made their homes there fade away, and sometimes they pack their bags and relocate to a new home. The turmoil at Twitter is causing many of the company's users to consider leaving the platform. Research on previous social media platform migrations shows what might lie ahead for Twitter users who fly the coop.

Several years ago, I led a research project with Brianna Dym, now at University of Maine, where we mapped the platform migrations of nearly 2,000 people over a period of almost two decades. The community we examined was transformative fandom, fans of literary and popular culture series and franchises who create art using those characters and settings.

We chose it because it is a large community that has thrived in a number of different online spaces. Some of the same people writing Buffy the Vampire Slayer

fan fiction on Usenet in the 1990s were writing Harry Potter fan fiction on LiveJournal in the 2000s and Star Wars fan fiction on Tumblr in the 2010s.

By asking participants about their experiences moving across these platforms - why they left, why they joined and the challenges they faced in doing so - we gained insights into factors that might drive the success and failure of platforms, as well as what negative consequences are likely to occur for a community when it relocates.

Regardless of how many people ultimately decide to leave Twitter, and even how many people do so around the same time, creating a community on another platform is an uphill battle. These migrations are in large part driven by network effects, meaning that the value of a new platform depends on who else is there.

Migration

In the critical early stages of migration, people have to coordinate with each other to encourage contribution on the new platform, which is really hard to do. It essentially becomes, as one of our participants described it, a "game of chicken" where no one wants to leave until their friends leave, and no one wants to be first for fear of being left alone in a new place.

For this reason, the "death" of a platform - whether from a controversy, disliked change or competition - tends to be a slow, gradual process. One participant described Usenet's decline as "like watching a shopping mall slowly go out of business."

The current push from some corners to leave Twitter reminded me a bit of Tumblr's adult content ban in 2018, which reminded me of LiveJournal's policy changes and new ownership in 2007. People who left LiveJournal in favor of other platforms like Tumblr described feeling unwelcome there. And though Musk did not walk into Twitter headquarters at the end of October and turn a virtual content moderation lever into the "off" position, there was an uptick in hate speech on the platform, as some users felt emboldened to violate the platform's content policies under an assumption that major policy changes were on the way.

What makes Twitter Twitter isn't the technology, it's the particular configuration of interactions that takes place there. And there is essentially zero chance that Twitter, as it exists now, could be reconstituted on another platform. Any migration is likely

to face many of the challenges previous platform migrations have faced: content loss, fragmented communities, broken social networks and shifted community norms.

But Twitter isn't one community, it's a collection of many communities, each with its own norms and motivations. Some communities might be able to migrate more successfully than others. So maybe K-Pop Twitter could coordinate a move to Tumblr. I've seen much of Academic Twitter coordinating a move to Mastodon. Other communities might already simultaneously exist on Discord servers and subreddits, and can just let participation on Twitter fade away as fewer people pay attention to it. But as our study implies, migrations always have a cost, and even for smaller communities, some people will get lost along the way.

Our research also pointed to design recommendations for supporting migration and how one platform might take advantage of attrition from another platform. Cross-posting features can be important because many people hedge their bets. They might be unwilling to completely cut ties all at once, but they might dip their toes into a new platform by sharing the same content on both.

Ways to import networks from another platform also help to maintain communities. For example, there are multiplexways to find people you follow on Twitter on Mastodon. Even simple welcome messages, guides for newcomers and easy ways to find other migrants could make a difference in helping resettlement attempts stick.

In this sense, Threads has an advantage over other Twitter alternatives because users sign up via their Instagram accounts. This means Threads' social graph - who follows who - is bootstrapped by links among Instagram accounts. Users may not be able to easily bring over their communities from Twitter, but they can instantly pull follows and followers from Instagram.

And though all of this, it's important to remember that this is such a hard problem by design. Platforms have no incentive to help users leave. As longtime technology journalist Cory Doctorow recently wrote, this is "a hostage situation." Social media lures people in with their friends, and then the threat of losing those social networks keeps people on the platforms.

But even if there is a price to pay for leaving a platform, communities can be incredibly resilient. Like the LiveJournal users in our study who found each other again on Tumblr, your fate is not tied to Twitter's. (AP)

'Peace of Mind with Black Concierge'

KIB offers exclusive services to Visa Infinite credit cardholders

KUWAIT CITY, July 9: As part of its special travel season campaign entitled "Peace of Mind with Black Concierge," Kuwait International Bank (KIB) recently announced exclusive Black Concierge services for customers carrying Visa Infinite credit cards. This step comes within the framework of KIB's continuous efforts to provide its customers with a wide range of benefits, discounts and offers for an unprecedented and unique banking experience that exceeds their expectations.



Al Hulaibi

Commenting on the benefits of the services, Khalid Al Hulaibi, Segments Manager at KIB, said: "With the travel and holiday season starting, we are pleased to pour our focus into providing all services and products that elevate our customers' experience, especially the Black Concierge service. Black Concierge can be utilized 24/7 by Visa Infinite credit cardholders, helping with all their needs and ensuring their peace of mind during their travels. The service can be used for ticket booking, hotel reservations, car rentals, and transportation services, in addition to providing advice and guidance on tourism and shopping, arranging and sending gifts, and many more services available through the designated number 22969992."

Al Hulaibi added: "In addition to

all these benefits, KIB customers who hold a Visa Infinite credit card can enjoy 5% cashback on all Black Concierge services and comprehensive insurance coverage for themselves and their families during travel for a period of 90 days. Eligible customers can also enjoy free limousine services to or from the airport when booking a business or first class ticket through Black Concierge. Additionally, they get unlimited access to more than 1,000 airport lounges around the world with the Visa LoungeKey program, with the possibility to invite a guest for free. Exclusive brand discounts, discounts at local and international restaurants, and various other benefits are offered through KIB's Black Concierge."

Al Hulaibi further noted that the Visa Infinite credit card offers customers celebrating their birthdays an opportunity to benefit from one of the Black Concierge services for free. Such services include completing official government operations, butler service, or limousine services for transportation to or from the airport.

It is worth noting that KIB offers its Black segment customers a wide range of solutions and premium banking products, including many exclusive offers from KIB. The exclusive benefits include priority banking and financial transactions, which can be effectuated through a private customer relations manager or within branches' dedicated banking service rooms, as well as through the VIP phone call service. The Black account also grants members priority in booking branch visits on the website or via the KIB Mobile app.

KD2m prize deadline is Sept 30

Gulf Bank announces ten winners of AIDanah account monthly draw

KUWAIT CITY, July 9: As part of its ongoing commitment to rewarding its customers and account holders, Gulf Bank has announced the 10 monthly winners of its AIDanah account draw for the month of June 2023. The winners, who will be taking home prizes of KD 1,000 each, include: Maasoumah Taqi Reda Askhanani, Khaled Mohammed Saleh Al-Fedaghi, AbdulJaleel Tabtabaei, Waheedah Abbas Eissa Al-Dhafaeri, Hani Ahmed Essa Al-Hadad, Mohsen Faour Madhi, Jasem Mohammed Hmoud Al-Marzouq, Vikram Singh, Aram Byuryundzhikyan, Mohammed Abdullah Ali Al-Wazan.

The AIDanah account is one of the most rewarding savings accounts in Kuwait, with its periodic draws that award valuable prizes and multiple benefits for account holders. Gulf Bank's AIDanah account offers monthly opportunities to win KD 1,000 to ten lucky winners, in addition to two quarterly draws with KD 100,000 prizes each, a semi-annual draw prize of KD 1,000,000 and a grand draw prize of KD 2 Million. The deadlines to deposit and qualify for the KD 2 million prize is Sept 30, 2023.

Gulf Bank is the only bank in Kuwait that proudly creates two millionaires a year. AIDanah customers stand to win the semi-annual draw prize of KD 1 million, whose winner will be announced on July 13, 2023, and an upcoming grand draw prize of KD 2 million. The annual grand draw is currently scheduled to take place on January 18, 2024 in the presence of representatives from both the Ministry of Commerce and Ernst & Young.

Gulf Bank's AIDanah account is the only account that rewards customers for their loyalty by providing loyalty chances and transfers your chances of winning from the previous year to the next year, as part of a program that rewards customers for their loyalty to

Gulf Bank.

In order to increase one's chances of winning, customers must maintain a minimum of KD 200 in their accounts, or deposit continuously to increase their chances of winning. AIDanah account holders are eligible to win Gulf Bank's upcoming monthly, quarterly, and annual AIDanah draws.

Gulf Bank's vision is to be the leading Kuwaiti Bank of the Future. The Bank is constantly engaging and empowering its employees as part of an inclusive and diversified workplace in recognition of every employee's role in delivering customer excellence and serving the community at large. With its extensive network of branches and innovative digital services, Gulf Bank is able to give its customers the choice of how and where to conduct their banking transactions, all while ensuring a simple and seamless banking experience.

Gulf Bank is committed to maintaining a robust sustainability program at the community, economic, and environmental levels through sustainability initiatives that are strategically selected to benefit both the country and the Bank. Gulf Bank supports Kuwait Vision 2035 "New Kuwait" and works with various parties to achieve it.



Zain HS Store Summer Program participants.

Internship program kicks off to upskill youth

40 join Zain HS Store summer program

KUWAIT CITY, July 9: Zain today announced the kick-off of its fourth Summer Internship (SI) Program with HS Store. This year, the program features 40 university-level trainees engaging in a unique part-time experience to gain a wide range of invaluable soft skills and professional competencies with the aim of preparing them to confidently join the job market.

The Zain Innovation Campus (ZINC) hosted an orientation session where Zain and HS Store officials gathered with the new trainees to welcome them onboard, explain the nature of the program, and go through their tasks. The session was attended by Corporate Relations Department Manager Hamad Al Musaiibeh and HS Store Founder and General Manager Fahad Al Mithin.

The first three editions of the Zain HS Store Summer Program were a huge success, attracting eager and dedicated students who were keen on making the most out of their summer vacation. Hundreds of young people gained invaluable insights, soft skills, and professional competencies that added value to their CVs and helped accelerate their new career journeys.

Bridges

This year, the program is joined by 40 trainees who are all university students, giving them the opportunity to work for 5 weeks at several HS Store branches across Kuwait. The trainees are responsible for a number of key tasks related to communications, business, technical, and administrative skillsets.

This initiative provides students with a range of workplace skills, such as customer service and engagement, product sales and marketing, electronics maintenance and smartphone repairing, and more. The trainees work for 4 hours daily with a part-time schedule, and each participant receives a cash reward at the end of the program.

The Zain HS Store Summer Program comes under the umbrella of Zain's Future University Network (FUN), a youth-tailored social program for university-level students that bridges the gap between studying and a unique experience at the Zain workplace by recruiting youth as the brand's main ambassadors.

FUN is one of the largest sustainable projects that Zain has been developing over the years since its first edition in 2008. It offers students an invaluable opportunity to benefit from a real-world work experience

Bank contributes to sustainable future

KFH participates in TSC discussion 'panel' on environment awareness

KUWAIT CITY, July 9: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) participated in a discussion panel organized by the Scientific Centre (TSC) as part of the environment month and under their strategic partnership that aims to collaborate in the field of environmental preservation and sustainability.

During the discussion panel, Fahed AIOsaimi- ESG Manager at KFH shed light on the responsibility KFH embraces to protect the environment and actively contribute to a sustainable future, by applying responsible banking and green finance.

He added that through the adoption of green banking practices, KFH actively promotes sustainable financing for renewable energy projects and supports initiatives that contribute to a low-carbon economy.

"As a world leading Islamic financial institution, KFH was pioneer in applying ESG in all its businesses and operations as part of its sustainability strategy. In the process, KFH released its First sustainability report 2020 as part of a comprehensive sustainability strategy, which included the ESG pillars. Since 2021, KFH has been on its sustainability journey," AIOsaimi explained.

He also highlighted KFH's first Carbon Footprint Report which showcases the commitment to environmental sustainability and dedication to preserving environment.

Meanwhile, KFH remains committed to promoting environmental preservation and sustainable initiatives as part of the Keep it green initiative. This initiative encompasses multiple events, activities, and pro-



A group photo of the KFH and the Scientific Center officials.

grams dedicated to fostering sustainability and a healthy environment across various fields throughout the year. Among these related programs is replacing plastic bottles which took place in the Scientific Center.

Sustainable

"Companies are now realizing that applying sustainable strategy in their business has become a must not an option. The future of sustainability lies in its integration with organizations' operation decisions, which helps in meeting the SDGs." He explained.

Furthermore, AIOsaimi highlighted, during the event, KFH's achievements in the field of ESG including the strategic partnership KFH signed with UNDP which covers executive training courses, women

empowerment, exchange of knowledge and expertise etc. Also, as part of its collaboration with SEEDS, KFH launched SEEDS Sustainability Academy that aims to empower people with knowledge and enhance awareness through access to an on-line library of training and informative courses in sustainability. In addition, KFH offers banking cards which are made of recycled plastic materials according to the highest environment sustainability standards.

It is worth noting that KFH is the first bank in Kuwait to receive Global Sustainability Assessment System GSAS certificate - Gold level for its environment-friendly auto showroom (KFH Auto), the largest in the Middle East.

to develop many skills and gain expertise on both professional and personal levels, including project management, public relations, social media management, customer engagement, and more.

Zain continues its long-term partnership with HS Store to offer this annual program under its wider community strategy that largely focuses on shouldering the youth and education sectors. This strategy is made possible by leveraging on Zain's

vast network of partners from the community's top youth-centered entities and organizations.

The company dedicates more efforts and projects that invest in Kuwait's human capital, especially by focusing on developing the youth's business competencies to prepare them for their future careers. Zain strongly believes in strengthening the bond between the private sector and the local community, given that it is one of the sector's biggest play-

ers. HS Store was established in 2011 with the aim of offering tech enthusiasts with a wide range of high-quality products with a hassle-free shopping experience. The store ensures the satisfaction of its customers in Kuwait and throughout the GCC by providing top-in-class devices and accessories and offering specialized maintenance and repair workshops for the most popular smart devices.

The Conversation

Illness can also influence taste

Can we train our taste buds for healthier eating?

By Monica Dus

University of Michigan

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

Have you ever wondered why only hummingbirds sip nectar from feeders?

Unlike sparrows, finches, and most other birds, hummingbirds can taste sweetness because they carry the genetic instructions necessary to detect sugar molecules.

Like hummingbirds, we humans can sense sugar because our DNA contains gene sequences coding for the molecular detectors that allow us to detect sweetness.

But it is more complex than that. Our ability to sense sweetness, as well as other tastes, involves a delicate dance between our genetic makeup and the foods we encounter from the womb to the dinner table.

Neuroscientists like me are working to decipher how this intricate interplay between genes and diet shapes taste.

In my laboratory at the University of Michigan, we are diving deeply into one specific aspect, which is how consuming too much sugar dulls the sense of sweetness.

Taste is so central to our eating habits that understanding how genes and the environment shape it has crucial implications for nutrition, food science, and disease prevention.

As with hummingbirds, the human ability to discern what food tastes like depends on the presence of taste receptors.

These molecular detectors are found on the sensory cells, which are housed inside the taste buds, and the sensory organs on the surface of the tongue.

The interactions between taste receptors and food molecules give rise to the five basic taste qualities: sweetness, sourness, bitterness, saltiness, and sourness, which are transmitted from the mouth to the brain via specific nerves.

For instance, when sugar binds to the sweet receptor, it signals sweetness. Our innate preference for the taste of some foods over others is rooted in how the tongue and the brain became wired during our evolutionary history.

Qualities

Taste qualities signaling the presence of essential nutrients and energy, like salt and sugar, send information to brain areas linked to pleasure. Conversely, tastes that alert us to potentially harmful substances, such as the bitterness of certain toxins, are connected to those that make us feel discomfort or pain.

While the presence of genes encoding for functional taste receptors in our DNA allows us to detect food molecules, how we respond to these also depends on the unique combination of taste genes we carry. Like ice cream, genes, including those for taste receptors, come in different flavors.

Take, for instance, a taste receptor for bitterness called TAS2R38. Scientists found small changes in the genetic code for the TAS2R38 gene among different people. These genetic variants affect how people perceive the bitterness of vegetables, berries, and wine.

Follow-up studies have suggested a link between those same variants and food choice, particularly with respect to vegetable and alcohol consumption.

Many more variants exist in our gene repertoire, including those for the sweet taste receptor.

However, whether and how these genetic differences affect our taste and eating habits is still being worked out. What is certain is that while genetics lays the groundwork for taste sensations

and preferences, experiences with food can profoundly reshape them.

Many of our innate sensations and preferences are molded by our early experiences with food, sometimes before we're even born. Some molecules from the mother's diet, like garlic or carrots, reach the fetus's developing taste buds via the amniotic fluid and can affect the appreciation of these foods after birth.

Infant formula can also influence food preferences later on. For example, research shows that infants fed with formulas that are not based on cow's milk – which are more bitter and sour because of their amino acid content – are more accepting of bitter, sour, and savory foods such as vegetables after weaning than those who consume cow milk-based formula. And toddlers who drink sweetened water strongly prefer sweet beverages as early as age 2.

Effect

The effect of food on our taste predispositions doesn't stop in early life: What we eat as adults, especially our sugar and salt intake, can also shape how we perceive and potentially choose food. Cutting down on sodium in our diet decreases our preferred level of saltiness, whereas consuming more makes us like saltier foods.

Something similar occurs with sugar: Reduce sugar in your diet and you may find food sweeter. Conversely, as research in rats and flies suggests, high sugar levels may dull your sensation of sweetness.

Although researchers are still working out the exact how and why, studies show that high sugar and fat intake in animal models dampens the responsiveness of taste cells and nerves to sugars, modifies the number of taste cells available, and even flips genetic switches in the taste cells' DNA.

In my lab, we've shown that these taste alterations in rats return to normal within weeks when the extra sugar is removed from the diet.

Genetics and food aren't the only factors that affect taste. As many of us discovered during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, disease can also play a role. After testing positive for COVID-19, I couldn't tell the difference between sweet, bitter, and sour foods for months.

Researchers have found that about 40 percent of people infected with SARS-CoV-2 experience impairment in taste and smell. In about 5 percent of those people, these taste deficits persist for months and years.

Although researchers don't understand what causes these sensory alterations, the leading hypothesis is that the virus infects the cells that support the taste and smell receptors.

By shaping our eating habits, the intricate dance between genes, diet, disease, and taste can affect the risk for chronic diseases.

Beyond distinguishing food from toxins, the brain uses taste signals as a proxy to estimate the filling power of foods. In nature, the stronger a food tastes – in terms of sweetness or saltiness – is directly connected to its nutrient levels and calorie content. For example, a mango contains five times the amount of sugar than a cup of strawberries, and this is why it tastes sweeter and is more filling. Thus, taste is important not just for food enjoyment and choice, but also for regulating food intake.

When taste is altered by diet or disease, sensory and nutrient information could become "decoupled" and no longer provide accurate information to our brains about portion size. Research shows this may also occur with the consumption of artificial sweeteners.

And indeed, in recent studies in invertebrate animal models, our lab discovered that the changes in taste

Cu-67 delivers radiation to destroy cancer cells in a targeted manner

NorthStar manufactures Copper-67 for Clarity

NHL one of leading causes of cancer deaths

LP-284 powerful therapeutic option for a wide range of blood cancers

BELOIT, Wis., July 9: NorthStar Medical Radioisotopes, LLC ("NorthStar"), a global innovator in the development, production and commercialization of radiopharmaceuticals used for therapeutic and medical imaging applications, and Clarity Pharmaceuticals ("Clarity"), a clinical stage radiopharmaceutical company with a mission to develop next-generation products that improve treatment outcomes for children and adults with cancer, have announced the achievement of key milestones in the Cu-67 therapeutic radioisotope production program.

NorthStar has successfully produced high activity, high specific activity and high purity Cu-67 and has supplied the isotope for use in Clarity's clinical programs as part of an agreement for exclusive supply of the radioisotope to Clarity. It will use NorthStar-produced Cu-67 for its three active and recruiting therapeutic clinical trials evaluating the safety and efficacy of 67Cu SAR-bisPSMA, 67Cu SAR-Bombesin and 67Cu SARTATE, as well as for the future commercial rollout of TCT products. NorthStar is the first operational commercial-scale supplier of this important therapeutic radioisotope.

NorthStar's production of Cu-67 uses a highly efficient, environmentally preferable electron accelerator technology and the radioisotope has proven suitable for radiolabeling with Clarity's proprietary SARTechnology platform. The platform is enabled by the unique SAR chelators, specialized cage-like structures that securely hold radioisotopes of copper, and unlike traditional chelators, prevent leakage of copper isotopes into the body. Once securely attached to a targeting molecule, the cage with copper-67 is used to deliver therapeutic doses of radiation to destroy cancer cells in a targeted manner with limited damage to healthy tissue.

Activities

Clarity's Executive Chairman, Dr Alan Taylor, commented, "We are really excited about the large-scale manufacture of Cu-67, and the timing could not be better as we continue to recruit at increasingly higher activities of Cu-67 across all three of our therapeutic clinical trials. In addition, we also continue to support clinicians' ongoing requests for additional therapy doses for patients under the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Expanded Access Program (EAP). The benefits of using copper radioisotopes in radiopharmaceuticals have been discussed in the scientific literature for many years, and the combination of copper-64 for imaging and copper-67 for therapy has been dubbed the perfect pairing in the field of theranostics as both radioisotopes are the same element. However, their use has historically

been hampered due to a lack of chelating technology that could hold the radioisotopes of copper inside and prevent their leakage in vivo. Clarity's SAR Technology has made the use of TCTs possible, and we continue expanding our products into late-phase clinical trials and eventual commercial phase as we confirm the many benefits of the perfect pairing.

DALLAS, July 9: Lantern Pharma Inc (NASDAQ: LTRN), an artificial intelligence ("AI") company developing targeted and transformative cancer therapies using its proprietary RADR® AI and machine learning ("ML") platform with multiple clinical stage drug programs, has announced the company has published new findings in Oncotarget demonstrating drug candidate LP-284's in vitro and in vivo antitumor potency for multiple non-Hodgkin's lymphomas (NHL), including mantle cell lymphoma (MCL) and double-hit lymphoma (DHL). The journal article titled "LP-284 Targets Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma and DNA Damage Repair Deficiency" further supports LP-284's development for NHL and advancement towards a first-in-human Phase 1 trial, which is anticipated for the second half of 2023.

Non-Hodgkin's lymphomas (NHL) remain one of the leading causes of cancer deaths globally and have an estimated 500,000 new cases globally, with NHL being the leading hematological malignancy in the US. Despite advances for NHL using combination and targeted therapies, nearly 20% to 40% of patients with certain subtypes still relapse after treatment. In aggressive subtypes of NHL, like MCL, nearly all patients relapse from standard-of-care (SOC) therapies.

"Given the efficacy of drug candidate LP-284 in preclinical studies and the mechanism of synthetic lethality where LP-284 seems to prefer blood

cancers with deficiencies in the DNA repair pathways, we believe this drug candidate can be a powerful therapeutic option for a wide range of blood cancers with potential both as monotherapy in later stages of treatments and in earlier lines in combination with other agents," stated Panna Sharma, Lantern's CEO and President. "We have developed this molecule from initial ideas to first-in-human clinical testing in a highly efficient and rapid manner by leveraging our AI platform, RADR®. This is unheard of progress in oncology drug development and was achieved in less than 2.5 years and under \$2 million USD, and we can readily scale the manufacturing of this molecule to meet global needs for NHL patients," continued Sharma.

Damage

"Our new findings in Oncotarget reveal that LP-284's synthetically lethal mechanism of action is driven by the creation of double-strand DNA breaks and can be leveraged for multiple non-Hodgkin's lymphomas that are DNA damage repair deficient," stated Kishor Bhatia, Ph.D., Lantern's Chief Scientific Officer. "We have also demonstrated a critical preclinical finding that LP-284 has potent antitumor activity in MCL tumors that have grown resistant to standard-of-care agents. As nearly all patients with MCL relapse from standard-of-care treatment, they have an urgent and unmet need for potential

new drug candidates, such as LP-284," continued Dr. Bhatia.

Key publication highlights:
 ■ LP-284's mechanism of action, synthetic lethality, was demonstrated to be caused by LP-284's induction of DNA double-strand breaks. Cells treated with LP-284 had significantly increased double-strand DNA breaks when compared to control-treated cells.

■ Nanomolar potency was demonstrated for LP-284 in 15 NHL cell lines, with the lowest IC-50s observed for the 6 MCL and 7 DHL/Triple Hit Lymphoma cell lines, which had average IC-50s of 342 nM and 613 nM respectively.

■ LP-284 treatment of 2 mg/kg and 4 mg/kg inhibited tumor growth of mice implanted with MCL xenografts by 63% and 113% respectively. LP-284's tumor growth inhibition was greater than 2X that of the MCL SOC agents bortezomib or ibrutinib.

■ In mouse MCL xenograft tumors that had grown resistant to either bortezomib or ibrutinib, subsequent LP-284 treatment at 4 mg/kg led to near-complete tumor regression, whereas control-treated tumors continued to grow uncontrollably.

■ LP-284's antitumor potency can be enhanced when combined with the FDA-approved agent spironolactone. Treatment of multiple myeloma cells with LP-284 + spironolactone led to a 2.4 fold decrease in IC-50 when compared to LP-284 treatment alone.

caused by high dietary sugar intake drove higher eating by impairing these food predictions. Notably, many of the eating patterns and brain changes we observed in flies have also been discovered in people who ate foods high in sugar or fat or who had a high body-

mass index. This raises the question of whether these effects also arise from taste and sensory alterations in our brains. But there is a silver lining to the adaptable nature of taste. Since diet shapes our senses, we can actually train

our taste buds – and our brains – to respond and prefer foods with lower quantities of sugar and salt.

Interestingly, many people already say that they find foods overly sweet, which may not be surprising since between 60 percent to 70 percent of gro-

cery store foods contain added sugar. Reformulating foods tailored to our genes and the plasticity of our taste buds could be a practical and powerful tool to enhance nutrition, promote health and decrease the burden of chronic disease. (AP)

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Syria revokes BBC media accreditation over 'fake news' coverage

BEIRUT, July 9, (AP) — Syria's Information Ministry has canceled the BBC's media accreditation, accusing the British public broadcaster of biased and fake news in its coverage of the war-torn country.

The announcement came days after BBC Arabic released an investigative documentary about the illicit drug trade in Syria, where they highlighted links between the estimated multi-billion dollar industry and the Syrian army as well as members of President Bashar Assad's family.

The Syrian Information Ministry in a statement late Saturday said the decision was made after "warning the channel more than once that it has broadcasted its misleading reports relying on statements and testimonies from terrorist entities and those hostile to Syria".

Damascus revoked the licenses of both the British broadcaster's radio and television correspondents in Syria, as well as their videographer.

"We speak to people across the political spectrum to establish the facts," the BBC said in a statement emailed to the Associated Press, adding that the broadcaster provides "impartial independent journalism. We will continue to provide impartial news and information to our audiences across the Arabic-speaking world".

The illicit drug industry, most notably the addictive Captagon amphetamine pills, has blossomed in war-torn Syria in recent years. While experts say it has been a way to generate revenue for the country's crippled economy and sanctioned leadership, it has scourged neighboring

Jordan and Saudi Arabia, as well as other Gulf countries.

Captagon has been used both recreationally and by people with physically demanding jobs to keep them alert as well as fighters on the battlefield.

The United Kingdom, United States, and European Union have sanctioned a handful of drug kingpins and close associates of Assad for their involvement in the trade.

The Syrian government denies any involvement in the production of Captagon. A Syrian parliamentarian told the AP last month that Syria has been used as a transit state for Captagon and other drugs, and accused opposition groups of running the industry.

After Syria restored relations with many of its neighboring countries and returned to the Arab fold, cracking down on drug smuggling has been a key issue in regional talks.

Syria's uprising which turned into a full-blown civil war, now in its 13th year, has killed nearly half a million people and displaced half of its prewar population of 23 million. Syrians in both government-held territory and an opposition-held enclave in the country's northwest suffer from rampant poverty and crippled infrastructure.

Also:

LONDON: Senior British politicians on Sunday called on the BBC to rapidly investigate claims that a leading presenter paid a teenager for

explicit photos.

The publicly funded national broadcaster is under pressure after The Sun newspaper reported allegations that the male presenter gave a youth 35,000 pounds (\$45,000) starting in 2020 when the young person was 17.

Neither the star nor the youth was identified. Amid speculation on social media about the identity of the presenter, several of the BBC's best-known stars spoke up to say it wasn't them.

Though the age of sexual consent in Britain is 16, it's a crime to make or possess indecent images of anyone under 18.

The Sun said the young person's mother had complained to the BBC in May. It was unclear what if any action the broadcaster had taken.

In a statement, the BBC said "we treat any allegations very seriously and we have processes in place to proactively deal with them."

"If, at any point, new information comes to light or is provided - including via newspapers - this will be acted upon appropriately, in line with internal processes," the broadcaster said.

UK media reported that the presenter was not due to be on the air in the near future, but it was unclear whether he had been suspended.

Government minister Victoria Atkins said the allegations were "very serious." She told Sky News that "as public attention and concern grows, the BBC is going to have to act very swiftly to deal with these allegations and to set out what they are doing to investigate them."

Media

Variety



This image released by Paramount Pictures shows Simon Pegg, (from left), Ving Rhames, Tom Cruise and Rebecca Ferguson in 'Mission: Impossible Dead Reckoning - Part One.' (AP)

Film

Cruise back with high-flying spectacle of daring-do

'MI' ups the ante in 'Dead Reckoning'

NEW YORK, July 9, (AP) — There are, as a rule, only so many places you can go as an action movie after leaving Tom Cruise clinging to the side of an Airbus A400M and flinging him out a cargo plane at 25,000 feet.

But in the kinetic, headlong world of "Mission: Impossible," the pressure to keep upping the ante - like the films' always-running star - never stops.

"Every time we finish a movie, the first thing Tom says to me is: We can do better," says Christopher McQuarrie.

McQuarrie, the writer-director of 2015's "Mission: Impossible - Rogue Nation" and the 2018 franchise high point, "Mission: Impossible - Fallout," was working with Cruise on "Top Gun: Maverick" (which McQuarrie co-wrote and co-produced) when they started talking about their ambitions for the next iteration of "Mission: Impossible."

Their plan was to make not one but two sequels: Back-to-back blockbusters that would feature even bigger stunts - Cruise envisioned a motorcycle jump-slash-skydive - and a massive train sequence that McQuarrie pinned to realize. The heady experience on "Maverick," a pop-culture juggernaut that grossed nearly \$1.5 billion worldwide, only further ratcheted up their aspirations.

"Top Gun: Maverick" really taught us a lot in terms of character dynamics and the emotional payoff of the movie overall," McQuarrie said in a recent interview. "To be making movies on this scale, you really need to think about, more than anything, the feeling that the audience is left with going away."

A year after the box-office dominance of "Maverick," McQuarrie and Cruise are back with another high-flying spectacle of daring-do. Similar to "Maverick," "Mission: Impossible - Dead Reckoning Part One" is a state-of-the-art action extravaganza of old-school technique, made with star power, practical effects and stunt work designed to prompt exclamations of "He did what?"

It was also their most nearly impossible mission yet - and not just because of, according to Paramount Pictures, the 500 skydives and 13,000 motocross jumps that Cruise did in preparation for his climactic stunt.

"Dead Reckoning" was just days away from beginning production in Venice when COVID-19 cases began skyrocketing in Italy, an early epicenter.

"Mission: Impossible" was one of the first major productions to be shut down by the pandemic. Months later, Cruise and "Dead Reckoning" - a globe-trotting \$290 million movie so logistically complicated that it prompted controversy for initial plans to blow up a century-old bridge in Poland - led an industry-wide effort to get movie business back on line during the pandemic. An already high-stress production became even more tense. In December 2020, an audio recording leaked of Cruise yelling at two crew members for not obeying COVID-19 protocols.

"We are the gold standard," Cruise said in the recording. "They're back there in Hollywood making movies right now because of us. Because they believe in us and what we're doing."

There were numerous delays and pivots along the way. But McQuarrie says he never thought "Dead Reckoning" wouldn't get finished.

Collaborated

"We just kept moving forward because if you stopped, if you were trying to find the end of the tunnel, you would just reach a place of such despair," says McQuarrie.

McQuarrie and Cruise first collaborated on the 2008 Hitler assassination drama "Valkyrie." McQuarrie, the famed screenwriter of "The Usual Suspects," was then in proverbial movie jail for his poorly received directorial debut, "The Way of the Gun."

"When I met Tom in 2006, I had not directed a film in seven years," McQuarrie says. "I wouldn't direct a film again for another five years. I had really put any ambitions I had to direct out of my mind. I certainly never imagined being considered an action director, let alone directing four action films."

"In 'Dead Reckoning,' you're seeing the ghosts of all the movies that I was never allowed to make," he adds.

Unlikely as it may be, McQuarrie (who's also directing the already-shooting part two of "Dead Reckoning") has emerged as the architect of one of the most

visceral action franchises.

In "Dead Reckoning," Ethan Hunt faces off with a rogue artificial intelligence, a prescient and well-suited antagonist for a movie universe built less on CGI than practical effects. McQuarrie told Cruise he wanted to take "Mission: Impossible" beyond the threat of a terrorist getting hold of a deadly weapon.

"Another lesson we took from 'Top Gun' was: What is the audience bringing to the movie? 'Top Gun' came out of Cold War anxieties. I said to Tom in 2019: What anxiety is it now?" says McQuarrie. "What we didn't anticipate was the level to which it would accelerate."

In "Mission: Impossible," what you see is rarely what you get. Hunt and his team of spies are masters of deception. At the same time, McQuarrie and his crew, including cinematographer Fraser Taggart, go to considerable lengths to ensure what the audience is watching feels authentic and immersive.

"The challenge normally is hiding the fact that it's not the actor doing it," says McQuarrie. "And here the reverse is the case. You're actually going to great lengths to show that Tom's actually doing it."

Taggart, who had shot the helicopter sequence in "Fallout," says he's never worked with an actor so resistant to stunt doubles as Cruise - even in the most innocuous of shots.

"Tom won't do it. He just refuses, even to the extent of you'll do an insert of hand," says Taggart. "It can't be anyone else doing it, as you would on other projects. Tom will insist that's him."

Just as "Top Gun: Maverick" strove to get as many cameras in the cockpits of fighter jets, the set-pieces of "Mission: Impossible" are choreographed to get cameras as close to Cruise and the cast - here that includes Hayley Atwell, Rebecca Ferguson and Vanessa Kirby - as possible.

For Taggart, that meant getting his head around often dizzying challenges like shooting a scene involving a train moving 60 miles an hour through a mountainous Scandinavian landscape with uncontrollable weather conditions. He didn't want just fixed cameras.

Features

ARABIC TIMES

MONDAY, JULY 10, 2023

PARIS: The children of French actor **Alain Delon** accused a woman who lived with the 87-year-old movie star of bullying him and of mistreating his dog, and a French prosecutor directed police to investigate the legal complaints.

The prosecutor, **Jean-Cédric Gaux**, said in a statement that Delon's family filed two legal complaints this week against **Hiroimi Rollin**. Gaux said Rollin lived with the star of "The Samurai," "The Leopard" and other movies at the Delon family home and described her as the actor's companion.

Rollin denies any wrongdoing, according to her lawyer, Yassine Bouzrou.

A complaint filed by a lawyer for Delon's children **Anthony, Anouchka** and **Alain-Fabien** alleged that Rollin was "demeaning and aggressive" with Delon and his children, sought to intercept his mail and phone messages, and that she hit his dog, the prosecutor's statement said.

The actor himself supported the legal action, the statement said.

In a second complaint, Anthony Delon accused Rollin of violence against a vulnerable person and of animal cruelty, according to the statement.

The prosecutor said he opened a preliminary investigation and entrusted police to look into the complaints.

Rollin's lawyer, **Bouzrou**, said in a statement that she contests the accusations "in their entirety." The statement said Rollin is filing a complaint of her own against members of Delon's family and bodyguards for alleged violent acts against her. (AP)

SEATTLE: A 26-year-old member of the US military accused of fatally shooting two women and wounding three other people at a music festival at Washington state's Gorge Amphitheatre has entered not guilty pleas to multiple charges.

The Seattle Times reports **James M. Kelly** pleaded not guilty to two counts of first-degree murder, two counts of first-degree assault and one count of first-degree domestic violence assault in the shooting at the Beyond Wonderland electronic dance music festival, according to **Grant County** Superior Court documents.

Seattle couple **Brandy Escamilla** and **Josilyn Ruiz** died in the June 17 shooting.

A public defender was assigned to Kelly, whose next court appearance is set for July 25. A trial was set for late August, and Kelly could face a sentence of up to life in prison, court documents said. He remains lodged in the county jail without bail.

Kelly told detectives he took psychedelic mushrooms June 17



Alain-Fabien



Alain

that caused him to hallucinate. A woman he was dating who was also shot recalled him saying he thought the world was ending, according to probable cause documents. Kelly then went to his truck to get a gun and shot the two women, documents say. He also shot the woman he was dating, another person attending the festival and an

employee, the documents allege.

Kelly, an active member of the US Army at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in western Washington, alleges his hallucinations might have led to the shooting, according to court documents.

The Gorge bans weapons at its venue and campground. It's unclear how that policy is enforced

at the venue's campgrounds, but police said they are investigating.

Shortly before 8:30 p.m., Kelly shot Escamilla and Ruiz, who were walking through the campground, according to court documents. He also shot a 31-year-old man from **Eugene, Oregon**, who headed toward the area when he heard the gunshots, documents allege. (AP)

People & Places

Fashion

Old trends revisited

Y2K fashion booms as Gen Z is loving it

NEW YORK, July 9, (AP): First came the supposed death of skinny jeans. Then, the resurgence of cargo pants, halter tops and baby tees.

If there's one thing retailers can agree on, it's that Gen Z is hot for the early 2000s fashion trends now booming in popularity.

College interns and young workers are donning wide-legged slacks at the office. The claw clip, a retro hair staple, is back; as are mesh tops, miniskirts and a host of colorful apparel that can make consumers look like they stepped out of a Disney Channel show from 2004.

Fueled by social media platforms including TikTok, the so-called Y2K trend resurfaced as consumers began attending parties and going out after pandemic lockdowns. What began with hair accessories like butterfly clips and the comeback of straight-leg jeans has expanded to all-denim garments, cargo and flare pants and everything shiny, among other looks.

Casey Lewis, a New York trend analyst, noted so many micro trends - often tagged with the suffix "core" - cranked up in the past few years that she created a newsletter about them.



Gomez

Think "Barbiecore" and "mermaidcore," which highlight the hot pink reminiscent of Mattel Inc.'s Barbie doll or sheer materials with ocean-like hues and sequins. There's also "coastal granddaughter," the youthful update that evolved from the "coastal grandmother" trend featuring oversized cardigans and linen sets.

"Gen Z is not even close to being done revisiting these old trends," said Lewis, whose "After School" newsletter documents youth consumer behavior. "They are going to dig into every weird trend from way back when and bring it back."

Retailers from high-end Nordstrom to discounters and fast fashion outlets are pushing the styles in campaigns and on shelves. And consumers seem to be eating it up.

Garments

Sales of women's cargo pants jumped 81% from January to May, the latest month of available data, according to Circana, which tracks retail purchases. Low-cost fashion chains H&M and Zara say they're seeing success with biker jackets, denim garments and crop tops. And Chinese fast-fashion retailer Shein, which markets to young women, said its baby tee sales have tripled this year, making them by far the hottest t-shirt style of 2023.

The company also is seeing a big jump in sales of flared pants, corset tops, metallic-colored clothing and women's track suits, which are often made from bright velour fabric reminiscent of some wardrobe choices by socialite Paris Hilton at the height of her popularity.

Style watchers classify it as part of the McBling era, which overlaps with Y2K but emphasizes flashier items personified by brands like Juicy Couture and Baby Phat, the iconic streetwear line by TV personality and designer Kimora Lee Simmons, which relaunched in 2019.

As always, trends are fueled by celebrities like model Bella Hadid, whose outfit choices are analyzed by fashion magazines and other on-lookers. Style also bubbles up directly from consumers via social media, challenging retailers accustomed to runway shows setting the tone.

"There's not a year advanced notice that these trends are going to trickle down," said Kristen Classi-Zummo, an analyst who covers fashion apparel for Circana.

Retailers, including Macy's and Walmart, said they are paying closer attention to what pops up on social sites and analyzing topics searched by users. But it can be challenging to recognize the difference between trends that just generate attention versus those shoppers will actually buy, said Jake Bjorseth, who runs trndstts, an agency helping companies reach young consumers.

Alix Hilzer, Walmart editorial director for fashion apparel, said she's also seeing a lot of micro trends. Some have more longevity than others, making it challenging to figure out when to jump on them.

The discounter, which is marketing Y2K inspired cargo pants and Barbiecore, has been speeding up development to get trends to market faster, though the company declined to offer more specific details. Walmart also is following key influencers such as Alix Earle, who has collaborated with A-listers including Selena Gomez.

Affordable

Despite retailers catering to young consumers, many aren't really buying. Instead, they are wearing items from each others' closets, helping fuel a resale market that has tripled since 2020, according to research by Boston Consulting Group and Vestiare Collective, a French luxury resale site. Affordability was the primary driver, but shoppers also bought used items to be more planet-friendly.

Yasmeen Bekhit, a 22-year-old graduate student in Manheim, Pennsylvania, said she frequents a local thrift shop almost every week and shops at resale sites like Depop, which offers Y2K-heavy options such as baguette bags and baggy jeans.

Bekhit typically gravitates toward looser, flowy pants, flare-legged jeans and tighter shirts like mesh tops, which help her stay cooler in the summer while wearing a hijab. She's inspired by the way former Disney Channel stars like Gomez and Hilary Duff used to style themselves, she said.

Popular TikTok influencer Aliyah Bah, who amassed more than 2.5 million followers showcasing her Y2K-inspired look known as "Aliyahcore," also inspires Bekhit. The look is a bit more alternative, often featuring miniskirts or shorts matched with crop tops, fishnet stockings and furry knee-high boots.

"I really love her way of styling outfits," Bekhit said.

But for everyday, Bekhit said she typically looks up outfit ideas on social media and puts her own twist on them.

Retro hair also is making a splash. Tahlya Love-day, a master stylist at The Drawing Room New York Salon, said she has seen a lot more '90s and Y2K trends, like spiky updos and space buns, bouncy blow-dried looks and block coloring, where sections of hair are colored in contrasting colors. Gen Z clients embrace those looks more than millennials, she said.

"For Gen Z, this is all new to them," Circana's Classi-Zummo said. "They're really not reliving it. So while we might see it as something that's cyclical and coming back, they're kind of getting it for the first time."



Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band perform live at British Summer Time Hyde Park in London, Thursday, July 6. (AP)



Yasmeen Bekhit, a 22-year-old graduate student, adjusts her Y2K-inspired outfit while posing for a photograph near her home in Manheim, Pa., Tuesday, June 27, 2023. If there's one thing retailers will tell you, it's that Gen Z hasn't let up on early 2000s trends that are booming in popularity two decades later. (AP)



Fonda



Nero

Variety

PHILADELPHIA: Peter Nero, a Grammy-winning pianist who interpreted pop songs through classical and jazz forms and served as the **Philly Pops'** conductor for more than three decades, has died. Nero was 89.

Nero died at Home Care Assisted Living Facility in **Eustis, Fla.**, according to his daughter, **Beverly Nero**, The Philadelphia Inquirer reported. Services will be private.

Nero colored his renditions of pop songs - from **Cole Porter** and **George Gershwin** to the **Beatles** and **Bob Dylan** - with classical, swing, Broadway, blues and jazz melodies. He often called his sound "undefinable" and was not offended when others called it "middle of the road." (He once told a newspaper, "Middle of the road and doing great business.")

Recruited by Philadelphia concert promoter **Moe Sptee**, Nero started the Philly Pops orchestra in 1979, the year **Arthur Fiedler** died. Fiedler is credited with virtually inventing the modern version of the pops orchestra in **Boston**, and Nero hoped to rival it in popularity.

"I'd like to beat the pants off them," Nero said at the time.

Nero's orchestra wasn't as prominent as Boston's, but it did tout routine sellouts in Philadelphia, no doubt helped by Nero's lively playing style and warm stage presence.

In his work as both performer and conductor, Nero returned frequently to Broadway tunes, Hollywood themes and Gershwin, the subject of the Philly Pops' first concert. But he also dipped into Motown's catalog and farther afield to bands such as Procol Harum and an album devoted to disco and '70s love songs.

In 1975, he lamented to The Washington Post: "I find it impossible to use a lot of the new material that's coming out. There is some rock material in my repertoire ... but a lot of rock groups are selling a sound, not music. You take the tune apart and there's nothing there to work with."

He led the Philly Pops until 2013, exiting his leadership role when the orchestra said it could no longer afford him.

By his own admission, Nero struggled early in his career - under the name **Berrie Nerow** - during stints in **New York** and **Las Vegas**. But he found his stride in his late 20s playing in New York's club circuit.

Music

The Boss, at 73, still going strong

Springsteen brings alive London

LONDON, July 9, (AP): Bruce Springsteen was not going to let concert promoters pull the plug on him like the last time he played Hyde Park 11 years ago.

"F--- 'em is right," Springsteen growled in delight as he feigned concern that a looming curfew would bring down the lights on his sold-out show Thursday before 65,000 faithful.

Blowing the deadline was never a real threat as Springsteen, still going strong at 73, got an earlier start and powered through a three-hour set Thursday in rapid-fire succession. He only broke stride a few times to reflect on the passing of time and the passing of friends.

The 28-song set included anthemic classics like "Born in the U.S.A.," "Prove it all Night" and "Born to Run," along with several newer tunes and one cover in a show that leaned heavy on a message of mortality but felt more like a celebration of life as an enthusiastic audience sang along on a beautiful summer evening.

"London is there anyone alive out there tonight?" he boomed in an intro to "Mary's Place," one of several tunes that showcased the E Street Band's crisp horn section, dueling keyboards and impressive group of backup singers supported, of course, by tens of thousands of amateurs. "If you're alive, then I'm alive. And that's what we came here for."

The tour, Springsteen's first in seven years, kicked off in Tampa in February and has included almost the same set list every night, which is unusual for a performer who has often played requests fans post on handwritten signs.

Springsteen followed the members of the E Street Band onto stage just after 7 p.m. to a roar of "Bruuuuuuce" that can sound like boos to the uninitiated. His short-cropped silver hair slicked back, Springsteen wore a black button-snap shirt with short sleeves rolled up to show his still-taut pipes, dark jeans cuffed at the ankle and oxblood Doc Martens boots.

After the requisite "Hello London," he promptly counted out "one, two, three, four" for the chest-thumping drum intro to "No Surrender" that set

fans roaring and band charging forward like a hard-rocking freight train.

Even that opener about friendship and the power of music with its memorable line about learning "more from a three-minute record ... than we ever learned in school" captured the theme of the evening.

"Young faces grow sad and old," he sang in a stanza that gives way to "I'm ready to grow young again" before the eventual chorus vow of "no retreat ... no surrender."

He followed with "Ghosts," a soaring tribute to bandmates he had lost that concludes with "I'm alive and I'm out here on my own/I'm alive and I'm comin' home."

But Springsteen was not alone. He had 17 supporting members of the E Street Band that has been rocking for 50 years in an evolving cast of talented musicians, that included some of the longest-serving members: guitarists Little Steven Van Zandt and Nils Lofgren, drummer Max Weinberg, bassist Gary Tallent and keyboardist Roy Bittan.

Cancellations

Despite a few cancellations on the tour due to unspecified illness, Springsteen remains a formidable performer though he moved a little more stiffly as he hustled along the stage or walked down several steps to slap palms and pose for selfies with ecstatic front-row audience.

On a rousing "Out in the Street," in which he sings "I walk the way I want to walk," he stumbled climbing stairs back to the stage. It was not as awkward as a fall on stage at an Amsterdam show in May. He sat on the stairs to finish the song and Clemons sat next to him.

He conducted the E Street Band like a symphony, waving his arms, swing-

ing his hand to indicate a downbeat or counting out time with his right hand. He joked that he practices the motions in the mirror at night.

After a jazzy jam of more than 10 minutes on "Kitty's Back" that had Springsteen open the tune by running his fingers along the fretboard of his Fender electric guitar to produce a screeching wail of feedback and growled like Tom Waits, the band eased into "Night Shift" a Commodores tribute to R&B singers Marvin Gaye and Jackie Wilson. The song recorded on his latest record, "Only the Strong Survive," of soul covers featured beautiful backing vocals by Curtis King whose impressive ability to hit high notes put a smile on Springsteen's face.

Halfway through the show, the band took a break and Springsteen approached the mic alone with acoustic guitar. The audience was silent as he told how he "embarked on the greatest adventure of my young life" in 1965 by joining his first band, The Castles. A half-century later, he was at the deathbed of the friend who founded the band, George Theiss, and realized he'd soon be the lone survivor of that group of guys.

"Death is like you're standing on the railroad tracks with an oncoming train bearing down upon you," he said. "It brings a certain clarity of thought and of purpose and of meaning. ... Death's final and lasting gift to all of us is an expanded vision of this life. Of how important it is to seize the day whenever you can."

"At 15, it's all hellos and later on there's a lot more hard goodbyes," he said. "So be good to yourself and those that you love."

He then sang the song inspired by Theiss' death, "Last Man Standing," from his most recent album of original material, "Letter to You," from 2020.

The band then tore through Springsteen staples including "Because the Night," "Badlands," "Thunder Road," "Glory Days" and "Dancing in the Dark." Even with the crowd singing full-throttle, they couldn't drown out Bruce's powerful voice or the sound system amplifying it.

He was signed to RCA by **Stan Gree-**son, who saw a potential star and had him change his name to Peter Nero. A steady stream of early 1960s club shows led to regular radio and TV appearances and

two dozen RCA albums over the span of a decade.

Nero earned Grammy Awards in 1961 for best new artist and in 1962 for best performance by an orchestra or instrumentalist

for his record "The Colorful Peter Nero."

A 1963 album, "Hail the Conquering Nero," peaked at No. 5 on the Billboard pop album chart. It included versions of "My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean" and "Mack the Knife."

He also charted with a version of "Theme from 'The Summer of '42,'" a song written by **Michel Legrand** for the 1971 movie. Nero's version hit No. 21 on the Billboard pop singles chart.

Nero also wrote the score for the 1963 **Jane Fonda** film "Sunday in New York" and made an appearance in the movie. (AP)

THE HAGUE, Netherlands: An Amsterdam museum that severed ties with St Petersburg's Hermitage collection after **Moscow's** invasion of **Ukraine** last year has been renamed and announced partnerships with renowned galleries in **London, Paris** and **Washington, DC**.

Starting in September, the Hermitage Amsterdam will be called **H'ART** Museum. It has established partnerships with the British Museum, Centre Pompidou and the Smithsonian American Art Museum to bring art to the historic building on the banks of the Dutch capital's Amstel River.

"It's an exciting new step for us, a contemporary and future-proof model," museum director **Annabelle Birnie** said in a statement. (AP)



This image released by Nat Geo shows Bradley Cooper, (right), and Bear Grylls on a paraglider hung off the edge of Pathfinder Canyon in Wyoming, in a scene from "Running Wild with Bear Grylls: The Challenge," premiered on July 9. (AP)

Climate

'Thermal inequality'

Cities' extreme heat plans may fall short

CHICAGO, July 9, (AP): Natural disasters can be dramatic - barreling hurricanes, building-topping tornadoes - but heat is more deadly.

Chicago learned that the hard way in 1995. That July, a weeklong heat wave that hit 106 degrees Fahrenheit (41 degrees Celsius) killed more than 700 people. Most of the deaths occurred in poor and majority Black neighborhoods, where many elderly or isolated people suffered without proper ventilation or air conditioning. Power outages from an overwhelmed grid made it all worse.

Initially slow to react, Chicago has since developed emergency heat response plans that include a massive push to alert the public and then connect the most vulnerable to the help they may need. Other cities like Los Angeles, Miami and Phoenix now have "chief heat officers" to coordinate planning and response for dangerous heat. Around the world, cities and countries have adopted similar measures.

But experts warn those steps might not be enough in a world that is seeing heat records consistently shatter and with continuing inequality in who is most vulnerable.

"I don't know a single city that is truly prepared for the worst-case scenario that some climate scientists fear," said **Eric Klinenberg**, a professor of social sciences at New York University who wrote a book about the Chicago heat wave.

Heat preparedness has generally improved over the years as forecasting has become more accurate, and as meteorologists, journalists and government officials have focused on spreading the word of upcoming danger. Chicago, for example, has expanded its emergency text and email notification system and identified its most vulnerable residents for outreach.

But what works in one city might not be as effective in another. That's because each has its own unique architecture, transportation, layout and inequities, said Bharat Venkat, an associate professor at UCLA who directs the university's Heat Lab, aimed at tackling what he calls "thermal inequality."



Klinenberg

Warning

Venkat thinks cities should address inequality by investing in labor rights, sustainable development and more. That may sound expensive - who pays, for instance, when a city tries to improve conditions for workers in blistering food trucks? - but Venkat thinks doing nothing will ultimately cost more.

"The status quo is actually deeply expensive," he said. "We just don't do the math."

France launched a heat watch warning system after an extended heat wave in 2003 was estimated to have caused 15,000 deaths - many of them older people in city apartments and homes without air conditioning. The system includes public announcements urging people to hydrate. Just last month, Germany launched a new campaign against heatwave deaths that it said was inspired by France's experience.

In India, a powerful heat wave in 2010 with temperatures over 118 degrees Fahrenheit (48 degrees Celsius) led to the deaths of over 1,300 people in the city of Ahmedabad. City officials now have a heat action plan to improve awareness in the local population and health care staff. Another simple initiative: Painting roofs white to reflect the blazing sun.

Ladd Keith, an assistant professor at the University of Arizona, cited Baltimore's Code Red Extreme Heat alerts as an example of a well-designed alert system. The alerts go out when the forecast calls for a heat index of 105 Fahrenheit or higher, and sets in motion things like more social services in communities most vulnerable to heat risks.

He lauded the heat officers in cities like Los Angeles, Miami and Phoenix, but said there are "still over 19,000 cities and towns without them."

Inkyu Han, an environmental health scientist at Temple University in Philadelphia, noted that cities are still struggling to get aids such as cooling centers and subsidized air conditioning into poorer neighborhoods. He said more can be done, too, with simple and sustainable solutions such as improving tree canopy.

"Notably, low-income neighborhoods and communities of color in Philadelphia often lack street trees and green spaces," Han said.

In Providence, Rhode Island, the Atlantic Ocean typically moderates temperatures but the region can still get heat waves. Kate Moretti, an emergency room physician, said the city's hospitals see more patients when the heat strikes - with increases in illnesses that may not be obviously related to heat, like heart attacks, kidney failure and mental health problems.

"We definitely notice that it puts a strain on the system," Moretti said. Older people, people who work outdoors, people with disabilities and people who are homeless make up a big share of those admissions, she said.

Vulnerable

Miami - considered a ground zero for the climate change threat due to its vulnerability to sea level rise, flooding, hurricanes and extreme heat - appointed its heat officer two years ago to develop strategies to keep people safe from the heat.

Robin Bachin, an associate professor of civic and community engagement at the University of Miami, noted that the federal government has laws to protect people in cold climates from having their heat shut off in dangerous conditions, but doesn't have something similar for cooling.

"For people in apartments that are not publicly subsidized, there is no requirement for landlords to provide air conditioning," Bachin said. "That's incredibly dangerous to particularly our local low-income population, let alone people who are unhoused or are outdoor workers."

Klinenberg said that the United States has so far gotten lucky with the duration of most heat waves, but that electrical grids vulnerable to high demand in some regions, along with persistent social inequities, could spell serious trouble in the coming decades.

That's partly because the underlying social problems that make heat events so deadly are only getting worse, Klinenberg said. Chicago's 1995 deaths were clustered not only in poor and segregated neighborhoods, but also specifically within what he calls "depleted" neighborhoods, places where it's harder for people to gather together and where social connections have been worn thin. Empty lots, abandoned restaurants and poorly maintained parks mean that people are less likely to check up on each other.

Noboru Nakamura, a professor of atmospheric sciences at the University of Chicago who specializes in extreme weather events, said he thinks Chicago has made plenty of smart changes by implementing heat emergency plans, routine wellness checks and cooling centers.

But he too cited inequality as a difficult challenge. "A systemic problem of a resource inequity is something that you can't really get rid of overnight. And we still have the same issue that we had back then today," Nakamura said. "So that aspect still is a big, big, big, big unsolved problem."



In this photo provided by the Florida Keys News Bureau, Tamara Bredova, (left), costumed as a mermaid, pretends to play a ukulele underwater, Saturday, July 8, while Kelly Angel, strokes a faux guitar at the Lower Keys Underwater Music Festival in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary near Big Pine Key, Fla.

Several hundred divers and snorkelers submerged along a portion of the continental United States' only living coral barrier reef to listen to a local radio station's four-hour broadcast, piped beneath the sea to promote coral reef preservation. (AP)

Underwater show in the Fla Keys promotes awareness of coral reef protection

Hundreds of divers and snorkelers listened to an underwater concert that advocated coral reef protection Saturday in the Florida Keys.

The Lower Keys Underwater Music Festival, which also spotlighted eco-conscious diving, took place at Looe Key Reef, an area of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary located about 6 miles (10 kilometers) south of Big Pine Key.

Established in 1990, the sanctuary protects 3,800 square miles (9,800 square kilometers) of waters including the barrier reef that parallels the 125-mile-

long (201-kilometer-long) island chain.

Participants swam among Looe Key's colorful marine life and coral formations while listening to water-themed music broadcast by a local radio station. The music was piped undersea through waterproof speakers suspended beneath boats above the reef.

The oceanic playlist included the Beatles' "Yellow Submarine," Jimmy Buffett's "Fins" and the theme from "The Little Mermaid."

Tunes were interspersed with diver awareness messages about ways to minimize environmental impacts

on the world's coral reefs, whose rich biodiversity has led them to be called the rainforests of the sea.

While the festival's primary purpose was to encourage reef preservation, it also afforded a singular underwater experience. "Mermaids" and other costumed characters added unique visual elements to the auditory offering on part of the continental United States' only living coral barrier reef.

The four-hour musical event was staged by local radio station 104.1 FM and the Lower Keys Chamber of Commerce. (AP)

The Conversation

E. coli problem for science and medicine

ESKAPE poses global health threat

By Megan Keller and Tobias Dörr
Cornell University

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

In 1857, a young pediatrician named Theodor Escherich discovered what may very well be the most well-studied organism today. The rod-shaped bacterium named *Escherichia coli*, better known as *E. coli*, is a very common microbe residing in your gut. It's also the workhorse of early molecular biology.

Luck likely played a role in its rise in popularity among scientists. Even under 19th-century lab conditions, where sterilization techniques were not perfect and little was known about what food bacteria need to survive, this microbe was easy to cultivate and grow quickly. It can replicate in under 20 minutes and can use a variety of carbon sources for energy.

As the first species to have its physiology thoroughly explored, *E. coli* has contributed fundamental knowledge to the fields of microbiology, molecular genetics and biochemistry, including how DNA replicates, how genes create proteins and how bacteria share genetic material among themselves - a huge cause of antibiotic resistance.

However, the favored use of *E. coli* in the lab has also led to oversimplifications in the world of microbiology, distracting researchers from the thousands of other bacterial species that remain understudied.

As microbiologists studying the inner mechanisms of antibiotic tolerance, we and colleagues in our lab examine bacterial species that physiologically differ from *E. coli* in hopes of expanding the existing pool of knowledge within microbiology. For instance, drugs like penicillin fall into a class of antibiotics that target the outer defenses of the bacteria. We found that while *E. coli* succumbs to this attack, species like *Vibrio* or *Klebsiella* can tolerate it and survive.

A one-size-fits-all approach may have worked in the past, but embracing the true diversity of microbes could help scientists better fight the rise of antibiotic resistance.

Researchers worked out the very foundations of life using *E. coli*. The significance of this bacterium for the field of biology is probably best captured by the biochemist Jacques Monod, who famously said, "What is true for *E. coli* is true for the elephant."

Because researchers were able to watch regions of *E. coli*'s DNA become mobile, allowing bacteria to transfer DNA among one another in a process called conjugation, scientists learned to manipulate this process to genetically alter organisms and study the effects of different genes.

E. coli helped reveal that bacterial chromosomes are circular and that manipulating a specific enzyme can allow scientists to easily clone parts of the bacterial genome.

Viruses

E. coli also opened doors to using a type of bacterial viruses called phages as an alternative to antibiotics.

Widely available knowledge about and methods to study *E. coli* led to its prominence in academic and commercial research and drug production. In 2015, nearly 30% of proteins used as treatments for a wide range of diseases like hepatitis C and multiple sclerosis were derived from *E. coli*.

E. coli's track record has solidified its place in the lab as a model organism. Model organisms are nonhuman species researchers use to study biology, with the expectation that the findings can be applied to other species like humans. Species are often chosen for their ease of maintenance, quick life cycles and overall cost-effectiveness.

However, model organisms have their drawbacks. Some researchers have argued that drawing parallels across species can sometimes fall short, leading to assumptions about more complex

species that may not be true.

Additionally, study findings using nonmodel organisms are often less visible in the broader scientific community, since many researchers focus on organisms with known and defined traits. This bias results in a shadow space where progress is not immediately incorporated into broader scientific knowledge, which can slow down research that actually covers a range from bacteria to elephants.

Model organisms are not perfect, and *E. coli* may not be an effective species to use to study many human bacterial infections. Focusing research on this microbe limits the exploration of how other bacteria infiltrate and infect human hosts. While some strains of *E. coli* can be deadly, they are not the only worrisome pathogens today.

ESKAPE pathogens, a group of bacteria that are highly resistant to antibiotics, pose a massive global health threat because they can quickly evolve traits that allow them to evade immune systems and available treatments. Species within ESKAPE, such as *Klebsiella pneumoniae* and *E. cloacae*, are able to resist multiple drugs and exhibit physical characteristics that *E. coli* does not, such as the ability to remove their cell wall and evade certain drugs.

Our lab is studying the unique traits that allow ESKAPE pathogens to survive antibiotics - traits we would not have known about if we used only *E. coli* as a model organism in our research.

With the many basics of fundamental bacterial cell and molecular biology covered thanks to *E. coli*, it may be time for researchers to turn toward the new pathogens wreaking havoc on society. Model organisms are wondrous tools, but they have limited power to allow findings to be extrapolated to other organisms. Better understanding the underpinnings of bacterial infections and antibiotics for a given disease requires studying the specific organism. (AP)



The Space Shuttle Endeavour lifts off pad 39-B with a crew seven at Kennedy Space Center, Fla., Sept. 12, 1992. The lengthy process of putting the retired space shuttle Endeavour on display in the vertical launch position will begin this month in Los Angeles. The California Science Center announced Thursday, July 6, that the six-month process will get underway July 20 at the future Samuel Oschin Air and Space Center currently under construction in Exposition Park. (AP)



Uslu



Gilbreath

Discovery

Museums to return artifacts: Two Dutch museums are handing hundreds of cultural artifacts back to Indonesia and Sri Lanka - from a richly decorated cannon to precious metals and jewelry - that were taken, often by force, in the colonial era.

The government announced the planned restitution of 478 "cultural objects". Some Western nations are returning looted artifacts and other objects as part of a reckoning with their often brutal colonial histories.

A Berlin museum announced in January it is ready to return hundreds of human skulls from the former German colony of East Africa. In 2021, France said it was returning statues, royal thrones and sacred altars taken from the West African nation of Benin. And last year, Belgium returned a gold-capped tooth belonging to the slain Congolese independence hero Patrice Lumumba.

"This is a historic moment. It is the first time that, based on the advice of the Advisory Committee on the Return of Cultural Objects from Colonial Context, we are returning objects that should never have been in the Netherlands," said State Secretary for Culture and Media **Gunay Uslu**.

The committee was set up in 2022 to assess requests by countries for restitution of artifacts in state museums. It is considering more restitution requests from Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Nigeria.

One of the highlights of the looted objects being returned to Sri Lanka is the Cannon of Kandy, a ceremonial weapon made of bronze, silver and gold, and inlaid with rubies. The barrel is decorated with the symbols of the King of Kandy: a sun, a half-moon and a Sinhalese lion.

The cannon has been in the collection of the Rijksmuseum, the national museum of art and history, since 1800. The museum said it was looted by Dutch East India Company troops during the siege and plunder of Kandy in 1765. (AP)

Search underway for wallaby: A search is underway in the rural Oklahoma community of Blanchard for a missing pet

wallaby.

The animal, which is similar to a kangaroo, but smaller, escaped its backyard enclosure and is believed to be in some thick woods near the edge of town, said Dani-
ana Daniels, city clerk in Blanchard, which is about 30 miles (48 kilometers) south of Oklahoma City.

Daniels says the animal is not typically aggressive, but might kick if it's cornered

ana Daniels, city clerk in Blanchard, which is about 30 miles (48 kilometers) south of Oklahoma City.

Daniels says the animal is not typically aggressive, but might kick if it's cornered



An aurora borealis, also known as the northern lights, is seen in the night sky in the early morning hours of Monday, April 24, 2023, near Washtucna, Wash. A solar storm forecast for Thursday, July 13, is expected to give skygazers in more than a dozen American states a chance to glimpse the Northern Lights. (AP)

"They can hurt somebody if they approach it and try to corner it," she said.

It is legal to own a wallaby in Oklahoma, but the animal should be registered with the city, Daniels said.

The wallaby's owner, **Gil Gilbreath**, uses it for petting zoos. He tells Fox 25 the animal is typically shy and "a little skittish." "I think he's probably out in that tall grass, maybe, because he likes that tall grass, likes to hide in it," Gilbreath told the television station.

Gilbreath said he's still working to tame the animal and as a result, "he's going to be hard to catch when we find him." (AP)

National Grid to pay \$5.38m: National Grid agreed to pay \$5.38 million to state and federal agencies to resolve claims over environmental damage caused by the defunct Gloucester Gas Light Company, officials said.

Hazardous chemicals released by the plant, which operated from 1854 to 1952, contaminated soil, groundwater and sediment in Gloucester Harbor, officials said.

"This settlement is an important step toward addressing years of pollution in Gloucester Harbor that injured the community's natural resources," Carrie Selberg Robinson, director for habitat conservation for fisheries at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, said in a statement. (AP)

Lawler heads into retirement on a high note

Volkanovski beats Rodriguez with 3rd-round TKO for featherweight title

LAS VEGAS, July 9, (AP): After briefly flirting with the lightweight division, Alexander Volkanovski returned to featherweight and showed Saturday night why he's still the best in that weight.

Volkanovski re-asserted himself as the champion with a technical knockout over Yair Rodriguez at 4:19 of the third round in UFC 290.

Rodriguez was the interim champion after Volkanovski temporarily moved up to lightweight, but the Australian left little doubt who the better fighter in running his record to 26-2 in what was scheduled as a five-round bout.

"There was a bit of fear ... knowing how dangerous he was," Volkanovski said. "That's the honest truth. I put in my head. This week, I flipped the switch because of the respect I have for him. Now I'm a champion. I'm the king of the division. No one's ever stopped me."

Former President Donald Trump, who is running for the Republican nomination in 2024, was among those

in attendance. He entered the venue shortly before the main card began, walking next to UFC President Dana White and drawing roars from the sold-out T-Mobile Arena crowd of 19,204. Trump shook hands with Las Vegas Raiders star defensive end Maxx Crosby, a major UFC fan who sat behind him. Jamal Murray of the NBA champion Denver Nuggets also had a floor seat.

MIXED MARTIAL ARTS

White said the gate was \$9.75 million.

"I think you couldn't have topped off a better International Fight Week," White said. "The energy was off the charts. It was a perfect night."

Volkanovski, a minus-390 favorite according to FanDuel Sportsbook, took Rodriguez (16-4) to the mat near the 2-minute mark of the first round and kept him there to dictate the pace. That became a theme as the second round played out much the same way,



Alexander Volkanovski reacts after defeating Yair Rodriguez during a featherweight mixed martial arts bout during UFC 290 in Las Vegas. (AP)

with Volkanovski, 34, also delivering several shots to Rodriguez's face.

Rodriguez, who is from Mexico, then took the fight to Volkanovski in the third

round, preventing the ground and pound with a series of kicks to put him on the defense. But with a minute left, Volkanovski slammed Rodriguez, 30, to the

mat and pounded him with rights and lefts before referee Herb Dean stepped in. Rodriguez was sent to the hospital.

This was Volkanovski's first fight since a loss by unanimous decision to lightweight champion Islam Makhachev on Feb. 11. That ended Volkanovski's 22-fight winning streak, and after the brief elevation to lightweight, he dropped back down to featherweight for this fight.

Before moving up, Volkanovski had won five titles fights to make a strong argument as best featherweight of all time. He also has been in the conversation for top current pound-for-pound fighter, and Volkanovski is second in the UFC's official rankings to Jon Jones.

The Volkanovski-Rodriguez match highlighted the International Fight Week card that included a second championship bout.

Brazil's Alexandre Pantoja captured the flyweight belt by beating champion Brandon Moreno of Mexico, winning by split decision, with both fighters taken to a hospital after the bout. White said Moreno had a broken hand.

Judges Derek Cleary and Junichiro Kamijo gave the Pantoja the victory at 48-47 in the five-round fight, but Ben Cartledge saw the bout quite differently with a 49-46 score in favor of Moreno.

Pantoja (26-5) collapsed to the mat after the decision was announced. He has beaten Moreno (21-7-2) in all three meetings.

Moreno, a minus-196 favorite, dominated the second round, but had a hard defending Pantoja's ground game in the other four. Even so, the battle was fairly even for the most part, and the blood on both fighters' faces underscored how much each went after the other.

Moreno won the belt nearly a year ago and successfully defended it in January. Robbie Lawler, who was inducted into the UFC Hall of Fame on Thursday, heads into retirement on a high note after knocking out Niko Price just 38 seconds into the first round of their welterweight bout.

Lawler, 41, ends his career with a 30-16 record and one no-contest. He teared up watching a video tribute to him following the fight, and the crowd roared chanting his first name.

Manning, Foley and Lange toss first combined no-hitter in Tigers history

Marlins end Phillies franchise-record tying 13-game road winning streak

DETROIT, July 9, (AP): Matt Manning, Jason Foley and Alex Lange teamed up for the first combined no-hitter in Detroit history as the Tigers beat the Toronto Blue Jays 2-0 on Saturday.

It's the ninth no-hitter in Tigers history and first since Spencer Turnbull blanked Seattle on May 18, 2021. And, it's the majors' first combined no-hitter in the regular season since three Houston Astros pitchers shut down the New York Yankees in June 2022.

Manning (3-1) struck out five, hit a batter and walked three in 6 2/3 innings, and Foley got four straight outs. Lange came in for the ninth and struck out Bo Bichette on three pitches. Brandon Belt lined out to center field, and Vladimir Guerrero Jr. grounded out to third on an 0-2 pitch, setting off a celebration at the mound.

BASEBALL

Spencer Torkelson had an RBI double and Kerry Carpenter added an RBI triple for the Tigers, all in the first inning.

Reds 8, Brewers 5

In Milwaukee, Elly De La Cruz became the first Cincinnati player since 1919 to steal second, third and home in the same inning in a victory over Milwaukee in a matchup of the NL West's top teams.

De La Cruz broke a 5-5 tie in the seventh inning with a two-out RBI single off Elvis Peguero. He stole second and then, on a 1-2 pitch from Peguero (1-2), swiped third without a throw. The rattled reliever caught the ball from his catcher in front of the mound and turned his back as he walked slowly toward the rubber. Pausing only to put his helmet back on, De La Cruz walked down the third base line, broke into a sprint and easily beat Peguero's rushed throw to the plate.

De La Cruz has 16 stolen bases in 30 games and went 2 for 5 to improve his batting average to .328.

Braves 6, Rays 1

In St. Petersburg, All-Star Spencer Strider struck out 11 and won his seventh straight decision as majors-leading Atlanta beat Tampa Bay for its 20th victory in 22 games.

Strider (11-2) improved to 7-0 over his last eight starts and boosted his majors-leading strikeout total to 166.

Sean Murphy homered for the third straight game, a three-run shot that finished a four-run, fourth-inning against rookie Taj Bradley (5-5), who held the Braves hitless until Ronald Acuña Jr. opened the fourth with a double.

Dodgers 10, Angels 5

In Los Angeles, All-Star Mookie Betts hit his 10th leadoff homer - tying the most in the first half of major league history - and Los Angeles hit five homers for the second straight game in a win over the slumping Angels, who have lost 10 straight in the Freeway Series.

Max Muncy, Freddie Freeman, J.D. Martinez and pinch-hitter David Peralta also homered for the Dodgers. Michael Grove (1-2) got the victory with six innings of relief. He allowed four runs and six hits, struck out six and walked one.

Betts tied the mark for first-half homers set by San Francisco's Bobby Bonds in 1973.

Angels All-Star Shohei Ohtani hit his major league-leading 32nd homer, a 433-foot, two-run blast in the seventh. He came up a double shy of hitting for the cycle. The two-way superstar singled in the first and tripled in the third.

Astros 3, Mariners 2

In Houston, Martín Maldonado hit a tiebreaking solo home run in the eighth inning to send Houston past Seattle.

The game was tied at 2-all with one out in the eighth when Maldonado sent a slider from Andrés Muñoz (2-2) 371 feet to left-center to put the Astros on top.

The Mariners squandered a chance to take the lead in the top of the inning when Hector Neris (5-2) struggled



Cleveland Guardians' José Ramírez hits a double during the first inning of a baseball game against the Kansas City Royals in Cleveland. (AP)

with control. But he escaped the bases-loaded jam by striking out pinch-hitter Cal Raleigh on three pitches, retiring pinch-hitter Mike Ford on a pop out and fanning José Caballero to end the inning.

Kyle Tucker doubled with an RBI and Alex Bregman drove in a run for the Astros, who snapped a two-game skid and collected their 50th win of the season.

Caballero had two hits and an RBI for the Mariners, who were 2 for 8 with runners in scoring position and stranded 10 runners.

Guardians 10, Royals 6

In Cleveland, top prospect Gavin Williams struck out seven in 5 2/3 innings for his first victory in the majors and brothers Bo and Josh Naylor drove in two runs apiece as Cleveland beat Kansas City and moved into first place in the AL Central.

Williams (1-1) gave up three runs on eight hits and walked one in his fourth start.

Both Naylor's had two singles and a double as the Guardians had a season-high 18 hits, taking over first place in the division from Minnesota at 45-44. Josh Bell went 3 for 3 with two walks and two RBIs, and Amed Rosario had three hits in Cleveland's third consecutive victory.

Bobby Witt Jr. went 3 for 5 with a solo homer, RBI triple and stolen base for Kansas City, which is 0-6 on its seven-game trip. Royals starter Brady Singer (5-8) worked five innings, allowing six runs on a career-high 13 hits while striking out three.

Yankees 6, Cubs 3

In New York, Giancarlo Stanton hit a homer in the first inning and added a two-run shot after a video review in the fifth, leading New York past Chicago.

Josh Donaldson hit his 10th homer and Harrison Bader hit a two-run double as the Yankees avoided their third four-game losing streak this season.

Gerrit Cole (9-2) gave up a two-run homer to former Yankee Mike Tauchman on his final batter and allowed three runs and five hits in 7 1/3 innings.

Drew Smyly (7-6) allowed four runs and six hits in four innings.

Orioles 6, Twins 2

In Minnesota, Adam Frazier had a two-run single in a six-run second inning and Tyler Wells worked six solid innings as Baltimore beat Minnesota.

Baltimore had all six of its hit and all of its runs in the second inning on the way to its fourth consecutive victory. Wells (7-4) allowed six hits and struck out four in winning for the first time in four starts.

Donovan Solano had three doubles

for the Twins.

Sonny Gray (4-3) had his winless streak extend to a dozen starts since April 30 - just three losses - allowing a season-high six earned runs and six hits.

Cardinals 3, White Sox 0

In Chicago, Miles Mikolas pitched seven efficient innings, Jordan Walker hit a solo homer in the ninth inning and St. Louis beat Chicago.

Mikolas (5-5) allowed four hits - all singles - in his first win since May 30. The right-hander struck out six and walked none,

throwing 71 of his 95 pitches for strikes. Giovanni Gallegos finished the seven-hitter for his seventh save.

White Sox right-hander Touki Toussaint (0-2) allowed five singles in five innings. He struck out five and walked one.

Diamondbacks 3, Pirates 2, 10 innings

In Phoenix, Corbin Carroll singled with the bases loaded in the 10th inning for NL West-leading Arizona in a win over Pittsburgh.

Alek Thomas homered to tie it in the eighth, then singled in the tying run in the 10th against David Bednar (3-1). The infield hit followed a throwing error by Bednar on a bunt and scored automatic runner Dominic Canzone, making his major league debut. After Geraldo Perdomo sacrificed, Ketel Marte was intentionally walked and Carroll lined a single just fair down the right-field line.

Jared Triolo's single put the Pirates ahead in the top of the 10th against Scott McGough (1-6), who went the final two innings.

Arizona used seven pitchers in the bullpen game. They combined to allow four hits, two in the 10th, and had 15 strikeouts.

Marlins 5, Phillies 3

In Miami, Jorge Soler homered and hit a tiebreaking sacrifice fly as Miami ended Philadelphia's franchise-record tying 13-game road winning streak.

Rookie Dane Myers had two hits and drove in two runs, and Garrett Cooper singled twice for the Marlins.

Phillies star slugger Bryce Harper excited after being struck on his surgically repaired right elbow by a pitch from Marlins starter Braxton Garrett in the third. Philadelphia manager Rob Thomson said after the game that X-

rays on Harper's elbow were negative.

Luis Arraez didn't start, but had a pinch-hit, RBI single in the seventh, raising his major league-leading batting average to .388.

Garrett (5-2) was lifted after five innings. He allowed three runs, six hits, walked three and struck out three.

Ranger Suarez (2-4) took the loss, allowing eight hits and four runs, three earned, with four strikeouts in 5 2/3 innings.

Red Sox 10, Athletics 3

In Boston, Jarren Duran and Alex Verdugo hit two-run homers, and Masataka Yoshida had his sixth consecutive multi-hit game in Boston's win over MLB-worst Oakland.

Christian Arroyo and Duran each had three hits, Yoshida two and Duran scored three runs and drove in three for the Red Sox, who have won seven of eight.

Boston starter James Paxton (5-1) earned the win, while Brandon Walter earned his first save.

Manny Piña and Brent Rooker each hit a solo homer for Oakland, which fell to 25-66. Austin Pruitt (1-6), one of six Oakland pitchers in the game, took the loss.

Giants 5, Rockies 3

In San Francisco, Michael Conforto and Austin Slater hit two-run homers to lead San Francisco past Colorado.

Blake Sabol added an RBI single as San Francisco won for the 12th time in 13 games against the Rockies.

Alex Wood (4-3) tossed five scoreless innings in relief to earn his first home win of the season. He allowed three hits and a walk, striking out three. Camilo Doval pitched a scoreless ninth for his majors-leading 26th save.

Austin Wynns homered for Colorado, which has lost 11 of its last 12 road games. Connor Seabold (1-6) was the loser.

Nationals 8, Rangers 3

In Washington, Jeimer Candelario and Joey Meneses hit back-to-back home runs in the first inning. Alex Call also went deep, and Washington snapped a five-game skid with a win over AL West-leading Texas.

Jake Irvin (2-5) earned his first victory since May 8 for Washington, which had lost 15 of its last 16 games at Nationals Park. Washington is an NL-worst 14-32 at home.

Josh Jung homered twice for Texas, which has lost seven of its last 10 games. Rangers starter Andrew Heaney (5-6) trailed 4-0 before recording an out.

Heaney, who was activated from the paternity list Friday, yielded eight runs, seven earned, in three innings.

Afghanistan rout B'desh in 2nd ODI, clinch series

CHATTOGRAM, Bangladesh, July 9, (AP): Openers Rahmanullah Gurbaz and Ibrahim Zadran hit centuries as Afghanistan trounced Bangladesh by 142 runs in the second one-day international and secured the series on Saturday.

Gurbaz's career-best 145 off 125 balls included 13 fours and eight sixes while Zadran made an exact 100 and shared 256 runs for the opening stand, Afghanistan's highest partnership for any wicket.

After that stand, which surpassed the previous best of 218 against Scotland in 2010, Afghanistan lost nine wickets for 75 before putting up 331-9, its highest total against Bangladesh and third largest total in its history.

Bangladesh, which lost the first rain-affected match by 17 runs, was bowled out for 189 in 43.2 overs with Ebadot Hossain unable to bat due to a muscle strain.

The 142-run defeat was Bangladesh's largest by runs to Afghanistan, and only the third ODI series defeat at home since 2015.

Mushfiqur Rahim, on his 250th ODI, led Bangladesh with 69.

Liton Das, leading the side in the absence of Tamim Iqbal, decided to bowl first and it backfired to the local fans' dismay.

CRICKET

Gurbaz got off the mark with a graceful cover drive off Mustafizur Rahman in the opening over.

The Bangladesh bowlers were erratic, giving away 33 extras, bowled too short to Gurbaz and failed to trouble Zadran.

After hitting eight fours and six sixes, Gurbaz raised his fourth century off exactly 100 balls, tucking a delivery off left-arm spinner Shakib Al Hasan toward midwicket for a single.



Gurbaz

MLB Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, July 9, (AP): Results and standings from the MLB games on Saturday.

Detroit	2	Toronto	0	Houston	3	Seattle	2
NY Yankees	6	Chicago Cubs	3	LA Dodgers	10	LA Angels	5
Baltimore	6	Minnesota	2	San Francisco	5	Colorado	3
St. Louis	3	Chicago W. Sox	0	Arizona	3	Pittsburgh 10 inn	2
Washington	8	Texas	3	Miami	5	Philadelphia	3
Boston	10	Oakland	3	Cincinnati	8	Milwaukee	5
Cleveland	10	Kansas City	6	San Diego	3	NY Mets	1
Atlanta	6	Tampa Bay	1				

American League				National League				
East Division				East Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB	
Tampa Bay	57	35	.620	—	Atlanta	60	28	.682
Baltimore	53	35	.602	2	Miami	52	39	.571
New York	49	41	.544	7	Philadelphia	48	40	.545
Toronto	49	41	.544	7	New York	42	47	.472
Boston	47	43	.522	9	Washington	35	54	.393
Central Division				Central Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB	
Cleveland	45	44	.506	—	Cincinnati	50	40	.556
Minnesota	45	45	.500	-1/2	Milwaukee	48	42	.533
Detroit	39	49	.443	5-1/2	Chicago	41	47	.466
Chicago	38	53	.418	8	Pittsburgh	40	49	.449
Kansas City	25	65	.278	20-1/2	St. Louis	37	52	.416
West Division				West Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB	
Texas	52	38	.578	—	Arizona	52	38	.578
Houston	50	40	.556	2	Los Angeles	51	38	.573
Seattle	44	44	.500	7	San Francisco	48	41	.539
Los Angeles	45	46	.495	7-1/2	San Diego	42	47	.472
Oakland	25	66	.275	27-1/2	Colorado	34	56	.378



Houston Astros relief pitcher Hector Neris celebrates after striking out Seattle Mariners' Jose Caballero to get out of a bases-loaded jam during the eighth inning of a baseball game in Houston. (AP)

SPORTS

Mexico advance to Gold Cup semifinal

Panama dominate Qatar

ARLINGTON, Texas, July 9, (AP): Orbelín Pineda scored on a penalty kick in the 52nd



Mexico defender Jesús Gallardo (23) and Costa Rica defender Jeffrey Valverde go for a head ball during the first half of a CONCACAF Gold Cup soccer quarterfinal in Arlington, Texas. (AP)

minute, Érick Sánchez added a goal in the 87th and Mexico beat Costa Rica 2-0 Saturday night to reach the CONCACAF Gold Cup semifinals.

Mexico will play Guatemala or Jamaica on Wednesday at Las Vegas for a berth in the final on July 16 at Inglewood, California.

SOCCER

Pineda got his second goal of the tournament and ninth in 58 international appearances, sending his kick to the left of goalkeeper Kevin Chamorro, who reacted the other way. Mexico was awarded the penalty by Honduran referee Saíd Martínez when Kendall Weston charged into the back of Henry Martín.

Sánchez entered in the 84th minute and scored his second international goal, from Roberto Alvarado's cutback pass.

In the first game, Panama routed invited guest Qatar 4-0 and advanced to a semifinal against the United States or Canada on Wednesday at San Diego. Ismael Díaz scored a hat trick in a span of just over nine minutes of the second half.

Edgar Bárcenas put Panama ahead in the 19th, and Díaz added goals in the 56th, 63rd and 65th minutes.



Qatar midfielder Ali Asad (8) and Panama defender Andrés Andrade (16) compete for the ball during the first half of a CONCACAF Gold Cup soccer quarterfinal in Arlington, Texas. (AP)

Atlanta United pip Montreal, snap long skid on road

Red Bulls end Revolution's seven-match unbeaten run

HARRISON, N.J., July 9, (AP): Frankie Amaya scored a second-half goal and followed with an assist on Wikelman Carmona's match-winner and the New York Red Bulls ended the New England Revolution's seven-match unbeaten run with a 2-1 victory on Saturday night.

New York (6-7-8) owns a three-match win streak over New England (10-4-7) for just the second time in club history after sweeping the Revolution last season. The Red Bulls, who had two victories in 10 previous match-ups with the Revs before the streak, won four straight in the series spanning the 2016-17 seasons.

Atlanta United 1 Montreal 0

In Montreal, Brooks Lennon scored early in the second half and Brad Guzan made it stand up as Atlanta United snapped a nine-match winless streak on the road with a 1-0 victory over CF Montreal.

SOCCER

Lennon found the net for a third time this season, scoring unassisted to give Atlanta United (9-5-8) the lead for good in the 54th minute. Guzan needed just one save to earn the clean sheet.

Sounders 3, Whitecaps 2

In Vancouver, Léo Chú scored two second-half goals and Yeymar Gomez Andrade delivered the winner in stoppage time to rally the Seattle Sounders to a 3-2 victory over the Vancouver Whitecaps.

Seattle (10-7-5) snapped its first two-game skid against Vancouver (6-7-7) since 2014. The Whitecaps have never beaten the Sounders three straight times. Vancouver posted just three victories in 24 match-ups against the Sounders in between the two-match win streaks.

Defender Ranko Veselinovic found the net for a second time this season, using an assist from Ryan Gauld in the 24th minute to send the Whitecaps into the locker room at halftime with a 1-0 lead.

Galaxy 3, Union 1

In Carson, Los Angeles got an early goal from Tyler Boyd, a late one from

Riqui Puig and an own-goal from Philadelphia's Olivier Mbaizo as the Galaxy beat the Union 3-1.

The Galaxy (5-9-7) grabbed the lead in the 15th minute when Boyd took passes from Puig and Mark Delgado and scored for a fourth time this season.

Real Salt Lake 4, Orlando City 0

In Sandy, Pablo Ruiz had three assists as Real Salt Lake got goals from four different players in a 4-0 victory over Orlando City.

Zac MacMath finished with four saves to earn the clean sheet for Real Salt Lake (9-7-6) as the club upped its unbeaten run in all competitions to eight straight.

Orlando City (9-6-7) entered play having scored three or more goals in back-to-back matches for the first time since June of 2021.

Real Salt Lake improves to 6-0-2 in its last eight matches. The club was coming off a 1-0 victory over Toronto FC. The clean sheet ended a club-record 27 regular-season matches without a shutout.

Cristian Arango gave Real Salt Lake the lead for good when he took a pass from Ruiz and scored his first goal of the season in his first career match with the club. Arango tallied 30 goals over the past two seasons for Los Angeles FC.

Rapids 2, Dallas 1

In Commerce City, Braian Galván scored on a second-half penalty kick and the Colorado Rapids won at home for the first time this season, beating FC Dallas 2-1.

Galván's PK score was his first goal this season and it came in the 62nd minute for the Rapids (3-10-8), who tied but didn't break the league record with a nine-match winless run at home to begin the season. Cincinnati went nine straight home matches without a win to begin the 2021 season.

Austin 4, Minnesota United 1

In Saint Paul, Sebastián Driussi scored a pair of goals, the first one on a penalty kick, and Austin FC breezed to a 4-1 victory over Minnesota United.

Diego Fagundez staked Austin (8-8-5) to a 1-0 lead in the 35th minute when he used an assist from Daniel

Pereira to score for a second time this season.

Fire 1, Nashville 0

In Chicago, Fabian Herbers scored a first-half goal and Chris Brady made it stand up in the Chicago Fire's 1-0 victory over Nashville SC.

Herbers scored the lone goal when he took a pass from Maren Haile-Selassie in the 34th minute and found the net for a fourth time this season. Brady finished with two saves to earn the clean sheet for Chicago (6-7-8).

Joe Willis did not make a save in goal for Nashville (11-6-5), which lost to the Fire for the first time after two victories and two draws in the first four meetings. Nashville beat Chicago 3-0 at home earlier this season.

St. Louis City 1, Toronto 0

In Toronto, Aziel Jackson ended a scoreless match five minutes into the

second half with his first career goal and St. Louis City held on for a 1-0 victory over Toronto FC.

Jackson, a 21-year-old rookie, used an assist from Akil Watts to score in his third start and 12th appearance this season. It was the second career assist for Watts, a 23-year-old rookie, making his fourth start and 10th appearance.

Cincinnati 2, Charlotte 2

In Charlotte, Luciano Acosta scored on a second-half penalty kick then picked up an assist on Alvaro Barreal's equalizer to rally FC Cincinnati to 2-2 draw with Charlotte FC.



Boyd

Karol Swiderski scored twice in the first 24 minutes with assists from Kevin Vargas to propel Charlotte (6-8-8) to a 2-0 lead at halftime. Swiderski took a pass from Vargas and scored in the 14th minute and then used assists from Vargas and Jaylin Lindsey 10 minutes later to score his seventh goal of the season.

Acosta cut Cincinnati's deficit in half with his PK score in the 52nd minute. Acosta has 10 goals this season, already tying his career-best total set in 2018 and matched in 2022. He has seven assists this season.

Barreal notched his third netter of the season, using an assist from Acosta in the 68th minute.

Crew 1, NYCFC 1

In Columbus, Sean Zawadzki scored a short-handed goal in the fourth-minute of stoppage time after teammate

Cucho Hernández received a second-half red card and the Columbus Crew rallied for a 1-1 draw with New York City FC.

Zawadzki's third goal of the season came with assists from Christian Ramirez and Luis Diaz, who subbed into the match for the Crew (10-6-6) in the 82nd minute.

Justin Haak scored his first career goal, using a pass from Santiago Rodríguez in the 75th minute to give NYCFC (5-7-11) the lead after Hernández exited in the 68th. The 21-year-old Haak was making his 16th career start in 27 appearances for NYCFC.

Both teams are on eight-match unbeaten streaks. However, Columbus has posted a 5-0-3 record during its run, while NYCFC has just one victory in its streak.

Inter Miami 2, United 2

In Washington, Taxiarchis Fountas scored a goal and followed with an assist on Nigel Rothertha's equalizer to help D.C. United earn a 2-2 draw with Inter Miami after a scoreless first half.

Inter Miami has now gone a club-record 10 straight matches without a victory.

Rothertha's first goal of the season came in the 77th minute when he used assists from Ruan and Fountas to pull DC United (8-9-6) even.

Sporting KC 2, Dynamo 2

In Houston, Ibrahim Aliyu and Iván Franco scored stoppage-time goals in each half for the Houston Dynamo to offset a two-goal effort from Sporting Kansas City's red-hot Alan Pulido as the two clubs played to a 2-2 draw.

Franco's equalizer came in the eighth minute of second-half stoppage for Houston (8-9-4) with assists from Thorleifur Úlfarsson and Héctor Herrera. It was Franco's second goal in the eighth start and 18th appearance of his rookie season.

Pulido used passes from Gadi Kinda and Andreu Fontás to find the net and give Sporting KC (6-10-7) a 1-0 lead in the 25th minute.

Pulido's goal stood up until Aliyu scored for the first time this season, getting assists from Herrera and Corey Baird in the second minute of stoppage time to knot the score at 1-1 at halftime.

Heat overcome Celtics

Holmgren continues return from injury with strong game

LAS VEGAS, July 9, (AP): Chet Holmgren has taken another positive step on his surgically repaired right foot.

Holmgren had 16 points and 10 rebounds Saturday, helping the Oklahoma City Thunder beat the Dallas Mavericks 91-80 in their NBA Summer League opener.

The No. 2 pick in the 2022 draft missed the 2022-23 season after sustaining a Lisfranc injury in his right foot last summer. The 7-foot-1 Holmgren returned when the Thunder played three games in the Salt Lake City Summer League before heading to Las Vegas, finishing with 15 points, nine rebounds and four blocks Monday in a victory over Utah.

The Thunder surprisingly just missed the playoffs without him and have plenty of young talent. They added to it with the addition of No. 10 pick Cason Wallace, a guard from Kentucky who made six 3-pointers and scored 20 points against the team that drafted him and traded his rights to Oklahoma City.

Holmgren was 5 for 10 from the field in 30 minutes and blocked two shots.

Jaden Hardy scored 24 points for the Mavericks. Center Dereck Lively II, the No. 12 pick who was swapped in the trade for Wallace, had four points and five rebounds.

Heat 99, Celtics 88

Orlando Robinson Jr. scored 36 points on 13-of-22 shooting, including 3 of 4 from 3-point range, and grabbed 11 rebounds for Miami.

Dru Smith added 16 points and seven assists for the Heat (1-0). Nikola Jovic, a first-round pick by Miami in the 2022 draft, had 14 points, six rebounds, three assists, two steals and a block. Drew Peterson hit three 3-pointers and finished with 13 points and Jamal Cain scored 10.

76ers 110, Knicks 100



Miami Heat center Orlando Robinson (25) tries to get past Boston Celtics center Olek Balcerowski (50) during an NBA Summer League basketball game in Las Vegas. (AP)

Jaden Springer led seven Philadelphia players in double figures with 23 points and Javonte Smart added 17 points, five rebounds and five assists.

DJ Steward and Ricky Council IV added 14 points apiece and Terquavion Smith and Filip Petrušev each scored 13 for the 76ers (1-0). Smith also had five assists, three steals and three blocks. Greg Brown III scored 11 points.

BASKETBALL

Pistons 89, Magic 78

Jalen Duren had 17 points and eight rebounds, while James Wiseman added 16 points, 11 rebounds and two blocks for Detroit.

Jaden Ivey shot just 5 of 19 from the field but finished with 14 points, five rebounds, five steals and four assists for the Pistons (1-0). Rookie Ausar Thompson had seven points, on 1-of-4 shooting, with nine rebounds, three assists, three blocks and a steal.

Grizzlies 89, Bulls 80

Kenneth Lofton Jr. scored 23 points on 8-of-14 shooting, 2 of 3 from behind the arc, and Jake LaRavia added 15 points for Memphis.

Jacob Gilyard went 4 of 4 from the field, including three 3-pointers, and finished with 11 points and eight assists for the Grizzlies (1-0).

McLaughlin-Levrone 'coasts' to win at US track and field championships

EUGENE, Ore., July 9, (AP): Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone is proving to be a quick study in her newest event. Very quick.

McLaughlin-Levrone turned in a dominant performance to win the women's 400 meters at the U.S. track and field championships on Saturday night.

Known as the record-setting 400 hurdler, McLaughlin-Levrone is learning the nuances of the open 400 on the fly this season. McLaughlin-Levrone made it look easy by cruising across the line in a meet-record time of 48.74 seconds. She almost broke the American record of 48.70 set by Sanya Richards-Ross in 2006.

Britton Wilson couldn't quite close the gap on McLaughlin-Levrone and took second. Talitha Diggs wound up third. It's possible McLaughlin-Levrone could compete in both the open 400 and the 400 hurdles next month at worlds in Budapest, Hungary. McLaughlin-Levrone has a bye into the 400 hurdles courtesy of her record-setting win at worlds last summer on the same Hayward Field track where she breezed Saturday.

To think, McLaughlin-Levrone is still learning the pacing in the open 400. She has the hurdles down to a science, lowering the world record four times over a 13-month period.

"The greats always push themselves," McLaughlin-Levrone said on the CNBC telecast. "I want to be one of them so I push myself and get out of my comfort zone."

A day after winning the 100, Sha'Carri Richardson showed no signs of slowing down by posting a blistering wind-assisted time of 21.61 seconds in the first round of the 200. Only four women have recorded that time or gone faster under any wind condition.

"I'm ready - mentally, physically and emotionally," said Richardson, whose national title in the 100 two years ago was stripped after she tested positive for marijuana. "I'm here to stay. I'm not back. I'm better."

Bryce Deadmon won the men's 400 on Saturday, while

Rudy Winkler took the hammer throw, Curtis Thompson the javelin, Marquis Dendy the long jump, Maggie Ewen the shot put, Chris Nilsen the pole vault and Yared Nuguse the men's 1,500. Maria Michta-Coffey and Nick Christie earned titles in the 20-kilometer race walks. Krissy Gear used a late kick to pass Emma Coburn and take the steeplechase title.

It didn't look promising for NCAA champion Kenneth Rooks in the men's steeplechase when he fell over the barrier and had runners go right over the top of him. But the runner from BYU quickly picked himself up from the track, worked his way back into the race and sprinted to the title.

All according to his emergency plan. Rooks said he goes over such a scenario before a race - just in case.

The women's 1,500 was a highly entertaining race, with Nikki Hiltz surging to the win over Athina Mu. Cory McGee finished third for the final spot at worlds, holding off Sinclair Johnson, who dove for the finish line.

Like McLaughlin-Levrone, Mu is trying out a new event. Mu is the reigning world champion in the 800.

ATHLETICS

Run both the 800 and 1,500 at worlds?

"We'll see," Mu said.

Nia Ali won the 100 hurdles, holding off Keni Harrison. It was the first U.S. outdoor championship hurdles title for Ali, the 34-year-old mother of three. Ali, the 2019 world champion, fell in the first round last summer at Hayward in her title defense.

Robert Gregory out of the University of Florida had the top time in the first round of the men's 200. Noah Lyles has an automatic berth to worlds in the 200 as the event's reigning champion.



Red Bull driver Max Verstappen of the Netherlands celebrates on the podium after winning the British Formula One Grand Prix race at the Silverstone racetrack, Silverstone, England. (AP)

Sports

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Verstappen takes 6th victory in a row

Norris wins battle with Hamilton for 2nd at British GP

SILVERSTONE, England, July 9, (AP): Max Verstappen recovered from a slow start to win the British Grand Prix on Sunday for his sixth Formula One win in a row as Lando Norris held off fellow British driver Lewis Hamilton in a thrilling battle for second.

Starting on pole position, Verstappen was overtaken off the line by McLaren's Norris in what he later admitted was a "terrible" start but swept back into the lead on lap five and held on until the end. Red Bull has won all 10 races this year, 11 in a row including the final race of 2022, matching the record of McLaren with 11 consecutive wins in 1988.

Norris had been expected to drop back after qualifying a surprise second on the grid, but instead remained Verstappen's closest challenger throughout the race. After a safety-car restart, he fought wheel-to-wheel with seven-time champion Hamilton who had what were in theory faster tires, but held on to second for his and McLaren's best result since 2021. "It was an amazing fight," Norris said.

MOTOR RACING

Hamilton had started seventh and credited the crowd for powering him to a 14th career podium finish at his home race. "I didn't do it, the crowd did," he said. "I felt the energy, I felt the support. This is the reason we got back up there."

McLaren rookie Oscar Piastri was a career-best fourth ahead of Hamilton's Mercedes teammate George Russell as McLaren's upgraded car proved far more competitive than even the team had predicted.

Verstappen's Red Bull teammate Sergio Perez was off the podium for the fourth time in five races after starting 15th, with seventh for Aston Martin's Fernando Alonso and an impressive eighth for Alexander Albon of Williams.

When Kevin Magnussen broke down with flames coming from the back of his Haas on lap 33 of 52, it gave drivers including Verstappen, Norris and Hamilton the chance to pit under the safety car without losing time. Ferrari was among the losers because Charles Leclerc and Carlos Sainz had just pitted. They finished ninth and 10th respectively.

The head of the FIA says the motorsports governing body has no interest in signing an early renewal of its contract with Liberty Media and the 10 Formula One teams, who have stated their wish to sweeten the deal while the series is basking in global popularity.

The eighth and current Concorde Agreement - which sets the rules and regulations for F1 as well as how



England's players celebrate with the trophy their 1-0 victory in the Euro 2023 U21 Championship final soccer match between England and Spain at the Batumi Arena stadium in Batumi, Georgia. (AP)

England win U21 European Championship for first time in 39 years

England won the European Under-21 Championship for the first time in 39 years when James Trafford saved a stoppage-time penalty to preserve a 1-0 win over Spain in the final.

Trafford repelled Abel Ruiz's spot

kick, awarded after a VAR review in the sixth minute of added time, and kept out substitute Aimar Oroz's follow-up at the end of a pulsating contest at Batumi Arena.

In the process, the goalkeeper

became the first man to keep six clean sheets at the finals and didn't concede a goal for England's third title and first since 1984. Curtis Jones scored in first-half stoppage time when he deflected Cole Palmer's free

kick past keeper Arnau Tenas.

Tempers flared. Following a melee, England coach Ashley Cole and one of his Spanish counterparts were sent off on the sidelines. There were also 10 yellow cards,

and after the missed penalty in second half injury time, substituted England midfielder Morgan Gibbs-White and Spain's Antonio Blanco were sent off for the second yellows. (AP)

Vondrousova becomes first player to book quarters spot

Mirra reaches 4th round at Wimbledon in her debut

WIMBLEDON, England, July 9, (AP): Sixteen-year-old Mirra Andreeva, playing at Wimbledon for the first time, earned the final spot in the fourth round of the grass-court Grand Slam tournament on Sunday.

The Russian qualifier is the latest teen sensation in tennis, and she isn't disappointing at the All England Club. Andreeva is the youngest player since Coco Gauff in 2019 to reach the women's fourth round at Wimbledon. She reached the third round at this year's French Open in her first major tournament.

TENNIS

Despite trailing 4-1 in the second set, Andreeva beat 22nd-seeded Anastasia Potapova 6-2, 7-5 on No. 3 Court.

"I came back from 1-4, so of course I feel great," Andreeva said on court before explaining how she keeps her cool. "Today, honestly, even if I wanted to show some emotions, I honestly, I couldn't because I was out of breath almost every point, I really couldn't show any emotions."

They came out after, though, when Andreeva sat in her chair and pulled her purple Wimbledon towel up over her face for a few seconds to regain her composure.

Andreeva will next face No. 25 Madison Keys for a spot in the quarterfinals.

The third-round victory came 21 minutes after Marketa Vondrousova became the first player to reach the Wimbledon quarterfinals. Vondrousova defeated 32nd-seeded Marie Bouzkova 2-6, 6-4, 6-3.

Fourth-seeded Jessica Pegula also reached the quarterfinals. The 29-year-old American beat Lesia Tsurenko 6-1, 6-3 and will next face Vondrousova.

This year is only the second time play is officially scheduled for the middle Sunday at Wimbledon. Four times in the past, in 1991, 1997, 2004 and 2016, organizers used the day to

Woods claims biggest career success at the top of legendary Tour mountain



Canada's Michael Woods approaches the finish line to win the ninth stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 182.5 kilometers (113.5 miles) with start in Saint-Leonard-de-Noblat and finish in Puy de Dome, France. (AP)

PUY DE DOME, France, July 9, (AP): Canadian Michael Woods delivered an impressive solo effort to claim the biggest success of his career at the top of a legendary Tour de France climb on Sunday.

Woods, who rides for the Israel-Premier Tech team, has no ambition in the general classification and was part of an early breakaway that the main contenders allowed to form early in the ninth stage.

CYCLING

Woods managed to catch American Matteo Jorgenson just 500 meters from the summit after his 24-year-old rival jumped away from the leading group with less than 50 kilometers left.

Woods then dropped Jorgenson at ease and reached the summit of the Puy de Dome, a famed volcanic crater in the Massif Central region of south-central France that last hosted a stage 35 years ago.

Frenchman Pierre Latour finished second with Matej Mohoric completing the stage podium. Jorgenson ended up fourth.



Russia's Anastasia Potapova plays a return to Russia's Mirra Andreeva during the women's singles match on day seven of the Wimbledon tennis championships in London. (AP)

deal with a backlog of matches.

The last man to reach the fourth round was 21st-seeded Grigor Dimitrov. He beat Frances Tiafoe 6-2, 6-3,

Brook, Woakes share match-changing 59-run partnership

England keep Ashes series alive with dramatic 3-wicket win over Australia

LEEDS, England, July 9, (AP): England secured another memorable Ashes victory at Headingley after Harry Brook helped to set up a three-wicket win over Australia in the third test on Sunday to keep the five-match series alive.

Brook and Chris Woakes had shared a match-changing 59-run partnership for the seventh wicket on the fourth day before Brook was caught off Mitchell Starc to make it an increasingly tense finish. England was then at 230-7 in its second innings with a target of 251.

Playing his 10th test match, Brook scored 75 off 93 balls with nine fours. He batted with maturity and appeared ready to carry the burden all the way to the final stretch before passing it over to Woakes and Mark Wood (16 not out), who both made an emphatic first impression on their belated introductions to the series.

Woakes hit the winning boundary late in the afternoon session against Starc as England finished on 254-7. Woakes crunched the ball toward the delirious Western Terrace to finish unbeaten on 32.

Australia leads 2-1 with the fourth test at Old Trafford starting on July 19.

By lunch, England had moved to 153-4 and within 98 runs of its target, four years on from a famous Ben Stokes-inspired victory at the same

venue.

But the match swung Australia's way early after lunch when England captain Stokes was caught behind for

CRICKET

only 13 and Jonny Bairstow (5) was bowled - both against Starc, who finished with 5-78.



England's Ben Stokes plays a shot during the fourth day of the third Ashes Test match between England and Australia at Headingley, Leeds, England. (AP)

Stokes' dismissal was a soft nick down the leg-side robbing the hosts of their inspirational captain and the architect of their 2019 Ashes miracle.

Earlier, England's openers resumed in cautious mood at 27 without loss, adding 15 careful runs to the score before Ben Duckett (23) was trapped in the crease by Starc, lbw to a ball destined for leg stump.