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Page 16

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16 PAGES

150 FILS

MPs to take up commodity price rise

Kuwait inflation up by 3.69 pct last May

Report on loan bill pulled

Co-op Union rejects request to increase prices

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh
Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, July 10. (Agencies): The head of the Union of Cooperative Societies, Abdel Wahhab Mashari Al-Faris, said there is no need to increase the prices of commodities in cooperative societies, stressing on the need to provide all support to the middle and working class and the preservation of purchasing power, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Al-Faris said in a press statement the union is committed to the directives of the ministers of Social Affairs and Commerce and Industry, based on the decision of the Ministry of Commerce No. 67 of 2020 regarding not increasing prices, indicating that any coop that violates ministerial decisions exposes its decision-makers to legal accountability.

Al-Faris added it rejected calls to increase the prices of 45 items and refused to introduce 245 new items because they are higher than the prevailing market prices, and indicated that the coops are committed to fixing prices and the union's circulars.

He added that the union has no intention to support the price increase until the Ministry of Commerce lifts the ban, the Ministry of Affairs agrees, and inflation rates decrease, according to data approved by the Central Bank of Kuwait.

He disclosed a price committee has been formed by the union to look into 315 requests and 1350 items were examined on May 30, 2023, until today, stressing that the federation of associations supports the direction of

the political leadership to contribute to the welfare of the citizens.

Meanwhile, the consumer prices on annual basis grew by 3.69 percent during last May, according to the State of Kuwait Central Statistical Bureau (KCSB).

In a statement to KUNA on Sunday, the bureau said that the inflation rate in Kuwait rose 0.15 percent last May, on a Monthly basis, due to the increase of prices of all main groups that influence the movement of key indices particularly food, education and clothing.

Record number of the first group (food and beverages) last May went up by 6.85 percent, compared to May 2022, while the price index of the second group (cigarettes and

KUWAIT CITY, July 10: The National Assembly is set to hold on Tuesday an ordinary session, and a complimentary session on Wednesday to discuss tabled items. At the forefront of session's agenda is a response to the inaugural Amiri speech, and examining resignation of audit bureau chief.

The Assembly commences its session by authenticating session minutes and considering incoming messages, complaints, and referrals.

Discussions revolving around incidents of burning the Holy Quran and the dangerous and serious consequences of such infringements on the Islamic religion are to take up to three hours of the session time.

Two hours were allocated for the discussion of the strategic

Continued on Page 4

Continued on Page 4

Opinion

Oh leadership, help us... help us

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

THERE is no justice without equality, and there are no rights in the darkness of injustice when constitutions become mere viewpoints.

This applies to those in debt and personal loan holders who needed others to help them in life but had fallen between two fires of the inability to pay and the ruthless law, which stipulates opposite of what is in the Constitution, especially Article 7 - "Justice, Liberty, and Equality are the pillars of society. Cooperation and mutual help are the firmest bonds among citizens."

It seems that legislators did not observe this article in the Constitution, and they instead enacted laws that serve the lenders who are seeking to acquire everything. Through this, they disregarded the divine legislation, because the principle of achieving justice is linked to equality. They adopted the customs of the pre-state institutions to some laws, and persisted in their implementation. They even made the security and judicial agencies as collectors and mediators for them.

The problem related to personal loans in Kuwait has snowballed to this extent due to short-sightedness towards reality, especially those who deliberately obtain cheques without balance, or trust bonds from the debtors, even though this is legally forbidden, because "the one who fails to do due diligence before lending has no right to demand from others to collect his rights."

Constitutionally, this is forbidden because there is no country in the world that prevents its citizens from freedom of movement, travel, and the pursuit of livelihood in civil cases particularly financial. Travel ban and imprisonment are issued only in criminal cases, such as fraud, extortion, murder, and other self-inflicted acts.

Many officials do not seem to be aware of this fact, because the deep state, which benefits from extorting debtors, embellishes and claims that this matter is at the heart of realizing rights and social justice. However, the truth is the opposite. That is why some of them portrayed the size of the loans as greater than what is real, as they know that the loans are not KD 14 billion but are actually less than KD 1.9 billion.

Irrespective of the reasons, a solution must be found to this issue, as it threatens more than 120,000 citizens who have either been served with arrest warrants or have been prevented from traveling, and were imprisoned for debts, some of which do not exceed KD 500. This is contrary to all international laws, let alone the Constitution of Kuwait.

This is happening at a time when Kuwait is spending up to three billion dinars annually as donations or gifts to various countries of the world, either directly from the state, or from zakat funds and charities, and not providing a single penny to those in debt, because the deep state forbids that.

It is good that the National Assembly approved the bankruptcy law, but it is not enough, because other penal laws are still undermining it. It is good that a group of parliamentarians submitted proposals to recover the interest on loans obtained illegally.

Nevertheless, this is also not enough, as the Gulf countries put an end to this problem long ago when they paid off the loans of their citizens, and did not prevent them from traveling, and did not imprison them.

There is no doubt that the achievement of social justice is based, according to the Constitution, on "the state guarantees the solidarity of society in bearing the burdens resulting from disasters and public tribulations," and not the skewed view with which some people look at this point, forgetting that when any natural disaster or distress occurs, the state undertakes to protect and assist only those affected and not all people.

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Erdogan bargains

Turkey in EU for Sweden in NATO

VILNIUS, Lithuania, July 10. (AP): Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Monday introduced a new condition for approving Sweden's membership in NATO, calling on European countries to "open the way" for Turkey to join the European Union.

The surprise announcement by Erdogan before departing to a NATO summit in Lithuania's capital added new uncertainty to Sweden's bid to become the alliance's 32nd member, which Turkey initially blocked saying Sweden was too soft on Kurdish militants and other groups that Ankara considers security threats.

It was the first time that Erdogan linked

his country's ambition to join the EU with Sweden's efforts to become a NATO member.

"Turkey has been waiting at the door of the European Union for over 50 years now, and almost all of the NATO member countries are now members of the European Union," Erdogan told reporters in Istanbul. "I am making this call to these countries that have kept Turkey waiting at the gates of the European Union for more than 50 years."

"Come and open the way for Turkey's membership in the European Union. When you pave the way for Turkey, we'll pave the way for Sweden as we did for Finland," he added.

Earlier, Erdogan's office said he told U.S. President Joe Biden during a telephone call Sunday that Turkey wanted a "clear and strong" message of support for Turkey's EU ambitions from the NATO leaders meeting in Vilnius. The White House readout of the Biden-Erdogan call did not mention the issue of Turkish membership in the EU.

Erdogan and Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson were expected to meet later Monday in Vilnius.

Asked about Erdogan's comments, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said he supports Turkey's ambition to join the EU but noted that it wasn't among the conditions listed in an agreement that Sweden, Finland and Turkey signed at last year's NATO summit in Madrid.

Stoltenberg reiterated that Sweden had met those conditions and said he thinks it is "still possible to have a positive decision" on the country's pending membership during this week's summit in Lithuania.

EU Commission spokesperson Dana Spinant said that "you cannot link the two processes in regards to Turkey."

Turkey is a candidate to join the EU, but democratic backsliding during Erdogan's presidency, disputes with EU-member Cyprus and other issues have held up the country's progress toward admission in the 27-nation bloc.

However, as a member of NATO, Erdogan's government has postponed ratifying Sweden's accession to the alliance, saying the administration in Stockholm needs to do more to crack down on Kurdish militants and other groups. A series of anti-Turkey and anti-Islam protests in Sweden's capital raised doubts that an agreement to satisfy Turkey's demands could be reached before the alliance's summit.

Turkey's delays on Sweden's accession has irritated other NATO allies including the United States. Biden's national security adviser Jake Sullivan confirmed Sunday that Biden and Erdogan had spoken earlier that day about Sweden's NATO membership among other issues and had agreed to meet in Vilnius for further talks. Sullivan didn't mention the EU membership issue.

He said the White House is confident Sweden will join the alliance.

"If it happens after Vilnius - we're confident it will happen," he said. "We don't regard this as something that is fundamentally in doubt. This is a matter of timing. The sooner the better."



US President Joe Biden and Britain's King Charles III review a honour guard at Windsor Castle in Windsor, England, Monday, July 10, 2023. President Joe Biden's itinerary this week in Europe is dominated by the ongoing war in Ukraine and his continued efforts to rally an international coalition against Russia's invasion of its neighbor. (AP)

Toomaj Salehi among protesters

Iran sentences rapper to 6 years

DUBAI, July 10. (AP): Iran has sentenced a popular rapper to six years and three months in prison over his participation in protests that rocked the country last year, his supporters said Monday.

A social media account run by supporters of Toomaj Salehi announced the sentence, as did Ye-One Rhie, a member of the German parliament who has campaigned on his behalf. There was no immediate word from Iranian authorities.

Salehi was among thousands of mostly young Iranians who took to the streets last fall after the death of Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old woman who had been arrested by Iran's morality police for allegedly violating the country's strict Islamic dress code. The protests spread across the country and quickly escalated into calls for the overthrow of Iran's clerical rulers.

The 33-year-old rapper, who was arrested last October, had criticized Iran's government in songs and music videos that were widely circulated online.

"Someone's crime was dancing with her hair in the wind," he raps in a video with over 450,000 views on YouTube - an apparent reference to Amini.

In another verse, he predicts the downfall of Iran's theocracy. "Your whole past is dark, the government that took the light out of the eyes... We go from the bottom of the pyramid and knock to the top ... Forty-four years of your government, this is the year of failure."

After his arrest, state media released a video showing him blindfolded and apologizing for his words, a statement likely made under duress. Rights groups say Iran routinely tortures prisoners into making false confessions.

Following the protests, authorities launched a heavy crackdown, in which over 500 people were killed and nearly 20,000 arrested, according to Human Rights Activists in Iran, a group that closely monitored the unrest. Authorities have said many of those detained were released or given reduced sentences.

The protests largely died down earlier this year, but there are still widespread signs of discontent.

NewsWatch

RIYADH: Minister of Oil and Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment **Dr. Saad Al-Barrak** said Sunday that Durra offshore field solely belongs to **Kuwait and Saudi Arabia**.

In a televised interview with a Saudi news channel, Al-Barrak added there is no room for negotiations with Iran before the demarcation of the marine borders according to the international law. He affirmed that the Iranian claims are not based on clear demarcated marine borders.

The minister noted that Kuwait and Saudi Arabia are "one team" when it comes to Durra offshore field, and both countries have complete understanding and bilateral commitment based on the demarcation of the borders and international laws. (KUNA)

BEIRUT: Syrian Kurdish fighters carried out an attack early Monday in northern Syria, killing at least five members of Turkey-backed Syrian opposition forces, activists said.

The attack south of the northern town of Afrin, which is held by the Turkey-backed forces, took place shortly after midnight on Sunday, according to the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

The Observatory, an opposition war monitor, said the attack was carried out by the Afrin Liberation Forces, a Kurdish faction allied with the main Kurdish militia in Syria known as the People's Protection Units or YPG. The group has claimed scores of attacks against Turkey-backed Syrian fighters. (AP)

JERUSALEM: Israeli troops shot and killed an alleged Pal-

estinian gunman during new unrest in the West Bank Monday, as a wave of violence in the occupied territory showed no signs of slowing.

The Israeli military said troops stopped a motorist in **Deir Nidham**, a town west of Ramallah, to question him. It said the man got out of his car, threw a grenade and fired shots toward soldiers, who then opened fire.

The Palestinian Health Ministry confirmed that a 33-year-old man had been killed, but gave no further details. (AP)

CAIRO: Commercial flights between Italy and conflict-torn Libya will resume in September after the Italian government agreed to lift a 10-year-long ban on civil aviation in the North African nation, one of Libya's rival governments said Sunday.

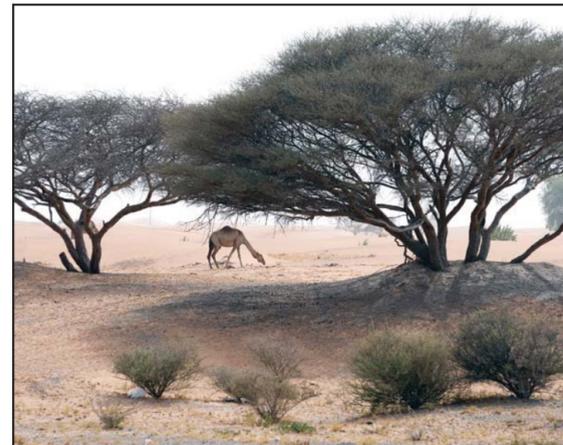
Abdul-Hamid Dbeibah, prime minister of the Tripoli-based government, said on Twitter that the Italian government of Prime Minister **Giorgia Meloni** informed his government of the decision.

He called the removal of the ban a "breakthrough." (AP)

WASHINGTON: US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs **Molly Phee** will travel to **Addis Ababa, Ethiopia** July 10-11 where she will meet with Sudanese civilians "committed to ending the conflict and restoring democratic governance in Sudan," the Department of State said Sunday.

The Department of State said in a statement that Phee will engage with African leaders, including senior representatives of governments in the region and of the Inter-governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the African Union Commission. (KUNA)

Day by Day



A camel grazes at Al Madam desert area while it's about 48 C, 118 Fahrenheit, about 100 kms, 62 miles, south east of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, Sunday, July 9, 2023. (AP)

THE Gulf thief, who lived in the world of illusions, has hurt many people with his lies which are now being exposed.

He not only deceived those around him but also his wife who had to flee Kuwait, who became part and parcel of his fraudulent activities - the woman who had lived and raised in Kuwait. Now the children of this thief pay the price of their father's misdeeds (thefts).

Several countries have now shut the door in the face of this thief, who no longer are willing to accept his presence in their countries. What is to come is still worse as documents and facts will prove the stupidity of this villain.

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar



OPINION OTHER VOICES

Israel raids 'sanctuaries' for militants

Assault will further erode Palestinian Authority legitimacy

By Dov Waxman

University of California, Los Angeles

As Israeli soldiers withdrew from the Jenin refugee camp in the occupied West Bank after two days of fighting, Israel's generals and politicians were quick to hail the major military operation there a success.

Herzl Halevi, chief of staff of the Israel Defense Forces, declared, "We hit the terrorists hard, we arrested many and destroyed many of their weapons and ammunition." Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu praised the military for destroying "many terrorist infrastructures."

But however successful in the short term, no military operation can resolve what I see as the underlying problem that caused Jenin's refugee camp to become what Netanyahu has described as a "safe haven" for Palestinian militants.

That problem is a legitimacy crisis facing the Palestinian Authority - the self-governing body that has limited rule over parts of the occupied West Bank, including Jenin, that are not directly ruled by Israel.

As a scholar who specializes on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and has written a book about it, I believe that this latest military operation will, in fact, only worsen that legitimacy crisis. Indeed, when three senior Palestinian Authority officials attended a mass funeral in Jenin on July 5, 2023, for some of the Palestinians killed in the fighting - at least 12 Palestinians were killed, most confirmed as militants - they were accused by mourners of weakness and quickly forced to leave by an angry crowd chanting, "Get out! Get out!"

The Israeli military's incursion into Jenin's densely populated refugee camp is just the most recent operation it has conducted in the northern

West Bank city over the past two years. To be sure, the assault of June 3-4 was on a much greater scale than previous raids into Jenin. It was the largest that Israel has conducted in the West Bank since Operation Defensive Shield in 2002 during the Palestinian uprising of 2000-05, known as the second intifada. It was also the first time that Israel has used air strikes since then.

But the reason for this incursion was fundamentally the same as the reason why Israel has staged previous raids into Jenin - as well as into Nablus, another city in the northern West Bank - in recent years. That is, these cities have effectively become sanctuaries for armed Palestinian militants from which they regularly carry out shooting attacks against both Israeli soldiers and civilians.

Under the Oslo Accords signed by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization in the early 1990s, the Palestinian Authority is responsible for policing these cities and preventing militants from operating within them.

Yet the growing number of shooting attacks against Israelis that have been conducted by militants based in these areas suggests that it has failed in this task. Israeli officials have said that more than 50 shooting attacks have been carried out by Jenin-area militants since the beginning of 2023.

Israeli officials and American politicians have blamed the Palestinian Authority and its octogenarian leader, Mahmoud Abbas, for this failure. This criticism, however, overlooks why the Palestinian Authority has lost control over parts of the northern West Bank.

The Palestinian Authority has become deeply unpopular with the Palestinian public. In a poll conducted last month by the Palestinian Center

for Policy and Survey Research, 63% of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza thought the Palestinian Authority is a burden on them, while 50% thought its collapse or dissolution would be in the best interests of the Palestinian public. Abbas himself has even less support - 80% of Palestinians in that survey expressed dissatisfaction with him and wanted him to resign.

The Palestinian Authority's unpopularity is due to numerous factors. Palestinians have accused it of corruption, incompetence and brutally repressing dissent. Human rights groups have

accused the Palestinian Authority of arbitrarily arresting people and even torturing detainees.

The Palestinian Authority has undoubtedly become increasingly autocratic and authoritarian. There has not been a presidential election since 2005, and the last legislative elections were held in 2006. The continued schism between Abbas's Fatah party and Hamas - a bitter rival that governs the Palestinian enclave of Gaza - has prevented its parliament, the Palestinian Legislative Council, from functioning. As a result, Abbas rules by decree.

The PA's democratic decline is a product of a deeper, more fundamental problem: It has lost its legitimacy among an increasing number of Palestinians.

The reason for this, I believe, is that the Palestinian Authority has lost its *raison d'être*. It was created in 1994 with the intention that it would be the embryo of a future Palestinian state. According to the Oslo Accords, it was meant to exist only temporarily - for no more than five years -

Continued on Page 3



Palestinians walk on a damaged road in the Jenin refugee camp in the West Bank, Wednesday, July 5, 2023, after the Israeli army withdrew its forces from the militant stronghold. The withdrawal of troops from the camp ended an intense two-day operation that killed at least 13 Palestinians, drove thousands of people from their homes and left a wide swath of damage in its wake. One Israeli soldier was also killed. (AP)

'Capital of Palestinian resistance, militancy'

Jenin incursion will do little to shake reputation

By Maha Nassar

University of Arizona

Israeli troops withdrew from Jenin on July 4, 2023 after two days of heavy aerial bombardment and ground invasion. According to reports, 12 Palestinians were killed and over 100 wounded in what the Israeli military described as a "counter-terrorism operation". One Israeli soldier was also reportedly killed.

The site of the latest confrontation is not new. The Jenin refugee camp, on the western edge of the town of Jenin in the north of the occupied West Bank, has often experienced violence between Israeli soldiers and Palestinian militants.

On July 3, the Israeli government said it needed to enter Jenin to arrest militants it accuses of terrorism, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warning that the operation would not be a "one-time action."

As a scholar of Palestinian history, I see this recent episode as the latest chapter in a much longer history of Palestinian displacement and defiance of Israeli occupation. Understanding this history helps explain why the Jenin camp in particular has become a center of Palestinian militant resistance.

Jenin, an agricultural town that dates back to ancient times, has long been a center of Palestinian resistance. During the 1948 Arab-Israeli War, Arab fighters successfully pushed back Israeli attempts to capture the town.

At the end of that war, the town became a refuge for some of hundreds of thousands of Palestinian refugees who fled or were expelled from lands that became part of Israel. Jenin, along with the hilly interior of Palestine known as the West Bank, was annexed by Jordan.

The UN Relief and Works Agency established the Jenin camp in 1953, just west of the city. Since then, the agency has provided basic services to the camp's residents, including food, housing and education.

Camp conditions have always been difficult. In the early years of the camp, refugees had to stand in long lines to receive food rations, and for decades their cramped homes lacked electricity or running water.

The Jenin camp soon became the poorest and most densely populated of the West Bank's 19 refugee camps. And given its location near the "Green Line" - the armistice line that serves as Israel's de facto border - camp residents who were expelled from northern Palestine could actually see the homes and villages from which they were expelled. But they were prevented from returning to them.

Since 1967, Jenin, along with the rest of the West Bank, has been occupied by the Israeli military.

The Israeli occupation of Jenin compounded the difficulties of these refugees. As stateless Palestinians, they couldn't return home. But under Israeli occupation, they couldn't live freely in Jenin, either. Human rights groups have long documented what has been described as "systematic oppression," which includes discriminatory land seizures, forced evictions and travel restrictions.

Seeing no other path forward, many of the camp's young refugees turned to armed resistance.

In the 1980s, groups such as the Black Panthers, which was affiliated with the Palestinian nationalist Fatah organization, launched attacks on Israeli targets in an effort to end the occupation and liberate what they saw as their lands. Throughout the first intifada - a Palestinian uprising lasting from 1987 to 1993 - the Israeli army raided the Jenin camp many times, seeking to arrest members of militant groups. In the process, Israeli forces also sometimes demolished family members' homes and arrested relatives. Such acts of apparent collective punishment reinforced the idea for many Palestinians that the Israeli occupation could only be ended by force.

The Oslo peace process of the 1990s - which consisted of a series of

meetings between Israeli government and Palestinian representatives - led some former militants to hope that the occupation could be ended through negotiations instead. But Jenin's camp residents remained marginalized in the West Bank and sealed off from Israel, seeing little improvement in their lives, even after the transfer of administrative powers from Israel to the Palestinian Authority in 1995.

Independent projects like the The Freedom Theater provided some relief to the camp's refugee children, but it was not enough to overcome the grinding poverty and violence they faced. By the time the second intifada broke out in 2000, many of the camp's teenagers joined militant groups. That included Freedom Theater co-founder Zakaria Zubeidi, who joined the Fatah-affiliated Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade. Like the youth of the 1980s, they, too, concluded that only armed resistance would bring an end to the occupation.

In April 2002 the Israeli army invaded the Jenin camp, hoping to put an end to such armed groups. There were fierce clashes between Israeli soldiers and young Palestinian men in the camp, solidifying Jenin's reputation among Palestinians as "the capital of the resistance."

The lack of progress on peace talks since then, Israel's illegal settlement building on occupied land, and the inclusion of hard-line Israeli politicians in the government have exacerbated resentment in the camp. Polls show Palestinians increasingly support armed resistance.

Seemingly alarmed by the increase in militancy and the stockpiling of weapons in the camp, Israel dramatically stepped up its raids into the camp in 2022. It was during such a raid that Palestinian American journalist Shireen Abu Akleh was killed by an Israeli soldier.

The latest raid, as many journalists have noted, may be the biggest operation in the camp in 20 years. But it was built on decades of resistance and militant defiance that will, I believe, only increase with the latest deaths and destruction. (AP)

editor's choice



Prayer Timings

Fajr	03:22	Asr	15:27
Sunrise ..	04:56	Maghrib ..	18:51
Zohr	11:53	Isha	20:23

Local

Expected weather for the next 24 hours:

By Day: Very hot and relatively humid over coastal areas with light variable wind to light to moderate southeasterly wind with speeds of 08-32 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 06-28.

Station Max Xp Min Rec
Kuwait City 47 36

Kuwait Airport	47	30
Abdaly	48	30
Jahra	49	32
Salmiyah	42	33
Ahmadi	43	34
Nuwaisib	45	31
Wafra	47	29

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

35,000 Kuwaitis visit annually: Marian Alexander Wrba

Austrian ambassador affirms support to exempt Kuwaitis from Schengen

KUWAIT CITY, July 10: The Ambassador of the Republic of Austria to Kuwait Marian Alexander Wrba affirmed his country's support for exempting Kuwaitis from the Schengen visa requirements, reports Al-Qabas daily.

In a press statement, he stressed that Austria fully supports Kuwait's claim that easy access to a long-term Schengen visa should be implemented as soon as possible and that the European Union should grant full visa exemption to Kuwaiti tourists.

Ambassador Wrba revealed that his country receives more than 35,000 Kuwaiti citizens annually.

He insisted that all Kuwaitis who visit Austria are welcome, are considered as beloved guests, and have great popularity in the country.

The ambassador talked about the recent visit of Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Al-Abdullah to Vienna, describing it as a successful visit that achieved very fruitful results.

He explained that the talks took place in a cordial atmosphere, reflecting the spirit of friendship that characterizes the relationship between the two friendly countries and their common desire for more cooperation and coordination.

It was agreed to exchange experiences regarding global and regional developments, especially concerning Europe and Asia, and in international forums on a regular basis. This is in consideration of the fact that Kuwait and Austria are located in the center and heart of their regions, and share the same visions and positions towards regional and international issues. In addition, they both play the role of international mediators in resolving disputes and building bridges.

Memorandums

Ambassador Wrba said, "The foreign ministers of the two countries also agreed on many memorandums of understanding, which serve as a very useful basis for further strengthening the excellent cooperation between Austria and Kuwait. They will have direct and positive effects on the peoples of the two countries."

The enhanced cooperation between Kuwait and Austria in the field of public health will bring

about a mutual exchange of knowledge and the latest modern medical technologies. It will also directly benefit the medical treatment and care of patients in Kuwait and Austria.

Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Al-Abdullah also raised the very important issue of visas. The foreign ministers of the two countries affirmed that it is absolutely necessary that travel for Kuwaiti and Austrian citizens becomes more comfortable by initially accelerating the obtaining of a long-term visa, and eventually completely waiving the Schengen visa requirement and the Kuwaiti visa requirements for Kuwaiti and Austrian tourists respectively."

Ambassador Wrba concluded by highlighting that his country's Foreign Minister Alexander Schallenberg assured his counterpart Sheikh Salem Al-Abdullah of his full approval and support for exempting Kuwaitis from the Schengen visa requirement.

In addition, the ambassador praised Kuwaiti diplomacy, affirming that the Austrian side was deeply affected by the distinguished political and diplomatic experience of Sheikh Salem Al-Abdullah and the high professionalism of his team of Kuwaiti diplomats.



Marian Wrba



KUNA photo
His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishaal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives Speaker of the National Assembly Ahmad Abdulaziz Al-Saadoun.

HH CP receives Speaker Sa'adoun

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishaal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received Monday National Assembly Speaker

Ahmad Al-Sa'adoun. His Highness also received the National Assembly Office members for the 17th legislative term. (KUNA)

Plan to up KPA efficiency

'Lack of cash delivery delays projects'

HH Amir congratulates Bahamas

KUWAIT CITY, July 10, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a congratulatory cable on Monday to the Bahamas Governor General Sir Cornelius Smith on national day.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir wished the governor long healthy life and further prosperity for the Bahamas.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishaal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah also sent a congratulatory cable on Monday to the Bahamas Governor General Sir Cornelius Smith on national day.

In the cable, His Highness the Crown Prince wished the governor long healthy

Assault will

Continued from Page 2

during which time a peace agreement between Israel and the PLO would be negotiated, resulting in Palestinian statehood.

Nearly three decades later, the Palestinian Authority still exists, but Palestinian statehood looks like a distant prospect at best.

Meanwhile, the land on which Palestinians expected this state would be built has been steadily eaten away by relentless Israeli settlement building. Indeed, most Palestinians have given up their hope for a Palestinian state.

The peace process appears to be dead - the Biden administration hasn't even tried to resuscitate it - and Israel's occupation of the West Bank, which began 56 years ago, seems permanent.

In such a bleak situation, the Palestinian Authority has become merely a municipal government - operating in the 40% of the West Bank that Israel prefers to avoid ruling over directly.

In addition to providing public services such as education and health care to Palestinians, its main function is to assist the Israeli army and security services to prevent Palestinian violence against Israelis. Yet, it is unable to prevent Israeli violence against Palestinians, which happens on a regular, and sometimes daily, basis, especially by extremist Jewish settlers.

It is little wonder, therefore, that many Palestinians regard the Palestinian Authority as a collaborator with Israel, a facilitator of Israel's occupation, rather than a means to end it.

The Palestinian Authority's security cooperation with Israel is most unpopular, which is why its officials and particularly the members of its security forces have become reluctant to perform this mission.

As a result, the Palestinian Authority has gradually lost control over places like Jenin and Nablus, leaving a power vacuum that has been filled by militant groups.

Some of these groups, specifically Hamas and Islamic Jihad, have ties with Iran, which encourages them to attack Israelis in order to destabilize the West Bank.

Others are newly formed, unaffiliated groups composed of armed young men and teenagers, whose violence is driven by despair, desperation and a desire for revenge.

These are the militants in Jenin whom the IDF has tried to capture or kill during its most recent military operation there.

No doubt, as Israeli authorities have said, the raid has succeeded in arresting some and killing others.

But this success comes at a steep price - first and foremost, to Palestinian civilians, but also to the Palestinian Authority. Unable to prevent this Israeli incursion or protect Palestinians, the Palestinian Authority's impotence is apparent for all to see. This will, I believe, only worsen its standing in the eyes of the Palestinian public and exacerbate its legitimacy crisis.

life.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah too sent a congratulatory cable on Monday to the Bahamas Governor General Sir Cornelius Smith on national day.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishaal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received Sunday Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Oil and Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment Dr. Saad Al-Barak.

Kuwaiti Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Ambassador Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received a phone call Monday from Special Representative of Ukraine for Middle East and Africa Dr. Maksym Subkh.

Aspects of bilateral ties between along with means to enhance them were discussed.

Nod to upgrade Souk Mubarakiya 'markets'

KUWAIT CITY, July 10, (KUNA): The Municipal Council approved, in its main session today, Monday, chaired by Abdullah Al-Mahri, a project to develop Al-Mubarakiya markets, its parking lots and commercial areas close to it, in addition to developing the Municipal Park.

The Council also approved a draft amendment 'Regulations of Cleanliness and Waste Transportation', as the regulation contains more than 30 articles after deleting some articles due to their overlapping with the regulations of other municipal departments, as the new regulation was divided into five chapters in order to be more flexible to the future regarding waste management and public hygiene.

The Council stated that the new regulation is considered an entry point for a new era of municipal waste management and public hygiene, as the vision and objectives of the new regulation were defined with the cooperation of all members of the committee and the technical team, including the opinion of the Environment Public Authority and its reflection on the articles of the regulation.

The Council approved the advisory agreement for the study, design and preparation of contractual documents and supervision of the implementation and maintenance of rainwater drainage systems for the northern, southern and western urban areas of the State of Kuwait.

It also approved the request of the Ministry of Finance to transfer the allocation of the site allocated to Kuwait Municipality, described as the Fintas Entertainment Service Center in Al-Aqila area, Plot 5, in favor of the Ministry of Finance for in-kind payment of the deficit of the Public Institution for Social Insurance.

Bid to end religious sanctities desecration

GENEVA, July 10, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait participated in preparing the draft resolution, alongside the Group of Islamic Countries, to be presented before the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) to confront religious hatred and desecrating religious sanctities.

This came in a statement for KUNA, on Monday, by Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the UN and other international organizations in Geneva, Ambassador Nasser Al-Hain, saying that this resolution aims to eliminate all types of religious hatred based on discrimination, hostility and violence.

He said that the project will be discussed be-

KUWAIT CITY, July 10: According to informed sources, the government aims to raise the efficiency of the Kuwait Ports Authority, which is currently working on implementing a set of construction projects including the expansion of ports and the establishment of logistical cities, with the aim of increasing its competitiveness and raising its operational efficiency. The new projects would increase the financial returns, which will be reflected on the authority's income to form an additional tributary to the state treasury from non-oil revenues, reports Al-Qabas daily.

They indicated that a government report was issued recently concerning raising the efficiency of the Kuwait Ports Authority, urging it to address the observations of the State Audit Bureau contained in its latest report, in addition to emphasizing the implementation of the authority's plans and programs contained in the country's development plan.

The report indicated the continued decline in disbursement and the delay in implementing many projects included in the special development plan in ports. The total appropriations estimated in the authority's budget for the 2021/2022 fiscal year, for example, amounted to KD 46 million, and only 0.7 percent was disbursed of this amount, estimated at KD 324 thousand.

It highlighted the decrease in the annual revenues of the storage areas affiliated to the authority due to its delay in inventorying and evaluating the state's real estate properties in the ports and the land belonging to the authority, and its external storage facilities, which prevented them from being optimally utilized.

Benefit

The report stressed the need to use these properties and quickly develop and benefit from them in order to benefit the authority as well as the companies operating in the activities and services provided by the ports.

The report affirmed the necessity of overcoming the difficulties facing the Kuwait Supply Company regarding storage areas and rehabilitating warehouses that benefit from them, given that the company is an important source of food security in Kuwait.

The government report concluded that the Kuwait Ports Authority should implement seven recommendations, which are as follows:

1. Speeding up the implementation of development plan projects according to their approved schedules and developing their implementation capabilities.
2. Studying the prices and tariffs applied in the authority's ports, amending them if necessary, and having them approved by the concerned authority.
3. Coordinating with the Kuwait Supply Company regarding storage areas, overcoming the difficulties facing the company, and rehabilitating warehouses that benefit from them.
4. Working to identify the components of unexploited areas and usable areas, develop and invest them, and work to maximize their revenues in accordance with the laws and regulations.
5. Developing security and safety systems, tightening control over them, adhering to preventive conditions, and ensuring the security and safety of all storage spaces and areas.
6. Updating the controls for qualifying companies, contractors and dealers with the authority and taking the necessary punitive measures towards companies that fail to implement their obligations.
7. Taking the necessary measures to implement the final court rulings issued in favor of the Kuwait Ports Authority.

The sources explained that the main objectives of the Kuwait Ports Authority in its next development plan are as follows:

1. Receiving commercial ships of larger sizes than they are now.
2. Achieving faster handling services for containers and various types of goods.
3. Developing the current capabilities to re-ship goods from Kuwait to other ports.
4. Attracting a number of international companies to work in the country.

fore the UNHRC on Tuesday, and will reiterate the importance of implementing the universal declaration of human rights, the international covenant on civil and political rights, and the international convention on the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination.

He noted that there is a unanimous agreement between the Islamic Countries and common knowledge of the dangers of desecration incidents.

He added that exercising the right to freedom of expression carries special duties and responsibilities with it as stipulated in Articles 19 and 20 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Other Voices

Victim of 'wrong decisions'!

By Ahmad alsarraf

Bassam Abu Sharif (Jerusalem 1946) is considered one of the leaders of "Fatah." He worked as an advisor to Arafat and one of the founders of the Popular Front. He was removed from the position of advisor by Abbas after the death of Arafat.

In a lengthy television interview with the "Hawar" channel (October 2022), he revealed secrets and issued accusations against several parties, but he avoided delving into more serious matters, and all of this recommends him more than others to respond to what was said by my friend, the pilot captain and journalist Sami Al-Nisf, the former Minister of Information, from serious accusations against the Palestinian leaders, especially against Amin Al-Husseini, and President Yasser Arafat.

Al-Nisf mentioned that Yasser Arafat avoided, throughout his life, talking about his biography, his origin, his beginnings, and his relationship with Amin al-Husseini, the other mysterious figure in modern Palestinian history. According to Al-Nisf's account, Al-Husseini, who was known as the Mufti of Jerusalem, was not originally a cleric. Rather, Herbert Samuel, the ruler of Palestine, called from Sudan, where he was working as an informant, and asked him to take off his suit and put on the robe and turban and made him the Mufti of Jerusalem, in place of his brother Kamel Al-Husseini who had died!

Figure

Omar Amin was no more than 23 when he became a mufti. Rather, the authority sought to strengthen him more, appointing him as head of the Supreme Islamic Council, and he was given the right to manage the Palestinian endowments, and he became the most powerful and important figure.

Al-Husseini contributed to the failure of every project put forward by Britain, starting with the proposal of the Peel Committee, which gave the Palestinians an independent state on 90% of the land of Palestine, and the failure of all other future plans, insisting on the principle of everything or nothing, and this enabled

the Jews, with time to obtain the lion's share of the lands of Palestine.

Al-Husseini also had a role in disposing or selling Palestinian lands to the Jews, and this is proven, indirectly, in the book of the Palestinian researcher, Tayseer Kamila, which he wrote based on British documents, with the aim of discrediting the king of the Emirate of Transjordan, Abdullah. However, the documents included, often without the researcher's intent, what condemns Amin al-Husseini for mediating the sale of land to the Jews.

Al-Husseini also sought to get rid of a number of Palestinian leaders under the excuse of "treason", and the number of those assassinated by secret organizations affiliated with him, such as the Black Hand and the Black Shirts, reached nearly 6,000 Palestinians, especially during the unrest of 1936-1939, including Ahmad Hassan Dajani and Ragheb Al-Nashashibi, while the number of Palestinians killed by British forces and Jews did not exceed 1,200.

Intentions

Al-Nisf evidenced his doubts about al-Husseini's intentions by the fact that the latter stood with Hitler in World War II, met him, and recruited Muslims to fight with him. Despite this, Britain, which emerged victorious from the war did not attack him, but honored him and made him a role model in the 1948 war and its aftermath.

He sought to encourage the Palestinians to leave their lands, taking advantage of what happened in the "Deir Yassin" massacre, exaggerating the event, although the massacre was to be expected in a "civil war" between two parties, similar to what happened at the hands of Arab mujahideen in Jewish settlements.

Al-Husseini's calls were a reason for 200,000 Palestinians to leave their homes and live in camps in Jordan, Syria and Lebanon, and some of them are still there. He also asked the Arab countries not to naturalize the Palestinians.

Al-Nisf added that the Jewish movement was "one opinion" throughout its quest to establish its state, while the Palestinian voice was dispersed, and the reason was in large part due to Al-Husseini's positions.

Captain Al-Nisf concludes by saying that Arafat was handed over the "torch" from Al-Husseini, and continued to make the wrong decisions throughout his "rule"!

□ □ □

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Sheikha Amthal Al-Ahmad inspects the Pakistani mango.



Part of Mango Festival

Consulate celebrates 60th anniversary of Kuwaiti-Pakistani diplomatic relations

Embassy of Pakistan holds annual Mango Festival



Malik Farooq, Pakistani Ambassador to Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, July 10. (KUNA): The Embassy of Pakistan in Kuwait held the Mango Festival, which it holds annually, to celebrate the start of the mango season in Pakistan, in Al-Mubarakiya Market.

The embassy dedicated part of this celebration on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of Kuwaiti-Pakistani diplomatic relations, in the presence of the head of the Voluntary Work Center in Kuwait, Sheikha Amthal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Pakistani Ambassador Malik Muhammad Farooq, and the head of the regional office at the United Nations for the Gulf States, Dr. Amira Al-Hassan.

In a statement to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), Am-

bassador Farooq expressed his happiness for organizing this carnival and in this atmosphere, despite its heat, because of the importance it holds for Pakistan and its people.

He also expressed his happiness and gratitude for the presence of Sheikha Amthal Al-Ahmad, which reflects the importance of the festival on one hand, and what the Kuwaiti-Pakistani relations bear on the other.

He stressed that the relations between the two countries are exceptional, historical and extending for more than 60 years, and today's festival presented part of the Pakistani heritage, whether through the Pakistani mango, which is divided into more than 500 varieties, as well as through the

playing of traditional Pakistani music, in addition to displaying the official uniforms of the state.

For her part, Dr. Amira Al-Hassan said in a similar statement to KUNA that she takes advantage of this occasion to express her happiness for the passage of 60 years of Kuwaiti-Pakistani diplomatic relations and benefit from these relations to provide community activity in open areas.

Al-Hassan added, "We believe that community activities in open spaces enhance the spirit of happiness, fun, and social relations despite the hot weather. However, this festival carries a lot of importance, and I am happy with the presence of everyone."



Varieties Pakistani mango.

SMEs in Kuwait contribute 22% to GDP, seen as 2nd highest contributor in Gulf

Financial, economic inclusion can lead to social and sustainable gains

KUWAIT CITY, July 10: The Gulf Cooperation Council

countries are home to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and economic lifeline, although it is difficult to exaggerate the importance of this sector, taking into account that it is the long-term backbone of these economies, and being a vital source of innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship reports Al-Rai daily.

However, the contribution made by this sector to the GDP of the GCC countries varies from one country to another in the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, as it is estimated to be an equivalent of 22% in Kuwait, 15% in Bahrain, 17% in the Sultanate of Oman, and 24% in the UAE, despite its small size. These ratios represent a significant impact on a region where small and medium enterprises are a major driver of economic growth.

Despite, the emergence of the sector, it is recognized that it is the shadow economy in the Gulf countries although considered small, as it represents only 18% of GDP compared to 28% globally, but as long as efforts continue to build future economies, every company and every activity cannot be overlooked, but the challenge now lies in highlighting the informal activity, and the task begins with inclusion.

The newspaper indicated that the hypothesis is simple and says that enhancing financial and economic inclusion in turn supports long-term economic prospects and creates societies that are more respectful of justice and stability. As for the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council, the hypothesis is convincing, and there are many justifications calling for its adoption.

Transparency

The daily said that by expanding the scope and transparency of activities within the formal economy, Gulf countries will benefit from additional sources of income. In this context, countries in the region can also

stimulate economic progress and increase domestic demand by expanding financial services to populations that suffer from a lack of banking services with banks and non-dealers, for example.

Moreover, inclusion can help reduce reliance on informal financial systems, leading to more stability in the financial sector and stronger and more sustainable growth for the SMEs themselves.

Financial and economic inclusion can lead to social and sustainable gains as well. By increasing the availability of financial services, GCC countries can advance the Sustainable Development Goals while enabling low-income populations, and somewhat marginalized population groups, to participate fully in the economy.

The task at hand is daunting, but with the right enablers and an ecosystem that fosters growth, the GCC countries can succeed in their mission to shrink the shadow economy and embrace the hidden potential of one of the region's most vibrant sectors.

July Room Promotion

Weekdays (Saturday - Wednesday)	
Queen Cabana (2 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.	2 Bedroom Chalet (4 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.
NOW	NOW
BHD 61.000/-net	BHD 136.198/-net
Weekends (Thursday & Friday)	
Queen Cabana (2 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.	2 Bedroom Chalet (4 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.
NOW	NOW
BHD 69.000/-net	BHD 153.222/-net

Promo period from 4th – 31st July 2023

Terms & conditions apply*

Co-op Union

Continued from Page 1

tobacco) slightly rose by 0.30 percent on an annual basis.

The consumer price index (CPI) for the clothing group rose 6.80 percent, and the (housing services) rose by 2.55 percent, while the inflation rate in furnishings increased by 2.37 percent.

KCSB noted that the health index rose 2.45 percent while rates of transport moved up by 2.99 percent compared to the same month in 2022.

Communication rose by 1.33 percent on an annual basis, culture and entertainment went up by 2.84 percent while education rose by 0.48 percent.

Restaurants and hotels climbed on yearly basis last May by 3.49 percent, services and miscellaneous goods by 4.01 percent.

The statement indicated that the inflation of CPI in May, excluding food and beverages, increased by 2.92 percent on an annual basis.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measurement that examines prices on a monthly or annual basis. Generally, it constitutes a basic index for growth and economic recession, where decision makers examine to take decisions at the economic level and work out financial and monetary policies.

MPs to

Continued from Page 1

substitute to allow for government clarifications and the exchange of perspectives.

The ordinary session is also meant to handle observation of commodity prices increases, formation of several temporary committees, and looking into positions of leadership.

The agenda lists discussions of several parliamentary committee reports including foreign affairs committee reports on military cooperation agreements with Türkiye and Ukraine, maritime navigation agreements with Moroccan government, and an agreement with EU on nuclear energy.

Foreign Affairs committee reports also include draft laws concerning customs deal with South Korea, Arab protocol on human trafficking, nautical piracy and robberies as

well as a number of Memorandums of Understanding, and discussion on Kuwait joining the Nairobi International Convention on the Removal of Wrecks.

Further on the session's agenda are government dossiers on residential care, and report from the anti-corruption authority.

Meanwhile, Rapporteur of the parliamentary Financial and Economic Affairs Committee MP Abdulwahab Al-Essa has disclosed that the committee withdrew the report on the government's Public Loan Bill.

He said the 2020 Parliament completed the report, which was included in the agenda of the upcoming session. He explained that Article 109 of the National Assembly Law states the reports on bills submitted by the government and included in the agenda must remain in the agenda of the new Assembly unless the concerned committee decides to remove it.

He pointed out that he cannot approve the bill in its current form, because it is unacceptable that the government will borrow such a huge amount in order to pay salaries. He will support the bill only if it is amended; such that the government will spend the loan on the establishment and development of enterprises, and then use the revenues of these enterprises to pay the loan.

He also revealed that during the meeting, he deduced that the committee is not serious in implementing the strategic alternative to the salary scale. He said Minister of Finance and Minister of State for Economic and Investment Affairs Manaf Al-Hajri informed him about the governmental dispute over the strategic alternative, adding the bill deviated from its original purpose. He quoted the minister as saying that the government rejected the current form of the bill, which stipulates increasing the salaries of a large percentage of public sector employees. If the government approves the increase in salaries, the nationals working in the private sector are excluded. This will widen the gap between the salaries, which means the strategic alternative does not serve its original purpose, he added.

In the meantime, Rapporteur of the Interior and Defense Affairs Committee MP Khalid Al-Tamar said the committee recently met with Deputy First Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Talal Khalid Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and senior officials at the ministry. They discussed the bills on amending National Assembly Election Law No. 25/1962 and establishment of the higher commission for elections.

diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'Providing Kuwaiti youth with jobs important than rights for bedoun'

"WE SAY to the Speaker of the National Assembly Ahmad Al-Saadoun, despite our respect for him, as he is a contemporary veteran MP of past eras, that social disturbances were caused by you and your comrades in earlier councils who support naturalization, as your last proposal, is not applicable when you presented it as a final solution to requests for naturalization under Law No. 21/2000, in your failed attempt to apply it to the bedouns, which, thanks to God, was not achieved," columnist **Bader Khaled Al-Bahar** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

"It would be disastrous if the Council had approved the amendment to Nationality Law No. 44 of 1994 of Amiri Decree No. 15 of 1959 by adding a paragraph to Article 7 considering "the children of the naturalized Kuwaiti as original," and its effect retroactively, which was a legislative setback and a circumvention of the revision of Article 82 of the constitution, which requires that a member of the National Assembly be Kuwaiti by origin.

"The descendants cannot be called 'original', which is confirmed by the explanatory memorandum of Article 82 of the constitution, which states that "the conditions of original nationality are distinct from the conditions for acquiring nationality by naturalization, and with this constitutional provision, any legislative text that allows the naturalized person to exercise the right to run for membership of the National Assembly, whatever it may be, becomes invalid.

"Dear deputies who are demanding civil rights for the children of Kuwaiti women, and who are rushing to settle the issue of naturalized persons and their descendants, bedoun and expatriates, is it not a priority to demand the rights of Kuwaiti women, such as the right to housing, for example, for single and divorced women who are sitting on the side of the road without a house or enough salary for rent and suffer from hardship?

"Why do you not seek to withdraw and stop the naturalization of the wife of a Kuwaiti, who, in the event that he dies or divorces her, may marry a member of her own kin to give birth to foreign children from him, to demand that they be treated as Kuwaiti children and demand the state pay for their education, health, and so on?

"Are the civil rights of the bedoun more important than protecting the education sector that costs the state two and a half billion dinars and add to it the burden of new children into our schools and universities? Despite the state's spending of millions to educate bedoun, do we reward those who break the law? Isn't it more appropriate for the National Assembly to provide housing for thousands of Kuwaiti families who are burdened by rent and instability? Shouldn't your priorities be directed towards providing real job opportunities for Kuwaiti youth instead of deputies demanding rights for the bedoun to compete with our children, while we are unable to employ them?

"Our question to the deputies: O politicians, have you succeeded in monitoring demographic changes around the world? From a modest analysis, we find that what you are asking for, gentlemen, will lead us into the tunnel of France, which made the same mistake, by naturalization and settlement, now going through a fierce ethnic crisis that is destroying its foundations from within, after the naturalized low-income minorities revolted against it, demanding rights and disturbing the public order, costing the state billions when any conflict is interpreted as ethnic!

"We warn, because we have a previous experience that can be repeated, such as the 'We will not allow you' marches, in which the street revolted and was suppressed, by withdrawing the naturalized people, and if we continue the approach of naturalization and legalization of bedoun with more civil rights that

may reach settlement, this will push them to persistence, demonstrations, and resorting to international organizations as a form of threat to obtain citizenship, or to the US embassy, as happened during the funeral of one of them who committed suicide in 2019, which constituted a violation of the sovereignty of the state.

"We have to stop naturalization so that we do not see what is happening on the streets of France, which necessitates the cancellation of the amendment to Article 44, which we hope will come from the Constitutional Court, to cancel the so-called civil rights of bedoun, and replace it with obligating more than ninety percent of them whose origins are known to get passports issued to them by their countries so that we do not get involved in shouldering their problems."

Also:

"From Russia to Yemen, from Syria to France, from Iraq to America, and from the poorest village in the jungles of Africa to the richest city in Europe, politics and power remain the same," **Suaad Fahd Al Moajel** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

"Its tools, goals, methods, labyrinths and cunning are the same in all cases. A rich country and a poor country, or an educated nation and an ignorant nation, do not differ in that. In politics and power, the means and goals are similar and identical everywhere. We in the past were, or specifically in the pre-iPhone era, media and geographically far from such a truth, the media of TikTok, WhatsApp, Facebook, and others today have brought what was far closer, and made the true picture of politics and power crystal clearer, here not in the sense of purity. Rather, in the sense of prominence and clarity of the image, and in a way that is no longer hidden from anyone.

"The media falsely portrays the war that its first aim is to achieve political stability. Despite all the lessons provided by history, which explicitly state that stability cannot be achieved through oppression and arrogance, and military arsenals, no matter how superior they are, rather no material force, whether economic or military, will be able to provide some kind of stability.

"It has not been preceded by political stability that first generates a strong and solid social, cultural and political structure, based on mutual trust between the authority and society and by peaceful and democratic means that preserve freedoms, guarantee the dignity of individuals, and defend rights, in a way that the value of stability is compatible and not contradictory to the value of freedom and human rights.

"Such a reality has not been provided by any war waged by mankind, nor will any war in the future be able to achieve it. However, despite the stability of such a conclusion with all authorities and citizens, wars, repression, arrogance, huge military arsenals, and advanced intelligence security services are still at the forefront of the tools of the people of power and politics, and the fools among them still believe that achieving political stability directly means accumulating more weapons, and training the security and intelligence services to control the outlaws, and in a way that resulted in a miserable and stupid international reality, in which the "developed" countries share with the "developing" countries.

"Political stability is undoubtedly a aim that all human societies aspire to, but it always remains conditioned by reconciliations and pledges, some of which the world witnesses in the aftermath of every war, especially with the end of World War I, and the birth of international organizations that usually sponsor such reconciliations and pledges.

"Perhaps because of this incomplete justice, the features of political stability in the world remain oscillating between aggravation and calm, and there is no significant difference in this regard between Baghdad or Paris, nor between Syria or Russia, nor America and the Sudan. The justice of the victor in all cases and is the one that imposes the terms of reconciliation in order to achieve the

desired political stability."



"Monitoring anyone suspected of being involved in corruption has become extremely important. It has become urgent and necessary, now more than ever," columnist **Dr Mohammad Al-Azmi** wrote for **Al-Rai** daily.

"Life is in continuous development and the wheel of progress is merciless to those who have stopped walking. This wheel may crush them and turn them into nothing.

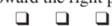
"In Kuwait, praise God as we see remarkable progress in all aspects of life. We do not want the corrupt clique to influence this development, through its actions that pursue personal interests, neglecting the interests of the country. Corruption is an obstacle to development. A society that remains silent over corruption is eradicating the future.

"The corrupt want to disrupt the major projects of the country, through suspicions of 'selling' people's debts or bribery, while the law and regulations are not applied. Unfortunately, this delays progress and paralyzes the nation.

"Also, officials who do not use their conscience in selecting qualified employees, and resort to mediation and nepotism, are destroying the serious work system, as the least qualified occupy positions, while those with competence, experience and prestigious degrees live in the shadows. The latter's competencies are wasted and the country does not benefit from them.

"Praise God, our security services reassure us all the time. They are alert. Over the past days, they uncovered many corruption cases and referred the perpetrators to the court, which will apply the law on them. The security agencies are working tirelessly based on their conviction that the issue is related to the future of the country.

"Whoever thinks of committing corruption must be ensured that Kuwait will not stand idle. The country's loyal sons will defend it and its future, so that the wheel of progress will move toward the right path."



"From time to time, we tackle the high prices that have drained the pockets of citizens. Perhaps, we will see the Ministry of Commerce stop the artificial price increase that some crisis traders are doing without accountability," columnist **Khalid Al-Arrafa** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

"High prices have become clear, hence, the urgent need for intervention and accountability by the MPs. Prices in central markets and restaurants have been increasing without accountability by the competent authorities despite repeated complaints and calls to control prices.

"We, the consumers, are witnessing crises, which require the government to strictly enforce the law and take action against violators. Sometimes, we witness an increase in the price of chicken, and that of meat and vegetables at other times.

"Despite the efforts of inspection teams at the ministry, it is necessary to apply the law to the greedy owners of markets and shops. This could be done by reviewing their prices six months ago and compare them with the current prices, that is, if we want to apply the law and hold accountable everyone who manipulates prices by withdrawing or canceling their license.

"We hope the ministry will soon announce the number of violations and the measures taken against the violators. Do officials in the concerned authorities know that immediately after the amendment of the salary scale for State employees, some stores raised the prices of commodities in preparation for the large increase that will absorb any upcoming increase? Therefore, it has become necessary to stabilize and follow up prices, and stop anyone who tries to take advantage of the circumstances to inflate their assets."

— Compiled by **Mai Elsoukary**



Bader Al-Bahar

Increase seen in fire accidents, reaching 12 per day

2,150 fires tackled

KUWAIT CITY, July 10: With a rate of 12 fires per day, Kuwait sleeps and wakes up to news about fire accidents in the country. According to sources from the fire sector, a frightening increase in fire accidents have been observed in the country since the start of the summer season this year, particularly with the extremely high temperatures. Such a situation requires developing quick solutions to protect lives and properties, reports **Al-Qabas** daily.

The sources stated that neglecting preventive requirements, poor storage, pileup of things, and randomness are the top mistakes that many people make, and lead to fire incidents.

They highlighted an increase in the rate of fire accidents with every summer season annually due to some people resorting to operating air conditioners at a non-stop rate, which increases loads on the electric current and increases the possibility of fire incidents.

Short-circuit

The sources explained that the firefighting teams dealt with about 2,150 various fire incidents during the period from January 2023 to July 3 at a rate of 12 fires per day. Electrical short-circuit alone caused 36 percent of those fire break outs.

The number of fire incidents of various types that were combated by the fire sector amounted to about 1,850. The number of fire incidents dealt with by other parties reached 300, bringing the total number of fire incidents during the first half of this year to 2,150.

About 697 fire incidents occurred in residential areas, 695 in other places, 262 in non-residential places, and 496 in land transportation.

Regarding the main causes of fires, the sources explained that electrical short circuit was responsible for approximately 762 fire incidents, constituting about 36 percent of the total fire incidents. This is followed by about 362 fire incidents caused by throwing of cigarette butts. In third place is children tampering with a heat source or flammable materials, causing about 215 fire incidents. In the fourth place are fire incidents caused intentionally by human beings, which constitute about 197 fire incidents at a rate of about nine percent of the total fire incidents.

The fire control teams in Ahmadi Governorate ranked first in fighting the fires that broke out in the governorate, totalling about 490 fire incidents. In second place are the fire teams of Jahra Governorate that dealt with about 480 fire incidents, and then the firefighters of Farwaniya Governorate in third place as they dealt with about 475 fire incidents.

Hawally Governorate came in fourth place, as its firefighting teams dealt with 264 fire incidents, followed by Capital Governorate's firefighting teams that dealt with 247 fire incidents. In last place is the Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorate which recorded 194 fire incidents.

According to a firefighting source, fire accidents resulting from electrical overload, electrical short circuits, vehicle fires, and child tampering reach their peak during the summer season each year.

Bachelors' homes are sometimes like "time bombs", as electrical accidents abound. This is because these dwellings are divided into several homes that operate under one transformer. This contributes to fire accidents in the house, or an increase in the electrical load on the main transformer in the area, which results in an explosion of the transformer.

The most prominent cause of vehicle fires in the summer season is the owners' negligence in carrying out periodic inspections of the vehicles, which causes mechanical failures, especially with the high temperatures, and leads to vehicle fires.



Al-Qabas photo

Firefighters tackling one of the blazes.

Also, cases of tampering by children increase during the summer holidays, as they set fire to garbage containers, trees, and even vehicles. Many cases have been registered in this regard.

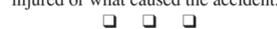
Seminar highlights dangers of drug menace

Three people perish in road accident

KUWAIT CITY, July 10: Three people died when a minibus, transporting workers collided with a half-lorry on the Sixth Ring Road Sunday, reports **Al-Rai** daily.

When the Public Relations and Security Media Department of the Ministry of Interior received information on the accident, paramedics and police rushed to the site and referred the corpses of the victims to Forensics.

It is not known if any persons were injured or what caused the accident.



Dangers of drug: Minister of Social Affairs, Family Affairs and Childhood

Sheikh Firas Al-Sabah said the government of Kuwait and the citizens are keen to fight drugs and eliminate this scourge from society, reports **Al-Rai** daily.

Al-Sabah speaking to the delegates of a seminar organized by the Juvenile Welfare Department under the slogan "Towards a safe society away from drugs", stressed on the need to cooperate and make all efforts to thwart schemes targeting young people and to fight people who are corrupt, hold them accountable and punish them to protect the society.

He said the Ministry is keen to organize awareness campaigns to highlight the dangers of drugs and their consequences – especially since many

juvenile are known to have fallen prey to this vice – as well as holding training courses in cooperation with the Ministry of Education to educate younger generation and urge them to stay away from these poisonous substances.

Al-Sabah also called for exerting concerted efforts by all state institutions to combat this scourge, in cooperation with all government institutions, including the ministries of Interior and Justice with regard to the security and legal part, the Ministry of Health with regard to the treatment part, and the ministries of Social Affairs and Information with regard to education and prevention.

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Court urged to block Biden-backed Nevada lithium mine

Electric car makers race for lithium supplies



A container of lithium carbonate sits in a shipping warehouse at Albemarle Corp.'s Silver Peak lithium facility, on Oct. 6, 2022, in Silver Peak, Nev. Threatened by possible shortages of lithium for electric car batteries, automakers are racing to lock in supplies of the once-obscure "white gold" in a politically and environmentally fraught competition from China to Nevada to Chile. Inset: Attendees look at the electric Han EV sedan from Chinese automaker BYD during the Auto Shanghai 2023 show in Shanghai, on April 19, 2023.

Threatened by possible shortages of lithium for electric car batteries, automakers are racing to lock in supplies of the once-obscure "white gold" in a politically and environmentally fraught competition from China to Nevada to Chile. General Motors Co. and the parent company of China's BYD Auto Ltd. went straight to the source and bought stakes in lithium miners, a rare step in an industry that relies on outside vendors for copper and other raw materials. (AP)

Threatened by possible shortages of lithium for electric car batteries, automakers are racing to lock in supplies of the once-obscure "white gold" in a politically and environmentally fraught competition from China to Nevada to Chile.

General Motors Co. and the parent company of China's BYD Auto Ltd. went straight to the source and bought stakes in lithium miners, a rare step in an industry that relies on outside vendors for copper and other raw materials. Others are investing in lithium refining or ventures to recycle the silvery-white metal from used batteries.

A shortfall in lithium supplies would be an obstacle for government and industry plans to ramp up sales to tens of millions of electric vehicles a year. It is fueling political conflict over resources and complaints about the environmental cost of extracting them.

"We already have that risk" of not being able to get enough, said GM's chief financial officer, Paul A. Jacobson, at a Deutsche Bank conference in mid-June.

"We've got to have partnerships with people that can get us the lithium in the form that we need," Jacobson said.

Ford Motor Co. has signed contracts stretching up to 11 years into the future with lithium suppliers on two continents. Volkswagen AG and Honda Motor Co. are trying to reduce their need for freshly mined ore by forming recycling ventures.

Global lithium output is on track to triple this decade, but sales of electric SUVs, sports cars and sedans that rose 55% last year threaten to outrun that. Each battery requires about eight kilograms (17 pounds) of lithium, plus cobalt, nickel and other metals.

"There will be a shortage of EV battery supplies," said Joshua Cobb, senior auto analyst for BMI.

Adding to uncertainty, lithium has emerged as another conflict in strained U.S.-Chinese relations.

Beijing, Washington and other governments see metal supplies for electric vehicles as a strategic issue and are tightening controls on access. Canada ordered three Chinese companies last year to sell lithium mining assets on security grounds.

Other governments including

Indonesia, Chile and Zimbabwe are trying to maximize their return on deposits of lithium, cobalt and nickel by requiring miners to invest in refining and processing before they can export.

GM is buying direct access to lithium by investing \$650 million in the Canadian developer of a Nevada mine that is the biggest U.S. source. In return, GM says it will get enough for 1 million vehicles a year.

Conservationists and American Indians are asking a federal court to block development of the Nevada mine, which the Biden administration has embraced as part of its clean energy agenda. Opponents say it might poison water supplies and soil and pollute nesting grounds for birds.

"Securing metals must not come at a sacrifice to the environment," said a U.S. group, the Natural Resources Defense Council, in a report last year.

BYD Auto's parent company, battery maker BYD Co., has announced more than \$5 billion in investments in lithium mining and refining over the past 18 months.

Most are in China, but BYD also is promising to spend \$290 million on a processing facility in Chile, one of the biggest lithium producers. In exchange, BYD is allowed to buy lithium from Chilean miners at a discount.

At home, BYD announced last year it would invest 28.5 billion yuan (\$4.2 billion) in a venture to produce 100,000 tons of lithium carbonate a year in the eastern city of Yichun.

Another Chinese automaker, NIO Inc., bought 12% of Australian lithium miner Greenwing Resources Ltd. last year for 12 million Australian dollars (\$8.1 million).

Despite rising output, the industry may face shortages of lithium and cobalt as early as 2025 if enough isn't invested in production, according to Leonardo Paoli and Timur Gul of the International Energy Agency.

"Supply side bottlenecks are becoming a real challenge," said Paoli and Gul in a report last year.

Automakers might be putting in their own money to reassure "notoriously risk-averse" miners, according to Alastair Bedwell of GlobalData. He said miners are reluctant to "go all out" on lithium until they are sure the industry won't switch to batteries

made with other metals.

Even if they do, developing lithium sources is a yearslong process.

Mines that came online in 2010-19 took on average more than 16 years from discovery to the start of production, according to Paoli and Gul of the IEA.

"These long lead times raise questions about the ability of supply to ramp up," they wrote.

Investment by automakers might "help to remove some of their partners' risk and ultimately create more production," Bedwell said in an email.

Worldwide lithium resources are estimated at 80 million tons by the U.S. Geological Survey.

Bolivia's are the biggest at 21 million tons, followed by Australia with 17 million and Chile with 9 million. China has 4.5 million tons of known reserves and the United States has 1 million.

Forecasts of annual global production range as high as 1.5 million tons by 2030. But demand, if EV sales keep rising at double-digit annual rates, is forecast to increase to up to 3 million tons.

Sales of battery-powered and gasoline-electric hybrid vehicles took off in 2021, more than doubling over the previous year to 6.8 million, according to EV Volumes, a research firm. Last year's sales rose to 10.5 million.

China accounted for 60% of last year's sales, two-thirds of production and three-quarters of battery manufacturing.

Ford plans to sell 2 million EVs a year by 2026. GM, with 2022 sales of 3.6 million cars, has plans for 30 electric models and North American production capacity of 1 million two years from now in 2025.

Toyota Motor Co.'s annual target is 3.5 million by 2030. VW, which sold 4.6 million cars worldwide last year, is aiming for 70% of sales in Europe and 50% in China and the United States to be electric by 2030.

President Joe Biden last year announced an official goal for half of all new cars sold in the United States to be electric or other zero-emissions technology by 2030.

As sales rise, so does government unease, especially in Washington and Beijing, about access to lithium and other minerals and the potential for strategic competition.

Volkswagen's battery unit, PowerCo, signed an agreement with Canada last August to develop suppliers of "critical raw materials" including lithium, cobalt and nickel.

The German chancellor, Olaf Scholz, in a statement welcomed cooperation with "close friends" on "raw material security."

Last year, Canada imposed limits on foreign involvement in production of lithium and other "critical minerals" for batteries and other high-tech products.

China's government has accused the United States, Canada, Japan and other governments of misusing phony security concerns to hurt Chinese competitors in electric cars, smartphones, clean energy and other emerging technologies.

Other governments welcome Chinese investment.

China's biggest lithium producer, Ganfeng Lithium Co., bought Argentina's Lithia Inc. last year for \$962 million. In 2021, Ganfeng bought Mexico's Bacanora Lithium for \$391 million. It is developing a project in the northern region of Sonora with planned annual output of 35,000 tons.

China's Tianqi Lithium Inc. owns 23.8% of Chile's dominant producer, Sociedad Quimica y Minera, or SQM.

About two-thirds of the world's lithium comes from mines. That involves crushing rock and using acids to extract metals. It leaves toxic heaps of chemical-laced tailings.

The rest is extracted from salt lakes or from salt flats called salars in Chile and Bolivia. That can require vast evaporation ponds.

The industry is working on technology to extract lithium from hot springs, lakes and clay deposits with less environmental impact.

VW has a five-year supply contract with Vulcan Energy Resources Ltd., which plans to produce lithium hydroxide from geothermal brine in Germany's Rhine Valley.

Vulcan says its process uses no fossil fuels. That is a response to complaints EVs do little to reduce overall carbon emissions because energy for their manufacturing and charging usually comes from coal, gas and oil.

As they ramp up supplies, automakers face another bottleneck: Lack of refining capacity to purify

raw lithium into battery material. Tesla Inc. broke ground in Texas last month for a lithium refinery that CEO Elon Musk should produce enough for 1 million vehicles per year by 2025.

"The choke point is much more on refining capacity than it is on mining," said Musk in an April conference call with reporters.

Other manufacturers including BMW AG, which aims to make at least half its sales fully electric by 2030, are buying stakes in lithium refiners.

As for GM, "I don't know" whether it will build its own refinery, Jacobson said.

"Where I can help fund some expansion in exchange for guaranteed supply, that's a good thing," he said. "We should be open to doing that."

Smaller brands without their own lithium supply might be squeezed, according to Bedwell. He said they might be forced to pay more, which might threaten the existence of some.

"Certainly, mass-market players who don't get their lithium strategy right will be at a disadvantage," said Bedwell.

Also:

RENO, Nev.: Lawyers for environmentalists and tribes urged a U.S. appeals court on Tuesday to overturn a judge's decision to allow construction to begin on a huge lithium mine in Nevada earlier this year before the plans were in full compliance with federal law.

A lawyer representing four conservation groups seeking to halt the project said a U.S. district judge in Reno illegally exceeded her authority when she refused to revoke the mine's operation plan in March despite her conclusion that federal land managers had violated the law in approving parts of it.

"This is the first time in public land history that we have a major project violating a number of provisions but is allowed to go forward," **Roger Flynn**, the director of the Colorado-based Western Mining Action Project, told a three-judge panel of the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.

"In the meantime, thousands of acres of public land are essentially being clear-cut," he said Tuesday about the high-desert sagebrush that serves as critical habitat for the imperiled bird species sage grouse.

The Nevada mine at Thacker Pass near the Oregon line has pitted environmentalists and Native Americans against President **Joe Biden's** plans to combat climate change and could have broad implications for mining operations across the West. The mine would involve extraction of the silvery-white metal used in electric-vehicle batteries.

This is the first time the **San Francisco**-based appellate court has considered the merits of such a case since it blocked construction of an **Arizona** copper mine last year based on a more stringent interpretation of a Civil War-era mining law regarding the use of neighboring lands to dispose of waste.

Lawyers for the Bureau of Land Management, the agency that approved the mine, and the mining company, Lithium Nevada Corp., denied the mine would cause any serious harm to sage grouse or other species.

They said Tuesday that U.S. District Judge **Miranda Du** in Reno acted within her authority when she allowed construction of the mine to begin in March while ordering the bureau to provide additional evidence it was in compliance with the so-called "Rosemont decision" that blocked the Arizona mine.

Lithium Nevada, a subsidiary of the Canadian-based Lithium Americas, spent more than \$8.7 million on the environmental analysis and permitting process, even altering the original plans to move it outside of environmentally sensitive areas, said Laura Granier, a lawyer for the company. She said investments in mitigation, legal costs and initial construction already have exceeded \$150 million.

"There were no short cuts. There was no expense spared, no corners cut when it comes to mitigation," she told the three-judge panel during an hour-long hearing in Pasadena, California. (AP)

Investment by automakers might help to remove some of their partners' risk and ultimately create more production.

editor's choice



16th Concours Géza Anda – jury, rules, repertoire

The Géza Anda-Foundation is delighted to announce the jury, rules and repertoire of the 16th international piano competition Concours Géza Anda.

The competition takes place between 30th May and 8th June 2024 in Zurich and Winterthur, Switzerland and is open to participants from all countries who are born after 30th May 1992.

Franz Xaver Ohnesorg will chair the jury, the jury members are: Martha Argerich, Ricardo Castro, Zlata Chochieva, Lucas Debargue, Konstanze Eickhorst, Toshio Ho-

sokawa, Robert Levin and Dénes Várjon.

The Mozart-Semifinal with Musikkollegium Winterthur will be conducted by Mikhail Pletnev, the Final with the Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich by Paavo Järvi.

Registration opens on 19th November 2023. The rules and repertoire of the Concours Géza Anda 2024 can now be found on geza-anda.ch

Further information and contact: Géza Anda-Foundation Phone: +41/442051423 markus.wyler@geza-anda.ch (PR News-wire)

Egypt's inflation rate sets record high at 36.8% in June

Egypt's annual inflation rate set a record high in June, as the most populous Arab country continues to battle price hikes and a depreciating currency, the Egyptian statistics bureau said Monday.

The annual inflation rate reached 36.8% last month, up from 33.7% recorded in May, according to data released by the state-run Central Agency for Mobilization and Statistics.

Prices in Egypt rose across many

sectors, from food items and medical services to housing and furniture following the Russia-Ukraine war, which unleashed a wave of inflation across the globe.

In Egypt, food and beverage prices, the main drivers of inflation, rose by 64.9% in June over the same time last year, the data released Monday showed. Grains, meat, poultry, fish, and fruit were among the products with the biggest price spikes.

The inflation rate last month more

than doubled compared to June 2022 when it was at 14.7%.

Egypt, a country with over 105 million people, is the world's largest wheat importer. Most of its imports traditionally come from Ukraine and Russia.

Even before the war, Egyptians suffered price hikes as the government embarked on an ambitious reform program in 2016 designed to reverse longstanding distortions in the country's battered economy. (AP)

Market Movements

10-07-2023

	Change	Closing pts		Change	Closing pts
UAE - DFM	+0.37	3,977.27	JAPAN - Nikkei	-0.61	32,189.73
PAKISTAN - KSE 100	+0.63	44,561.82	SAUDI - Tadawul	-0.19	11,586.93
PHILIPPINES - PSEI	+0.01	6,379.72			
EGYPT - EGX 30	+2.46	16,963.13			

Business

The Conversation

Heat waves hit the poor hardest

Calculating rising impact on those least able to adapt to warming climate

By Mojtaba Sadegh, Boise State University; John Abatzoglou, University of California; Merced, and Mohammad Reza Alizadeh, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

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

Spend time in a developing country during a heat wave and it quickly becomes clear why poorer nations face some of the greatest risks from climate change. Most homes don't have air conditioning, and even health clinics can get overheated.

These countries tend to be in the hottest parts of world, and their risk of dangerous heat waves is rising as the planet warms.

In a published study, our team of climate scientists, economists and engineers found that the poorest parts of the world are likely to be two to five times more exposed to heat waves than richer countries by the 2060s. By the end of the century, the lowest-income quarter of the global population's heat exposure will almost match that of the entire rest of the world.

Heat waves are often assessed by how frequent or intense they are, but vulnerability involves more than that.

A key factor in the amount of harm heat waves cause is people's capacity to adapt with measures like cooling technology and the power to run it.

To assess how heat wave exposure is changing, we analyzed heat waves around the world over the past 40 years and then used climate models to project ahead. Importantly, we also incorporated estimates of countries' ability to adapt to rising temperatures and lower their heat exposure risk.

We found that while wealthy countries can buffer their risk by rapidly investing in measures to adapt to climate change, the poorest quarter of the world - areas likely to be slower to adapt - will face escalating heat risk.

Heat waves are among the deadliest climate and weather-related disasters, and they can be destructive to crops, livestock and infrastructure. Cur-

rently, about 30% of the global population lives in areas where heat and humidity levels can be deadly on at least 20 days a year, studies show, and the risk is rising.

Adaptation measures, such as cooling centers, home-cooling technology, urban planning and designs focused on reducing heat, can lower a population's heat exposure impact. However, a country's ability to implement adaptation measures generally depends on its financial resources, governance, culture and knowledge. Poverty affects each. Many developing countries struggle to provide basic services let alone protections from escalating disasters in a warmer future.

The compounding effects of economic, institutional and political factors cause a lag in low-income countries' ability to adapt to the changing climate.

We estimate that the poorest quarter of the world lags the wealthiest in adapting to rising temperatures by about 15 years on average. This estimate is based on the pace of preparation and support for adaptation plans described in the U.N. Environment Program's Adaptation Gap Report. The actual lag will vary because of wealth inequities, but that estimate provides a broad picture of the rising risks.

Looking back over recent decades, we found a 60% increase in heat wave days in the 2010s compared with the 1980s. We defined a heat wave as extreme daily temperatures above the 97th percentile for the area, for at least three consecutive days.

We also found that heat wave seasons were getting longer, with more frequent early- and late-season heat waves that can increase heat-related deaths.

Our analysis showed that people's average heat wave exposure in the

poorest quarter of the world during the 2010s was more than 40% greater than in the wealthiest quarter - roughly 2.4 billion person-days of heat wave exposure per year compared with 1.7 billion. A person-day is the number of people exposed to the heat wave times the number of days.

This heat wave risk in poor countries has often been overlooked by the developed world, in part because heat deaths aren't consistently tracked in many countries.

By the 2030s, we project that the lowest-income quarter of the world's population will face 12.3 billion person-days of heat wave exposure, compared with 15.3 billion for the rest of the world combined.

By the 2090s, we estimated it will reach 19.8 billion person-days of heat wave exposure in the poorest quarter, almost as much heat wave exposure as the three higher-income quarters together.

The results provide more evidence that investing in adaptation worldwide will be crucial to avoid climate-driven human disasters.

The world's wealthiest nations, which have produced the lion's share of greenhouse gases driving climate change, promised over a decade ago to direct US\$100 billion annually by 2020 to help the poor countries adapt to climate change and mitigate its effects. Some of that money is flowing, but wealthy countries have been slow to meet the goal.

Studies meanwhile have estimated that economic loss from future climate damage in developing countries will reach between \$290 billion and \$580 billion a year by 2030 and continue to escalate.

Increasing international assistance can help poorer countries adapt to the harm caused by climate change. Companies and innovators can also play an important role by developing low-cost microgrid electricity and cooling technology to help poor countries survive escalating heat waves. (AP)tt

The Conversation

More employers forced to be flexible

Diversity of US workplaces growing in terms of race, ethnicity and age

By Adia Harvey Wingfield

Arts & Sciences at Washington University in St. Louis

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

Increased immigration, longer life expectancy and a decline in birth rates are transforming the U.S. workforce in two important ways. The people powering this nation's economy include far more people of color and workers over 55 than was the case four decades ago.

And this diversity will keep growing in the years ahead, economists predict.

The share of U.S. workers who are nonwhite, Latino or both nearly doubled to about 40% in 2019 from roughly 23% in 1979, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. With more older people staying economically active, over 37 million U.S. workers are 55 and up today. They account for nearly 1 in 4 of the 160 million Americans engaged in paid work. In 1979, fewer than 1 in 7 U.S. workers were in that age group.

The government's Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts that the ranks of older workers will keep rising in the years ahead - including people who are well into their golden years. The number of Americans 75 and older remaining in the labor force will nearly double between 2020 and 2030, while the number of all workers rises by only 5.5%, according to the bureau.

The share of white workers will have declined to 74.7% by 2031, from 77% in 2021, the bureau predicts.

The agency is also tracking the prevalence of workers of Hispanic origin who can identify as white, Black or mixed race. It says that the share of such workers will rise during that decade to 21.5% from 18.3% of the workforce - up sharply from 12.1% in 2001.

How are U.S. employers responding to these changes?

I'm a sociologist who studies how racial and gender inequality persist in professional occupations. One likely consequence I expect to see is employers finding themselves forced to do a better job of attracting and retaining underrepresented and older workers through diversity, equity and inclusion efforts.

It's already very common for employers to take diversity, equity and inclusion measures. A 2019 survey of 234 companies found that nearly 2 in 3 employed diversity managers.

Their responsibilities can range widely. Some examples include creating a culture that values and welcomes workers from diverse backgrounds and increasing the numbers of employees from backgrounds that are underrepresented in a particular field.

In finance this might mean bringing in more female, Black and Latino analysts. In nursing this could mean attracting more men of all races into a profession that's still dominated by white women.

In these fields and others, changing

the culture can mean collecting data about which workers are underrepresented, trying to fill any gaps detected, or revising dress and grooming codes that ban hairstyles more commonly worn by Black workers.

Unfortunately, many companies are using diversity strategies that aren't proved to work.

These can include mandatory diversity training, often in the form of professional webinars or workshops with interactive exercises.

Diversity training is supposed to make people better at working and interacting with colleagues and customers with cultural backgrounds that differ from their own. But it often fails to do that.

One complication is that employees resent the feeling of being controlled.

Another is that they may see this mandatory training as a waste of their time. And there's evidence suggesting that it can even be counterproductive by reinforcing rather than debunking stereotypes and alienating Black workers.

The other strategy that's more common than it should be is the use of skills tests that job applicants must pass as a condition for hiring. In tech, for instance, a skills test could mean that applicants are asked to solve a particular problem so that hiring managers can objectively assess their skills as well as their ability to work cohesively with a team.

The problem with skills tests is that hiring managers often weigh the outcome of these tests differently for Black and white workers due to a range of biases, some of which they may not be aware.

Recent research also indicates that neither of these popular approaches is leading companies to make their workforces more racially diverse through their hiring practices.

I believe that employers use these strategies anyway because they are easy, widespread and popular. Companies may proceed with what they've used in the past rather than trying something new.

Fortunately, new research is pointing to more successful strategies.

Employers can respond to today's and tomorrow's demographic realities by changing how they handle hiring. They can start by recruiting more workers from historically Black colleges and universities and Hispanic-serving institutions.

A promising strategy that aids in the retention of workers of color is the development of mentoring programs that are open to all, rather than by invitation only. That way, implicit biases don't exclude workers of color.

Companies can also implement what's known as "upskilling."

Workers in upskilling programs try out a variety of different roles in the organization. This strategy helps develop underrepresented workers' skill sets and connects them to managers who might otherwise overlook them.

Wall Street 'drifts' ahead of updates on inflation, profits

Asian shares mixed on signs of slowing growth in US, China

NEW YORK, July 10, (AP): Stocks were drifting on Wall Street Monday ahead of a week with updates on where inflation and corporate profits are heading.

The S&P 500 mostly unchanged in afternoon trading, coming off just its second losing week in the last eight. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 133 points, or 0.4%, at 33,867, as of 12:29 p.m. Eastern time, and the Nasdaq composite was 0.3% lower.

FMC, an agricultural sciences company, tumbled 11.2% for the biggest loss in the S&P 500 after it warned of a sudden drop in business across most of the world toward the end of May as partners burned through inventory levels. It said the "unforeseen and unprecedented" declines would hurt its results for the spring and full year.

On the winning side of Wall Street was Helen of Troy, which said profit and revenue fell by less last quarter than analysts expected. The company behind OXO, Hydro Flask and other brands jumped 17.5%. But it also warned of a expectations for a slower economy.

The big question hanging over Wall Street is whether the U.S. economy can avoid a long-predicted recession despite high interest rates meant to pull down inflation. The hope is that inflation is easing enough for the Federal Reserve to soon halt its hikes to rates, which have already caused cracks in the banking industry and other corners of the economy.

A report on Wednesday will offer the latest monthly update on inflation at the consumer level, and economists expect it to show another slowdown. They're forecasting consumer prices were 3.1% higher in June than a year earlier, down from 4% inflation in May.

The Fed has acknowledged inflation has slowed since last summer, when it peaked just above 9%. But it's also hinted that it may raise rates one or two more times this year before holding them at a high level to ensure inflation returns to its 2% target.

Such talk has helped erase many earlier bets among traders that the Fed may not only halt its hikes to interest rates this year but also to cut them. That's caused Treasury yields to jump back toward their highest levels since March, before high rates helped cause the collapses of several U.S. banks that rattled confidence in the system.

Treasury yields eased back a bit on Monday. The 10-year Treasury yield slipped to 4.01% from 4.06% late Friday. It helps set rates for mortgages and other important loans.

The two-year Treasury yield, which moves more on expectations for the Fed, fell to 4.86% from 4.95%.

An expectation for higher yields is one



Abdulaziz Al Marzooq



Abdullah AlSharekh



Thuwaini AlThuwaini

KFH Capital, Kamco, Warba Bank successfully managed issuance of KWD103.1mln dominated Sukuk for KIPCO

KUWAIT CITY, July 10: KFH Capital, Kamco Invest, and Warba Bank announced the successful completion of the KWD103.1 million Sukuk issuance for Kuwait Projects Company (Holding) KIPCO.

The Sukuk issuance, jointly managed by KFH Capital, Kamco Invest, and Warba Bank, is part of the USD-2bn KIPCO's International Sukuk Program. Application has been made for Certificates issued under the Program to be admitted to trading on the London Stock Exchange's International Securities Market ("ISM"), a market designated for professional investors.

The Sukuk comprises of two profit rates certificates, fixed and floating, with a tenure of 6 years. The KWD 66.05 million fixed rate certificates offers a profit rate of 6.5%, whereas the KWD 37.05 million floating rate certificates offers a profit rate of 7.00% (3.00% over the CBK Discount Rate), provided that the floating rate shall never exceed 7.50% per annum. The profit payment on both certificates will be paid semi-annually. KFH Capital and Kamco Invest acted as Global Coordinators on the issuance and Joint Lead Managers along with Warba

Bank. The Chief Executive Officer at KFH Capital, Abdulaziz Al Marzooq, stated, "As the Sole Structuring Agent, we're proud to lead the first Kuwaiti Dinar-denominated corporate sukuk. Our team at KFH Capital collaborated closely with the client to innovate and architect the inaugural Wakala / Murabaha Sukuk. The commendable cooperation of the KIPCO group was instrumental in the successful completion of this groundbreaking transaction."

Al Marzooq further underscored the significance of this issuance, characterizing it as a pivotal moment that marks a new chapter for prospective Sukuk issuers in the Kuwaiti marketplace. He said, "This landmark transaction sets the stage and paves the path forward for Kuwait based Corporations to use Sukuks as a mean for their funding requirements in Kuwaiti Dinar and other currencies."

Abdullah M. AlSharekh, Managing Director of Markets and Investment Banking at Kamco Invest said, "This transaction represents another significant achievement that will contribute to the expansion of local and regional

debt capital markets. KIPCO's solid financial position, forward-looking vision, and successful history of utilizing the debt capital markets have played a crucial role in attracting substantial investor interest, further bolstering its prospects for future issuances."

AlSharekh Added, "We value the role our investment banking team is consistently undertaking in key transactions and putting forth their experience and credibility to deliver the best possible outcome."

Thuwaini Khaled AlThuwaini, Chief Investment Banking Officer at Warba Bank, said: "We confirm Warba Bank's keenness to participate as a joint lead manager and joint subscription agent for the issuance of sukuk for Kuwait Projects Company. Warba Bank succeeded during the last period in strengthening its role in the field of managing and issuing sukuk to its clients inside and outside Kuwait, by arranging new issuances and supporting the capital market. This has positioned Warba Bank amongst the most active players in the regional sukuk market, which affirms its role and experience in this field."

of the reasons Barry Bannister, managing director at Stifel, says the S&P 500 could hit a pause after its big first half of the year and end 2023 at 4,400. That's roughly where it began Monday.

Asia

Asian shares got the week off to a slow start, with mixed trading Monday as China reported wholesale prices fell in June, amid other signs the economy is slowing.

Benchmarks rose in Hong Kong, Shanghai and Mumbai but fell in Tokyo and Sydney. U.S. futures and oil prices declined.

The decline in producer prices by 5.4% in June from a 4.6% drop in May suggests a further weakening of demand in many industries as activity in the world's second largest economy slows and growth in the U.S. and Europe also

tapers off under a barrage of interest rate hikes meant to snuff out inflation.

China's economy has slowed faster than hoped after an initial surge in growth as the country bounced back from disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng gained 0.5% to 18,460.02 and the Shanghai Composite index edged 0.2% higher to 3,203.13.

Tokyo's Nikkei 225 slipped 0.6% to 32,189.73, while the Kospi in Seoul shed 0.2% to 2,520.70. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 declined 0.5% to 7,004.00.

India's Sensex edged 0.2% higher, while the SET in Bangkok also advanced 0.2%.

As expected, U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen wrapped up a fence-mending visit to Beijing with no major agree-

ments or breakthroughs the economy can navigate the narrow pathway to avoid a long-predicted recession. It needs to keep growing despite much higher interest rates instituted by the Federal Reserve to bring down inflation.

Oil

In other trading Monday, U.S. benchmark crude oil fell 53 cents to \$73.33 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It added \$2.06 to \$73.86 per barrel on Friday.

Brent crude, the pricing basis for international trading, gave up 54 cents to \$77.93 per barrel.

Currencies

The U.S. dollar rose to 142.42 Japanese yen from 142.17 yen. The euro slipped to \$1.0951 from \$1.0967.

EU, New Zealand sign FTA

The European Union and New Zealand signed on Sunday their free trade agreement (FTA) to expand bilateral cooperation.

The deal will cut some EUR 140 million (USD 153 million) a year in duties for EU companies from the first year of application, said the European Commission in a statement.

Bilateral trade is expected to grow by up to 30% within a decade, thanks

to this deal, with EU annual exports potentially growing by up to EUR 4.5 billion (USD 4.9 billion). EU investment into New Zealand has a potential to grow by up to 80%, it noted.

The agreement is now sent to the European Parliament for consent.

Furthermore, the EU's executive body and New Zealand signed today the association agreement on the participation of New Zealand to Ho-

zizon Europe, the EU's research and innovation programme.

According to reports, this marks the first association with a close partner that is not geographically close to Europe; a completely new approach whereby the EU is strengthening even more its ties with trusted partners that have a solid scientific base and a robust research track record. (KUNA)

Turkish, Russian FM's discuss Ukraine

Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan discussed Sunday with Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war and the Black Sea grain deal.

This came in a phone call between the two ministers earlier today, according to the Anadolu News Agency.

The two ministers underlined the importance of maintaining the confidence-based bilateral relations and

adherence to the previous agreements and understandings.

They also deliberated cooperation for guaranteeing the global food security.

The current Black Sea grain deal is set to expire on July 17th. Russian officials have recently hinted, they could block the extension of the grain deal, complaining that parts allowing Russian exports have gone unfulfilled. (KUNA)

President takes aim at corruption, mismanagement

Mexican military to take over control of airports

MEXICO CITY, July 10, (AP): Mexico's armed forces are taking control of the capital's main airport, and the government plans to give the military control of nearly a dozen more across the country as the president takes aim at corruption and mismanagement.

President Andrés Manuel López Obrador has been setting the armed forces to a wide range of nontraditional tasks since he was elected in 2018, creating concerns about the separation of the military from civilian life.

A new airport was built by the army outside Mexico City a year ago at a cost of \$4.1 billion. It is run by the military but little used. López Obrador says the old airport, the country's busiest, will be run by the navy.

The navy took charge of security at Mexico City International Airport, or Benito Juárez, more than a year ago. It will soon have control of everything else, from customs and immigration to handling luggage and cleaning bathrooms, with the imminent publication of a presidential order to make that official.

The list of problems at Mexico City Airport has long included major drug shipments and illegal migration. Infrastructure was in disrepair, and a number of close calls were reported on the runways in recent years as the airport increasingly had trouble handling flights. The airport also had a reputation for stolen luggage, mismanaged airline schedules, business without contracts and corruption.

Meanwhile, López Obrador has gone to the armed forces for help throughout his term, giving them some immigration duties and control of ports and customs. They are also building major infrastructure projects such as a tourist train through the Yucatan Peninsula and a new airport in the same area. They even run plant nurseries and tourist trips to a former penal colony.

The airport, which is used by some 4 million travelers each month, will be "a company within a naval military entity," Rear Adm. Carlos Velázquez Tiscareño, the airport's 73-year-old director, said in a recent interview. But, he said, "this is not going to look like a military department."

Unlike the capital's other airport, Felipe Angeles, where National Guard troops take passenger tickets at the gate, at Benito Juárez the only uniformed military are the 1,500 marines deployed since February 2022 for security. The rest of the airport personnel will be civilians but "with clearer rules ... that govern with more order and discipline," Velázquez Tiscareño said.

The navy will form a company called Casiopea to run the airport and six oth-

Airlock wins Avaloq Software Partner of the Year Award

ZURICH, July 10, (Business Wire): Airlock, a leading security innovation from Ergon Informatik AG, has been awarded the prestigious Avaloq Software Partner of the Year Award 2023. The award recognises the long-standing and successful collaboration between Airlock and Avaloq, a leading global provider of wealth management technologies and services for financial institutions.

Avaloq Community Conference awards ceremony 2023, are Andrea Dorta, Senior Partner Manager at Avaloq and Cyrill Bättig with Robin Lehner at Ergon Informatik AG (Source: Avaloq 2023)

Since 2017, Airlock and Avaloq have been working closely together to provide innovative security solutions for the banking sector. With the Airlock Gateway, Identity and Access Management (IAM) and two-factor authentication (2FA), they make an important contribution to secure banking. Together, the two companies already serve 60 customers worldwide.

Airlock offers comprehensive security solutions for the banking sector that meet the requirements of Payment Services Directive 2 (PSD2) and new technologies such as APIs, mobile banking, Self-Sovereign Identity (SSI) with identity wallets, container security and multi-cloud environments. Through the smooth

ers that have "deficiencies" and are "in the hands of organized crime," Velázquez Tiscareño said. Among them will be Matamoros, across the border from Texas, and Playa del Carmen on the Gulf of Mexico.

López Obrador has already said that he plans to have a dozen airports in the hands of the army or navy by the end of his administration in 2024. And by the end of this year, the military is scheduled to begin operating its own commercial airline.

The Mexico City takeover runs contrary to international aviation recommendations that clearly distinguish between military and civilian, said Rogelio Rodríguez Garduño, an aviation law expert at Mexico's National Autonomous University. But the legal consequences of the move remain unclear.

Earlier this year, Mexico's Supreme Court ruled that the transfer of the National Guard from civilian to military control was unconstitutional. López Obrador left

cooperation on a technical and business level, the security provider was able to establish itself as a specialist for secure banking.

"We are very pleased about this award. It confirms our long-standing and excellent cooperation with Avaloq and underlines our profound understanding of the security needs in the banking sector," explains Roman Hugelshofer, Managing Director Application Security at Airlock.

"We look forward to continuing this successful relationship in 2023. We would like to thank Avaloq for their appreciation and recognition in presenting us with this award."

"We are pleased to be able to recognise our close cooperation. The decision was easy due to the great cooperation in the last 12 months on several projects and the comprehensive support in day-to-day business. Airlock truly deserves this award," emphasises Andrea Dorta, Senior Partner Manager at Avaloq. "We would particularly like to highlight Ergon's strong track record in joint innovation and smooth delivery. We hope to continue the partnership as successfully over the coming years." For more information, please visit Airlock's website: www.airlock.com.

the guard under a civilian department but with a military operational chief.

While navy operational control could help some security issues, experts don't believe it will resolve other problems. The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration downgraded Mexico's aviation safety rating in 2021, preventing Mexican airlines from expanding flights to the U.S.

FAA safety ratings of other countries are designed to measure those countries' oversight of their airlines but do not mean that the airlines are unsafe.

In Mexico, corruption got to the point years ago that coded messages were sent using airport internal communications to hold up baggage inspections so drug shipments could pass untouched, according to testimony during the U.S. trial of former Public Security Secretary Genaro Luna. He was convicted of drug trafficking in February.

90 pct of Syrians below the poverty line, while mlns face cuts in food aid

UN issues dire warning

UNITED NATIONS, July 10, (AP): The U.N. humanitarian chief warned Thursday that the 12-year conflict in Syria has pushed 90% of its population below the poverty line, and that millions face cuts in food aid next month because of a funding shortfall.

Martin Griffiths said that the \$5.4 billion U.N. humanitarian appeal for Syria - the world's largest - is only 12% funded, meaning that emergency food aid for millions of Syrians could be cut by 40% in July.

Griffiths delivered the grim news to the U.N. Security Council along with an appeal to members to renew the authorization for the delivery of aid to the country's rebel-held northwest from Turkey, which expires July 10.

But Russia's U.N. ambassador, whose country is Syria's most important ally, called the cross-border aid deliveries "a zero-sum game" that is undermining Syria's sovereignty, discriminating against government-controlled territory, and fueling illegal armed groups including "terrorists in Idlib."

Syria's uprising-turned conflict, now in its 13th year, has killed nearly half a million people and displaced half of its prewar population of 23 million. A deadly 7.8 magnitude earthquake rocked large swaths of Syria in February, further compounding its misery.

Affairs

Griffiths, the undersecretary-general for humanitarian affairs who returned Wednesday from Damascus, said the Syrian people are facing "profound humanitarian challenges." He said they were gathering Thursday on the Muslim holy day Eid al-Adha "with less food on their plates, little fuel in their stoves, and limited water in their homes" and their hardship comes at a time when the U.N. and its humanitarian partners have limited means to help.

Russia's Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia said the emergency humanitarian appeal for \$397 million to help earthquake victims was funded in the first months, but the overall U.N. appeal for Syria was only 12% funded near the end of June. And he accused the U.S. and its allies of spending far more on weapons for Ukraine than the \$55 billion the U.N. is seeking for global humanitarian needs this year, saying "this lays out Western priorities very clearly."

Britain's U.N. Ambassador Barbara Woodward retorted that the U.K.'s \$190 million pledge on June 15 brought their contribution to Syria to over \$4.8 billion to date and said: "I look forward to Russia announcing its contribution in due course following the recent announcement that Russia spends \$2 billion a year on the Wagner Group."

Russia's President Vladimir Putin said Tuesday, after the founder of the Wagner mercenary group, Yevgeny Prigozhin, and his forces staged a revolt inside Russia, that Wagner and its



A Syrian national flag waves as vehicles move slowly on a bridge during rush hour, in Damascus, Syria, on Feb. 28, 2016. The U.N. humanitarian chief warned Thursday, June 29, 2023, that the 12-year conflict in Syria has pushed 90% of its population below the poverty line, and that millions face cuts in food aid next month because of a funding shortfall. (AP)

KFH recognized at people with special needs job forum

KUWAIT CITY, July 10: As part of "Partners in Recruiting Them" campaign, Kuwait Finance House (KFH) participated in the graduation ceremony of the fourth group of alumni under the patronage of the Minister of Social Affairs Sheikh Firas Saud Al-Malik Al-Sabah. The event was organized by the Public Authority for Disability Affairs and attended by a number of officials and leaders from various entities.

During the event, KFH was recognized for its ceaseless efforts in training Kuwaiti youth with disabilities, as well as its commitment to supporting the labor market and active participation with State institutions, contributing to achieving common national economic development goals and motivating people with disabilities to work in the private sector.

KFH has always been committed to participating in events and initiatives that support people with disabilities in various sports, cultural and scientific activities, in addition to attending different conferences and fairs addressing this special social segment and focusing on showcasing their abilities and skills.

In terms of training and recruitment, KFH carefully selects what best suits the abilities and skills of the people with disabilities taking into account the individual differences and attributes.

founder had received almost \$2 billion from the Russian government in the past year.

Woodward, who visited the Turkish-Syria border earlier this month, echoed Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' call for a 12-month extension of the authorization for cross-border aid deliveries to ensure humanitarian access to 4.1 million people in Syria's northwest.

In January, the council approved a



Abdullah Al-Khamis receiving the honor from the Minister of Social Affairs.

Training is tailored to their interests, in addition to harnessing their capabilities and ensuring the success of this experience with the help of exceptional banking personnel at KFH to qualify them to increase their work capabilities and contribute to developing society.

The training program is the first of its kind aimed at raising the capabilities of participants and unlocking their potential towards achieving goals through the best convenient means.

It is worth noting that KFH had rec-

ognition extending humanitarian aid deliveries to Idlib for six months until July 10 as Russia demanded. Many of the people sheltering in the area have been internally displaced by the conflict. The resolution allowed for aid deliveries to continue through the Bab al-Hawa crossing, but after the earthquake Syria's President Bashar Assad allowed aid to go through two additional crossings at Bab al-Salameh and al-Rai.

ognized the first batch of alumni with special needs as part of a partnership agreement with Kuwait Society for the Handicapped, the first of its kind at the Kuwaiti banking level. The partnership included various initiatives and training programs for students with special needs, including field visits to KFH branches and departments, in addition to providing over 100 hours of training in several departments, including branches, HR, and Cards.

U.S. deputy ambassador Jeffrey De-Laurentis, who said the United States made its largest commitment to Syria of \$920 million on June 15, called it "essential" to keep all three crossings open for 12 months. He cited Guterres' latest report which said anything less would be inadequate to meet humanitarian needs in the northwest which have never been greater. The U.N. chief called it "a moral and humanitarian imperative."

NerdWallet

Millennial Money

Credit-building road with new credit cards could be 'bumpy'

Getting a first or second chance to build credit with a credit card has been easier in recent years because financial technology companies have created alternative options.

These new cards often evaluate applications differently from traditional credit cards, with algorithms and proprietary methods that may put less emphasis on credit scores while looking at factors such as your income or bank account balances. Lower costs tend to be a hallmark, too: Some of these products advertise no security deposit, no annual fee and no APR.

"Many fintechs are really focused on offering products to people that otherwise would not qualify for them at a major institution," says Nick Roberts, chief marketing officer at Grow Credit, a financial technology company based in California. "There is a lot of focus with certain fintechs to expand the market."

But while many of these relative newcomers can indeed help you build credit, it's worth noting that the journey might sometimes be bumpy as the company behind the card continues to scale.

Expect changes
All credit card companies, traditional and nontraditional, are allowed to make changes to your account terms, although depending on what exactly is changing, they must follow certain guidelines.

"They've got to give you a 45 days' notice of an increase in the annual percentage rate and any significant changes in terms," says Lauren Saunders, associate director at the National Consumer Law Center.

Still, compared with a more established credit card, an alternative card from a fintech is more likely to experience frequent changes to its terms and features. These updates may either be welcome additions or disappointing subtractions.

For example, a relatively new credit card company might rebrand, meaning any number of features may change. CreditStacks announced a namesake credit card in 2018, but by 2020, the company and card were going by the name Jasper, sending out redesigned cards and expanding the pool of applicants who might qualify. It later pivoted to being a cash-back card for people with good credit.

Since that rebrand, Jasper's credit card has been discontinued.

Grow Credit launched a credit card in some states in 2019, eventually taking it nationwide in 2020. The card lets you build credit by using it to pay select bills, up to a low monthly spending limit. It's linked to a membership plan with various tiers

and prices, including a free option. But at launch, the card had only a single free tier.

The company added the other membership levels - which may unlock additional qualifying bills and higher monthly spending limits - over time. These additions created more credit-building options for those without credit, according to Roberts.

Keep an eye on your inbox
TomoCredit, a fintech based in San Francisco, has also made significant changes to its credit card's original terms. The card debuted in 2021 with no annual fee but by 2023, the terms included a \$2.99 monthly fee and the card went on a waitlist.

The fintech Petal has been in the credit card space for several years, advertising low- and no-fee cards for customers looking to build credit, as well as those with good credit. But in May and June, Petal informed select existing cardholders that they would be subject to a new monthly membership fee.

Jamie Howard, an e-learning director based in Tennessee, was among those cardholders. He was told that he'd have to pay an \$8 monthly charge or opt out and have his account closed.

"I was kind of shocked at first because I just don't like to pay fees," Howard says. "If I opt out, that's a component of your credit score."

A closed account can hurt credit scores because it can impact credit utilization and shorten the length of your credit history. It was Howard's primary concern, given that he had applied for the Petal card to build credit. Still, after about three years with the card, he decided the monthly fee wasn't worth it because he has other credit cards. "I have since dropped out," he says.

Manage expectations
With any financial product, do your research before applying. Depending on the fintech company, you might not get the same experience that a traditional bank offers, which can be part of the trade-off.

"A chronic problem with fintechs is the lack of human customer service," Saunders says. "One of the ways they can make things more cheaply is by cutting out brick-and-mortar branches, cutting out live customer service, relying on chat and other automated or electronic channels. That works well until it doesn't."

Not all fintech companies may operate this way, but it's important to know what to expect. Online customer reviews can help. A card might still be worth getting if it helps you build credit when other options are too expensive or you've been rejected for a traditional credit card.

'Check your account balance regularly'

10 tips for customers to consider during & after traveling: Gulf Bank

KUWAIT CITY, July 10: As part of its keenness to promote financial literacy in society, Gulf Bank continues to support the Let's Be Aware "Diraya" campaign for the third consecutive year – by broadcasting and spreading awareness and educational materials through social media, the Bank's website, and other channels.

Gulf Bank's Corporate Communications Officer, Mr. Mohammad AlHebeshi, reviewed a number of tips for customers to consider during

and after travelling. This to ensure that they use their bank cards safely and to enjoy the many services provided by Gulf Bank. The tips are as follows:

- Never share your PIN or OTP with anyone and ensure that the card is visible to you while making any transactions.
- Ensure to carefully read the contents of the OTP message, the name of the store and the payment amount before using the OTP.
- Ensure you have sufficient credit

limits and check your account balance regularly.

■ When using ATMs, use the palm of your hand to cover your PIN number and do not ask for any assistance from anyone in the event of encountering any problems with the device during the withdrawal.

■ When making any payments, ensure to check the amount before entering the PIN number.

■ Ensure to review your card expenditures on regular basis through Gulf Bank's website or Mobile Ap-

plication.

■ In the event of losing your card, you can stop your card through the mobile banking application or by calling the Customer Service Center

■ If you encounter any problems with your cards,



AlHebeshi

contact the Customer Service Center immediately.

■ It is always recommended to pay using the local currency of the country you are visiting.

■ Ensure to change your PIN number upon your return and review all your card statements. In case of any discrepancy, the bank must be contacted immediately.

The Central Bank of Kuwait, in cooperation with Kuwait Banking Association, has launched the Let's Be Aware "Diraya" campaign in

2021, to acquaint bank customers with the most important banking services provided to them. This is to ensure the safety of transactions and to enhance financial inclusion, as well as monetary and economic stability – through comprehensive awareness of customers' rights and obligations.

The Diraya campaign also aims to introduce the advantages of electronic financial transactions and ways to avoid the risks arising from them to achieve cybersecurity.

MEED recognizes bank's effort

AUB wins Excellence Award 2023 in customer protection

KUWAIT CITY, July 10: Ahli United Bank (AUB) received the Excellence Award in Customer Protection and Fraud control by the prestigious Middle East Economic Digest (MEED) International magazine. The bank won this award in recognition of its exceptional efforts in protecting its customers and combating fraud within the MENA Banking Excellence Awards 2023.

AUB won this award based on its implementation of advanced security measures, fraud detection systems, and customer protection protocols, which have been highly praised by regulatory bodies and customers alike, solidifying its position as a market leader in these areas.

The bank won this award after an independent judging panel from MEED magazine assessed all the award nominees and compared them based on specific criteria for excellence in each aspect. Points were assigned to all nominees, and these points were then aggregated and compared to determine the winning bank.

On this occasion, Ms. Jehad Al-Humaidhi, Chief Executive Officer and Board Member of Ahli United Bank congratulated the bank's team that contributed to achieving this success. She emphasized that receiving this award attests the bank success in implementing the best management practices to combat fraud and protect customers, ensuring the preservation of their trust and loyalty to the bank."

Selected

Al-Humaidhi further underlined that AUB always prioritizes ensuring that its customers have a secure banking experience, particularly as the bank continues to expand its digital presence. We work with utmost efficiency to protect our customers from cyber fraud, while also contributing to increasing public awareness about these risks and what can be done to mitigate them. Additionally, the bank is committed to preserving the protection of its customers, safeguarding their rights, and providing them with financial advice tailored to their income, monthly obligations, and associated burdens. We aim to educate them about the implications of increasing those obligations.

In her comment on the award, Mrs. Najat Al-Saleh, Chief Risk

Officer – Risk Management at AUB, said: "This award reflects the success of the integrated strategy adopted by the bank for years in addressing technological challenges and making effective investments in cybersecurity infrastructure. This has enabled the bank to keep up with the best globally used software and technologies, empowering it to effectively control all intrusion and fraud attempts.

Furthermore, the bank ensures that all its operations adhere to the highest standards of security and confidentiality, safeguarding the privacy of customer information and banking transactions.

Al-Saleh further highlighted that prioritizing fraud management and safeguarding the data of all customers, as well as ensuring the security of bank transactions in line with the highest standards, is an urgent necessity that requires continuous monitoring. It is crucial to leverage the ongoing advancements in this field to detect and deter fraud attempts and electronic crimes, which are becoming increasingly dangerous and targeting the banking sector.

Principles

Mrs. Sahar Dashedi, GM –Complains and Customer Protection at AUB, expressed her delight at the bank receiving this award, which confirms the success of the efforts made in the field of customer protection. She also accentuated AUB commitment to ensure proper implementation of the principles outlined in the Customer Protection Guide. This includes raising awareness and monitoring necessary recommendations that contribute to the enhancement of financial literacy, banking awareness, and transparency in transactions.

These efforts align with the needs and objectives of all customer segments. The bank is always dedicated to taking the necessary measures to ensure that its policies, procedures, advertising materials, and promotional activities are in line with the principles outlined in the Customer Protection Guide.

Dashedi further added that AUB is committed to ensuring the compliance of its applications with all the requirements of the Customer Protection Guide. It also emphasizes the importance of maintaining an appropriate environment to safeguard the rights of the bank's customers and enhance their trust.



AUB receives the Excellence Award in Customer Protection and Fraud Control.



Zain Kuwait and Google Cloud officials

Company selects Anthos to enable Core Cloud

Zain teams up with Google Cloud to 'accelerate' its digitization journey

'Make your dreams come true'

Burgan promotes 'banking culture' with an interactive TVC for children

KUWAIT CITY, July 10: Zain announces a collaboration in Kuwait with Google Cloud, wherein the company has selected Anthos, a hybrid and multi-cloud platform that enables enterprises to run workloads on premise, on the cloud, and at the edge consistently using an open model that brings choice and flexibility. The step comes to reaffirm Zain's relentless pursuit of achieving full digital transformation across its entire business.

The announcement was made at the Zain Innovation Campus (ZINC) in the company's main headquarters in Shuwaikh, where CEO Eaman Al Roudhan welcomed Abdulrahman Al Thehaiban, Managing Director, Middle East, Turkey and Africa, Google Cloud in an official visit. The partnership was sealed with the attendance of Zain Kuwait and Google Cloud's executive teams.

Commenting on the partnership, Eaman Al Roudhan said: "We're proud to be the first company in Kuwait to launch the Hybrid Cloud Management platform with Google Cloud, setting a solid foundation for our core cloud strategy deployment and elevating our enterprise agility."

"This collaboration comes at a significant moment where Google Cloud recently announced its intent to open a new cloud region in Kuwait, a step that will support our years-long vision to accelerate digital transformation within the public and private sectors," Al Roudhan added.

Abdulrahman Al Thehaiban said: "Zain has been renowned for its innovative approach in the telco space, and we are really proud to launch the first Anthos project in Kuwait. We truly believe that our open and multi cloud technology is key today because it gives choice and flexibility to our customers and collaborates freely with all the vendors in the market."

Reinforce

Today more than ever, companies from across industries, especially telecom operators, are transforming every aspect of their business operations, aspiring to reimagine their application portfolio and reinforce their infrastructures with the most advanced technologies to drive higher efficiencies and lower costs. Zain has long started its digital transformation journey, continuing to see the fruitful results of its early investment in digitization across its entire business.

Zain has partnered with Google Cloud to expand on its transformation journey by embracing Anthos as its hybrid cloud management platform of

choice. Anthos is built on the firm foundation of Google Kubernetes Engine (GKE), Google Cloud's fully managed Kubernetes service, that helps enterprises innovate faster and provide customer services as well as enterprise solutions in a secure and reliable cost-effective way.

Zain has selected Anthos as a foundation layer for its Telco Cloud to utilize it for a wide range of workloads to drive more enterprise solutions to the edge, such as computer vision, image recognition, pattern detection, or any

number of other emerging use cases for edge applications that are often forced to rely on fragmented solutions across on-premises and cloud deployments.

Eaman Al Roudhan recently joined a special panel discussion that coincided with the launch of Google Cloud's new region in Qatar.

The panel, Fostering Innovation with Google Cloud, saw the Zain Kuwait CEO discuss innovation and digital transformation opportunities in the region with other regional executives.



A scene from the Burgan Bank's TVC

budget system for achieving financial independence early in life. In addition, it aims to help children succeed and refine their personalities, creating a knowledgeable banking and finance generation that will reflect positively on society and the state.

In this regard, Ms. Hessa Hussain Al-Najadah, Senior Manager of Corporate and CSR Communications at Burgan Bank, said: "As part of our social responsibility program and the Bank's strategy, we always seek to consolidate the principles of financial and banking culture in society and to enhance the foundations of financial inclusion, in line with the directives of the Central

Bank of Kuwait. As a leading institution in the banking sector, our goal is to invest in children. We play a vital role in educating children about financial management techniques and instilling in them a culture of saving as we prepare them to deal with banking services in the future."

Al-Najadah added: "Burgan Bank will continue to shed light on financial and banking culture in general and support the Central Bank of Kuwait's Let's Be Aware 'Diraya' campaign by launching and participating in many events and activities that aim to spread banking awareness among all members of society."

'Best banking benefits, solutions'

KIB launches 'Surprises for Every Season' campaign for Visa cardholders

KUWAIT CITY, July 10: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) has announced the 'Surprises for Every Season' campaign, scheduled to start in July and continue until the end of the year. The campaign aims to reward KIB's Visa Credit, Prepaid and Debit Cardholders. During the campaign period, 70 lucky customers will win in monthly draws and receive spectacular seasonal prizes, with the first draw taking place in August.

Commenting on the newest KIB campaign, Laila Naserallah, Products Manager of the Digital Transformation and Innovation Department at KIB, said: "We are excited to partner with

Visa through an exciting initiative that extends rewards and campaigns exclusively for KIB's Visa cardholders, starting with this innovative campaign, which we will renew every season. By combining our expertise with Visa, we aim to deliver enhanced value to our Visa cardholders with exclusive perks, making their financial journey even more rewarding."

Ankush Devadason, Visa's Head of Financial Institutions for Kuwait, said: "With travel demand back and expected to exceed pre-pandemic levels, this promotion could not have come at a better time for KIB's Visa cardholders. Not only are they rewarded for using their

Visa cards, but KIB customers can also travel with the peace of mind of worldwide card acceptance at Visa's 100 million merchant partner locations. We are delighted to partner with KIB on this promotion and look forward to announcing our lucky Visa cardholders."

KIB reaffirms its commitment to rewarding customers by providing all

what is new in the world of unique banking benefits, services, and products. Aligned with KIB's main slogan, 'Bank for Life,' the campaign caters to their needs and keeps pace with their modern lifestyle.

The first promotional period for the summer season will start on July 9, 2023. Five lucky customers will win the prize of 'Cruise the World with KIB', which comprises of a 7-night cruise around European countries for two people on board one of the luxurious Royal Caribbean ships.

Registration is not required for this campaign. Customers become instantly eligible to participate in each draw

of the 'Surprises for Every Season' campaign when eligible KIB Visa cardholders spend a minimum of KD 250 per each promotional period using their KIB Visa credit, prepaid, or debit cards for purchases, whether within or outside Kuwait.

Customers holding KIB's Visa credit or prepaid cards will get one chance to enter the draw for every KD 10 spent locally, and two chances for every KD spent internationally. Additionally, for the first time, Visa debit cardholders will also qualify for the monthly draws, getting one chance for every KD 10 spent internationally.

Naserallah emphasized that the

more customers spend, the higher their chances of winning the remarkable draw prizes during the campaign and enjoying memorable moments with their loved ones on these special cruises across different European countries.

It serves to note that KIB encourages all its customers to follow its social media pages for the latest updates on the multiple seasonal campaigns to be launched throughout the year. The Bank's social media channels will provide information on exceptional banking benefits and services that align with customers' aspirations, in addition to offering prizes that cater to their needs throughout the year.



Naserallah

employers ordered to limit outdoor work

Rescuers were looking Monday for seven people missing in a landslide triggered by torrential rains while employers across much of China were ordered to limit outdoor work due to scorching temperatures as the country struggled with heat, flooding and drought.

Rescuers were looking for survivors of a landslide Saturday that buried a highway construction site and killed at least one person in the central city of Yichang in

Hubei province. Five people were injured, the official Xinhua News Agency reported, citing the executive deputy mayor of Yichang, Ye Yang.

Elsewhere, the weather agency issued an orange alert, its second-highest-level warning, for heat across southern China and much of the north and northeast.

Temperatures above 40 C (104 F) were forecast in Beijing, the capital, and across central China to the southeastern coast.

Heat above 37 to 39 C (99 to 102 F) was forecast in parts of populous Sichuan province in the southwest. Elsewhere, temperatures above 35 C (95 F) were expected in most of northern China, the rest of Sichuan and much of the south.

The orange alert requires employers to make outdoor work as brief as possible. Despite that, delivery workers for restaurants and online retailers still were working. (AP)

global coalition against synthetic drugs launched

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Friday hosted a virtual ministerial-level meeting during which the Global Coalition to Address Synthetic Drugs was launched.

Blinken welcomed the participating expressing gratitude for senior government officials from more than 80 countries as well as leaders from over a dozen regional and international organizations "for joining us."

"We feel this acutely in the

United States. Synthetic drugs are the number one killer of Americans aged 18 to 49. And it's almost worth pausing on that fact. The number one killer of Americans aged 18 to 49 - synthetic drugs, notably fentanyl. Nearly 110,000 Americans died last year of a drug overdose," Blinken said.

Two-thirds of those deaths involved synthetic opioids. For the individuals, the families, the communities affected, the pain caused

by these deaths and by the millions who suffer with substance use is immeasurable, the secretary of state asserted.

According to the United Nations, more than 34 million people around the world use methamphetamines or other synthetic stimulants annually. And every region is experiencing an alarming rise in other synthetic drugs. In Africa, it's tramadol; in the Middle East, fake Captagon pills; in Asia, Ketamine. (KUNA)

The Conversation

'Soc-Med can be toxic'

Study highlights social media's impact on mental health

By Emily Hemendinger

University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus

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

Media influences and conventional beauty standards have long plagued society.

This issue took on new urgency in May 2023 when the US surgeon general issued a major public advisory over the links between social media and youth mental health.

Research shows that images of beauty as depicted in movies, television and magazines can lead to mental illness, issues with disordered eating and body image dissatisfaction.

These trends have been documented in women and men, in the LGBTQ+ community and in people of different racial and ethnic backgrounds.

Experts have long suspected that social media may be playing a role in the growing mental health crisis in young people. However, the surgeon general's warning is one of the first public warnings supported by robust research.

Body dissatisfaction among children and adolescents is commonplace and has been linked to decreased quality of life, worsened mood and unhealthy eating habits.

As an eating disorder and anxiety specialist, I regularly work with clients who experience eating disorder symptoms, self-esteem issues and anxiety related to social media.

I also have firsthand experience with this topic: I am 15 years post-recovery from an eating disorder, and I grew up when people were beginning to widely use social media. In my view, the impact of social media on diet and exercise patterns needs to be further researched to inform future policy directions, school programming and therapeutic treatment.

Concerns

The mental health of adolescents and teens has been declining for the past decade, and the COVID-19 pandemic contributed to worsening youth mental health and brought it into the spotlight. As the mental health crisis surges, researchers have been taking a close look at the role of social media in these increasing mental health concerns.

About 95% of children and adolescents in the US between the ages of 10 and 17 are using social media almost constantly.

Research has shown that social media can be beneficial for finding community support. However, studies have also shown that the use of social media contributes to social comparisons, unrealistic expectations and negative mental health effects.

In addition, those who have pre-existing mental health conditions tend to spend more time on social media. People in that category are more likely to self-objectify and internalize the thin body ideal. Women and people with preexisting body image concerns are

more likely to feel worse about their bodies and themselves after they spend time on social media.

A recent review found that, as with mass media, the use of social media is a risk factor for the development of an eating disorder, body image dissatisfaction and disordered eating. In this review, social media use was shown to contribute to negative self-esteem, social comparisons, decreased emotional regulation and idealized self-presentation that negatively influenced body image.

Another study, called the Dove Self-Esteem Project, published in April 2023, found that 9 in 10 children and adolescents ages 10 to 17 are exposed to toxic beauty content on social media and 1 in 2 say that this has an impact on their mental health.

Illnesses

Eating disorders are complex mental illnesses that develop because of biological, social and psychological factors. Eating disorder hospitalizations and the need for treatment have dramatically increased during the pandemic.

Some reasons for this include isolation, food scarcity, boredom and social media content related to weight gain, such as the "quarantine15." That was a reference to the weight gain some people were experiencing at the beginning of the pandemic, similar to the "freshman 15" belief that one will gain 15 pounds in the first year of college. Many teens whose routines were disrupted by the pandemic turned to eating disorder behaviors for an often-false sense of control or were influenced by family members who held unhealthy beliefs around food and exercise.

Researchers have also found that increased time at home during the pandemic led to more social media use by young people and therefore more exposure to toxic body image and dieting social media content.

While social media alone will not cause eating disorders, societal beliefs about beauty, which are amplified by social media, can contribute to the development of eating disorders.

Toxic beauty standards online include the normalization of cosmetic and surgical procedures and pro-eating-disorder content, which promotes and romanticizes eating disorders. For instance, social media sites have promoted trends such as "thinspo," which is focused on the thin ideal, and "fitspo," which perpetuates the belief of there being a perfect body that can be achieved with dieting, supplements and excessive exercise.

Research has shown that social media content encouraging "clean eating" or dieting through pseudoscientific claims can lead to obsessive behavior around dietary patterns. These unfounded "wellness" posts can lead to weight cycling, yo-yo dieting, chronic stress, body dissatisfaction and higher likelihood of muscular and thin-ideal internalization. (AP)

Edgewise announces positive data for EDG-5506 study

Experimental drug shows reduction in key biomarkers of muscle damage

NorthStar, Nucleus sign supply agreement

Ac-225 carries 'radiation' to cause cell death in localized area of targeted cells

BOULDER, Colo., July 10: Edgewise Therapeutics, Inc., (Nasdaq: EWTX), a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company focused on developing orally bioavailable, targeted, small molecule therapies for the treatment of devastating muscle disorders, has announced positive 12-month topline results from the ongoing ARCH study, an open label, single-center study assessing the safety, tolerability, impact on muscle damage biomarkers, and pharmacokinetics (PK) of EDG-5506 in adults with Becker muscular dystrophy (BMD). EDG-5506 is an orally administered small molecule designed to prevent contraction-induced muscle damage in dystrophinopathies including BMD and Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD).

The ARCH study is evaluating varying doses of EDG-5506 administered daily over 24 months in 12 adults with BMD. The Company is reporting data at the end of 12 months of treatment with EDG-5506. EDG-5506 was well-tolerated in all participants with no discontinuations or dose reductions due to adverse events.

Consistent with prior observations, treatment with EDG-5506 led to significant decreases in key biomarkers of muscle damage. Importantly, CK and TNNI2 were reduced by an average of 37% (p=0.001) and 79% (p0.0001) from baseline, respectively, at the participants 12-month visit.

Improvement

After 12 months of EDG-5506 dosing, NSAA scores continued to trend in a positive direction. Nine of the twelve participants showed either a functional improvement (n=6) or exhibited stable disease (n=3) on NSAA relative to their baselines. As seen in Figure 1, NSAA scores show a consistent positive trend that diverges from trajectories observed in the natural history studies reported by Bello et al. (2016) and van de Velde et al. (2021)2 in which the yearly decline was -1.2 NSAA points. Overall, one-year functional results were observed to have a +0.4-point improvement on the NSAA compared to the -1.2-point anticipated natural history decline in a population of BMD patients predicted to have a relentless course of disease progression.

The positive results from the 12-month ARCH study support the hypothesis that a reduction in contraction-induced muscle damage in muscular dystrophies, associated with EDG-5506 administration, has the po-

potential to preserve and improve muscle function while preventing disease progression in dystrophinopathies. Observations from ARCH identified key factors, including the optimal dosing strategy of EDG-5506, for the design of a potentially registrational trial. A pivotal cohort, Grand Canyon, has been added to the Canyon study and is anticipated to begin enrollment in the third quarter of 2023.

"We are quite pleased by the robust

and consistent results observed at 12 months with EDG 5506 treatment, which, together with the favorable safety/tolerability profile, are highly encouraging.

Registration

Moreover, these data have allowed us to quickly pivot our Canyon study to include a potentially registration-enabling cohort," said Joanne Donovan, M.D., Ph.D., Chief Medical Officer of Edgewise. "We thank the patients, their families, caregivers, and the broader Becker community, who are currently underserved with no available treatment options, for engaging with us on this promising therapy."

"Becker is a devastating, neuromuscular disease which currently has no approved therapies. In my experience, once symptoms of muscle weakness occur, muscle has already been lost.

cial radiopharmaceutical therapy products. The Company will use its electron accelerator technology to produce n.c.a. Ac-225 that is free of long-lived radioactive contaminants and byproducts associated with other production methods. Such contaminants pose regulatory and waste management challenges for pharmaceutical companies, hospitals, and health systems.

Development

"NorthStar is applying the same development expertise to rapidly advance large-scale production of n.c.a. Ac-225 that has positioned us at the forefront of U.S. radioisotope production as the only national commercialized producer of the important medical radioisotope molybdenum-99 (Mo-99), and we previously announced successful production of Mo-99 using electron accelerator technology," said Frank Scholz, Ph.D., President and Chief Executive Officer of NorthStar Medical Radioisotopes. "Progress on our dedicated, state-of-the-art Actinium-225 Production facility is on schedule. The electron accelerator is installed and initial production of radiochemical grade Ac-225 is planned in 2024. NorthStar expects to submit a Drug Master File to the FDA as quickly as possible, which, upon acceptance by the FDA, will allow NorthStar to provide cGMP grade Ac-225. We are very pleased to enter this Ac-225 supply agreement with Nucleus RadioPharma, and we look forward to working with them in their efforts to provide targeted alpha radioligand therapies for patients with cancer."

"Nucleus was established to address the acute manufacturing scarcity of radionuclides and theranostics, which poses significant challenges to patient care and clinical trials for new radiopharmaceuticals," said Charles S. Conroy, Chief Executive Officer of Nucleus. "We are pleased to work with NorthStar as an experienced and reliable partner in innovative, accelerator-based radioisotope production technology, and to using its n.c.a. Ac-225 to develop highly transformative treatments for patients with cancer."

Founded by Eclipse Ventures and Mayo Clinic, Nucleus RadioPharma is a contract development and manufacturing organization (CDMO) built to ensure cancer patients can access potentially lifesaving radiopharmaceuticals by developing technologies to modernize the clinical development, manufacturing, and supply chain of these promising new treatment tools.

NorthStar Medical Radioisotopes is a commercial-stage nuclear medicine company focused on advancing patient care by providing diagnostic and therapeutic radioisotopes, novel radiopharmaceuticals and customized radiopharmaceutical development services. Its proven management team and state-of-the-art, environmentally preferable and non-uranium based technologies have made it an emerging leader at the forefront of U.S. medical radioisotope and radiopharmaceutical production. NorthStar's molybdenum-99 (Mo-99) program is the sole source of domestic Mo-99, used to generate the standard-of-care diagnostic imaging radioisotope for assessing heart disease and cancer.

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Media

DES MOINES, Iowa, July 10. (AP): The harassment started to intensify as TV meteorologist Chris Gloninger did more reporting on climate change during local newscasts - outraged emails and even a threat to show up at his house.

Gloninger said he had been recruited, in part, to "shake things up" at the Iowa station where he worked, but backlash was building. The man who sent him a series of threatening emails was charged with third-degree harassment. The Des Moines station asked him to dial back his coverage, facing what he called an understandable pressure to maintain ratings.

"I started just connecting the dots between extreme weather and climate change, and then the volume of pushback started to increase quite dramatically," he said in an interview with The Associated Press.

So, on June 21, he announced that he was leaving KCCI-TV - and his 18-year career in broadcast journalism altogether.

Gloninger's experience is all too common among meteorologists across the US who are encountering reactions from viewers as they tie climate change to extreme temperatures, blizzards, tornadoes and floods in their local weather reports. For on-air meteorologists, the anti-science trend that has emerged in recent years compounds a deepening skepticism of the news media.

Many meteorologists say it's a reflection of a more hostile political landscape that has also affected workers in a variety of jobs previously seen as nonpartisan, including librarians, school board officials and election workers.

For several years now, Gloninger said, "beliefs are amplified more than truth and evidence-based science. And that is not a good situation

to be in as a nation."

Gloninger's announcement sent reverberations through a national conference of broadcast meteorologists in Phoenix, where many shared their own horror stories, recalled Brad Colman, president of the American Meteorological Society.

"They say, 'You should have seen this note.' And they try to take it with a smile, a lighthearted laugh," Colman said. "But some of them are really scary."

Meteorologists have long been subjected to abuse, but that has intensified in recent years, said Sean Sublette, a former TV meteorologist and now the chief meteorologist for the Richmond Times-Dispatch.

Information

"More than once, I've had people call me names or tell me I'm stupid or these kinds of harassing type things simply for sharing information that they didn't want to hear," he said.

A decade ago, far fewer TV meteorologists were talking about climate change on air, although they wanted to do so, said Edward Maibach, the director of the Center for Climate Change Communication at George Mason University.

The Weather Channel gave its first climate reporter, scientist Heidi Cullen, a dedicated show in 2006. She faced bitter and sexist resistance from some viewers, including conservative leaders, as she challenged other TV forecasters to address global warming in their reporting.

Climate Matters, a National Science Foundation-funded project, piloted in 2010 and fully launched in 2012 to support reporting on climate change by providing data analysis, graphics and other reporting

materials.

Now TV meteorologists across the country report on climate change, though Maibach said they don't always use those words. It is increasingly common to at least show its effects, he said, like highlighting the trend of more days in a year hitting temperatures above 90 degrees (32 degrees Celsius).

Even if that kind of reporting resonates with most people, the criticism can be the loudest.

"If you stop reporting on relevant and important facts about what's going on in your community because you're hearing from the one out of 10, it means you are not serving the other nine out of 10," Maibach said.

Some meteorologists have seen public interest in climate change grow even in largely red states as flooding, drought and other severe weather has ravaged farmland and homes. Jessica Hafner, chief meteorologist at Columbia, Missouri's KMIZ-TV, said that with the exception of a few hecklers, she's seen people respond well to data-based reporting because they want to know what's going on around them.

Meteorologist Matt Serwe, who used to work in Nebraska, said the livelihoods of farmers who live there depend on the weather, so they take climate change seriously.

"You want to know how you can best succeed with these conditions," he said. "Because at that point, it's survival."

It's not just a problem in the United States. Meteorologists in Spain, France, Australia and the UK also have been subjected to complaints and harassment, said Jennie King, the London-based head of climate research and policy at the Institute for Strategic Dialogue.

Variety



This image released by Sony Pictures shows Ty Simpkins in Screen Gems' 'Insidious: The Red Door.' (AP)

Film

Zendaya tennis drama 'Challengers' to open Venice Fest

'Insidious' returns to its roots in finale

By Mark Kennedy

The "Insidious" franchise folds back on itself for the fifth installment, returning to its roots with the movie equivalent of getting the (traumatized) band back together.

Patrick Wilson, Ty Simpkins, Rose Byrne and Andrew Astor reunite for "Insidious: The Red Door," and whether or not you'll want to push this door open may depend on how much of a completist you are. For many, leaving it shut may be just fine.

The new movie takes place nine years after the events of 2013's "Insidious: Chapter 2," and the heroic Lambert family is not doing well. Dad (Wilson) and mom (Byrne) are divorced and their college-aged son, Dalton (Ty Simpkins), pretty much hates dad. "You really don't know me!" he wails.

The push-pull of fathers and sons is a prominent theme here, but the roots of this particular father-son unhappiness may have to do with the fact that they have suppressed memories of wrestling with demons in a twilight realm called The Further.

The Further — a sort of Upside Down, but long before "Stranger Things" — is described as "a world far beyond our own, yet it's all around us, a place without time as we know it, a dark realm filled with the tortured souls of the dead, a place not meant for the living." So like Hollywood?

Dad and son share a special gift — the ability to astral project, or leave their bodies and drift into other worlds. But the cost is high — the son was in a coma for a year and a demon possessed dad, who then tried to slaughter the family. Memories of that were supposed to be wiped away.

Dad and son in the new installment gradually unlock The Further and return to navigate it, but the movie gradually falls apart into incoherence and the use of jumpscare of shocking images, like creepy dolls in a birdcage, a demon vomiting or circus contortionists emerging from sofas.

It's a pity because Wilson not only acts, he also makes a strong directorial debut and even sings over

the end credits, joining the very appropriate Swedish rock band Ghost for "Stay." It wouldn't surprise us if Wilson was actually the projectionist at your local cineplex, too.

The screenplay by franchise newcomer Scott Teems feels more like fan fiction, with its loving nods to items associated with the franchise — the camper light, a scary version of "Tiptoe Through the Tulips" and a box of old photos of dad. Mostly the story just meanders.

In reality, Byrne and Astor have very little screen time and it is Wilson and Simpkins who are the stars, as dad tries to come to grips with why he feels "foggy" and Dalton's memories are triggered by a swashbuckling art teacher who challenges her class with this motto: "You must let go of your past."

There are some nifty new touches, most notably a fright-fest in an MRI machine, an already very intimate procedure in a tight place. Chunks of "Insidious: Chapter 2" — the final scene and a crucial fight — are reused liberally, and actor Sinclair Daniel adds comic relief and some sanity as the son's college friend but her story is abandoned unsatisfactorily at the end. Too many bows are attached to the movie's final moments as well, reunions not earned or coherent.

If the "Insidious" franchise is your jam, by all means go and see the original Fab Four of the Lambert family battle hollow-eyed demons for perhaps the last time. But for everyone else, why not let the past stay in the past?

"Insidious: The Red Door," a Sony Pictures release that hits theaters Friday, is rated PG-13 for "violence, terror, frightening images, strong language and suggestive references." Running time: 107 minutes. Two stars out of four.

Also:

LOS ANGELES: The Venice Film Festival is serving up one of the year's buzziest films as its opening night selection in Luca Guadagnino's "Challengers." The romantic tennis drama starring Zendaya, "West Side Story's" Mike Faist and "The Crown's" Josh

O'Connor will have its world premiere out of competition at the 80th edition of the festival in September, organizers said Thursday.

"Challengers" stars Zendaya as a tennis prodigy whose past collides with her present when her husband, played by Faist, faces off against a competitor who was once his best friend and her boyfriend. A spicy and suggestive teaser trailer that debuted recently quickly became a popular meme on social media.

"It's a modern bold story of youthful energy, love and power," Guadagnino said in a statement. "I can't wait for the Lido audience to dance across the notes of the soundtrack of Trent (Reznor) and Atticus (Ross) at the opening night of the 80th edition of the Mostra."

The Italian director has had several films premiere at the festival, including "Bones and All," which won him the Silver Lion award for directing last year, as well as films like "A Bigger Splash" and "Suspiria."

As the first major event of the "fall festival" season, Venice is an important stop for Oscar hopefuls. Last year the festival hosted the premiere of "The Whale," which would go on to win Brendan Fraser best actor, as well as a handful of awards contenders including "Tár," "The Banshees of Inisherin," "All the Beauty and the Bloodshed" and best actress nominee Ana de Armas ("Blonde").

Venice Film Festival director Alberto Barbera called "Challengers" cinema in its purest form.

"Luca Guadagnino is one of the few Italian directors who has always been accustomed to working with both Italian and foreign actresses and actors, getting top results from all of them each time," Barbera said in a statement. "Guadagnino sets no limits to his creative energy in this film as he deals with topics such as love, friendship, and male rivalry, and brings to life an enthralling and affecting moment, full of irony, sensuality, and good nature."

MGM and Amazon Studios will release "Challengers" in theaters on Sept. 15.

The full lineup for the Venice Film Festival, which runs from Aug. 30 through Sept. 9, will be announced in late July. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: Indiana Jones' reign atop the box office was short-lived. In its second weekend in theaters, the Disney release was usurped by another franchise fifth - "Insidious: The Red Door." The horror film starring and directed by Patrick Wilson scared up \$32.7 million in ticket sales from 3,188 theaters, according to studio estimates on Sunday.

It did better than the last installment, "Insidious: The Last Key," from 2018 and is the most any PG-13 horror movie has earned in its debut in the past two years.

"Insidious 5" was not well reviewed - but modestly budgeted scary movies are often criticized when it comes to the box office. This Blumhouse-produced franchise starring Wilson and Rose Byrne began in 2011 under the direction of James Wan and has been responsible for over \$570 million in global box office returns - and none of the films have cost more than \$16 million to produce. Only the first movie received a "fresh" rating on Rotten Tomatoes; The "Insidious" films more often garner sub 40% scores.

"The horror genre seems to have a never-ending allure for audiences," said Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for Comscore. "Horror movies are profitable and they're popular. Audiences love them and the accountants love them, too."

It was shrewd of Sony to release "Insidious" on the weekend between two Hollywood tentpoles, in this case "Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny" and "Mission: Impossible - Dead Reckoning Part I," which opens on Wednesday. But it was still a surprise that it was able to take No. 1 from something as well-known as "Indiana Jones."

"It was a perfect release date," Dergarabedian said. "This adds more complexity to the dynamics of the marketplace."

"Indiana Jones 5" took second place in its second weekend with \$26.5 million in North America (down 56% from its opening), bringing its domestic total to \$121.2 million. Globally it's earned an estimated \$247.9 million.

Indy had some other competition too, in "Sound of Freedom," a child trafficking drama starring Jim Caviezel, that opened on July 4 and nearly boasted similar ticket

sales for the day. "Sound of Freedom" was made and distributed by Angel Studios, a faith-based, crowdfunded operation, and managed to come in third place this weekend with an estimated \$18.2 million from 2,850 theaters.

Brandon Purdie, head of theatrical distribution at Angel Studios, said in a statement that



Wan



Jim Caviezel

the numbers exceeded expectations and attributed its success to word of mouth.

"We're deeply grateful to AMC, Cinemark, Regal, and all our theater partners - and their hard-working theater staff members - for working with us to accommodate the surging demand for this film and having the cour-

age to release 'Sound of Freedom' during the busiest movie season of the year," Purdie said.

Part of Angel Studios operation involved the ability to buy "pay it forward" tickets on behalf of others. On opening day, the studio estimated that \$11.6 million came from direct box office and \$2.7 million through the pay it forward option.

The film has been popular among right-wing pundits too and has appeared on QAnon message boards.

"Joy Ride" also made its theatrical debut this weekend in 2,820 locations and earned an underwhelming \$5.9 million to take sixth place behind "Elemental" and "Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse." (AP)

People & Places

Music

Soundtrack for season

Williams at 70 still finding her muse

‘Stories From a Rock N Roll Heart’ by Lucinda Williams (Highway 20 Records/Thirty Tigers)

At least twice on her new album, **Lucinda Williams** worries about whether she can still write good songs.

She sings on one cut about putting herself “where the songs will find me.” And on the closer, “Never Gonna Fade Away,” she frets about what happens when “the words don’t rhyme, and I can’t find a line, and I’m looking for a sign, and I’m running out of time.”

Ironically, both are good songs. And while it’s sometimes a bad sign when songwriters bemoan the need for inspiration, Williams’ muse visits her plenty on “Stories From a Rock N Roll Heart.”



Williams

The album is, as advertised by the name, a collection of hard-charging rock ‘n’ roll. It reflects her resistance to being labeled as Americana — though she could legitimately claim a spot on that genre’s Mount Rushmore.

Williams’ honesty and empathy serve her well on “Hum’s Liquor,” a tribute to Bob Stinson, one of the founding members of the seminal rock band, The Replacements, who died years ago at the age of 35. The song, which features Stinson’s younger brother and fellow Replacements founding member Tommy Stinson, demonstrates that Williams, who just turned 70, still has the chops to strike deep emotional chords.

Williams dedicates the entire album to Bob Stinson, “a true rock ‘n’ roll heart.”

Her band, a mixture of her regular touring ensemble and others, sounds especially good on a tribute to Tom Petty, who died in 2017. Starting with a winding guitar riff that could have come from Petty’s own Stratocaster, “Stolen Moments” has the power to make you miss him all over again.

It’s worth noting, without making excuses, that Williams has had a rough few years. Her East Nashville home was damaged in a tornado in 2020, and later that year she suffered a minor stroke that left her unable to play the guitar. That forced her to co-write more songs, working with husband Tom Overby and others. It may also explain why these 10 songs feel more hook-based than centered around her lyrics, and why she worries if she still has it.

But the songs do find her, with a big assist from friends and bandmates. The album may not match her best work lyrically, but that’s a high bar — and it’s still good enough to add another important chapter to one of the most important musical journeys of the last half-century



“Grand Salami Time!” by Baseball Project (Omnivore Recordings)

Baseball’s anthem “Take Me Out to the Ballgame” was crafted by two Tin Pan Alley songwriters who had never attended a game. By contrast, the tunes on “Grand Salami Time!” come from a band with extensive knowledge of the sport.

The album is the fourth by the Baseball Project, and the group — Scott McCaughey, Steve Wynn, Linda Pitmon, and former R.E.M. members Peter Buck and Mike Mills — mines nostalgia and esoterica to find fresh subject matter for 16 songs.

We’re talking inside baseball: A tribute to pitcher Jim Bouton makes a veiled reference to his career record of 64-64. The song “New Oh in Town” salutes Japanese heroes past and present. “Screwball” cleverly merges two subjects as it recalls players who pitched more than a century ago.

Most topics are paired with garage rock that gives Buck a chance to serve up some delightful guitar squall. Also contributing is co-producer Mitch Easter, who worked on R.E.M.’s early albums.

The band finds room for such contemporary clatter as launch angle, exit velocity and WHIP, but the best songs involve a different kind of analytics. The bluesy “Erasable Man” laments the color line, while the acoustic folk of “That’s Living” contemplates life’s short season.

As on previous albums, a few lyrics could use a sports editor, or any editor. “Eight-hundred-sixty-eight longballs would fly” just isn’t singable. But no band bats 1,000.



“Feed the Beast” by Kim Petras (Republic Records)

Better late than never, and surely worth the wait: Fifteen years after launching her music career, the German singer Kim Petras has released a glossy, full-length major-label debut, filled with Eurodance and trance-informed pop music.

Not to say that the delay was her fault, or that she hasn’t been hard at work. This year, Petras became the first openly trans artists to win in a major category at the Grammy Awards for her playfully sacrilegious collaboration with Sam Smith, “Unholy,” in the best pop duo/group performance category. The same song, re-released as a bonus track on “Feed the Beast,” went No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100, making her the first trans artist ever occupy the top spot.

So why the postponement? In 2021, after signing to major label Republic Records, Petras recorded a debut LP titled “Problematic” — but it was scrapped, and ultimately, leaked. In the interim, she reimagined herself a student of Eurodance and ’90s house music. The lead single “Alone,” featuring a punchy verse from rapper Nicki Minaj, is the exemplar: She samples the 1999 Alice Deejay hit “Better Off Alone,” appealing to Y2K cultural nostalgia for vocal trance and neon nightlife.

Throughout “Feed the Beast,” Petras demonstrates a deep understanding of the many nuances of hit-heavy, club-ready anthems. Even the slow burn “Thousand Pieces” is recorded over a trap beat, a far cry from, say, the industrial-noise-pop of “brrr.” As Petras sings on “uhoh,” “Everything I drop is a banger.”

The influence of Perry appears again on the campy “Coconuts,” a summery ode to her chest. That’s likely because much of “Feed the Beast” was produced by Dr. Luke, as was the case with “Teenage Dream.”

It is worth noting that Luke’s longstanding legal battle with singer Kesha over allegations of rape and, in turn, allegations of defamation finally settled in court last week following nearly a decade of lawsuits and countersuits. According to Vulture, in 2022, Petras tweeted in response to a fan asking her to “stop defending dr luke” by writing, “I have nothing to say or be ashamed of at all.” She deleted the tweets. (AP)



Elton John performs at the final leg of his ‘Farewell Yellow Brick Road’ tour in Stockholm, Saturday, July 8. (AP)

Television

‘Lincoln Lawyer’ gets nod of approval from critics, viewers

Garcia-Rulfo settles into Haller character

NEW YORK, July 10, (AP) — When Manuel Garcia-Rulfo was cast to play charismatic defense attorney Mickey Haller from Michael Connelly’s “The Lincoln Lawyer” novels in a new Netflix series, he couldn’t help but think of Matthew McConaughey, who played the lawyer in a 2011 film.

“Talk about charm,” said Manuel Garcia-Rulfo of the Oscar winner. “I did think about it ... because it is hard to have that shadow ... but you just have to jump and do the best you can and hopefully people will enjoy it.”

Garcia-Rulfo didn’t have to worry. His version of Haller has been approved by critics and viewers — Netflix said the first season ranked high. The first five episodes of season two are now streaming. The remaining five episodes will drop in August.

In the series, Mickey is a Los Angeles attorney with a deep knowledge and respect for the law, who uses his understanding to think outside the box and find loopholes that help his clients. He also does a lot of his work from the back of a Lincoln while he’s chauffeured around LA by his trusted driver and confidante, Izzy (Jazz Raycole). In season one, Mickey was returning to law after a number of setbacks including addiction and two divorces. He needed to course correct his reputation both professionally and personally. In season two he’s had some high-profile wins and is now the man of the hour.

Garcia-Rulfo credits Mickey’s team for helping his success, which besides Izzy include his second ex-wife Lorna (played by Becki Newton) and investigator Cisco (Angus Sampson.)

“Becki’s character Lorna is like the motor,” said Garcia-Rulfo. “If it wasn’t for her, I think he would be a great lawyer but a disaster. So I think it’s the people that surround him.”

“She’s not just a receptionist. She’s not just an ex-wife,” said Newton of Lorna. “She’s going to run the joint and has no problem asserting herself in what could be very intimidating situations. Lorna doesn’t apologize. She doesn’t feel like she doesn’t belong. In season two, she’s going to law school.

I’ve loved that about her. She doesn’t shrink in any situation.”

She’s also created her own backstory for Lorna and Mickey — and why they work together despite their romantic past.

“I think it was clear to them probably very quickly they weren’t meant to be romantically linked forever, but they did love each other and needed to be in each other’s lives in a different way,” she said.

Mickey has other romantic entanglements including his first ex-wife, Maggie, played by Neve Campbell, the mother of his teenage daughter. The two have a will they/why won’t they storyline that is prevalent in the series. Newton and Campbell have only shared one scene on the show together but there was no tension between the characters.

“I’ll never forget that day because I think on the page it would have been very easy to play these two women kind of catty because both had been married to the same man,” said Newton. “Neve said right away, ‘We’re not doing this scene like that. We’re two people concerned about someone but this isn’t about these two women fighting.’ I loved that she didn’t want to play any sort of stereotype about ex-wives fighting over one man.”

Like Mickey, Garcia-Rulfo is also in demand and busy. He’s about to begin shooting a new movie and just wrapped a thriller drama film based on a popular Mexican novel called “Pedro Paramo” with “Black Panther: Wakanda Forever’s” Tenoch Huerta.

“The Lincoln Lawyer” is also popular in Mexico where Garcia-Rulfo’s father is a dentist. The Volkswagen Beetle is a popular car in the country. Garcia-Rulfo says people now call his father “the dentist of The Beetles” because of his son’s role.

Also:

DALLAS: The combat boots and dog tags that **Alan Alda** wore to portray the wisecracking surgeon Hawkeye on the beloved television series “M-A-S-H” meant so much to him that when the show ended 40 years ago, he kept

them.

But he’s now ready to let the pieces go, in service of another passion: his center dedicated to helping scientists and doctors communicate better. Heritage Auctions is offering up the worn boots and military identification tags on July 28 in Dallas.

Alda, 87, said he wore the boots and dog tags for the 11-season run of the show centering on a Korean War medical unit. Alda’s character, **Benjamin Franklin** “Hawkeye” Pierce, was a talented surgeon who helped ease the stress of working in a war zone with quick quips and practical jokes. When the show ended in 1983 with an episode written and directed by Alda, it attracted the largest US audience for any TV show in history.

The boots and dog tags, given to him by the costume department, “made an impression on me every day that we shot the show,” said Alda, who won five Emmys for his work on the sitcom. Over his long career, Alda has also been a writer and filmmaker, and has worked on Broadway and starred in movies. Currently, he hosts a podcast on communicating called “Clear+Vivid.”

“There’s an old belief among actors that when you put the shoes of the character on, it’s easier to believe you’re the character and I think the boots had that effect on me,” Alda said.

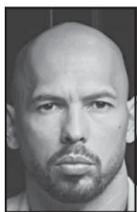
After receiving the dog tags, Alda realized that they didn’t carry his character’s name but the names of two men he thought had likely been real soldiers.

“I saw those names every day,” he said. “It was an interesting experience to put them on. I wasn’t dealing with props. I was dealing with something that put me in touch with real people.”

The dog tags carried the names of **Hersie Davenport** and **Morris D. Levine**. Research conducted by the auction house revealed that both men were discharged from the Army in 1945. According to Heritage Auctions’ research, Davenport died in 1970. Levine, whose first name was misspelled on the dog tag with an extra ‘s,’ died in 1973.



Manuel Garcia-Rulfo poses for a portrait in Los Angeles to promote his Netflix series ‘The Lincoln Lawyer’ on Tuesday, June 27. (AP)



Tate



Swift

Variety

WESTERLY, RI: A woman who was previously warned to stay away from **Taylor Swift**’s home in **Rhode Island** was arrested outside the beachfront property, police said.

The woman was discovered in front of the home and arrested, said Westerly Police Chief **Paul Gingerella**.

TMZ published photos showing someone in handcuffs outside the home’s gates, which had multiple “No Trespassing” signs.

Overzealous fans have been a problem for Swift over the years, with several arrests at her homes.

In July 2019, an **Iowa** man who said he wanted to meet Swift was arrested near her beachfront mansion carrying a crowbar and lock picks, and a **New Jersey** man was caught inside the home months later. A **Florida** man who broke into Swift’s home in **New York City** in 2018 was sentenced to jail after pleading guilty to criminal contempt and attempted burglary. (AP)



BUCHAREST, Romania: **Andrew Tate**, the divisive social media personality and former professional kickboxer who is charged in Romania with rape, human trafficking, and forming a criminal gang to sexually exploit women, lost an appeal against a court’s earlier decision to keep him under house arrest, his spokesperson said.

The Bucharest Court of Appeal ruled against Tate’s appeal, which challenged a court’s June 23 decision to extend the house arrest measure for 30 more days as the criminal case continues.

That decision was made days after Romania’s anti-organized crime agency, DIICOT, formally indicted the 36-year-old social media star along with his brother **Tristan**, and two Romanian women in the same case. All four were initially arrested near Romania’s capital in late December, and have denied the allegations against them.

Before the appeal court’s final ruling, two judges had disagreed on whether or not to uphold the house arrest measure, so a third judge was brought in to preside over the ruling.

The Tate brothers’ spokesperson, **Mateea Petrescu**, said the judges’ initial decision wasn’t unanimous and that offered hope even though they lost the appeal, because for the first time since their arrest, “a judge has ruled that the brothers should be allowed to move freely in Romania, without restrictions.”

“We consider this to be a great step toward the rightful exoneration of Andrew

and Tristan,” she said, adding that although the brothers “have suffered important damages to their reputation, they remain optimistic and continue to put their faith in the Romanian justice system.”

In June, DIICOT had requested that judges extend the house arrest measure after the agency filed its investigation.

Under Romanian law, judges have 60 days to decide whether the case is sent to trial, but it often takes longer.

Tate, who has been accused of peddling conspiracy theories online and has amassed 7 million Twitter followers, has repeatedly claimed that prosecutors have no evidence against him and that there is a political con-



Ryan Gosling, from left, Margot Robbie, and America Ferrera arrive at the premiere of ‘Barbie’ on Sunday, July 9, at The Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles. (AP)

spiracy designed to silence his views. (AP)

HELSINKI: The deputy mayor of **Finland**’s capital is facing possible legal action, and calls for him to pay compensation for damages and to resign, after he was caught red-handed spray-painting graffiti in a railway tunnel.

The Finnish Transport Infrastructure Agency told public broadcaster YLE that cleaning up graffiti illegally painted by **Paavo Arhinmäki**, one of the four deputy mayors of Helsinki, cost the city around 3,500 euros (\$3,830).

Arhinmäki, 46, and a friend were caught by guards in a rail tunnel in eastern Helsinki just after they had completed graffiti, which Finnish street art experts said looked partly inspired by works seen in **New York City** in the 1970s.

Finland’s largest newspaper, Helsingin Sanomat, published a photo of the large-scale graffiti in a tweet.

In a Facebook posting, Arhinmäki, who is known as a strong supporter of street art and as a creator of graffiti in his youth, apologized for his “stupid fooling around.” He is a former lawmaker and chairman of the Left Alliance, and served as a minister for culture and sports in 2011-2014.

Police are investigating the act as vandalism and interference with rail traffic, which had to be temporarily halted because of the incident. The rail tunnel is used by cargo trains running to and from a Helsinki port. (AP)

Health

Caffeine of 6 Cokes

FDA urged to probe Prime energy drink

NEW YORK, July 10, (AP) — An influencer-backed energy drink that has earned viral popularity among children is facing scrutiny from lawmakers and health experts over its potentially dangerous levels of caffeine.

On Sunday, Sen. Charles Schumer called on the Food and Drug Administration to investigate PRIME, a beverage brand founded by the YouTube stars Logan Paul and KSI that has become something of an obsession among the influencers' legions of young followers.

"One of the summer's hottest status symbols for kids is not an outfit, or a toy—it's a beverage," said Schumer, a Democrat from New York. "But buyer and parents beware because it's a serious health concern for the kids it so feverishly targets."

Backed by two of YouTube's best known stars, PRIME was an immediate sensation when it launched last year, prompting long lines in grocery stores and reports of school yard resale markets.

Advertising itself as zero sugar and vegan, the neon-colored cans are among a growing number of energy drinks with elevated levels of caffeine; in PRIME's case, 200 milligrams per 12 ounces, equivalent to about half a dozen Coke cans or nearly two Red Bulls.

That high content prompted bans from some schools in the United Kingdom and Australia where some pediatricians warned of possible health impacts on young children such as heart problems, anxiety, and digestive issues.

Company representatives, meanwhile, have defended the product as clearly labeled "not recommended for children under 18." They sell a separate sports drink, known as PRIME Hydration, which contains no caffeine at all. Representatives for PRIME did not immediately return a request for comment.

But in his letter to the FDA, Schumer claimed there was little noticeable difference in the online marketing of the two drinks — leading many parents to believe they were purchasing a juice for their kids, only to wind up with a "cauldron of caffeine."

"A simple search on social media for Prime will generate an eye-popping amount of sponsored content, which is advertising," he wrote. "This content and the claims made should be investigated, along with the ingredients and the caffeine content in the Prime energy drink."

Decriminalize drugs: The Scottish government has proposed decriminalizing possession of all drugs for personal use to tackle one of Europe's highest overdose death rates.

The suggestion was almost instantly blocked by the Conservative UK government in London, which said it had "no plans" to soften drug laws.

The semi-autonomous Edinburgh government, led by the pro-independence Scottish National Party, said Friday that removing criminal penalties for drug possession would "allow for the provision of safe, evidence-based harm reduction services."

Scotland's death rate from drug overdoses is three times the rate in the UK as a whole and the highest in Western Europe. Last year there were almost 1,100 drug-related deaths in Scotland, which has a population of 5.5 million, according to government figures.

"The war on drugs has failed," Scottish drugs minister Elena Whitham said at a news conference alongside former New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark and ex-Swiss President Ruth Dreifuss, both advocates of drug law reform.

"Our current drug law does not stop people from using drugs, it does not stop people from experiencing the harm associated and, critically, it does not stop people from dying," Whitham said.

The Scottish government said decriminalization would free "individuals from the fear of accessing treatment and support, reducing drug-related harms and, ultimately, improving lives." It cited the example of Portugal, which ditched criminal penalties for drug possession more than two decades ago and focused on treatment.

Whitham said the government also wanted to change the law so it could create supervised drug consumption rooms and would consider introducing the regulated supply of drugs.

She said the crisis would worsen without radical change. She said Scotland was "facing down the barrel of a storm in terms of synthetic opioids and new and novel street benzodiazepines that are heading to our shores."

"If we are not prepared for that arriving here, with 21st century drug laws in place, I'm terrified as to what that could look like," she said.

But Russell Findlay, justice spokesman for the Scottish Conservative Party, said "essentially legalizing heroin, crack and other class-A drugs" would not solve Scotland's drug deaths problem.

Scotland already allows people caught with illegal drugs to be given a police warning rather than being prosecuted, but decriminalizing drugs would require support from the U.K. government.

Max Blain, spokesman for Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, said that was not going to happen.

"There are no plans to alter our tough stance on drugs," he said.

The Scottish government has often taken more liberal positions on social issues than the Conservative administration in London. Last year a law passed by the Scottish parliament that would make it easier for people to officially change gender was blocked by Sunak's government.

The governing SNP uses such disagreements to bolster its argument that Scotland would be better off leaving the United Kingdom and becoming an independent country.

Also:

MADISON, Wis.: Health officials in Wisconsin have dropped a fine against a dance studio that staged a performance of "The Nutcracker" in December 2020 despite COVID-19 restrictions on mass gatherings.

Public Health Madison and Dane County canceled the penalty pending against A Leap Above Dance on June 22, the Wisconsin State Journal reported last week. The studio is located in Oregon, a Madison suburb.

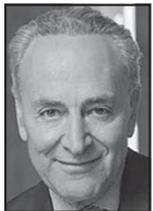
The health department has alleged that 119 people attended the performance even though the department had banned mass gatherings to slow COVID-19's spread.

It's unclear how much the fine totaled. With each of the 119 counts in the department's complaint punishable by \$200, it could have come to \$23,800. But Morgan Finke, a spokesperson for the health department, told the State Journal on Wednesday that the maximum would have been \$3,200.

Studio owner Natalie Nemeckay said fewer than 100 people were involved in the performance and they were divided into groups of 10 at the most. Photos show performers also work masks.

The studio joined a lawsuit in February 2021 in which two parents alleged the health department's order limiting mass gatherings inhibited their children's ability to participate in indoor sports. The department's gathering restrictions ended a few months later in June 2021.

The state Supreme Court upheld the health department's ability to limit gatherings in July 2022 and sent the case back to Dane County Circuit Court. Finke said the court didn't receive the case until last month after the department's restrictions had expired and the national COVID-19 emergency had ended. She said it wasn't in the public interest to continue pursuing the fine.



Schumer



A child holds a PRIME hydration drink prior to a baseball game between the Los Angeles Dodgers and the Arizona Diamondbacks, March 31, 2023, in Los Angeles. An influencer-backed energy drink that has earned viral popularity among children is facing scrutiny from federal lawmakers and health experts over its potentially dangerous levels of caffeine. Senator Chuck Schumer on Sunday, July 9, called on the Food and Drug Administration to investigate Prime. (AP)

The Conversation

A culture shift among scientists

Science activism is surging

By Scott Frickel, Brown University and Fernando Tormos-Aponte, University of Pittsburgh

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

Hundreds of scientists protested government efforts to restrict educational access to Western science theories, including Darwin's theory of evolution, in June 2023 in India. Similarly, scientists in Mexico participated in a research strike in May 2023 to protest a national law they claimed would threaten the conditions for basic research. And during the same month in Norway, three scientists were arrested for protesting the nation's slow-moving climate policy.

As these among many other actions show, scientists today are speaking out on a variety of political and social issues related to their own research fields and in solidarity with other social movements.

We are social scientists who study the relationship between science and society. Through our work, we've noticed more scientists seem empowered to advocate for a wide range of policy issues. We're interested in how the surge in science activism may be changing the norms of scientific research.

With colleagues, we recently reviewed and summarized a growing body of studies examining how scientists are mobilizing for social activism and political protest. We also surveyed 2,208 members of the Union of Concerned Scientists Science Network to learn more about scientists' political engagement. Here is what we have found so far.

Science activism has long been considered taboo, as many in the field fear that politicizing science undermines its objectivity. Even so, scientist-activists have still managed to shape the US political landscape throughout history. Over the past century, for example, scientists have protested the atomic bomb, pesticides, wars in Southeast Asia, genetic engineering and the federal response to the AIDS epidemic.

More recently, the election of Donald Trump in 2016 triggered a wave of political mobilization not seen in the United States since the Vietnam War era. In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change activism, Black Lives Matter and the #MeToo movement, scientists have also mobilized, and science advocacy organiza-

tions are playing important roles.

Some groups, like March for Science and Scientist Rebellion, are new and claim dozens of chapters and thousands of members around the world. In addition, older organizations like the Union of Concerned Scientists are growing, while once-defunct organizations like Science for the People have reemerged.

Science organizing also happens within universities, graduate student unions and professional associations. These groups use their connections to local communities and larger networks of science professionals to mobilize others in the scientific community.

Many science advocacy groups borrow protest tactics from previous eras, like mass marches and teach-ins. Others are more innovative, including "die-ins" at medical schools to protest police racial violence and data-rescue "hackathons" to protect public access to government data.

Action

Some efforts mirror conventional forms of politics, like 314 Action, an organization that supports political candidates with STEM backgrounds. Others are more confrontational, such as Scientist Rebellion, some members of which blocked roads and bridges to demand action on the climate emergency.

Or, science advocacy can look indistinguishable from typical academic practices, like teaching. A new course taught by an MIT physics professor titled "Scientist Activism: Gender, Race and Power" helps raise student awareness about the political nature of science.

We'll need more research to determine how the resurgence of scientist activism is influencing politics and policy. But we can already point to some effects — the growth of science advocacy organizations, increased media attention to scientist activism, climate-friendly changes in investment policies at some universities, and more STEM-trained politicians. However, we also expect that impending crises, like climate change, may be driving acceptance of activism within the scientific community.

For example, when we asked scientists how often they should be politically active, 95% of our surveyed scientists answered "sometimes," "most of the time," or "always." Our surveyed population is, by definition, politically engaged. But this near-uniform level

of support for political action suggests that the professional norms that have long sanctioned scientist activism may be shifting.

Other findings from the survey strengthen this interpretation. Scientist activism often entails some level of personal or professional risk. But 75% of respondents told us their science-based advocacy had the support of their employers. Most surprisingly for us, respondents were twice as likely to report that activism helped to advance their careers — 22% — rather than damage them — 11%.

Our survey did find, however, that nonwhite scientists are more vulnerable to the risks of engaging in science advocacy. Seventeen percent of nonwhite scientists report negative career repercussions from their science advocacy, compared with less than 10% among white scientists. Yet compared with white respondents, nonwhite respondents are also more likely to engage in science advocacy.

While nonwhite respondents report higher rates of negative career impacts, the percentage reporting higher rates of career advancement from advocacy — 31% — was nearly double that for white respondents — 18%. This difference suggests that science advocacy has deeper career consequences — both good and bad — among nonwhite scientists. Although they are more likely to be rewarded for this activity, they are exposed to greater risk for doing so.

Two lessons emerge from our research thus far. First, our findings indicate that science activism may be gaining legitimacy within the scientific community. In this context, social media is helping mobilize and raise visibility among younger researchers. These researchers' political experiences are informed by the climate justice, Black Lives Matter and #MeToo movements. As this newer generation of science activists moves into the profession, they will continue to shift the cultural norms of science.

Second, because race unevenly structures scientists' experiences with activism, science activists can build on their current momentum by embracing intersectional solidarity. This means taking actions to center and engage marginalized groups within science. Intersectional solidarity can deepen activist engagement, enhance and diversify recruitment efforts, and increase its impact on social and ecological change. (AP)



Vehicles come to a standstill near a washed-out and flooded portion of the Palisades Parkway just beyond the traffic circle off the Bear Mountain Bridge, Sunday, July 9, in Orange County, N.Y. Heavy rain spawned extreme flooding in New York's Hudson Valley that killed at least one person, swamped roadways and forced road closures on Sunday night, as much of the rest of the Northeast US geared up for a major storm. (AP)



Sayigh



Moïse

Discovery

Dolphin moms use baby talk: You know instantly when someone is speaking to an infant or small child. It turns out that dolphin mothers also use a kind of high-pitched baby talk.

A study published Monday found that female bottlenose dolphins change their tone when addressing their calves. Researchers recorded the signature whistles of 19 mother dolphins in Florida, when accompanied by their young offspring and when swimming alone or with other adults.

The dolphin signature whistle is a unique and important signal — akin to calling out their own name.

"They use these whistles to keep track of each other. They're periodically saying, 'I'm here, I'm here,'" said study co-author Laela Sayigh, a Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution marine biologist in Massachusetts.

When directing the signal to their calves, the mother's whistle pitch is higher and her pitch range is greater than usual, according to the study published in the journal, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

"That was true for every one of the moms in the study, all 19 of them," said biologist Peter Tyack, a study co-author from the University of St. Andrews in Scotland.

Obtaining this data was no simple feat. Over more than three decades, scientists placed special microphones multiple times on the same wild dolphin mothers in Florida's Sarasota Bay to record their signature whistles. That included years when they had calves and when they didn't — dolphin calves stay with their mothers for an average of three years in Sarasota, and sometimes longer. Fathers don't play a prolonged role in parenting. (AP)

Aid group suspends treatment: Doctors Without Borders announced that it has suspended treatment at one of its hospitals in Haiti after some 20 armed men burst into an operating room and snatched a patient.

The incident occurred at the Tabarre hospital in the capital of Port-au-Prince shortly after the patient was admitted with gunshot wounds.

The organization said two men faked a life-threatening emergency to gain access to the hospital, and that the armed group stormed in when the gate was opened.

The medical staff, who fight daily to save lives, are shocked by this violence and the contempt shown by these armed groups toward them," the aid group said in a statement.

The announcement comes amid a surge in killings and shootings across Port-au-Prince and beyond as gangs become more powerful and fight for control over territory since the July 7, 2021 killing of President Jovenel Moïse.

The growing insecurity has fine-tuned Doctors Without Borders to take similar action in recent years. In January, it suspended help to a hospital in the Carrefour neighborhood of Port-au-Prince. In April 2022, it temporarily closed another hospital, and in

June 2021, it permanently closed an emergency clinic in the Martissant neighborhood, where much of the gang violence has been reported. (AP)



A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket, carrying Starlink satellites, lifts off from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, Fla., Sunday, July 9. (AP)

Woman had blunt force trauma: A 69-year-old woman killed by an alligator in South Carolina on Tuesday had drowned and experienced blunt force trauma, according to local news reports on the autopsy.

Holly Jenkins has been identified by the local coroner as the woman who the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources said was walking her dog near a neighborhood lagoon on Hilton Head Island when a 9.75-foot (3-meter) alligator "engaged," WTOC-11 reported.

The department said a necropsy report showed no evidence that anyone had fed the alligator, which was euthanized and removed from the lagoon. The Beaufort County Coroner's Office told WTOC-11 that the woman suffered alligator bites, but it is unclear whether they happened before or after her death.

The local sheriff's office said the death marked the second fatal alligator attack in Beaufort County over the past year.

The state Department of Natural Resources' website reminds the public that feeding alligators is illegal and leads the animals to associate people with food. It recommends swimming only in designated areas and avoiding swims in the morning and evening, when alligators most actively eat. Maintaining a 10-foot (3-meter) distance from the water, where alligators hunt, is considered "a good starting point" for safety. (AP)

SPORTS

Rays snap season-high 7-game losing streak

Marlins take series from Phillies

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla., July 10, (AP): Isaac Paredes and Yandy Diaz homered as the Tampa Bay Rays snapped a season-high, seven-game skid with a 10-4 win over the Atlanta Braves on Sunday in a matchup of teams with the best records in baseball.

Zach Eflin (10-4) gave up two runs and four hits over five innings in a 77-pitch outing as Tampa Bay avoided the three-game series sweep.

Travis d'Arnaud homered for the MLB-best Braves, who are 20-3 since June 14 and head into the All-Star break at 60-29. Atlanta has homered in 26 consecutive games, the longest streak in modern-era franchise history.

Atlanta All-Star Bryce Elder (7-2) allowed seven runs, six hits and four walks in 3 1/3 innings, his shortest outing this season.

Braves slugger Matt Olson drove in a run with a single in the sixth inning for his 72nd RBI. He wound up three short of tying Eddie Mathews (1953) and Andruw Jones (2005) for the most in franchise history at the All-Star break.

Cubs 7, Yankees 4

In New York, Yan Gomes hit a tying pinch-hit two-run single in the seventh inning following a fielding error by second baseman Gleyber Torres, and Seiya Suzuki homered and hit a go-ahead sacrifice fly in the eighth in Chicago's win over New York.

BASEBALL

The Cubs (42-47) won for the fifth time in 14 games since getting to within in a game of .500 following a 9-1 win over St. Louis June 24 in London.

Chicago's Julian Merryweather (2-0) earned the win. Ron Marinaccio (4-4) took the loss.

Rookie Anthony Volpe hit a two-run homer and Kyle Higashioka added a solo shot for the Yankees.

Padres 6, Mets 2

In San Diego, Manny Machado homered twice off Max Scherzer and drove in five runs for San Diego, which got six strong innings from Joe Musgrove to beat New York and take two of three in a series between high-priced, yet underwhelming, teams.

The Padres got to Scherzer (8-3) right away and handed him his first loss since May 3 at Detroit. Kim Ha-Seong hit a leadoff single to left, Fernando Tatis Jr. doubled off the center field wall with one out and then Machado drove a 2-2 pitch into the middle balcony of the four-story brick warehouse in the left field corner. Machado homered into the home run porch in right, his 15th, in the fifth for his third multi-homer game this season.

Scherzer, who had six wins in his previous 10 starts, allowed five runs and six hits in five innings, struck out seven and walked three.

Royals 4, Guardians 1

In Cleveland, Ryan Yarbrough won his first game back after being hit in the face by a line drive two months ago and Kansas City snapped a six-game losing streak.

Yarbrough (2-4) suffered several facial fractures when he was hit on May 7 against Oakland by a line drive clocked at 106.2 mph. The left-hander limited the Guardians to one run and six hits over six innings. Scott Barlow earned his 11th save.

Bieber (5-6) came in 6-0 in 14 career starts against the Royals. The right-hander allowed four runs and nine hits in 6 1/3 innings.

Isbel homered for Kansas City, which staggered into the All-Star break at 26-65 - the second-most losses before the break in franchise history.

Marlins 7, Phillies 3

In Miami, Bryan De La Cruz had a solo homer among his four hits as Miami took the three-game series from Philadelphia.

Jesús Sánchez and rookie Dane Myers also went deep for the Marlins, who reached the All-Star break with their best record in franchise history at 53-39.

Marlins starter Jesús Luzardo (8-5) struck out nine and allowed four hits over 6 1/3 innings.

Miami's Luis Arraez went 0 for 4 and his major league-leading batting average dropped to .383.

Edmundo Sosa had a two-run homer for the Phillies. Starter Aaron Nola (8-6) allowed eight hits and five runs with six strikeouts in six innings.

Nationals 7, Rangers 2

In Washington, Joey Meneses homered for the third consecutive day, Patrick Corbin earned his first home victory since May 20, and Washington sent AL West-leading Texas to its eighth loss in 11 games.

Stone Garrett and Dominic Smith also homered for last-place Washington, which won the final two games of the series after dropping 15 of its previous 16 at Nationals Park.

Corbin (6-10) matched his victory total from all of last year, when he led the majors with 19 losses. He retired the first 10 men he faced and allowed one run and five hits while striking out six over seven innings.

Dane Dunning (8-2), one of Washington's first-round picks in 2016, pitched for the first time at Nationals Park and allowed four runs in 5 2/3 innings. The right-hander allowed seven hits while striking out four.

Blue Jays 4, Tigers 3, 10 innings

In Detroit, Nathan Lukes' RBI double in the 10th inning gave Toronto a

MLB Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, July 10, (AP): Results and standings from the MLB games on Sunday.

Washington	7	Texas	2
Kansas City	4	Cleveland	1
Tampa Bay	10	Atlanta	4
Toronto	4	Detroit 10 inn	4
Seattle	3	Houston	1
Boston	4	Oakland	3
Chicago Cubs	7	NY Yankees	4
St. Louis	4	Chicago W. Sox 10 inn	4
Baltimore	15	Minnesota	2
Miami	7	Philadelphia	3
Milwaukee	1	Cincinnati	0
San Francisco	1	Colorado	0
Pittsburgh	4	Arizona	2
San Diego	6	NY Mets	2

American League

East Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Tampa Bay	58	35	.624	—
Baltimore	50	35	.607	2
Toronto	50	41	.549	7
New York	49	42	.538	8
Boston	48	43	.527	9

Central Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Cleveland	45	45	.500	—
Minnesota	45	46	.495	-1/2
Detroit	39	50	.438	5-1/2
Chicago	38	54	.413	8
Kansas City	26	65	.286	19-1/2

West Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Texas	52	39	.571	—
Houston	50	41	.549	2
Seattle	45	44	.506	6
Los Angeles	45	46	.495	7
Oakland	25	67	.272	27-1/2

National League

East Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Atlanta	60	29	.674	—
Miami	53	39	.576	8-1/2
Philadelphia	48	41	.539	12
New York	42	48	.467	18-1/2
Washington	36	54	.400	24-1/2

Central Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Cincinnati	50	41	.549	—
Milwaukee	49	42	.538	1
Chicago	42	47	.472	7
Pittsburgh	41	49	.456	8-1/2
St. Louis	38	52	.422	11-1/2

West Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Los Angeles	51	38	.573	—
Arizona	52	39	.571	—
San Francisco	49	41	.544	2-1/2
San Diego	43	47	.478	8-1/2
Colorado	34	57	.374	18



Kansas City Royals' Salvador Pérez hits a single during the fourth inning of a baseball game against the Cleveland Guardians in Cleveland. (AP)

comeback win over Detroit.

The Blue Jays trailed 3-1 with two outs in the ninth before Matt Chapman walked and Danny Jansen hit a homer over the Toronto bullpen in left-centerfield.

Daulton Varsho started the top of the 10th with a grounder to second and Zack Short threw out automatic Alejandro Kirk at third. Lukes followed with an RBI double off José Cisnero (2-2).

Yimi Garcia (3-3) pitched an inning of relief and earned the victory, while Jordan Romano picked up his 26th save.

Miguel Cabrera gave the Tigers a 1-0 lead with an RBI single - his 3,128th career hit - in the second and Riley Greene added a solo homer in the third.

Red Sox 4, Athletics 3

In Boston, Masataka Yoshida scored the tying run with good baserunning and hit a go-ahead homer two innings later as Boston rallied and extended its winning streak to five games.

J.P. Sears took a no-hitter into the fifth for Oakland despite allowing an unearned run in the first thanks to one of three A's errors.

Boston trailed 3-1 in the middle of the sixth before Adam Duvall hit a solo homer to lead off the bottom half, then Yoshida singled, stole second, took third on a bad throw from catcher Manny Pina and scored on Christian Arroyo's double to tie it. Yoshida bounced one off the top of the Green Monster to make it 4-3 in the eighth.

Brent Rooker had three hits for Oakland, including a 443-foot home run high off the Green Monster light stanchion. Ken Waldichuk (2-6) took the loss.

Chris Martin (3-1) pitched a scoreless eighth for the win, and Kenley Jansen earned his 19th save.

Brewers 1, Reds 0

In Milwaukee, Wade Miley pitched six strong innings and Milwaukee made a first-inning run stand up in a win over Cincinnati.

The victory pulled the Brewers to within a game of the NL Central-leading Reds heading into the All-Star break. Milwaukee took two of three in the series.

A trio of Brewers relievers - Elvis Peguero, Joel Payamps and Devin Williams - combined to complete the shut-out. Williams retired the side in order in the ninth to earn his 20th save in 22 tries.

Christian Yelich led off the Brewers half of the first with a ground-rule double off Ben Lively (4-5) and scored on Jess Winker's two-out single.

Miley (6-2) gave up four hits and tied a season high with eight strikeouts.



Miami Marlins' Jean Segura runs to beat the throw by Philadelphia Phillies second baseman Bryson Stott but is out at the plate during the eighth inning of a baseball game in Miami. (AP)

Orioles 15, Twins 2

In Minnesota, Anthony Santander hit two of Baltimore's six homers and the Orioles completed a series sweep of Minnesota.

Aaron Hicks added a three-run homer against his former team in the Orioles' seven-run fifth. Austin Hays, Ramón Urias and Adley Rutschman also went deep for Baltimore.

It's the second time in four games Baltimore scored at least 14 runs. They scored 14 against the Yankees in the series finale Thursday.

Former Twin Kyle Gibson (9-6) was sharp, striking out 11 and allowing just three hits in seven innings, two to Edward Julien.

Baltimore chased Twins starter Joe Ryan (8-6) after just 4 2/3 innings. Ryan finished with a season-high 10 strikeouts.

Cardinals 4, White Sox 3, 10 innings

In Chicago, Paul DeJong had an RBI double in the 10th inning to give St. Louis a win over Chicago.

DeJong lined a pitch from Keynon Middleton (2-1) down the left field line, scoring automatic runner Nolan Gorman.

St. Louis catcher Willson Contreras hit a two-run homer and reached base four times with two hits, a walk and a hit by pitch.

JoJo Romero (1-0), the fourth Cardinals reliever, pitched two innings for his first career win.

Mariners 3, Astros 1

In Houston, Jarrod Kelenic hit a two-run double to back up a strong start by Logan Gilbert, lifting Seattle past Houston.

Gilbert (7-5) allowed just three hits in seven innings, with his only mistake coming when Martín Maldonado connected on a solo homer in the sixth. Matt Brash threw a scoreless eighth and Paul Seaward struck out two in the ninth for his 17th save.

The Mariners won three of four games in this series to head into the All-Star break having won seven of their past nine games.

Giants 1, Rockies 0

In San Francisco, Logan Webb overcame a shaky start for a 10-strikeout, complete-game victory and San Francisco made J.D. Davis' solo homer in the fourth inning stand up in a win over Colorado as Rockies starter Kyle Freeland left the game with an apparent right shoulder injury.

Webb (8-7) labored through a 19-pitch first inning against the Rockies before settling in. The 26-year-old right-hander, who was winless in his previous two starts after allowing seven runs over 11 2/3 innings, allowed seven hits in his first career shutout and reached double-figure Ks for the fourth time this season.

Freeland (4-10) left the game in the seventh inning with an apparent injury to non-throwing shoulder. The 30-year-old left-hander was trying to field a bunt by Brett Wisely and dove to get the ball. He then rolled over and screamed in pain as teammates rushed to him. Colorado manager Bud Black and a team trainer also came out to examine the pitcher, who slowly walked off the field cradling his right arm.

Davis' 11th homer of the season sent the Giants into the All-Star break with a record of 49-41, good enough for third place in the NL West behind Arizona and the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Pirates 4, Diamondbacks 2

In Phoenix, Ji Man Choi hit a two-run homer, seven pitchers combined on a four-hitter and Pittsburgh ended a four-game losing streak with a win over Arizona.

Choi homered off Zach Davies (1-5) in the second inning and the Pirates bullpen took turns shutting down the Diamondbacks.

Osvaldo Bido (1-1) allowed a hit in 1 1/3 innings and All-Star closer David Bednar worked around a walk in the ninth inning for his 17th save in 18 chances after Jared Triolo hit a run-scoring single in the top half.

Alek Thomas homered for the second straight game for the Diamondbacks, who head into the All-Star break tied with the Los Angeles Dodgers atop the NL West at 52-39.

Pole winner Almirola finishes 18th

Byron claims fourth victory of season

HAMPTON, Ga., July 10, (AP): William Byron overcame a spin early in the second stage that knocked him back a lap, and then was in the right position when weather took control at Atlanta Motor Speedway.

Byron won the rain-shortened NASCAR race at Atlanta on Sunday night for his series-leading fourth victory of the season. It was the second win in Atlanta in the last two years for Byron, who took the NASCAR points lead.

Byron said it was "kind of pins and needles" after his crew made changes to his No. 24 Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet that had been damaged by the spin.

"When I spun, I was like here we go," Byron said. "... It was not good at that moment. We lost a lap, changed tires."

The threat of rain affected strategy as drivers fought to move toward the front of the field before weather delayed or ended the race.

On lap 185, with 75 laps to go, NASCAR ordered cars to pit road due to rain and the possibility of lightning. Cars were covered while officials waited to see if the rain ended.

Only six minutes later, fans were warned of severe weather within eight miles of the track and were encouraged to leave the stadium immediately, and NASCAR called the race soon after that announcement.

"I 1,000% agree with erring on the side of caution," said Kyle Bush, who finished fifth.

Daniel Suarez, looking for his first win of 2023, was second. AJ Allmendinger was third, followed by Michael McDowell.

CAR RACING

Suarez said he had "a little bit of mixed feelings" about NASCAR's decision to end the race.

"I wish we had one more shot to get ahead and then it could rain all it wants," Suarez said with a laugh.

The race became official after 130 laps. After that, the weather watch factored heavily into race strategy.

"We knew the rain was coming," McDowell said. "We wanted to give ourselves the best chance to win the race."

Kevin Harvick, a three-time Atlanta winner, had a spin with 89 laps remaining. Harvick was able to drive to pit road without a caution, but the spin all but ended his hopes of a win in his final Atlanta race.

Sinclair leads Canada squad into the Women's World Cup

TORONTO, July 10, (AP): Christine Sinclair will lead the Canadian women's national team at the upcoming Women's World Cup.

Sinclair, international soccer's all-time leading scorer among men and women with 190 career goals, is playing in her sixth World Cup. The 40-year-old is captain of the 23-player squad announced by coach Bev Priestman on Sunday.

Sinclair will be joined by fellow veterans Sophie Schmidt, playing in her fifth World Cup, and Allysha Chapman, Kadeisha Buchanan, Adriana Leon, Jessie Fleming and Ashley Lawrence, who will all be making a third appearance in the tournament.

"I know every single person has given their all to make this squad. It's a great mix of veterans, experienced and new players who can all bring something different this summer," Priestman said in a statement. "I'm naturally devastated for the players who have missed out, especially due to injuries, but I know every player will be with us on our journey and have been pivotal in getting us to this point."

Among those missing out was Janine Beckie, who tore her ACL in a preseason game the Portland Thorns in the National Women's Soccer League. Midfielder Desiree Scott, a veteran of three World Cups, injured her knee late last year and did not make the roster.

The increased threat of rain placed an increased emphasis on drivers to compete for top spots in the second stage, perhaps contributing to two wrecks that knocked out Ross Chastain, Kyle Larson and Austin Hill.

Denny Hamlin and Alex Bowman were involved in another crash late in the second stage, leaving Brad Keselowski and Ryan Blaney at the front of the field. The stage ended under caution.

Despite the stage win, Keselowski was left with a big decision as he talked with his crew about the threat of rain and the possibility of staying on the track. He chose to pit for fuel, saying he had no real choice.

"No, we had 12 to 14 laps left of fuel and that was not enough and we ended

The World Cup, hosted by Australia and New Zealand, kicks off on July 20 with an expanded field of 32 teams. Canada, which won the gold medal at the Tokyo Olympics, opens the tournament with Nigeria on July 21 (July 20 in North America) in Melbourne, Australia.

Canada's roster by position with club affiliation:

Goalkeepers: Kailen Sheridan (San Diego Wave), Sabrina D'Angelo (Arsenal), Lysianne Proulx (Torreense).

SOCCER

Defenders: Allysha Chapman (Houston Dash), Kadeisha Buchanan (Chelsea), Shelina Zadorosky (Tottenham Hotspur), Jayde Riviere (Manchester United) Ashley Lawrence (Chelsea), Vanessa Gilles (Lyon), Gabrielle Carle (Washington Spirit).

Midfielders: Quinn (OL Reign), Julie Grosse (Juventus), Sophie Schmidt (Houston Dash), Jessie Fleming (Chelsea), Simi Awujo (USC), Olivia Smith (Penn State).

Forwards: Deanne Rose (Reading), Jordyn Huitema (OL Reign), Christine Sinclair (Portland Thorns), Evelyn Viens (Kristianstads), Nichelle Prince (Houston Dash), Adriana Leon (Manchester United), Cloe Lacasse (Arsenal).

up running 15 laps or so," Keselowski said. "I think we made the right call. We just needed the rain to be 10 minutes earlier or 10 minutes later."

A collision between Bubba Wallace and Ryan Preece caused another caution early in the final stage, leaving Byron in the lead, ahead of Suarez.

Aric Almirola, who won the pole, led the first 39 laps before being passed by Joey Logano for the first time. Blaney held off Larson to win the first stage. Almirola finished 18th.

Chase Elliott, still looking for his first win of the season, finished 13th. Elliott won for the first time at his Atlanta home track in the 2022 summer race.



William Byron celebrates in victory lane after winning a NASCAR Cup Series auto race at Atlanta Motor Speedway in Hampton, Ga. (AP)

Benjamin cruises to win at US track and field championships

Thomas holds off Richardson to win women's 200

EUGENE, Ore., July 10, (AP) — There's another American sprinter making a big time comeback this year.

Gabby Thomas held off Sha'Carri Richardson with the best time in the world in 2023 to win the women's 200 meters at the U.S. track and field championships on Sunday night.

Thomas caught up to Richardson rounding the curve and powered to the finish in 21.60 seconds. Kayla White took third.

The 26-year-old Thomas struggled last season as she dealt with a hamstring injury. She skipped the 100 earlier this weekend to conserve her energy for the 200, in which she returned to top form.

"This one is really sweet," said Thomas, who graduated from Harvard in neurobiology before going to Texas to work on a master's degree. "Coming from the injury is just so emotionally and mentally grueling, you just don't know what to expect. You're kind of off your game a little bit. Your confidence is a little shot. So for me to come back and train really hard, work hard all season to be at this really competitive meet is amazing."

Richardson, too, is on the comeback trail and accomplished what she needed to at nationals - qualify in both sprint events for worlds next month in Budapest, Hungary. The 23-year-old Richardson won the 100 on Friday. Two years ago, Richardson had her national title in the 100 stripped after she tested positive for marijuana.

It was quite a fast weekend for Thomas, Richardson and, down the road a bit, Shericka Jackson, who turned in a sizzling 100 time of 19.65 seconds at the Jamaican championships.

In the men's 200, 19-year-old Erriyon Knighton held off Kenny Bednarek for the win in a time of 19.72 seconds. Courtney Lindsey grabbed third.

"The main goal is to just go in there and execute," Knighton said. "I executed and I came out with a win."

Bednarek and Knighton won the silver and bronze medals, respectively, at worlds last summer in Eugene, Oregon. The gold medalist in the event, Noah Lyles, has an automatic berth to worlds in the 200 and sat out the race. He's also qualified in the 100.

ATHLETICS

Fred Kerley suffered his first defeat of the season, finishing fourth. Kerley is the reigning world champion in the 100 and has a spot at worlds in that event.

Shamier Little used a fast start to hold off 2016 Rio Olympics champion Dalilah Muhammad in the women's 400 hurdles. Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone skipped the event to concentrate on the open 400, which she won Saturday night. McLaughlin-Levrone is automatically qualified for the 400 hurdles after her record-setting win

last summer at worlds.

Little even had enough energy to perform a victory dance after the race.

The men's 400 hurdles saw American record holder Rai Benjamin cruise to a convincing win, setting up another showdown with his rival Karsten Warholm. Benjamin finished runner-up to the Norwegian at the Tokyo Games in 2021 in which Warholm shattered the world record. Last summer at worlds, Benjamin was runner-up to Alison Dos Santos of Brazil.

No surprise, Ryan Crouser won the

shot put. A little bit of a surprise - no world record. It seems like every time Crouser steps into the circle, he breaks a record. Crouser's current world record of 23.56 (77 feet, 3 3/4 inches) was set in May and is pending ratification.

In other finals Sunday: - Olympic and world pole vault champion Katie Moon won the event over Sandi Morris.

- Nia Akins outkicked Raevyn Rogers down the stretch to take first in the women's 800. Athing Mu, the reigning 800 world champion, skipped the

event to focus on the 1,500, where she finished second.

- There was plenty of contact in a physical men's 800 race won by Bryce Hoppel, who surged to the win.

- Reigning world hammer throw champion Brooke Andersen took first at nationals, with DeAnna Price, the 2019 world champion, finishing second to earn a spot.

- Olympic discus champion Valarie Allman won.

- Tara Davis-Woodhall beat defending national champion Quanesha Burks in the long jump.

- JuVaughn Harrison won the high jump.

- Setting the pace, Abdihamid Nur fended off Paul Chelimo to win the men's 5,000.

- Elise Cranny took the women's 5,000 title after winning the 10,000 on Thursday.

The U.S. championships closed with Daniel Roberts edging Cordell Tinch in the 110-meter hurdles. Two-time reigning world champion Grant Holloway made it to the final but sat out. Holloway has an automatic spot at worlds in the event.



Erriyon Knighton reacts as he crosses the finish line to win the men's 200 meters final during the U.S. track and field championships in Eugene, Ore. (AP)



Gabby Thomas reacts after winning the women's 200 meters final during the U.S. track and field championships. (AP)

US edge Canada in shootout to 'reach' Gold Cup semifinal

Jamaica eliminate Guatemala

CINCINNATI, July 10, (AP) — Matt Turner told his American teammates not to worry when their match against Canada went to penalty kicks.

"He had the last word before we went out to the field," U.S. interim coach B.J. Callaghan said. "It's just encouraging the guys to stay calm, stay committed to what they've practiced." Turner stopped two penalty kicks, and the American beat Canada 3-2 in the shootout after a 2-2 draw Sunday night for a berth in a CONCACAF Gold Cup semifinal against Panama. The U.S. had not won a shootout since 2005.

SOCCER

"A lot of the penalties that I had seen on my sheets or in my preparation, most of those guys were off the pitch by the time the pens were there," Turner said. "I just trusted my instincts, really, and typically when I do that, I find myself having a lot more success." Brandon Vázquez gave the U.S. a 1-0 lead in the 88th minute, but Steven Vitória tied the score in the third minute of stoppage time with a penalty kick after a hand ball on Miles Robinson. Jacob Shaffelburg put Canada ahead in the 109th but an own goal by Canada's Scott Kennedy made it 2-2 in the 115th.

Turner stopped Vitória's opening penalty kick with his right hand when Vitória shot down the middle, as he did in regulation. Vázquez skied his attempt over the crossbar and Turner dived left to bat away Liam Fraser's attempt.

"He's a really settling force at the back for the U.S.," Canada coach John Herdman said. "He's got wonderful feet. He's game management is very good, and he can save penalties." Cade Cowell, Gianluca Busio and Jesús Ferreira all converted for the U.S. while Kamal Miller and Jacen Russell-Rowe made shots for Canada. Charles-Andreas Brym put Canada's final attempt off the crossbar.

In the opening game, Jamaica beat Guatemala 1-0 on a 51st-minute goal by Amari'i Bell. The defender scored from a Demarai Gray pass with a right-foot shot from 8 yards for his first international goal. Jamaica will play Mexico at Las Vegas on Wednesday.

The U.S.-Panama winner on Wednesday at San Diego advances to the championship match on July 16 against Mexico or Jamaica at Inglewood, California.

The Americans have reached 12 straight Gold Cup semifinals. Going to a shootout for the first time since losing to Panama in the 2015 Gold Cup third-place game, the Americans improved to 5-4 in games decided by penalty kicks, including 5-2 in competitive matches. They had not won a shootout since beating Panama in the 2005 Gold Cup final.

Vázquez had put the U.S. ahead with a header from DeJuan Jones' looping cross. In his home stadium where he plays for Cincinnati, Vázquez scored his fourth international goal and third goal of the tournament. He had entered in the 73rd



Canada midfielder Jonathan Osorio (21) moves the ball against United States forward Jesús Ferreira (9) during a CONCACAF Gold Cup semi-final soccer match in Cincinnati. (AP)



United States' Lindsey Horan (10) takes a shot against Wales' Angharad James (8) in the second half of a FIFA Women's World Cup send-off soccer match in San Jose, Calif. (AP)

minute.

Vitória tied the score with his fifth international goal. Robinson was called for the penalty by Mexican referee Marco Ortiz after a video review of a ball bouncing off the defender's arm while Robinson was challenging Rowe. Ortiz declined to award a penalty after a video review of a ball off Robinson's arm in first-half stoppage time. Shaffelburg gave Canada the lead when he picked up a loose ball near midfield and dribbled past Ferreira. From just inside the penalty area, Shaffelburg sent a shot that deflected off a calf of defender Matt Miazga for his first international goal.

Turner lofted the ball from midfield into the penalty area. Miazga centered a header to Jordan Morris, who headed the ball in front. Dayne St. Clair made a leg save on Busio, but the shot deflected off defender Kennedy and in for an own goal.

NZ pull off confidence-boosting win

US blank Wales heading into Women's World Cup

SAN JOSE, Calif., July 10, (AP) — Megan Rapinoe and Trinity Rodman stood side by side at the top of a stairwell waiting to return to the field for some final cheers and fanfare before the Americans departed for the Women's World Cup Down Under.

The Old Guard and Young Guard of U.S. Soccer are mixing, meshing. These women are still learning from each other and about each other. And U.S. coach Vlatko Andonovski is confident the kinks will be worked out over the coming couple of weeks in training for the Americans to shine.

Rising star Rodman scored for U.S. in the 76th minute and again in the 88th, and the Americans finally capitalized on their many offensive chances to beat Wales 2-0 on Sunday in a final tuneup for the Women's World Cup.

SOCCER

Several players are dealing with injuries so Andonovski had to adjust his lineup.

First, Rodman broke up a scoreless tie when she one-touched a pass from Sophia Smith then later emphatically delivered again to provide a glimpse of Americans' youth movement headed to the big stage in Australia and New Zealand.

Smith corralled a pretty ball from Lynn Williams - who subbed in during the 64th minute - sent from the center circle and raced past her defender on the left side to find a charging Rodman for the initial goal.

Rodman, the highly touted 21-year-old forward, set up her own shot the

next time. She entered for Alex Morgan to begin the second half challenged by Andonovski to raise the pace.

Rodman doubled her number of goals for the U.S. to give her four over 18 matches for the Americans - and she even had another chance on a header in the 74th. The U.S. hardly looked in sync for much of the afternoon less than two weeks from the World Cup opener but the backups brought some new energy.

Andonovski is mixing and matching lineups featuring veterans and unproven new talent on the 23-woman World Cup roster with nine returners from the 2019 World Cup champion team and 14 players making their debut on the biggest world stage.

Alana Cook nearly found the net on a header in the 68th minute that Wales forward Kayleigh Green headed away near the post and Sofia Huerta had a nice look in the 73rd minute.

Alyssa Thompson missed from just outside the penalty box in the 61st minute - so it was a game of missed chances on a picture-perfect Bay Area afternoon for the sold-out friendly match that had its share of physical moments and hard hits.

A scrappy Wales team fought on its defensive end to limit the Americans' chances for open looks at the net yet the U.S. did get ample chances to work on various set pieces throughout the

game. The Welsh didn't manage their first shot until the 74th minute on an attempt by Hannah Cain.

Wales defender Lily Woodham exited briefly and was examined by medical personnel following a head-to-head collision with Alyssa Thompson in the 23rd minute that gave Woodham a swollen right eye immediately. And forward Carrie Jones took a shoe to the head moments before the halftime whistle.

A day after Rapinoe announced she will retire after her fourth World Cup and finish the National Women's Soccer League season with the OL Reign, the 38-year-old forward didn't get on the field as a precaution with her nursing a calf injury over the past month. She received huge cheers when she came outside for warmups and again running through the tunnel after going through her pregame routine.

Co-host New Zealand pulled off a confidence-boosting win 10 days before facing Norway in the opening match of the Women's World Cup, beating Vietnam 2-0 in its last warm-up game.

The win was timely, ending the Football Ferns' 10-match winless streak.

Right back C.J. Bott scored from a corner in the 17th minute, firing home a shot from long range which was deflected by Vietnam defender Thi Thu Thao Tran.

Jacqui Hand scored just before halftime to give New Zealand a 2-0 lead, which endured throughout the second half. Indiah-Paige Riley delivered a cross from the right and Hand had a simple tap in at the left post.

New Zealand was more proactive in front of goal than it has been for some time under coach Jitka Klimkova, taking 19 shots to Vietnam's one in the first half alone.

Replacing Spaniard won't be easy

De Gea 'exit' paves way for Erik tactical transformation

MANCHESTER, July 10, (AP) — Replacing David de Gea won't be easy.

No Premier League goalkeeper kept more clean sheets last season than De Gea, who announced his departure on Saturday, and in 12 years at Manchester United he was named the club's

player of the year on four occasions.

He leaves United as a legend, having been part of its last league title-winning team and lifting four major trophies with the club. But his exit also paves the way for a transition that many fans feel is long overdue.

At his best, De Gea was a match-winning shot-stopper with the agility and speed of reaction to pull off astounding saves.

In recent years, however, he has looked like a player out of his time as soccer has demanded more from keepers, with Manchester City and Liverpool two standout examples of how the position has been transformed.

England's two most dominant teams of the past five years have exploited the ball-playing qualities of their keepers.

Ederson, at City, and Alisson, at Liverpool, look as comfortable with the ball at their feet as they do with their hands. Their composure in possession and the precision of their passing adds another dimension to their teams.

They are effectively an 11th outfield player at times and it can feel like their teams have an extra man in defense with their ability to step out of goal and double up as a sweeper when required.

Their long-range passing can be a valuable weapon in attack, but it is more their prowess in building out from the back that is fundamental to the style of soccer played by City's Pep Guardiola and Liverpool's Jurgen Klopp.

United has not had that option with De Gea in goal and increasingly there has been a sense that it has held the team back in attempts to modernize its play.

Can it be a coincidence that the two best teams in English soccer have built their success on ball-playing keepers?

Of course it is not the only way to achieve success. But it helps.

Guardiola shocked City fans when displacing the club's two-time league title-winning keeper and then-England No.1, Joe Hart, almost as soon as he took over at Etihad Stadium.

SOCCER

Hart was an icon. But Guardiola had different ideas of what he wanted from a keeper and the ball-playing Claudio Bravo was signed from Barcelona before Ederson was eventually brought in from Benfica.

It was seen as controversial at the time and Guardiola was even derided when Bravo made some high-profile blunders in his first season. But to a coach who has repeatedly looked to innovate soccer, getting the right keeper was pivotal to his plans at City.

Likewise Klopp at Liverpool. He made Alisson the most expensive keeper in the world when signing him from Roma for \$84.5 million in 2018.

He has gone on to win the Premier League, Champions League, Club World Cup, FA Cup and League Cup as Liverpool has gone head-to-head with City.

While United has had its success with De Gea, its style of soccer has not come close to reaching the heights of City or Liverpool.

Under former managers Jose Mourinho and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer the demands on De Gea's footwork were not so intense. But Erik ten Hag has made it clear that he wants his keeper to be involved in the play and United's evolution under the Dutch manager has felt stifled as a result of De Gea's limitations.

The 4-0 rout by Brentford in only Ten Hag's second game in charge showcased the problems he would encounter by trying to impose his brand of soccer on players unused to his methods.



De Gea



Sepp Straka of Austria hits out of a bunker on the 17th green during the final round of the John Deere Classic golf tournament at TPC Deere Run in Silvis, Ill. (AP)

Sports

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Corpuz wins US Open for first LPGA title

Straka claims 2nd title on PGA Tour

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif., July 10 (AP): Allisen Corpuz became the first American in 20 years to make the U.S. Women's Open her first LPGA title, closing with a 3-under 69 on Sunday and handling her historic moment at Pebble Beach as if she had been there before.

Corpuz, a 25-year-old from Hawaii, pulled away with a big par putt and back-to-back birdies on the back nine to enjoy the most scenic walk in golf up the 18th fairway, the Pacific Ocean on her left and her place secured as the first U.S. Women's Open champion at Pebble Beach.

She won by three shots over Charley Hull (66) and Jiyai Shin (68) and claimed the \$2 million prize, the richest ever for an LPGA major champion.

Corpuz was so calm and cool on the grandest stage in women's golf, regardless of the shot or the circumstances, until reality began to set in down the 18th. When she tapped in for par, she covered her smile with her hand and wiped tears away with her Aloha-print towel.

Corpuz, who finished at 9-under 279, was the only player to break par all four days.

Hilary Lunke in 2003 at Pumpkin Ridge was the last American to get her first win at the U.S. Women's Open.

Corpuz never gave anyone much of a chance. Nasa Hataoka lost her one-shot lead on the opening hole when Corpuz hit her approach to 5 feet for birdie, and the 24-year-old from Japan dropped too many shots down the home stretch.

Hull, who started the final round seven shots behind, closed to within two shots early on the back nine and stayed in the game with a 30-foot birdie putt on the 16th. Shin made a birdie on the 18th to join Hull as a runner-up.

Sepp Straka won the John Deere Classic on Sunday with a final-round 9-under 62 that could have been much better, making double bogey on the final hole but taking the title by two shots when Brendon Todd and Alex Smalley were unable to catch him.

The 30-year-old Austrian who played in college at Georgia won for the second time on the PGA Tour, moved to No. 27 in the world and increased his chances of representing

Europe in the Ryder Cup this fall in Rome. He shot 73 on Thursday but followed with rounds of 63, 65 and 62.

Straka, who teed off an hour ahead of the final group, started birdie-eagle and made four more birdies on the front nine to turn in 7-under 28 at TPC Deere Run, then ran off four birdies in a row on the back nine to reach 11 under for the day and 23 under for the tournament.

He needed to pay his final four holes in 1 under to shoot 59 but made three straight pars and then dunked his approach on the par-4 18th into the pond left of the green.

Todd and Smalley had plenty of chances to match him, and Todd got within one stroke with a birdie on the par-4 14th, but he played his final four holes in 1 over. Smalley closed with

BASEBALL

four straight pars to match Todd at 19 under.

Ludvig Aberg closed with a 63 to tie for fourth, the Swede's best finish in four starts as a professional after an outstanding college career at Texas Tech. He was 18 under alongside Adam Schenck (68).

British Open champion Cameron Smith held on to win his first golf tournament of the year on Sunday, closing with a 3-under 68 to win LIV Golf-London by one shot over Patrick Reed and Marc Leishman.

The victory came less than two weeks before Smith defends his British Open title at Royal Liverpool. It was his first win since the LIV Golf-Chicago event last September.

Smith led Reed by six shots at the turn when the American made six birdies on the back nine at Centurion Club and closed with a 65. Reed failed to birdie the par 5s on Sunday.

Smith was two shots ahead playing the par-5 18th and made bogey. Reed made par, while Leishman birdied the final hole for a 66 to share second place with Reed.

In the team competition, Dustin Johnson's 4 Aces rallied to win by one shot over Ripper, the team led by Smith. The 4 Aces had Reed, Johnson (67) and Pat Perez (66).

Denmark's Rasmus Hojgaard closed with a 6-under 64 to overcome a six-shot deficit and then beat Nacho Elvira in a six-hole playoff to become the first home winner of the Made in Himmerland on Sunday.

Elvira had a one-shot lead playing the 18th, but his bogey gave him a 70 and put him into a playoff against Hojgaard. All the extra holes were on the 18th, and they traded pars five times.

Elvira hit his second shot out-of-bounds on the sixth extra hole to effectively gift a fourth European tour title to Hojgaard, who had holed from 9 feet for par on the previous hole to keep his hopes alive.



Smith



Allisen Corpuz holds the winner's trophy after the U.S. Women's Open golf tournament at the Pebble Beach Golf Link in Pebble Beach, Calif. (AP)

Keys eliminates teen Andreeva to reach quarters

Djokovic shows his experience at Wimbledon

'There will be an open draw for round of 16'

More national derby games possible when revamped Champions League starts next yr

WIMBLEDON, England, July 10, (AP): Novak Djokovic's experience was on display at Wimbledon on Monday. And so was Russian teenager Mirra Andreeva's inexperience.

Djokovic, a seven-time champion at the All England Club who is looking for his 24th Grand Slam title overall, reached the quarterfinals at the grass-court major for the 14th time by beating Hubert Hurkacz 7-6 (6), 7-6 (6), 5-7, 6-4 in a match that started Sunday on Centre Court.

Djokovic saved three set points in the first set and then was two points from losing the second set. Play was then suspended because of the late hour. On Monday, Hurkacz finally managed to pick up a set, using his strong serve to near perfection.

"Honestly, I don't recall the last time I felt this miserable in returning games ... due to his incredibly accurate and powerful serve," Djokovic said on court. "He's got one of the best serves in the world and it's so difficult to read it."

Hurkacz had held his serve for all 67 games at Wimbledon this year until the fourth set, when Djokovic broke him to lead 4-3. Before that, the 17th-seeded Pole had saved all 18 break points he faced.

Djokovic reached the quarterfinals at a Grand Slam tournament for the 56th time in his career, second only to Roger Federer's men's record 58. He will next face Andrey Rublev for a spot in the semifinals.

TENNIS

Andreeva, a Russian qualifier who is still only 16 years old, had been showing her maturity throughout the first week of the Wimbledon tournament but things went awry on Monday. The teenager had won all six of her matches on grass to reach the fourth round at the All England Club but she let a big lead over 25th-seeded Madison Keys slip away in a 3-6, 7-6 (4), 6-2 loss on No. 2 Court.

Andreeva took the first set and led 3-0 in the second - winning nine of 10 games in one stretch - before Keys turned things around. Frustrated at one point, Andreeva threw her racket and received a warning from Swedish chair umpire Louise Aze-mar Engzell.

In the final game, Andreeva slipped while going for a ball and the racket again went flying out of her hand.

Engzell docked the Russian a point for a second thrown racket, giving Keys a match point. Andree-

va argued the call, pleading her case. "I didn't throw the racket. I fell," Andreeva told Engzell. "I slid and then I fell."

The call stood, however, and Keys then finished off the match to reach the Wimbledon quarterfinals for the first time since 2015.

"Coming out here, you know that she's a really great player. But you don't want to be the player that loses to her for her to get to her first quarter," Keys said on court. "I've fallen short a few times and it's great to be back in the quarterfinals here at Wimbledon."

Keys has reached the semifinals at the other three Grand Slam tournaments, including a run to the final at the U.S. Open in 2017, but her only other quarterfinal appearance at the All England Club ended at that stage.

Andreeva, the latest teen sensation in tennis, was the youngest player in

the Wimbledon draw. She was bidding to become the youngest player to reach the Wimbledon quarterfinals



Serbia's Novak Djokovic returns to Poland's Hubert Hurkacz in a men's singles match on day eight of the Wimbledon tennis championships in London. (AP)

No. 1 seed and those placed second to eighth will be seeded accordingly in the round of 16.

Teams placed ninth to 16th will be seeded in the new knockout playoff round in February, drawn against unseeded teams placing 17th to 24th.

The new formats will create more midweek games for UEFA and the Champions League is set to start with an exclusive week playing from Tuesday to Thursday, Sept. 17-19, 2024.

One week later, the Europa League is scheduled to have its exclusive season launch on Sept. 25-26. The Conference League will start on Oct. 3 and have an exclusive match night on Dec. 19.

The league stages in the top two tiers will continue into January with the Champions League having its seventh round on Jan. 21-22 and all teams in action for the decisive eighth round on Jan. 29.

SOCCER

Another tweak to the Champions League in 2024-25 relates to which team gets lifted out of the qualifying rounds up to direct entry when the competition is won by a team that already earned its place next season through its domestic league position.

Manchester City had already secured the Premier League title when it won the Champions League final last month, meaning the group-stage place reserved for the title holder went the country with the highest ranking based on UEFA competition results which did not have a direct entry. That was Ukraine and Shakhtar Donetsk got the place.

Next year, in a similar scenario, UEFA has decided that direct entry will go to the highest-ranked domestic champion in the qualifying rounds, rather than to a country. That could still reward Shakhtar, or a team like Dinamo Zagreb or Slavia Prague.

Kuwait win two more medals



KUNA photo

Kuwaiti champions Ali Al-Nassar, Ali Fadhel.

ALGIERS, July 10, (KUNA): Kuwaiti national team participating in the Arab Games, hosted by Algeria, increased their medals tally Sunday by two medals, (a silver and a bronze) in fencing competition, bringing the number of medals to (three silver and three bronze).

FENCING

The Kuwaiti team secured their place in honorary podiums on the first day of the fencing competitions, which took place at the Women's Sports Center in

Ben Aknoun (Algers), and was able to shine among a group of Arab stars.

The start was with the Kuwaiti national team champion, Ali Al-Nassar, who shone during the competition and was able to win the silver medal in the men's individual instant weapon competition.

Meanwhile, Kuwaiti champion Ali Fadhel was also able to stand out in the same competition, as he came in third place of the men's individual instant weapon.

Thirty-two Kuwaitis, men and women, are competing in the event across six different sports.