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Quran burning condemnations continue

Iraq tells demonstrators to keep away from embassies, security sites

KUWAIT CITY, July 23, (KUNA): The Foreign Ministry has expressed Kuwait's strong condemnation of the burning of a copy of the Holy Quran by extremists in the Danish capital, Copenhagen.

This provocative act deepens hatred sentiments, fuels extremism, and offends Muslims worldwide, the ministry

cautioned in a statement.

It urged the Danish government to reveal motives of this disgraceful act and to take all necessary legal actions to stop such irresponsible acts and behavior that offends the symbols and sanctities of Muslims.

The Foreign Ministry called on the Danish government to move to avoid the recurrence of such acts and to bring perpetrators to accountability.

It argued that the freedom of expression should not be used to insult Islam and all heavenly religions.

The ministry called on the international community to garner efforts to counter such shameful acts through enacting laws that criminalize offending religions and to promote adherence to relevant international conventions and resolutions, including the recent UN Human Rights Council's resolution on countering religious hatred.

Elsewhere, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia condemned Saturday the burning of a copy of the Holy Quran by an extremist group in Copenhagen, capital of Denmark.

A statement from the Ministry expressed the Kingdom's dissatisfaction with the failure of the Danish authorities to take the necessary measures to prevent incidents of encroachment on Islamic sanctities, the latest of which was what an extremist group did with Holy Quran copy, and raising slogans of hatred and racism in front of the Embassy of the Republic of Iraq in Copenhagen.

The Kingdom warns against repeating these provocative actions against the feelings of millions of Muslims in a flagrant violation of all international laws and norms, according to the statement.

This despicable incident in Denmark comes after two incidents in Sweden, the first in front of the Stockholm mosque on the first day of Eid al-Adha and the second in front of the Iraqi embassy last Friday, which resulted in many strongly worded statements of condemnation and denunciation by Islamic countries and organizations.

In Baghdad, the Iraqi Foreign Ministry on Saturday condemned, in the strongest words, the desecration of the Holy Quran and the Iraqi flag in front of the Iraqi Embassy in Denmark.

The ministry said, in a press release, that this heinous act has nothing to do whatsoever with the right of expression and freedom of demonstration, stressing that it would only trigger off reactions and put all parties in critical situations.

It called on the international community to take urgent and responsible action in response to such acts that break peace and coexistence across the world.

Iraq's security media cell called on demonstrators Saturday to keep away from the foreign embassies and security sites in the capital, threatening to take deterrent legal measures in case of violating these instructions.

The right to demonstration is guaranteed by the constitution and security apparatuses support peaceful demonstrators to express their rights to condemn offending the Holy Quran and Iraq's flag, the cell said in a statement.

However, the cell asked the protesters to maintain security system, and private and public properties, it noted.

In addition, the cell called on the demonstrators to be "calm and wise", and to cooperate with the security forces and reject violence.

Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Secretary General Jassem Al-Budaiwi on Saturday emphatically denounced the desecration of a copy of the Holy Quran by extremists in Denmark.

He said in a press statement that the continuation of such disgraceful acts and irresponsible behavior reflect extremism and hatred against religions, calling on Denmark to move immediately to bring those extremists to accountability as per relevant international conventions.

Opinion

King gave her a crown after knowing why she had attended the competition

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

WE will be talking about Kuwait's status quo and the root cause of the crises endured by our beloved country.

In this regard, I narrate an old story about those who are referred as "Maker of Men", irrespective of their positions, because they are the ones who work for the revival or collapse of nations.

Once upon a time, a king asked his jeweler to make a crown made of gold. This crown was to be an award for anyone with the greatest role in the society.

A day was set for the award ceremony. Anyone who felt his role was greater than others would win the golden crown, but he or she would have to demonstrate it in front of everyone gathered at the palace.

Poets, scholars, painters, and artisans flocked to the venue, each of them demonstrating his profession.

First was a painter who displayed a painting and beautiful calligraphy, followed by a scientist who demonstrated experiments, and then came a poet who recited a wonderful poem to the king.

The king took note of an old woman who was sitting beside the three participants, and thought she was one of the participants. The king asked her what she was planning to demonstrate for the audience to see.

She replied, "Oh, Most High! I have nothing to offer. I am the mother of those three who were the first to appear before you. I came to see which one of them would win the golden crown!"

Instantly, the king got up from his throne, and said, "The competition is over. Put the golden crown on the head of the maker of men - the old lady!"

Indeed, the quality of education is what makes "men", provided there is a Ministry of Education, or even a government, that is able to prevent cheating during exams, and does not accept the approval of any certificate that is flawed.

Some parliamentarians in Egypt have talked about medical, engineering and law degrees and others that are sold on the sidewalks of universities. You may also discover a small shop in a suburb of an American city that sells certificates to Arab and Gulf graduates, or a Greek, Filipino or Indian university where the so-called graduates do not even know the mother tongue of the country from which the certificate was issued. When this happens, it is obvious that corruption prevails in the state.

That is why a sign is engraved on the door of one of the colleges of a university in South Africa, which reads - You need neither nuclear bombs nor long-range missiles to destroy the pillars of any country. If education is below standard, and is based on fraud, patients will die at the hands of doctors who cheated to succeed, and buildings will fall over the heads of their occupants if the engineers succeeded through cheating. An accountant and his fellow classmates will squander the wealth of the country. Ignorance will fill the minds of children who will find themselves in the grip of teachers who would not have become teachers had it not been for cheating.

When it was publicly announced in Kuwait that about 40,000 students cheated in exams, followed by some MPs even demanding that these students be allowed to move on to the next grade, and parents demonstrating in front of the Ministry of Education for the latter to turn a blind eye to the cheating committed by their children, it means bye-bye to such a society. In such cases, we will not be surprised at medical errors, or if thousands of people seek treatment abroad through MPs, or if the graduates of schools and universities turn out to be illiterate in every sense of the word, and private lessons will become a profitable business. We all know how the results of these lessons are sorted; the important thing is to make money, even if it is at the expense of the nation.

Despite all these disasters that the country is witnessing as a result of reliance on cheating in education and the arrival of many cheaters to important positions, the aging of institutions has begun, and corruption has prevailed.

In fact, corrupt people are dominating the scene, while no one is moving a finger either because the ministers have historically turned a blind eye and submitted to the authority of the "wasta", or because the MPs have mediated for putting the unqualified in important jobs. The prevalence of bribery and nepotism, or the power of the tribe or sect, or the rule "This is our son" has done its work in state institutions.

The Arab poet Al-Asmai said, "He who does not bear the humiliation of learning for an hour will remain in the humiliation of ignorance forever."

According to the American physician and poet Oliver Wendell Holmes, the best thing is learning. Money can be lost or stolen, and strength may disappear, but what you deposit in your mind remains yours forever.

Did those responsible for education in Kuwait act according to this rule? Or did they seek to ignore the generations because they reached their positions through nepotism, and therefore no one deserves the golden crown because they did not produce men?

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Photo shows French Ambassador to Kuwait, Her Excellency Claire Le Flécher. In an interview with the Arab Times Ambassador Le Flécher speaks of her journey as a diplomat, about the strong and close bond between Kuwait and France and her work in further strengthening the relationship. — See Page 2

Newswatch

KUWAIT CITY: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable to President of Egypt Abdulfattah el-Sisi congratulating him on the July 23 Revolution Anniversary.

His Highness the Amir wished President el-Sisi good health, the Egyptian people all progress and prosperity and the sturdy relations between the two nations further growth and development.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable to President of Egypt, Abdulfattah el-Sisi, congratulating him on the July 23 Revolution Anniversary, and wishing him good health. (KUNA)

BAGHDAD: Iraqi President Abdul Latif Rashid on Sunday discussed with Kuwait's Ambassador Tareq Al-Faraj the upcoming visit of Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Both sides stressed the importance of coordination, dialogue, and exchanging of visits between the two countries to enhance bilateral relations and resolve outstanding issues, noted an Iraqi Presidency statement.

It quoted Ambassador Al-Faraj as saying that Sheikh Salem Al-Sabah's upcoming visit will be by the end of July.

On July 9, Al-Faraj discussed with Iraqi counterpart Fuad Husain a host of, issues including the visit. (KUNA)

KHARTOUM: At least 20 people were killed and seven dozen others injured in clashes between the Sudanese army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) on Saturday.

The fatalities include 16 civilians in Nyala city, capital of South Darfur state, southwest Sudan, and four in El-Obeid city, the capital of the central state of North Kordofan, witnesses told KUNA. (KUNA)

TEHRAN: Militants shot and killed four highway policemen Sunday in southeast Iran, state media reported.

State TV said the officers were on a routine mission on a road linking Khash and Taftan towns some 1200 kilometers (745 miles) southeast of the capital, Tehran, in restive Sistan and Baluchistan province, when they were "attacked by terrorists," a reference to separatist groups. (AP)

BEIJING: Floods caused by heavy rain hit eastern China, leaving at least five dead and three missing while over 1,500 people were evacuated, state media reported on Sunday.

China National Radio said the massive floods swept through a village in the Fuyang district of the city of Hangzhou, engulfing many houses on Saturday afternoon. (AP)



Iraqis raise copies of the Holy Quran, Muslims' holy book, during a protest in Baghdad, Iraq, Saturday, July 22, 2023. (AP)



This photo released by the Basra Police shows structures belonging to a demining project run by the Danish Refugee Council after the protesters burned them, 50 kilometers east of Basra, Iraq, Saturday, July 22, 2023, following reports that an ultranationalist group burned a copy of the Quran in front of the Iraqi Embassy in the Danish capital, Copenhagen. (AP)

Russia targets port infrastructure

Grain export hub Odesa hit

ODESA, Ukraine, July 23, (AP): Russia struck the Ukrainian Black Sea city of Odesa again on Sunday, keeping up a barrage of attacks that has damaged critical port infrastructure in southern Ukraine in the past week. At least one person was killed and 22 others wounded in the attack in the early hours, officials said.

Regional Gov. Oleh Kiper said four children were among those wounded in the blasts, which severely damaged 25 landmarks across the city, including the historic Transfiguration Cathedral.

After the fires were put out, volunteers donned hard hats, shovels and brooms at the Orthodox cathedral to begin removing rubble, combing through to salvage any artifacts - under the watchful gaze of the saints whose paintings remained intact. Local officials said the icon of the patroness of the city was retrieved from under the rubble.

"The destruction is enormous, half of the cathedral is now roofless," said Archdeacon Andrii Palchuk, as cathedral workers brought documents and valuables out of the building, its floor inundated with water used by firefighters to extinguish the blaze.

Palchuk said the damage was caused by a direct hit from a Russian missile that penetrated the building down to the basement. Two people inside at the time of the strike were wounded.

"But with God's help, we will restore it," he said, bursting into tears.

A woman who came to help with the cleanup said she loved the cathedral "for its tranquility and grace."

"When you enter this church, you feel like you're beyond the world," said Liudmyla, who gave only her first name. "I have a feeling that God, to protect apartments, took this pain, this explosion upon himself."

Anna Fetchenko, who came to Odesa for a volunteer meeting, also pitched in to clear the debris. "I wanted to go to the seaside, but last night was so frightening that I cried for the first time in 2023," she said.

"This is our Ukrainian heritage, and now it's taken away from us."

Later Sunday, Palchuk urged people to gather in front of the destroyed part of the cathedral for an outdoor ser-

vice and to pray in front of a sacred icon that "miraculously survived."

"We will pray that it protects us from the Russians," he said.

The cathedral belongs to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, which has been accused of links to Russia. The church has insisted that it's loyal to Ukraine, has denounced the Russian invasion from the start and even declared its independence from Moscow.

But Ukrainian security agencies have claimed that some in the Ukrainian church have maintained close ties with Moscow. They've raided numerous church holy sites and later posted photos of rubles, Russian passports and leaflets with messages from the Moscow patriarch as proof that some church officials have been loyal to Russia.

Odesa's historic center was designated an endangered World Heritage Site by UNESCO earlier this year despite Russian opposition.

Kiper said that six residential buildings were destroyed by the strikes.

Some people became trapped in their apartments following the attack, which left rubble strewn in the street and partly blocking the road.

Svitlana Molcharova, 85, was rescued by emergency workers. But after she received first aid, she refused to leave her destroyed apartment.

"I will stay here," she said to the worker who advised her to leave.

"I woke up when the ceiling started to fall on me. I rushed into the corridor," said Ivan Kovalenko, a 19-year-old resident of the building. "That's how I lost my home in Mykolaiv, and here, I lost my rented apartment."

His unit revealed a partially collapsed ceiling and a balcony that came off the side of the building. All the windows were blown out.

Ukraine's air force reported on the Telegram messaging app that Russia had launched 19 missiles in the Odesa region, including five high-precision winged Onyx missiles and four sea-to-shore Kalibr cruise missiles. It said that Ukrainian air defenses shot down nine.

Palestinian teens killed

Portuguese 'Nakba' resolution hailed

CAIRO, July 23, (KUNA): The Arab Parliament on Saturday welcomed a resolution recently passed by the Portuguese parliament recognizing the 1948 Nakba Day or Day of Catastrophe and hailing Palestinian struggle to obtain their self-determination right.

The Portuguese parliament's resolution, in which it condemned the Israeli occupation's expansionist and annexation policy and asked the Portuguese government to take a clear position in defending the right of the Palestinian people as guaranteed by international conventions, is

a step on the right direction towards the Palestinian issue, it said in a press release.

In other news, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) on Saturday denounced the Israeli occupation authorities' crime of killing two Palestinian teenagers in Sebastia Town, northwest of Nablus, and in Umm Safa, north of Ramallah.

The Muslim world's largest bloc said, in a press release, that this act is part of Israeli violations and crimes that require investigation and accountability.



Young people jump into the water to cool down on a sweltering hot day at the Mediterranean Sea in Beirut, Lebanon, Sunday, July 23, 2023. (AP)



SPECIAL REPORT

Nurturing a strategic relationship

Hard work ... humility: A convergence of ideals now takes her seat for France

By Chaitali B. Roy
Special to the Arab Times



French Ambassador to Kuwait Her Excellency Claire Le Flécher

Gender equality is at the centre of much of France's work worldwide. France is following up on its commitment to fight gender imbalance through its 2018-2022 International Strategy for Gender Equality. Since 2012, France has progressed in employing more women in high-level positions in the Foreign Ministry. Between 2010 and 2018, more women have been appointed as ambassadors than in earlier governments. The tradition of French women in diplomacy goes back to the early twentieth century. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in France opened to women as early as 1928. Suzanne Borel was the first French woman to join the Foreign Ministry in 1930, but the road ahead was not easy. In 1972, Marcelle Campana became the first French woman to be appointed Ambassador of France.

In recent times, Kuwait has had two stellar French women represent the Embassy for two consecutive terms. The present French ambassador, HE Claire Le Flécher, has a story of empowerment and hard work. It is the story of a young girl from Brittany, born into an ordinary underprivileged background, who knew early in life that there was no alternative to education and hard work. She dreamed of travelling, meeting, connecting with people, and learning about cultures. Diplomacy or joining the Foreign Ministry was the perfect way to realise her ambition.

Claire Le Flécher's career is as varied as her education. A graduate of Sciences Po Paris, one of France's highest learning seats, she also studied Arabic. She began her professional life with budget and economy before she rose to be Deputy Director for Russia and Eastern Europe at the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs. Before Kuwait, she was in Yerevan in Armenia. Here, she speaks of her journey as a diplomat, about the strong and close bond between Kuwait and France and her work in further strengthening the relationship.

Arab Times: Why did you choose diplomacy as a career? Was it something that you wanted to do as a child?

Ambassador Claire Le Flécher: First of all, thank you for asking me this because I would like to share a message for all the girls in the world who have big dreams. I am not from a diplomatic family. I do not come from a wealthy family or a high-level society, but it was my dream since childhood because I was fascinated by the world and its diversity. I had many dreams as a child. I thought being an ambassador was something amazing. When I grew older, I wanted to have a political impact. I decided to take up this career because it allowed me to have a political impact and discover different cultures.

AT: Did you join it very early in your professional life?

Ambassador Le Flécher: No. I started my career with the Ministry of Finance and was involved in politics in France. I turned to diplomacy when I was in my early 40s. So again, I would like to send this message that as a woman, you can have different careers in different stages of your life and be successful in different fields. If you are determined, you can achieve your goals and fulfil your dreams.

AT: It is an inspiring story of a middle-class French girl who rises through the ranks and works hard, makes a mark and achieves a dream she had been dreaming of so long. Which part of France are you from?

Ambassador Le Flécher: My family comes from Brittany. It is in the western part of France and has a special spirit and history. The history of Brittany is very close to the history of Kuwait because men used to go out of their homes for a very long time to fish. They were in the sea most of the time. The women looked after everything. They cared for the family and the kids but also worked and organised their social life.

AT: Yes, it sounds very like Kuwait. So how interesting and challenging is diplomacy as a profession?

Ambassador Le Flécher: It is extremely challenging. It is a lot of work and requires many competencies. Personally, it made me grow a lot. I am very involved in my task. My amazing team, who are also extremely dedicated to improving the bilateral relationship between France and Kuwait, supports me. Before arriving in Kuwait, I thought it would be challenging. I did not expect the very warm support Kuwait provided me since my arrival. It gives me much strength because Kuwait has a very positive spirit towards France and me.

AT: The French are well-loved in Kuwait. I have met many young Kuwaitis who opt to study French in school. So yes, France is a country with which Kuwait has had a very close, warm and friendly relationship. Kuwait is your first posting in the Middle East, and as you said, the experience has been very interesting and warm since you have been here.

Ambassador Le Flécher: Exactly. As I was mentioning earlier, I was surprised by the very strong role women play in Kuwait. I have met a huge number of amazing women from all fields - education, economy, culture, and politics. We should take the example of Kuwait in this aspect.

AT: Going back to Kuwait's relations with France. How important is the relationship? What are the sectors that both countries partner in?

Ambassador Le Flécher: Firstly Kuwait is a privileged partner for France in the Gulf region and within the Arab Muslim world. We started a strategic dialogue last year to develop and enhance our bilateral cooperation in all fields. An example of this convergence is the military exercise. As you know, we have a defence agreement between France and Kuwait. Of course, it takes its origin in the terrible episode of the invasion and the liberation of the country. As you know, France stood beside Kuwait in the darkest hours of its history. That is why France and Kuwait signed a defence agreement after the liberation, which is still very active today. Economically, Kuwait remains one of France's main clients. For example, France is a top provider of aircraft for airlines in Kuwait. In addition, France is a primary destination for financial investments, including in the extremely dynamic tech sector. We also have a close relationship with Kuwait in the cultural and scientific field, thanks to the presence of the Institut français du Koweït. We are very busy furthering exchanges in the field of higher education. You mentioned studies in France earlier in the interview. France has several world-class universities offering curricula not only in the French language but also in English. That is why we hope that more Kuwaiti students will come to study in France in the coming years.

AT: Ambassador, you did mention France partnering with Kuwait during its darkest hours, so rightly said. I have read that France was very firm about implementing the UN resolution, payment of compensation, return of Archives and the remains of Kuwaiti soldiers. Tell us about that time. How did France partner with Kuwait during that very difficult time?

Ambassador Le Flécher: You know, the response of the government of Francois Mitterrand at the time was particularly quick. On August 29, during his speech at the United Nations, Mitterrand took a firm and resolute position vis-a-vis the Kuwaiti question. He recalled the sovereignty of Kuwait and solemnly asked Saddam Hussein to withdraw his troops. The French military intervention took part within the wider framework of an international political process in which France was part of the leading nations under President Francois Mitterrand. As a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, France took part in the passing of 12 UN resolutions, demanding the immediate withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait, including resolution 660, adopted on 3 August 1990. So after these very strong political positions, French naval assets played an important role in the blockade and implementation of the sanctions against Iraq. Moreover, France quickly started to build up a military force and launched Operation Daguet, which involved the deployment of 18,000 soldiers, a dozen ships and 40 aircraft to take part in restoring the independence of Kuwait. As soon as Kuwait was liberated, a medical Task Force and two engineer battalions were redeployed in Kuwait City to support the return of Kuwaiti sovereignty. I would also like to stress the very important role after the liberation because France provided medical support to the population. Our soldiers cleared the city of 13,000 mines and disposed of 430 tons of dangerous munitions and unexploded ordnance. Many Kuwaitis do not know how big a threat it was for Kuwait after the war.

AT: Many people do not remember the ordinance left behind.

Ambassador Le Flécher: I would like to stress that two French soldiers died while doing this very difficult and dangerous task. Moreover, I would like to pay tribute to their memory because they died for the freedom of Kuwait.

AT: I think what you have just told us shows the comprehensive and close involvement in all quarters before and after the invasion. I think cooperation during that time was so important for what happened later. Otherwise, history might have been different. So as the ambassador, what are your priorities? What is it that you want to focus on?

Ambassador Le Flécher: As you can see, we have very deep cooperation in many fields, which is quite specific, because France does not have that level of very strong cooperation and deep friendship with all countries in the world. As an ambassador, I attach great importance to strengthening our relationship in these different fields. I want to promote the attractiveness of France and the influence of French companies in Kuwait. I also, with my team, encouraged France's influence through culture, education and the French language. In addition, I want to improve Kuwaiti student mobility to France. I want to enhance some of our cooperation in the legal field by developing University exchanges and research by involving prestigious organisations, especially in the field of health, because we also have a tradition of cooperation in the health sector between France and Kuwait. In addition, of course, improving military cooperation between France and Kuwait by reinforcing the training actions with the National Guard and the Kuwaiti police.

AT: Ambassador, you did mention commercial ties between the two countries. I believe the France-Kuwait Strategic Dialogue took place recently. What was the outcome of that dialogue?

Ambassador Le Flécher: Well, Kuwait is an important commercial partner for France. Our bilateral trade is vibrant. Our exports span the entire economic spectrum, from aeroplanes to fragrances, from farming to chocolate, and of course, not even mentioning dresses and bags, from electrical material and chemicals to fashion and many other fields. Kuwait is also an important investor in the French economy. Consequently, we share important economic interests, which justifies the establishment of a structured Strategic Dialogue. I am delighted to announce that this dialogue has upgraded last spring to the ministerial level, following the visit to Kuwait last March by the French Minister of Foreign Affairs. This strategic dialogue encompasses all key dimensions of our bilateral relationship through five inter-ministerial subcommittees, including a subcommittee for trade, investment and cooperation. France is very grateful to His Excellency Sheikh Mishal Al Sabah from KDIPA, who accepted to chair this subcommittee from the Kuwaiti side.

AT: I have heard that Kuwait has an upcoming delivery of 25 Airbus aircraft, which will support trade in the coming years.

Ambassador Le Flécher: Yes, it is true. Kuwaiti airlines are important clients for Airbus. Airbus has significantly increased its market share in the last few years and now dominates Kuwait's sky. Kuwait Airways and Jazeera Airways are important clients for Airbus, and five aeroplanes have already been delivered in the last few weeks.

AT: That is wonderful. So now, how do you see the cooperation between the two countries as far as facing energy challenges is concerned? France is very conscious of sustainability and the energy challenges that the world as a whole is facing.

Ambassador Le Flécher: Historically, France has played a significant role with Schlumberger in oil exploration in Kuwait. Our companies are still present alongside KPC and its sister companies to modernize all infrastructures and help Kuwait accelerate towards greener extraction. Renewables are the new frontier for the world, the region and Kuwait. The country has important potential with regard to hydrogen production and solar generation. France is ready to work with Kuwaiti authorities and stakeholders to help the country fulfil its full potential.

AT: You mentioned inspiring more Kuwaiti students to study in France. How do you think has Kuwait's perception of French education changed over the years? I do know that the Kuwaiti government has introduced French language teaching in state secondary schools. Kuwait has a young population, and a large part of that population goes out for higher studies. How do you think you will be able to attract many of these students to go to France to study?

Ambassador Le Flécher: First, I confirm that French is the second foreign language taught in Kuwait, and it is because there is a very strong tradition of teaching French in the educational system in Kuwait. French has been taught in public schools in Kuwait since 1966. There is a French school in Kuwait since 1989. Sometimes

Continued on Page 3

editor's choice



Prayer Timings

Fajr 03:32 Asr 15:30
 Sunrise .. 05:03 Maghrib .. 18:46
 Zohr 11:54 Isha 20:14

Local

Expected weather for the next 24 hours:

By Day: Very hot with light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind with speeds of 10-35 km/h and some high clouds will appear.

Weather

By Night: Hot to rather hot with light to moderate northwesterly wind to light to variable wind with speeds of 10-32 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	49	37

Kuwait Airport	48	31
Abdaly	48	31
Jahra	49	32
Salmiyah	46	37
Ahmadi	46	36
Nuwaisib	50	31
Wafra	48	31

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

Hard work ...

Continued from Page 2

I joke with my colleagues that they should not speak French in public because even if Kuwaitis are shy and do not speak, they understand French. There is a strong and old Francophonie in Kuwait, even if most Kuwaitis are shy. They do not speak French spontaneously, but most have studied it at school. We also have a French Institute in Jabriya, which opened in 2012. It teaches the French language and culture and promotes French education. In addition, I would like to mention that Kuwaiti institutions are also going ahead with the French language. The French department at Kuwait University opened in 2014. Kuwait has asked to join the International Organization of Francophonie, and the Council for the Promotion of Francophonie has been set up in Kuwait, whose honorary president is His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al Mohammed Al Sabah. My predecessor created it in Kuwait in 2021. Last year, we signed an MOU with regard to the reinforcements of the French language in Kuwait, where we can account for 1300 French teachers and approximately 40,000 learners enrolled each year. So our cooperation in this field is active and intense. I would also like to pay tribute to the amazing job done by all the teachers of French in Kuwait, not only in public schools but also in all the schools, in Indian Schools, Canadian schools, Armenian schools and British and American schools. It is also thanks to their effort that Francophonie is improving in Kuwait.

AT: We are looking forward to the next Francophonie festival. Culture is also an important sector of cooperation between the two countries. The French Centre for Archaeology and Social Sciences was established in Kuwait in 2016. I remember writing about it. I also remember writing about the art and the research work that is going on in Failaka. Please tell us more about the work that is going on as far as culture is concerned.

Ambassador Le Flécher: So, thank you for asking me this question. I will answer with great pleasure. We are extremely lucky to have the Centre of Research in Kuwait, which is researching the whole of the Arab Peninsula. CE-FREPA is part of the network of French research institutes abroad. It covers the seven countries of the peninsula - Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Oman. It is based in Kuwait City and has two branches in the Sultanate of Oman and the United Arab Emirates. CE-FREPA organizes numerous scientific events, an intensive course in Arabic, and many cultural activities, exhibitions, and debates. It supports young researchers through internship, doctoral and postdoctoral scholarships. It also manages the scientific projects of several regional French archaeological missions. The archaeological mission in Failaka has done an amazing job in the past years, and it is still going on.

AT: Everybody knows how popular France is as a tourist destination, but have you seen an increase post-COVID? Have you seen the numbers go up?

Ambassador Le Flécher: Let me tell you, the numbers have not increased they exploded. I would like to take the opportunity of the conversation to express the fact that I know there are many frustrations about the appointments for visas, and I am truly sorry for that. We are victims of our success, if I may say that. My team at the embassy and our partner Capago are doing an amazing job and doing their best. Just to give you a few figures, we deliver about 350 visitors daily and have only three people to do it. The people at the embassy are doing more than 100 every day; I want to express my gratefulness to them because they are working like crazy. I am so sorry. I know it is not enough, but we cannot do more. We really, really regret it. I also want to say that the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Salem is very concerned about this problem and addresses it strongly. We had a very close dialogue with my EU counterparts, the minister himself and the ministry's team. We know how difficult the situation is, but believe me, we are doing our best to improve it.

AT: In 2020, France and Kuwait celebrated 60 years of relationship. How do you see the relationship going ahead?

Ambassador Le Flécher: As I mentioned earlier, France was one of the first countries to recognise the state of Kuwait in August 1961. This strategic partnership continues, and we work together to take it to a new level by conducting our strategic dialogue at the ministerial level. I think France-Kuwaiti relationship is blooming. We had the pleasure of hosting the Kuwaiti Foreign Minister in France. This was an important moment to reinforce our bilateral ties.



The Editor-in-Chief of Arab Times and Al Seyassah newspapers Ahmed Al-Jarallah in talks with the Pakistani Ambassador to Kuwait Malik Muhammad Farooq.

Arab Times Chief Editor meets Pakistani ambassador

The Editor-in-Chief of Arab Times and Al Seyassah newspapers Ahmed Al-Jarallah, received in his office at Dar Al-Seyassah

the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the State of Kuwait, His Excellency Malik Muhammad Farooq and the



Photos by Ihab Qurtal
 Editor-in-Chief of Arab Times and Al Seyassah newspapers Ahmed Al-Jarallah with the Pakistani Ambassador Malik Muhammad Farooq and the accompanying team.

Third Secretary of the embassy Tahreem Ilyyaas.

of mutual interest, especially those related to press and media aspects.

During the meeting, they discussed matters

Municipality to embark on 'Clean Kuwait' drive

'Jleeb to be cleared of all ills'

No price rise without approval from UCCS

KUWAIT CITY, July 23: According to the Chairperson of the Union of Consumer Cooperative Societies (UCCS) Abdulwahab Al-Faris, the price of any commodity item, which is included in the circulars of the union, has not been increased from the time Al-Faris assumed his duties. No one can impose any increase without following the relevant process on the union's website and the issuance of a circular to cooperative societies in that regard, reports Al-Anba daily.

In a press statement, Al-Faris explained that the union fine-tuned the matter by not allowing companies to communicate except via the site. Requests for an increase can only be made through the site. Any request outside the site is directly rejected, and is not paid attention to.

He assured consumers that the door for increasing prices through the union's website is completely closed and will not be opened at the present time, stressing that the union has not and will not increase the price of any product in the near future.

Al-Faris went on to explain that one of the responsibilities of consumers is to contribute to controlling violations that occur in some cooperative societies if they occur, by monitoring the same product and verifying its previous and subsequent price, and submitting an official complaint to Consumer Protection Society to carry out its work, verify the complaint and hold the cooperative society responsible for its violation of the circulars issued in this regard. The violation can only happen by bypassing the union or through the supplying company.

Consumers should pay attention to a very important matter represented in the fact that the product's features have increased, which may be in weight or components. Some companies increase the weight of their product or make a change in its components that requires an increase in its price. This matter is taken into consideration when reviewing the price.

MoH forms panel

Bid to name attaches

KUWAIT CITY, July 23: Minister of Health Dr Ahmad Al-Awadi has formed a committee tasked to select Kuwaiti health attachés for various countries, headed by Assistant Undersecretary Dr Abdul Rahman Al-Mutairi, reports Al-Anba daily quoting sources from the health sector.

Sources disclosed this committee will select the health, financial and administrative attachés in accordance with the conditions and regulations set by the Civil Service Commission.

Sources said the committee was formed after the issuance of a decision to end the delegation of health, administrative and financial attachés in the health offices in Washington, London, Frankfurt, Cairo and Paris on June 21; as their term in office has ended. Sources clarified the decision to end the delegation will take effect on Aug 31.

Sources also unveiled a plan to open new health offices in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Turkey. Sources confirmed that coordination with the governments of these countries is underway.

Earlier, Al-Awadi issued a decision to close the Kuwaiti Health Office in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and transfer the responsibility over the issuance of health insurance for students to the Kuwaiti Cultural Office there.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Community Development issued Ministerial Resolution number 137 of 2023 on the official declaration of the International Dawa Association, reports Al-Rai daily.

The summary of the association's statutes state that the aims of its registration include the creation of an attractive advocacy environment for the beneficiaries of its activities, support youth advocacy programs, and use modern technological means to promote Islam.

KUWAIT CITY, July 23: Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Minister of State for Communications Affairs, Fahd Al-Shula, announced the Kuwait Municipality will embark on a new year-long cleaning campaign under the title 'Clean Kuwait', reports Al-Rai daily.

He said the ministry will cooperate with several other ministries to raise the efficiency and level of cleanliness in several locations in the country and indicated the campaign will include weekly cleaning of the beaches, and will coordinate with the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fisheries Resources (PAAAFR) to clean the gardens (as a matter of joint responsibility), as well as cleaning spring camps areas in direct coordination with the Environment Public Authority.

In a special statement to the daily, Al-Shula stressed that "the campaign in the coming period will be strict on land and sea, and accordingly everyone must abide by the law and regulations, and not violate them by throwing garbage in places other than those designated for them."

For his part, Deputy Director General for Municipal Services Affairs and Head of the Public Cleanliness Committee in Kuwait Municipality, Mishaal Al-Azmi, told Al-Rai, during the cleaning campaign carried out by the Cleaning Department in the Farwaniya Governorate Municipality branch in the Jleeb area yesterday morning, that "the administration used 50 equipment and machinery during the campaign, and resulted in the removal of more than 20 neglected cars, 3 buses, and 4 transport vehicles, and issued 18 citations for encroachments on government land, 13 general hygiene violations, and street vendors were also arrested."

He added the municipality is taking legal measures against the violators, but there are many problems created by the marginal workers who escape during the inspection, who exploit real estate for commercial activities.

He added that "the campaign" has begun in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh.

MoH goes for reforms: Within the framework of the organizational procedures, and based on what was included in the administrative structure of the Ministry and the requirements of the work interest, the Minister of Health, Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadi has issued 3 decisions regarding the conduct of public health, dental, and healthcare sectors, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The decisions include assigning Dr. Al-Mundhir Wael Al-Hassawi, to carry out the tasks and duties of the Assistant Undersecretary for Public Health Affairs, in addition to his duties as head of the AIDS office, and a consultant for internal diseases and infectious diseases.

This includes decisions assigning Dr. Ahmed Abdul Rahman Asad to carry out the tasks and duties of the Assistant Undersecretary for Dental Affairs, in addition to his duties as Head of the Jahra Specialized Dental Center.

The decisions also mandated Dr. Nadia Ahmad Jumaa, in addition to her duties as President of the General Medical Council, to perform the tasks and duties of the Assistant Undersecretary for Health Care Affairs, as the sector includes the Primary Health Care Department, the People with Special Needs and Patient Safety Department, the Prevention and Response to Chronic Non-Communicable Diseases Department, the School Health Department, and the Health Services for the Elderly Department. The implementation of the three decisions is effective from today, July 23, 2023.



Dr. Nadia Jumaa



Al-Mundhir Al-Hassawi



KUNA photo
 National Assembly Speaker Ahmad Al-Sa'adoun receives the UK Ambassador to Kuwait Belinda Lewis.

Speaker meets UK ambassador

Kuwait National Assembly Speaker Ahmad Al-Sa'adoun received Sunday UK Ambassador to Kuwait Belinda Lewis.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received Sunday His

Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

His Highness also received First Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Talal Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. (KUNA)

Other Voices

'Tackle phenomenon wisely'

By Ahmad alsarraf

Homosexuality exists in every society on earth, without exception.

Ignoring the issue, or trying to sweep it under the carpet, and the absurd demand to annihilate those to whom "homosexuality" applies, is a process that history has proven absurd, and therefore it is necessary to confront it with free and sane discussion.

Determining the exact percentage of homosexual individuals among newborns is difficult, due to various factors sexual orientation and determining whether a person is gay or not, is a complex process and determination becomes easier with age affected by a group of genetic, hormonal and environmental factors which more often than not cannot be precisely determined at birth.

Research indicates that sexual orientation is not a conscious choice or something that can be influenced or accurately predicted at an early age. However, it is known that there is a percentage of newborns who come to this world and have deformed sexual organs, or they are shared with the opposite sex, and their percentage differs from one society to another, and no society, not even a large family, can claim that it is better than others, and that all of its children are "normal", sexually, and there is no rejected or defective among them.

In light of this fact, it is very difficult to understand all this attack by some on homosexuals. There is no doubt about their prejudice and their "intentional" ignorance of the scientific facts related to the reason for the existence of individuals who differ sexually, to one degree or another, from the vast majority of human beings, and they live among us, and we know their names and even their high positions, and this has never diminished their performance, or made them non-human!

On the other hand, Western societies are swept by a wave of tolerance or indulgence and encouragement of the gay phenomenon. The positions of some countries differ sharply towards them, as there are countries that recognize their existence, and even their right to marry the same sex, and others that sentence them to death. Also, Amnesty International recognizes the rights of homosexuals, allowing them to donate blood, recognizing the relationships

between them, allowing them to adopt, and recognizing them the right to parenthood!

There is no doubt that large and ever-increasing segments, within Western and other societies, oppose the idea of expanding the sexual liberation movement with homosexuals. It strongly rejects, to the point of violence, the idea of same-sex marriage, or considering them as the majority. It also strongly rejects the most disturbing tolerance in spreading gay culture, and in the inclusion of "homosexuality" in the school curricula of children under the age of eight, and its impact on their sexual orientations in the future, and our societies, whether we like it or not, will be affected by them, and therefore it is necessary to address this issue in a civilized manner, and closer to humanity.

I have previously expressed, in more than one article, my "understanding and sympathy" with the situation of those belonging to this group, and what they are suffering from the authorities of their countries, especially the Islamic ones, but what we are seeing in some Western countries, and America in particular, cannot be accepted in any way, and parties are trying to justify it, and make it seem like a kind of reaction to the long years of persecution, killing and ill-treatment that these people have received for centuries and centuries!

The nation's legislators are called upon to address the LGBT problem in a different way. What some people call for the necessity of "uprooting and annihilating these people" has proven useless, not only recently, but since humanity existed, so what are they doing?

Mr. Talal Abu Ghazaleh, the owner of the audit office, expressed his desire, during his meeting with the advisor at the Diwan, Sheikh Faisal Al-Sabah, to put together a book and a film on Kuwait and the role of the Al-Sabah family, as an expression of his loyalty to our homeland.

We thank Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh for the idea, and we wish him, out of mercy for his life and his age, not to take advantage of the noble goal that he declared, and to interject something from his personal biography into what he intends to do. And if this happens, we will address the issue, through what we know about it, and we have previously touched on it in several articles.

It is also difficult to forget his negative and erroneous predictions, which harmed many at the time!

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'Kuwaitis may hopefully obtain long-term visas soon'

French Ambassador celebrates French National Day

KUWAIT CITY, July 23: The French Ambassador to Kuwait Claire Le Flécher praised the fruitful and positive visit of Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Al-Abdullah to Paris, and his meeting with his French counterpart Catherine Colonna. She affirmed the continuation of joint coordination between the two friendly countries in all fields, reports Al-Qabas daily.

During an event held at the residence of the ambassador to celebrate the National Day of France in the presence of the Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Sabah, the French ambassador announced that a positive opinion had been reached by the visa committee within the European Commission in Brussels to allow a visa mechanism called "CASCADE" for Kuwaiti citizens.

She clarified that it means Kuwaitis may hopefully obtain long-term visas soon after their first application for a Schengen visa.

The French ambassador touched on the close relations between her country and Kuwait, saying, "The foreign ministers of the two countries have very similar views on many issues. The two ministers welcomed the restoration of diplomatic relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran. We hope that this will have positive effects on the situation in Lebanon and Yemen."

The ministers also welcomed our vibrant economic relationship." Ambassador Le Flécher affirmed that France has become the largest European customer for the clean fuel project. She explained that the long-term investment relations be-



Group photo during the celebration of National Day of France in the presence of the Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Sabah at the residence of the French Ambassador.

tween the two countries are a testament to the trust and depth of interests that govern France's relationship with Kuwait. The cultural and educational cooperation, which can be described as historic, is also a testament to the strong friendship between the two countries.

France and Kuwait share the same vision for the future of

the region, their quest for regional stability, the promotion of peace in the Middle East, and in particular for a viable solution for the Palestinian people.

Furthermore, Ambassador Le Flécher said the French National Day is a cherished tradition that occupies a special place in the hearts of all French citizens, as well as in the

hearts of all our French-speaking friends around the world, of whom there are many in Kuwait.

She said, "We celebrate the anniversary of the historic July 14, 1789 storming of the Bastille prison, which marks the beginning of the French Revolution. We also celebrate the Union Day, which occurred a year later in the year 1790, which brought together French citizens to celebrate a revolution that symbolizes the pursuit of freedom, equality and fraternity. This celebration conveys messages of unity and harmony. The love of freedom and democracy prevailing in Kuwait is in line with this ideal."

Ambassador Le Flécher affirmed the diligent work of the embassy with regard to issues of family visas and driving licenses for the children of the French community.

She stressed that the French Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna raised these issues with her Kuwaiti counterpart Sheikh Salem Al-Abdullah during his visit to Paris, adding, "We are keen to take them into consideration at the highest level. We have received assurances that the Kuwaiti authorities will work quickly to lift these restrictions."

Ambassador Le Flécher thanked the French community in Kuwait, praising the invaluable support they provide to their country, as well as their commitment, dynamism and spirit of solidarity, which greatly contribute to strengthening relations.

She added that the "Pearl of the West" exercise, which saw the deployment of 500 French soldiers on Kuwaiti soil, and, more recently the "Arab Breeze" exercise, demonstrated the ingenuity and experience of the armies.

Subbiya project key to solve power crisis in coming years



Claire Le Flécher, French Ambassador to Kuwait

Load index almost towards maximum

KUWAIT CITY, July 23: In light of fears of a gradual increase in power consumption and with the load index almost towards the maximum last Monday in the country's history reaching 16,370 megawatts, officials of the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy are developing plans to avoid a shortage of electric power during the next three summer seasons, especially since consumption rates are increasing year after year between 3

to 4 percent annually, reports Al-Rai daily.

According to the ministry "the options available are very limited, most notably continuing the procedures for importing 600 megawatts from the Gulf network, and working intensively to spread the culture of rationalization, both of which will not work in light of the ministry's continuation in delivering current to new housing cities and development projects, which puts the ministry in a very tight position."

However, sources close to the ministry said, "The last solution that can avoid the ministry falling into an electricity crisis lies in the implementation of the Subbiya project, which

is represented by the supply, installation, operation, and maintenance of gas turbine units operating in the combined cycle system (the fourth phase) with a capacity of 900 megawatts and later 250 megawatts until the northern Az-Zour projects (the second phase) and Al-Khairan (the first phase) begin operations," warning that "any delay in the implementation of these projects means the ministry will face imminent crisis."

State of emergency

The sources pointed out that the ministry declared a state of emergency a few days ago, following the partial 'breakdown' of two units in the northern Al-Zour station (the first phase), and saved the situation by importing 540 megawatts from the Gulf intercontinental network, stressing the need to implement projects without delay, otherwise the programmed power cut will be an "order of the day" for the ministry, especially in the summers of 2025 and 2026.

The sources pointed to the Ministry's commitment to deliver the power supply to the new residential areas, which will lead to an increase in the annual consumption rate by 6 percent, compared to the annual increase that ranges between 3 to 4 percent, which confirms the importance of the Ministry's urgency with its projects, until the implementation of the projects that will be offered through the Public-Private Partnership Projects Authority.

Admission crisis

Admission applicants can pick their desired majors

KUWAIT CITY, July 23: With the number of applicants to Kuwait University exceeding 10,000 students as of last Wednesday morning, informed academic sources affirmed that the applicants were able to specify their desires in majors in both Kuwait University and Abdullah Al-Salem University based on the conditions and controls, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The sources explained that the university may face a new admission crisis, according to the figures, as a result of the high secondary school averages.

Kuwait University announced that its admission seats total about 7,298 only for the first semester. The total admission seats available at Abdullah Al-Salem University are only 600 seats.

The registration period is still ongoing until the 26th of July, and the number of applicants is likely to rise. The other problem facing admission in the two institutions is the high rates of students, either

in high school or according to the equivalent rates, which would raise the minimum acceptance rates in most of the desired majors, such as medical majors and some engineering majors with regard to the graduates of the scientific subjects, and law with regard to graduates of the arts and humanities.

Despite the possibilities of an admission crisis, the establishment of Abdullah Al-Salem University will contribute to alleviating some of the burdens on Kuwait University.

The public universities law No. 76/2019 provided for the allocation of the old Kuwait University buildings after moving to Abdullah Al-Salem University, which was established by law in the same year 2019. This accelerated the process of its establishment due to the presence of buildings ready for operation. Study will begin at the Khalidiya university site until the expansion of the university in the coming years.

There is still a need for more public and private universities alike. There are about 19,000 students who can apply to Kuwait University. At the same time, there are about 6,000 seats in internal scholarships, as well as education opportunities in the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET).

A member of the founding board of Abdullah Al-Salem University Dr. Fawaz Al-Enezi revealed the completion of the results of the university admission tests, stressing that the results will be sent to students via email.

In a press statement, he said the students' turnout for admission (aptitude) tests was remarkable, indicating that about 3,990 students applied for English language tests in the first round, and 757 in the second round.

He revealed that 4,050 students applied for mathematics exams in the first round and 801 students in the second round, stressing that the percentage of students who took mathematics exams in the Arabic language amounted to 79 percent of the total students who took the exams. Dr. Al-Enezi said 115 students applied for the equivalency of international tests in mathematics and English.



Al-Enezi

'Forum opportunity to present youth initiatives'

Kuwait's PAY keen on promoting a partnership among Arab youth

BEIRUT, July 23, (KUNA): Kuwait's Public Authority for Youth (PAY) is eager to strengthen bonds of partnership and ties among Arab youth to face common challenges through participating in Arab events and activities, said a PAY media official on Friday.

The remark was made to KUNA by Jassem Al-Baghli, the head of the PAY's delegation partaking in the Arab forum for economic and social empowerment, co-organized by the Lebanese Ministry of Youth and Sports and the UNICEF.

Al-Baghli added that the delegation included head of Kuwaiti Youth Council's international relations committee Abdul Rahman Al-Saeedi and MP Hessa Al-Nuwaif.

He noted that they held several meetings with the delegations participating in the forum, with the aim of strengthening partnership and boosting cooperation



KUNA photo PAY's delegation partaking in the Arab forum for economic and social empowerment.

between Kuwaiti youth and their Arab peers.

The forum is an opportunity to present youth initiatives and highlight their role in community development, he elaborated. Meanwhile, Al-Saeedi pointed out that the sessions of the forum discussed several topics like unemployment and the needs of the Arab labor market.

In addition, the sessions

covered issues that concern youth, such as privatization, available opportunities, entrepreneurship, the role of civil society organizations in youth development and digital transformation, he stated.

The forum featuring dozens of Arab youth, including Kuwaitis, kicked off Thursday in Lebanon.

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*

'We need to join hands, move away from negatives in political practice'

"WHERE will we go in Kuwait? Why do we go back the same way to square one, and the vicious circle that starts from where it ends, elections, then formation of the council, appointment of government ministers, dissolution of the council and the government, then re-election of council members, etc., where are we heading?" columnist **Dr Tahani Al-Mutairi** wrote for **Al-Rai** daily.

"This deep-rooted crisis between the legislative body (the National Assembly) and the executive body represented by the government require decisive decisions, a clear vision, and statesmen in the two authorities to leave this vicious circle that has harmed society and the state.

"The disputes that our country is subjected to every time between the legislative and executive authorities, for whatever reasons, is evidence of the vitality of political action and the effectiveness of power at all levels.

"On the other hand, we should not lose sight of the fact that the frequent dissolution of parliament and the disruption of parliamentary life is an indication of a defect.

"In the structure of relations between the two authorities and in the work mechanism of Parliament, which represents the cornerstone of oversight of the executive apparatus, and the disturbance of the relationship between the two authorities affects the interests of citizens, as the process of deciding on many decisions that are in the interest of Kuwait and its people depends.

"I am certain that the work of parliament is based on expressing the interests of the people and the conscience of the nation, as well as balancing ambitions and capabilities with an emphasis on making the interest of Kuwait the first criterion for every decision in which we have been revolving for years, and our situation is a secret, while the countries and societies around us talk about major projects for economic renaissance and long-term development plans, while we regurgitate our old problems and always take them with us to square one.

"Every time the National Assembly is dissolved, Kuwait experiences a state of tension in the scene. As is the case in every dispute between the two authorities, the street is looking forward to the end of the chapters of the crisis, and not to think about how radical solutions can be reached to overcome the sterile differences that lead to their continuous renewal.

"We do not want to spread frustration and despair among society. Optimism exists that we will overcome the ongoing crisis between the legislative and executive bodies, and we will remain on a permanent date with the hope also that Kuwait will be the best in the level of "quality of life" and the services provided to citizens by the state.

"The citizen's well-being must be a matter of serious concern to the government and the National Assembly, and we will remain confident in the ability of the parliamentary system and the executive apparatus to maintain the stability and progress of the state, but on the other hand, we should be fully aware that the optimism of the general public is fading and receding, and everyone is frustrated by the government's continued disruption due to the political crisis resulting from the repeated dissolution of the National Assembly and its re-election, the resignation of a government and the formation of a new one, and as a result the paralysis of the executive apparatus, the delay in passing laws of concern to citizens, and the halting of development.

"The damage resulting from the continuous disruption of the Council's work and the dissolution processes brings people and the country as a whole into a state of instability and imbalance, and limits its ability to face internal and external challenges.

"In my estimation, the loss of hope and the collapse of the dreams and aspirations of the people of all groups for a better life is the worst that can happen as a result of the crisis, raging between the two devices.

"Therefore, we have to join hands and move away from the negatives in political practice, and put Kuwait in our eyes, because Kuwait is a trust in our consciences that deserves nothing but the best from us...

Also:

"In the midst of the rapid developments and challenges in the region, we still hear the voices of cacophony that impede any renewable, urban, tourism, entertainment or investment projects, to diversify sources of income and not depend mainly on oil," **Dr Ghadir Muhammad Asiri** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

"The state budget 2022-2023, which amounts to 3.1 billion Kuwaiti dinars, and the continuation of the deficit in the past five years without resorting to withdrawing from the state's general reserve, and the importance of implementing projects included in the 2035 development plan, for which a lot of money and effort was spent to prepare.

"We find among the prominent factors that paralyze the economy in the country, the clear confusion between the politicians and the economic decision-makers in the country.

"Many of them are considered palliative political positions to benefit those who do not have the qualifications and professional experience in them, and this contributes to the public interest of the country being marginalized in order to benefit elec-

toral rules that succeed the representative, who legislates and monitors the parliamentary elections in exchange for positions or part of general economic contracts awarded to those who do not have the ability to implement, and the political courtesies that drown the country, at a time when the owner of the project is trusted not to have clear and strict punishment.

"Audacity in the Gulf economic and development progress that the region is witnessing is the result of decisions that are not in the interest of individuals, but are decisions concerned with development and proactive plans that can be implemented.

"Citizen even faith, ratification or trust, many of the projects, which were officially announced, and were political statements about residential or entertainment cities and investment islands, or trains linking Kuwait with the Gulf and China and tourist, industrial, educational and medical islands did not see the light, and became plans on paper, absent on practical application.

"The security challenge has also become an important factor for border construction and the recovery of Kuwait from any future greed on any part of its borders, as global warnings are escalating, and the best and quick solution is in border construction and reviving Kuwait, to be a global station with a prominent activity, and the exploitation of its wealth and lands to be one of the sources of income.

"The solutions are to establish various centers for projects that can bring local tourism to the country instead of massive external spending, and industrial projects for many modern development projects similar to what is happening in the civilized world.

"The experiences of the former should be benefited from in Kuwait, because the people can innovate as soon as they find support. And support him in strong, bold, non-traditional projects.

"Since when has the minister position been underestimated and fragile, especially with news on upcoming resignations? We are currently living an unprecedented phase in Kuwait's history since the liberation," columnist **Dr Mishal Al-Sharida** wrote for **Al-Jarida** daily.

"During this period, the corruption embryo grew and gave birth to corrupt people in all sectors of the State. They violate rights, analyze the plundering of public money and adopt regulatory, financial and scientific irregularities. They achieve their goals at the expense of the country and its people.

"What is the solution? Superman? Even the theory of Superman as a savior who has the power to defeat all the corrupt villains and restore peace and stability will not succeed, because Superman cannot be responsible for everything that happens in every place and time. Only God can do that.

"What is the solution? The Parliament? The people trusted its members to represent all sectors. The legislature is supposed to represent the nation and voice demands in terms of studied legislation that facilitates and supports the important reforms which support the process of rebuilding this country. So, did the thugs of corruption take advantage of the legislature, deliberately deviating from the compass of building the nation and paralyzing the performance of the government, which has become alive and friendly? What is the solution?

"We are the ones who reform or spoil our environment. We are the ones who contribute to or impede reform. We are the ones who reform this country as per God's command. We neither exclude nor include anyone, because the lack of righteousness may spoil a nation. It is certain that the righteousness of the homeland lies in the sincere will of its people."

"We live at a time dominated by materialism in every direction and aspect. Materialism is one of the causes of many phenomena that result in anxiety and conflicts within the family and society," columnist **Sheikha Al-Asfour** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

"These phenomena include high divorce rate, moral decline, education problems, low quality of education, poor performance of workers in the labor market, low productivity in general, lack of religious faith among young people, deprivation of privacy, social media celebrities, high crime rate, and high rate of drug trafficking and addiction.

"If we analyze and discuss every problem or phenomenon, we would find that materialism lies behind them. Materialism is a strong and direct cause, as it has become one of the social diseases among members of society. It includes obsession with possessions, money and luxurious life that is surmounted by affectation, ranting and amusement.

"Here we are today in the process of a new phenomenon that is no less important than the previous one. It has serious societal and cultural repercussions, that is, trade in the curricula of universities and institutes.

"The curriculum is originally a science that benefits students. Its quality is reflected in good educational outcomes. It has psychological and social dimensions that are reflected in the behavior, attitudes and culture of the students.

"The curriculum is traditional and does not lead to advanced cognitive thought, yet it is sold at a high price. It is a heavy burden on the shoulders of the students. In my opinion, this is a crime punishable by Sharia and the law."

— Compiled by **Mai Elsoukary**

Fake illnesses cause of 90% of attacks on doctors – KMA

Mol intensifies security throughout Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, July 23: The Kuwait Medical Association denounced the physical assault on a female doctor at the Jaber Al-Ahmad Clinic by a visitor who asked her for a sick leave for another person without that person visiting the clinic.

The association said it will take all legal measures within its right, saying such incidents that happen on and off cannot be tolerated and said in a press statement that 90% of the cases of attacks on doctors in health centers were due to illegal or rather fake illnesses, indicating that only 25% of the clinic visitors are patients.

The KMA called on the Civ-

il Service Council to support the proposal of the Ministry of Health to allow the granting of sick leaves "electronically", as in many developed and neighboring countries.

The association explained that diseases have become a heavy burden on the doctor and the health system, emphasizing that it is an acquired right for the citizen, wondering why the citizen still gets the disease by going to the dispensary.

The association stressed that granting leave "electronically" will reduce the burden on the health system in primary health-care and stop wasting the resources of the Ministry of Health.

Mol ups security: The Ministry of Interior has intensified security presence throughout the country in order to provide the highest

level of security and safety, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The Public Relations and Security Media General Department urged citizens and expatriates to report negative phenomena or violation of laws by calling emergency number 112; which operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

□ □ □

67 illegals held: A campaign carried out recently by personnel from the General Administration of Residency Affairs Investigations, in collaboration with the Tripartite Committee have arrested 67 violators of residence and labor laws, reports Al-Anba daily.

The violators were nabbed during a security campaign in Fahheel, Hawalli and Farwaniya. All those arrested have been referred to the competent authority.



US Army's ceremony of transferring and handing over the command of ASG.

Al-Qabas photo

'Kuwaiti Armed Forces capable of protecting its lands'

ASG command handover in Buehring, Arifjan camps

KUWAIT CITY, July 23: The Commander-in-Chief of the US Central Army Lieutenant General Patrick Frank affirmed that the Kuwaiti Armed Forces are capable of protecting its lands and deterring any threats, reports Al-Qabas daily.

He said this recently during the US Army's ceremony of transferring and handing over the command of the Area Support Group (ASG) in Camps Buehring and Arifjan from Colonel Martin Wohlgenuth, who left his post a year later, to Colonel Daniel Anslin, who will lead the unit next year.

Lieutenant General Frank insisted that the Kuwaiti army is highly qualified and equipped, and is capable of protecting Kuwait's land with merit.

He described the military and defense relations between Kuwait and his country as strategic and excellent, explaining that the American forces in Kuwait work with the Kuwaiti armed forces on a daily basis. Training takes place together and they coordinate to support the forces and operations in the region.

Lieutenant General Frank expressed appreciation for the role played by the Kuwaiti armed forces in this regard.

He indicated that the defense and military relations with Kuwait contribute to supporting the security and stability of the region, and enabling them to face any urgent challenges, adding that perhaps the Arifjan and Buehring camps, their joint exercises, and the readiness of forces and equipment are the biggest evidence of that fact.

Meanwhile, the Director of the Military Cooperation Department in the Kuwait Army Brigadier General Fahad Al-Otaibi affirmed the depth of the relationship between the Area Support Group in Kuwait and the Kuwait Military Cooperation Directorate, which he described as "strong and important".

He indicated that these two units work every day to implement the cooperation defense agreement between the United States and Kuwait.

Al-Otaibi said, "This work is accomplished through official bilateral meetings that take place throughout the year, and most importantly, the daily informal coordination between our employees."

He praised the coordination and hard work carried out by the Area Support Group (ASG-KU) in Kuwait to ensure the implementation of the largest military tasks successfully in



HH PM with Counselor Al-Majid.

KUNA photo

HH the PM receives head of Fatwa and Legislation Dept

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received the Head of the Fatwa and Legislation

Department, Counselor Salah Ateeq Al-Majid, on the occasion of assuming his new position. (KUNA)

Kuwait and the region under the appropriate defense cooperation agreement procedures.

Al-Otaibi expressed his pleasure to work with Colonel Martin Wohlgenuth over the past year "to ensure that our mutual military tasks are accomplished as effectively as possible."

He praised Colonel Martin for his role, good communication and transparency.

Al-Otaibi welcomed the new region support commander Colonel Daniel Enslin and said he is looking forward to working with him to strengthen Kuwaiti-American relations.

In addition, the Area Support Group commander in Buehring and Arifjan, the outgoing Colonel Martin Wohlgenuth described his experience in Kuwait as wonderful.

He said, "The most important characteristic of Kuwait is its generous and

hospitable people. Diwanis are part of the oldest Kuwaiti traditions, which contribute to building relations and friendships.

I will miss the Kuwaiti people, and that I have a lot to tell about Kuwait to my family and friends when I return to my homeland."

Colonel Wohlgenuth, indicated that he has unforgettable memories in Kuwait.

Regarding the advice he gave his successor Colonel Daniel Enslin, he said, "The most important thing is to support and strengthen the partnership and friendship between the two countries from the beginning of the first day."

Colonel Wohlgenuth thanked his Kuwaiti colleagues, who have high capabilities, adding, "I was pleased to work with you and we look forward to continuing our partnership."

Kuwait ranks 33rd in world, fifth in Arab world

Index measuring per capita food consumption

KUWAIT CITY, July 23: The Monitor website published the results of the "Our World in Data" index conducted by the Oxford University on the amount of food eaten per person (calculated in kilocalories), reports Al-Rai daily.

In first place is Bahrain for not only per capita food consumption but also for exceeding the average maximum daily intake of 4,000 kcal. Top place was occupied last year by Ireland and the United States.

Kuwait ranked 33rd in the world, fifth in the Arab world, and second in

the Gulf in terms of average caloric consumption, with an average of 3,387 kilocalories per day.

Turkey ranked fifth in the world, with 35 percent of the Turkish population suffering from obesity to the extent of having negative effects on health and a reduction in life expectancy. Yemen ranked 180th in the world with an average daily consumption of calories below 1,957 kcal compared to the recommended average of 2,000 kcal.

The index was based on data from

the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, as they represent food available for consumption at the level of retail sales only, and do not include waste at the level of consumption.

The Central African Republic was at the bottom of the list as the country that consumes the least amount of calories per capita in the world.

Most Arab countries were generally ranked lower, with countries such as Sudan, Syria, Jordan and Iraq occupying very low ranks.

Abu Dhabi University offers nine majors for Kuwaitis

KUWAIT CITY, July 23: The Council of Ministers has issued Decision No. 222/2023 regarding the registration and enrollment of Kuwaiti students at the Abu Dhabi University in the United Arab Emirates, reports Al-Rai daily.

The daily added, Article 1 stipulates that Abu Dhabi University is added to the list of higher education institutions mentioned in Academic Decision No. 32/2014, in which students are allowed to study in the United Arab Emirates

in majors such as Business Administration, Civil Engineering, Information Technology, Computer Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Architecture and Public Health.

Ministerial Resolution No. 243/2023 was also issued regarding stopping the registration and enrollment of Kuwaiti students in engineering majors at all university levels at The Catholic University of America in the United States.

This decision does not apply to the students who have already enrolled and are continuing their studies before the issuance of this decision; and students who have been accepted to study for the first semester of the academic year 2023/2024 as a maximum.

In the same context, Ministerial Resolution No. 245/2023 was issued regarding the addition of the accounting and finance program to the programs of University College London in the United Kingdom.

The Conversation

Many AIs making it harder to tell who benefits

Can you trust generative AI? Here's why you shouldn't

By Bruce Schneier and Nathan Sanders
Harvard University

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

If you ask Alexa, Amazon's voice assistant AI system, whether Amazon is a monopoly, it responds by saying it doesn't know. It doesn't take much to make it lambaste the other tech giants, but it's silent about its own corporate parent's misdeeds.

When Alexa responds in this way, it's obvious that it is putting its developer's interests ahead of yours. Usually, though, it's not so obvious whom an AI system is serving. To avoid being exploited by these systems, people will need to learn to approach AI skeptically. That means deliberately constructing the input you give it and thinking critically about its output.

Newer generations of AI models, with their more sophisticated and less rote responses, are making it harder to tell who benefits when they speak. Internet companies' manipulating what you see to serve their own interests is nothing new. Google's search results and your Facebook feed are filled with paid entries. Facebook, TikTok and others manipulate your feeds to maximize the time you spend on the platform, which means more ad views, over your well-being.

What distinguishes AI systems from these other internet services is how interactive they are, and how these interactions will increasingly become like relationships. It doesn't take much extrapolation from today's technologies to envision AIs that will plan trips for you, negotiate on your behalf or act as therapists and life coaches.

They are likely to be with you 24/7, know you intimately, and be able to anticipate your needs. This kind of conversational interface to the vast network of services and resources on the web is within the capabilities of existing generative

AIs like ChatGPT. They are on track to become personalized digital assistants.

As a security expert and data scientist, we believe that people who come to rely on these AIs will have to trust them implicitly to navigate daily life. That means they will need to be sure the AIs aren't secretly working for someone else. Across the internet, devices and services that seem to work for you already secretly work against you. Smart TVs spy on you. Phone apps collect and sell your data. Many apps and websites manipulate you through dark patterns, design elements that deliberately mislead, coerce or deceive website visitors. This is surveillance capitalism, and AI is shaping up to be part of it.

In the dark
Quite possibly, it could be much worse with AI. For that AI digital assistant to be truly useful, it will have to really know you. Better than your phone knows you. Better than Google search knows you. Better, perhaps, than your close friends, intimate partners and therapist know you.

You have no reason to trust today's leading generative AI tools. Leave aside the hallucinations, the made-up "facts" that GPT and other large language models produce. We expect those will be largely cleaned up as the technology improves over the next few years.

But you don't know how the AIs are configured: how they've been trained, what information they've been given, and what instructions they've been commanded to follow. For example, researchers uncovered the secret rules that govern the Microsoft Bing chatbot's behavior. They're largely benign but can change at any time.

Making money
Many of these AIs are created and trained at enormous expense by some of the largest tech monopolies. They're being offered to people to use free of charge, or at very low cost. These companies will need to monetize them somehow. And, as with the rest of the internet, that somehow is likely to include surveillance and

manipulation.

Imagine asking your chatbot to plan your next vacation. Did it choose a particular airline or hotel chain or restaurant because it was the best for you or because its maker got a kickback from the businesses? As with paid results in Google search, newsfeed ads on Facebook and paid placements on Amazon queries, these paid influences are likely to get more surreptitious over time.

If you're asking your chatbot for political information, are the results skewed by the politics of the corporation that owns the chatbot? Or the candidate who paid it the most money? Or even the views of the demographic of the people whose data was used in training the model? Is your AI agent secretly a double agent? Right now, there is no way to know.

Trustworthy by law
We believe that people should expect more from the technology and that tech companies and AIs can become more trustworthy. The European Union's proposed AI Act takes some important steps, requiring transparency about the data used to train AI models, mitigation for potential bias, disclosure of foreseeable risks and reporting on industry standard tests.

Most existing AIs fail to comply with this emerging European mandate, and, despite recent prodding from Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, the US is far behind on such regulation.

The AIs of the future should be trustworthy. Unless and until the government delivers robust consumer protections for AI products, people will be on their own to guess at the potential risks and biases of AI, and to mitigate their worst effects on people's experiences with them.

So when you get a travel recommendation or political information from an AI tool, approach it with the same skeptical eye you would a billboard ad or a campaign volunteer. For all its technological wizardry, the AI tool may be little more than the same. (AP)



Photos from the event.

26 plus singers showcase their singing prowess

Rhydhunn Group marks its 4th anniversary with mega show

KUWAIT CITY, July 23: The Rhydhunn Musical Group – Kuwait celebrated its 4th anniversary event with a mega show, with live orchestra, Band 7 Team, on May 26th, 2023 at ICSK Auditorium, Khaitan. The show comprised of 26 plus singers showcasing their singing prowess with songs from Bollywood. The evening's event was wonderfully hosted by its members Sonali Jagath, Sachin Vij, who engrossed the audience with their fabulous hosting and involved the audience with some on the spot quiz and gifts. Overall it was the event had some great singing by Rhydhunn singers, some foot tapping performance along with sumptuous snacks, tea and cold drinks served for its members and guest.

In the last few years, Rhydhunn Group has done a fabulous job by spreading Indian music in all the continents in the world, engaging singers from the Indian community

globally to participate online on regular basis. From 20+ members in April 2020, it has grown to over 10,000 members worldwide. During these 2 years of pandemic, Rhydhunn has not only nurtured the talent of its singer member, but it gave a platform to vent out the stress. Rhydhunn also supported stranded Indians in Kuwait by organizing online shows for charity. Team Rhydhunn also supported various professional artists, who got affected in Covid lockdown. During the lockdown time, Rhydhunn group and its members worldwide thanked the government of Kuwait and Government of India, frontline workers and govt of every country where Rhydhunn members are present.

Rhydhunn group has participated in various offline and online events organized by Embassy of India, Kuwait and various organizations like BPP, IBPC, spreading Indian culture musically.

Honorable guests, Dr.Dheeraj Bhardawaj, CEO City Group, Mr. Sunit Arora, GM Nexus Financial Services, Dr. Ram Mohan, Senior Oncologist from KCC, Dr. Arun Joshi, Senior Dermatologist, Dr. Bhupinder, Senior Anesthetist, Dr. Patwari, Former President IDF, Mr. Sabir Ansari, President of Maurya Cultural group graced the event and appreciated the efforts made by Rhydhunn team for carrying on of-line and Online singing during the covid period. They were pleasantly surprised to see so many good Indian singers in Rhydhunn Kuwait.

Rhydhunn Musical Group - Kuwait would like to place its heartfelt gratitude to the sponsor

Al Mulla Exchange, Jazeera Airways, Caesars Confectionary & Restaurant, ARY Exchange, Aircon Airconditioning, Adel Aghanim Group, Oncost Group and some individual sponsors from the Rhydhunn team for their kind patronage.

Rhydhunn group also thanks its Media Partners MARI-NAMANGO FM and Befikre Team for promoting this event.

The Rhydhunn team had organized the event and it met with stupendous success thus turning the day into every healing music could bring in. The next event is planned for the month of August 2023.

Rhydhunn Group – Kuwait extends its special thanks to all its singers and guest for making the 4th Anniversary event a great success.

Rhydhunn group, encourages all the passionate singers and musicians in Kuwait and worldwide to showcase their talent by joining Rhydhunn group.

For any further detail about Rhydhunn group, joining the group and its forthcoming events, please contact 97269199, 97949313, 97236080, 90958379 or email rhydhunnq@gmail.com

Seven cos volunteer to ensure AI safety

US President Joe Biden's Administration has secured voluntary commitments from seven companies to help move toward safe, secure, and transparent development of artificial intelligence (AI) technology, said the White House.

It said in a press release that since taking office, President Biden's Administration has moved with urgency to manage AI risks and to protect Ameri-

cans' rights and safety.

It added that as part of this commitment, President Biden is convening seven leading AI companies at the White House today - Amazon, Anthropic, Google, Inflection, Meta, Microsoft, and OpenAI - to announce that the Administration has secured voluntary commitments from these companies to help move toward safe, secure, and transparent development of AI

technology.

It said that companies that are developing these emerging technologies have a responsibility to ensure their products are safe, adding that to make the most of AI's potential, the Administration is encouraging this industry to uphold the highest standards to ensure that innovation doesn't come at the expense of Americans' rights and safety. (KUNA)

Musk says Twitter to change logo to 'X' from the bird

Elon Musk said Sunday that he plans to change the logo of Twitter to an "X" from the famous blue bird, marking what would be the latest big change since he bought the social media platform for \$44 billion last year.

In a series of posts on his Twitter account starting just after 12 a.m. ET, Twitter's owner said that he's looking to make the change worldwide as soon as Monday.

"And soon we shall bid adieu to the twitter brand and, gradually, all the birds," Musk wrote on his account.

The change isn't surprising given Musk's long history with the name "X," says Allen Admonson, co-founder of marketing consultancy Metaforce. The billionaire Tesla CEO tweeted last October that "buying Twitter is an accelerator to creating X, the everything app."

Musk's rocket company, Space Exploration Technologies Corp., is commonly known as SpaceX. And in 1999, Musk founded a startup called X.com, an online financial services company now known as PayPal.

"Not sure what subtle clues gave it away, but I like the letter X," Musk tweeted Sunday.

But the change on Twitter was met with sharp criticism on the social media platform. (AP)

Market Movements

23-07-2023

	Change	Closing pts		Change	Closing pts
PAKISTAN - KSE 100	+0.575	45,888.25	UAE - DFM	-0.04	3,986.36
PHILIPPINES - PSEI	+0.51	6,647.56	JAPAN - Nikkei	-0.57	32,304.25
SAUDI - Tadawul	+0.03	11,755.94	EGYPT - EGX 30	-0.17	17,578.67

Business

Inflation in the UK slows more than expected

US labor market continues to show signs of tightness

By National Bank of Kuwait

Starting off with forex, the US dollar index ended the week strengthening against its counterparts by rising up to 101.071, after reaching a weekly low of 99.589. Naturally, the US dollar strengthened against the euro, closing the week at the 1.1123 mark, after reaching a seventeen-month high of 1.1275. Similarly, the US dollar gained against the British pound, forcing the GBP to end the week at 1.2855. The Australian dollar was also a victim of the marauding US dollar, as the AUD/USD pair dropped significantly on Friday, ending the week at the 0.6727 figure. Meanwhile, the USD/JPY soared all the way up to 141.79 on Friday, after reaching a weekly low of 137.69.

United States

Empire State Manufacturing Index

The Federal Reserve Bank of New York saw general business conditions drop from 6.6 last month, all the way to 1.1. Although that was a significant drop, that is still quite positive, especially when putting into account that economists were projecting the latest reading to come in at -3.5, and the mere fact that any reading above 0 still indicates growth. Measures of prices paid and received by manufacturers in the state of New York also dropped significantly to levels not witnessed since mid-2020, indicating the inflation is in fact cooling.

Retail Sales

The latest monthly retail sales reading shows that there was a 0.2% rise in June, lower than the expected 0.5% increase that would have matched the previous month's reading. This was the third consecutive month of growth in US retailers spending in a showing of great resilience from American consumers. Meanwhile, department stores spending decreased by 2.4%, while furniture sales gained 1.4%. Despite high inflation and interest rates, it seems that US consumers are not slowing down when it comes to spending, giving the Fed a strong hit in its fight against inflation.

Unemployment Claims and Housing

The latest reading to come in shows that the labor market remains tight, justifying the Fed's efforts to increase

Highlights

- Retail sales in the US show a third consecutive month of growth.
- The labor market remains tight in the US, with the latest figure of 228K new claims for unemployment benefits coming in lower than expected.
- Annual inflation in Canada fell to the target range for the first time in over two years, coming in at 2.8%.
- On an annual basis, inflation in the UK slows more than expected, coming in at 7.9%, beating market expectations of 8.2%.
- As the Chinese economy continues to recover from its zero COVID lockdowns, the latest GDP figures further added to worries of a possible economic slowdown.
- Employment increased significantly in Australia, beating expectations.

interest rates even more. The number of Americans filing new claims for unemployment benefits dropped to 228K from 237K previously, and lower than the expected 239K figure, reaching its lowest level in two months. Meanwhile, housing and manufacturing continue to struggle, as existing home sales dropped to 4.16 million units annually, a low not seen since January. While the amount of new residential buildings that began construction is 1.43 million, a little below the expected 1.48 million new residents, and way below the 1.56 million figure from the previous month.

Canada

June's Inflation Rate Slows

Annual inflation in Canada fell to the target range for the first time in over two years, with the print coming in at 2.8% versus a forecast of 3.0% and previous rate of 3.4%. On a monthly basis, this represents an increase of 0.1% as opposed to the forecasted figure of 0.3%. The last time annual inflation readings came in below 3% was in March 2021. Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland described reaching the target range as a "significant mo-

ment" that "should provide a lot of relief to Canadians." Despite this, core inflation remains sticky, falling between the range of 3.5% - 4.0%. The three month annualized core reading is 3.6%. Markets are pricing in an 80% chance of a pause for the upcoming Bank of Canada monetary policy meeting.

United Kingdom

Inflation Slows More Than Expected

United Kingdom's annual inflation slowed to 7.9% from 8.7% previously, lower than the market expectation of 8.2%. On a monthly basis, this represents an increase of 0.1% as opposed to the forecasted figure of 0.4%. Core inflation dropped to 6.9% from 7.1% previously. The readings come as a welcome sign amid the UK still having one of the highest inflation rates compared to other developed economies. Following the print, the market shifted its expectation from a 50 bps to a 25 bps rate hike by the Bank of England. Furthermore, the Sterling dropped against the US dollar, last trading at 1.2855.

Asia-Pacific

China's Quarterly GDP Points to Economic Slowdown

Amid a series of disappointing economic data coming out of China following their recovery from zero COVID lockdowns, quarterly GDP further added to worries about a possible economic slowdown. The second quarter GDP print of 6.3% came in well below the expected figure of 7.1%. This represents a growth of 0.8%

q/q versus 2.2% previously. Furthermore, unemployment among the youth set a new high, coming in at 21.3% for people aged 16-24. Despite this, industrial production came in way better than expected rising by 4.4% versus a 2.7% forecast. The Chinese government rolled several stimulus measures following a lackluster zero COVID recovery represented by a struggling real estate sector, and depressed exports. National Bureau of Statistics spokesperson Fu Linghui stated that he expected real estate investments to remain low in the second half of the year, and that youth unemployment will continue to rise up until August. Although, the spokesperson voiced his confidence that China can still meet their yearly target of 5% growth despite the headwinds ahead.

Australia Employment

The latest employment change came in at 32.6K, more than double the expected increase of 15.4K, beating expectations for the second consecutive month. Meanwhile, the unemployment rate came in at 3.5%, bettering the forecast 3.6% figure. Soon-to-be RBA governor Michelle Bullock claimed that the unemployment rate will need to escalate to around 4.5% in order to have any sort of impact on inflation, adding to the probability of further interest rate hikes by the Reserve Bank of Australia.

Kuwait

Kuwaiti Dinar

USD/KWD closed last week at 0.30600.

Rates - July 23rd, 2023

Currencies	Previous Week Levels				This Week's Expected Range		3-Month
	Open	Low	High	Close	Minimum	Maximum	Forward
EUR	1.1234	1.1106	1.1275	1.1123	1.0900	1.1300	1.1175
GBP	1.3084	1.2814	1.3125	1.2855	1.2700	1.3200	1.2860
JPY	138.74	137.69	141.95	141.79	140.00	143.00	139.78



This photo provided by the Tunisian Presidential Palace on June 11, 2023 shows Tunisian President Kais Saied, (left), talking to a migrant and her baby during a surprise visit to Sfax, on June 10, 2023. Migrants who flooded into Tunisia's port city of Sfax aiming to make Europe their new home are now sharing the burden and the blame for an escalating crisis deeply tinged with racism among some Tunisians amid fears of European leaders trying to stanch the flow to their shores. (AP)

Migrants face misery in Tunisia

Rights activists fear EU deal will make things even worse

TUNIS, Tunisia, July 23, (AP) - Migrants in Tunisia's port city of Sfax who are aiming to make Europe their new home are now sharing the burden and the blame for escalating tensions deeply tinged with racism, amid the fears of European leaders who are trying to stanch the numbers of people arriving at their shores.

The antagonism that exploded in recent weeks in Sfax between Tunisians and mainly Black sub-Saharan migrants is widely seen as a turning point in how this North African nation deals with migration.

European leaders are offering millions to Tunisia amid the abuses, and activists fear a migration summit in Rome on Sunday will pursue an anti-migrant vision that puts the onus on Africa to keep Africans out of Europe.

Hundreds of migrants have drowned at sea trying to reach Italy in fragile boats, but now migrants awaiting their chance to cross the Mediterranean cover in fear, some beaten or abused by authorities to new destinations, others dumped in the desert.

Musa Khalid from Congo was among a group of migrants expelled from Tunisia and found by Libyan border guards huddling in a barren zone last weekend. He said that Tunisian officials took their belongings and money before transferring them out of the Tunisian port city of Sfax and dropping them off without food or water.

"As we tried to enter Tunisia again, they beat us badly. They broke my hand and hit my head," he told the Associated Press near the Al Assa border point in Libya, holding up a wrist wrapped in cloth. "We are in the desert now for several days. Sir, please."

Human rights activists from North Africa, West Africa and Europe met in

Tunis this week and denounced the upcoming Rome meeting, predicting that it will amount to a bartering of values for financial incentives to stave off migrants from European shores.

"Today, the Mediterranean's calling is no longer to be a bridge between two shores, but a wall separating all of Europe from all of the African continent," said the Tunisian Forum for Economic and Social Rights, which organized the Thursday meeting.

Italy is trying to decrease the number of migrant arrivals and stabilize Tunisia, in its worst economic crisis in a generation. Thousands of migrants have arrived in Sfax this year, but there's no solid figure of how many are in the city, or how many have left since the anti-migrant campaign started.

Tunisia has become the main stepping stone to Italy, Europe's gateway, replacing Libya, where widespread abuse of migrants has been reported. Of the 76,325 migrant arrivals in Italy so far this year until last Sunday, 44,151 took the sea route from Tunisia compared to 28,842 leaving from Libya, according to the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees.

That is pushing up numbers in the reception center in Italy's southernmost island of Lampedusa, with officials saying 2,500 people were at the site on Sunday following the arrival of 266 overnight.

President Kais Saied, Tunisia's increasingly authoritarian leader, stoked racist reactions to migrants in February, saying that sub-Saharan Africans arriving in huge numbers are part of a plot to erase Tunisia's Islamic identity. He has since tried to walk back such pronouncements, denying racist views and saying the migrant issue must be treated at its roots.

COP28 president appeals to countries to join global cooling pledge in the lead up to meet

Initiative provides incentives to govts

GOA, India, July 23, (PR Newswire): Speaking on the sidelines of the 14th Clean Energy Ministerial, alongside the G20 Energy Transitions Ministerial Meeting, COP28 President Designate Dr. Sultan Al Jaber urged countries to join the global cooling pledge, a partnership between the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and the COP28 Presidency, announced earlier in the year.

Dr. Al Jaber thanked Dan Jørgensen, Minister from Denmark and Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of Science and Technology of India for their commitment to being Cool Champions and urged countries to unite and join the pledge.

In close collaboration with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and the Sustainable Energy for All (SEforAll), the Global Cooling Pledge aims to expand cooling to protect the most vulnerable communities, especially in the global south, Small Island States and Least Developed Countries, from extreme heat, keep food fresh and vaccines safe.

Earlier in July, the COP28 President Designate announced his approach and plan for COP28 based on an ambitious response to the Global Stocktake and based on 4 pillars: Fast Tracking the energy transition, fixing climate finance, focusing on people, lives and livelihoods and underpinning everything with full inclusivity.

The initiative provides incentives to



COP28 President-Designate Dr. Sultan Al Jaber delivers speech at Clean Energy Ministerial in Goa on sidelines of G20 meeting.

governments and all stakeholders to act on sustainable cooling in five areas: nature-based solutions, super-efficient appliances, food and vaccine cold chains, district cooling, and National Cooling Action Plans.

In his remarks, the COP28 President Designate reiterated his commitment to the Pledge, saying "We cannot expand cooling on a business-as-usual basis. Without strong policy action, emissions from the sector will rise between 7 to 10 percent from today. To solve this dilemma, we need a rapid transition to energy-efficient and climate-friendly cooling."

He highlighted that the cooling dilemma can provide cooling access to those who need it without undermining the energy transition.

Al Jaber highlighted the plight of the most vulnerable states and cooling as a matter of climate justice, saying: "Food and medicine all depend on cooling. It is a topic of critical importance across climate mitigation and adaptation."

He added: "Cooling is also a matter of climate justice - with heat disproportionately impacting lower-income communities and families."

"In a warming world, sustainable cooling is critical for reducing GHG

emissions, protecting against heat stress, enabling productivity, reducing food loss, and enhancing access to healthcare."

He concluded: "We have a unique opportunity to deliver a significant, collective response to the cooling challenge via the Global Cooling Pledge. This pledge aims to improve energy efficiency and increase access to sustainable cooling. It is gaining momentum with more than 20 early supporters - including India and Denmark. But there is more to be done. I call on all countries to join the Global Cooling Pledge in the lead up to COP28."

E Fund marks first 'versary of ETF Connect with inclusion of four ETF products

HONG KONG, July 23, (PR Newswire): E Fund Management ("E Fund" or the Company), the largest fund management company with offices in mainland China and Hong Kong, marks the first anniversary of the ETF Connect program by expanding its participation. With significant presence in the asset management industry, the Company continues to strengthen its role in this program with inclusion of four additional ETF products, namely E Fund SSE 50 ETF, E Fund STAR 50 ETF, E Fund CSI 1000 ETF, and E Fund CSI SEEE Carbon Neutral ETF. The expanded offerings became effective on July 17, 2023.

This landmark program, which facilitates two way capital flows between mainland China and Hong Kong for eligible exchange-traded funds ("ETFs"), has played a pivotal role in deepening the integration of capital markets. Launched in July 2022, the ETF Connect was poised to include ETFs in the Stock Connect, which is often referred to as the mutual market access program. This allows Hong Kong and international investors to trade eligible ETFs listed in mainland China through Hong Kong securities firms, and reciprocally, mainland investors gain access to trade eligible Hong Kong-listed ETFs through local

brokerages.

The ETF Connect has grown in both size and scope over the past year. According to Hong Kong Stock Exchange, a total of 137 ETFs can be traded through the program starting from July 17, 2023. As of July 14, 2023, the total trading volume of Northbound ETFs - ETF investment flows from Hong Kong to the Mainland - amounted to approximately RMB53 billion (US\$7.3 billion) since inception, while Southbound ETFs (from the Mainland to Hong Kong) reached a total trading volume of HK\$382 billion (US\$48.7 billion).

Lin Weibin, Head of Index Investment Department at E Fund Manage-

ment said, "For overseas investors, the ETF Connect offers a convenient and efficient way to access China's A-share market. We will work to drive more products to be included in the program, providing international investors with an even broader array of investment opportunities."

E Fund joined the ETF Connect as early as its commencement in July 2022 and added three more ETFs in January 2023, covering the CSI Dividend, STAR and ChiNext 50, and MSCI China A50 indices. Now, with the latest expansion in July 2023, E Fund currently has 13 products available in the program.

OPEC chief: Members ready to provide energy to world

OPEC Secretary General Haitham Al-Ghais said on Saturday that the cartel's member countries are ready, willing and able to play a key role in providing energy to the world and reducing emissions.

Al-Ghais made the remark while addressing the G20 Energy Ministerial Meeting, 22 July 2023, Goa, India.

He added that the OPEC's Member Countries continue to

invest in upstream and downstream capacity, and they are also mobilizing cleaner technologies to decarbonize the industry.

At the same time, they are making major investments in renewables and hydrogen capacity, carbon capture utilization and storage and other technologies, as well as promoting the Circular Carbon Economy, he said.

He noted that OPEC believes the future needs to see invest-

ments and finance in energy transitions that focus on an inclusive "all-peoples, all-fuels and all-technologies" approach.

"There is clearly no one-size-fits-all solution to a sustainable energy future. In the spirit of our theme today 'One earth, One Family, One Future,' OPEC looks forward to working closely with the G20 to promote sustainable energy future for the world," Al-Ghais remarked. (KUNA)

bribe giver sentenced to 6 years in federal prison

A real estate developer was sentenced Friday to six years in federal prison for paying \$500,000 in bribes to a Los Angeles city councilman for help with a downtown project.

Dae Yong Lee, also known as "David Lee," also was fined \$750,000 and a company that he controlled was fined \$1.5 million plus prosecution costs, the U.S. attorney's office said in a statement.

Prosecutors said that in 2017, Lee bribed José Huizar and the

councilman's special assistant to help resolve a labor organization's appeal that was blocking approval of a planned development that was to include more than 200 residences and some 14,000 square feet (1,300 square meters) of commercial space.

At the time, Huizar chaired the city's powerful Planning and Land Use Management Committee.

In 2017, Lee made three cash payments totaling \$500,000 to

Huizar's assistant, George Esparza, prosecutors said.

Last year, Lee and the company were convicted of bribery, honest services wire fraud and falsifying records in federal investigations to conceal the bribes. The sentence was the latest in a sweeping corruption case swirling around Huizar, whom authorities said ran a pay-to-play bribery scheme from 2013 to 2017 tied to the approval of downtown high-rise developments. (AP)

AUB bags KD 20.5m net profit for 1st half of '23

Total assets reached KD 4.54b at end of June

KUWAIT CITY, July 23: Ahli United Bank (AUB) announced its results for the first six months of year ended June 30, 2023, achieving a net profit of KD 20.5 Million compared to KD 20.2 Million of net profits recorded for the same period last year, with an increase of 1%. The Bank also recorded total operating income of KD 42.7 Million in H1 2023 vs. KD 46.4 Million in H1 2022.

Total Assets reached KD 4.54 Billion at the end of June 2023, lower than KD 4.71 Billion recorded as in December 2022. The Financing Receivables at the end of June 2023 reached KD 3.28 Billion vs. KD 3.41 Billion at the end of December 2022.

In addition, AUB has maintained a solid capital adequacy ratio of 18.32% as of June 30, 2023, which is comfortably higher than the CBK's current minimum required ratio creating opportunities for future expansion in credit facilities, businesses and operations.

As of June 30, 2023, the Bank's return on average equity (ROAE) recorded 8.4% and return on average assets (ROAA) recorded 0.9%. Earnings per share recorded 7.5 fils per share in H1 2023 (7.4 fils in H1 2022).

Commenting on the financial results for the first half of 2023, the Chairman of Ahli United Bank, Dr. Anwar Al-Mudhaf, said: "The operational environment still experiences a state of uncertainty. Nevertheless, we continue our cautious efforts to leverage the available opportunities at the operational environment in Kuwait."

Al-Mudhaf added, "The financial indicators achieved by the bank have reflected the solidity of its financial position and its ability to maintain a satisfactory level of profitability, relying on a conservative strategy and low risk appetite. This is in addition to the bank's balanced performance and its ability to sustain growth."

Dr. Al-Mudhaf emphasized that AUB managed to end the first half of the fiscal year 2023 with acceptable financial results. This is attributed to the bank's resilient and balanced business strategy, its solid financial footing and the prudent strategy on which the bank is relying, and its solid banking capabilities. Dr. Al-Mudhaf emphasized that the bank is committed to implement robust governance principles and to pursue its ongoing efforts to support various segments of society through its ambitious corporate social responsibility program.

Dr. Al-Mudhaf expressed his gratitude to the bank's shareholders for their continuous support to the bank. He also extended sincere thanks to the bank's valued customers for their persistent loyalty, trust, and interaction with more apt services provided by the bank in response to the changes of life, especially digital banking services with their ability and resilience in meeting their needs and aspirations.

Additionally, Dr. Al-Mudhaf expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Bank's employees for their dedication and hard work, underlining that AUB has a great pride in its human wealth, which it considers the key pillar of the Bank's continued success and progress.

Commenting on the bank's financial performance in the first half, Mrs. Jehad Saud Al-Humaidhi, Chief Executive Officer and Board Member of Ahli United Bank said, "We continue to maintain satisfactory profitability in the first half of



Jehad Al-Humaidhi



Dr. Anwar Al-Mudhaf

2023, despite all the challenges facing the economy in general. Through the resilience of financial management and prudent risk-taking, we have achieved this balanced performance, which boosts our confidence in our business model and our ability to achieve the bank's strategic objectives."

Al-Humaidhi added: "We continue to focus our efforts to keep pace with and meet customers' evolving needs. We take pride in affirming our leading role and prominent position, as well as our ability to deliver the best offerings and services that rely on innovative and advanced digital technologies, ensuring the highest levels of banking services for our customers. The bank also persists in maintaining its position at the forefront of local banks in Kuwait by providing distinguished financial financing solutions and savings schemes."

Al-Humaidhi emphasized that Ahli United Bank continues its resolute pursuit of digital transformation, driven by a strategic vision aimed at enriching the digital experience for the bank's esteemed customers. The bank unwavering commitment lies in catering to all its customers' needs, surpassing their expectations, and providing them with cutting-edge, innovative banking solutions and services. She underscored that digital transformation has become an imperative for all institutions, standing as the optimal choice to advance the mechanisms of banking operations.

Al-Humaidhi pointed that AUB pursues endeavors to enhance its banking competencies and provides all means of support for its human resources through an attractive work environment capable of developing business. Al-Humaidhi also underlined that AUB is moving at an accelerated pace towards achieving comprehensive sustainability.

Al-Humaidhi emphasized that AUB, being the first bank to run its operations in Kuwait more than 80 years ago, has been able to play a prominent role in social work. Over these long years, AUB has proven its ability to provide a role model in social responsibility and sustainable development. Moreover, it provides a groundbreaking and distinguished experience in social responsibility, as are its enduring achievements at all fronts.

At conclusion, Al-Humaidhi conveyed her sincere appreciations to the Central Bank of Kuwait and the Chairman and members of the Board of Directors of Ahli United Bank. She, also extended heartfelt thanks and appreciation the bank's shareholders and customers. Further, Al-Humaidhi expressed deep appreciation to the bank's Executive Management team and all its employees for their outstanding efforts and dedication in their work.

Bank Credit Ratings

Ahli United Bank enjoys prestigious international ratings. On May 2, 2023, Fitch Ratings, the International Credit Rating Agency, has affirmed Ahli United Bank K.S.C.P.'s (AUBK) Long-Term Issuer Default Rating (IDR) at 'A' with Stable Outlook, Short-Term Issuer Default Rating (IDR) 'F1' and Government Support Rating (GSR) 'a'.

Prestigious Awards

In the first half of 2023, Ahli United Bank received numerous awards and accolades. The global prestigious magazine MEED honored the efforts and achievements of Mrs. Jehad Al-Humaidhi; Chief Executive Officer and Board Member of Ahli United Bank by awarding her the MENA Islamic Banker of the Year at the MENA Banking Excellence Awards 2023. The award recognizes Al-Humaidhi's exceptional leadership throughout her professional career spanning over 38 years and her support for technological innovation in the banking sector, diverse expertise, and active membership in several boards of different institutions.

In recognition of its exceptional efforts in customer protection and fraud prevention, Ahli United Bank has been honored with the Excellence in Customer Protection-Fraud Control award in the Middle East and North Africa 2023 by MEED, the renowned international magazine. The bank received this award based on its implementation of advanced security measures, fraud detection systems, and customer protection protocols.

Moreover, Ahli United Bank has been awarded Best Remittance Service in the Middle East and North Africa for 2023 by MEED magazine. This recognition is attributed to the bank's collaboration with SWIFT Payment Controls, SWIFT GPI, Afaq, and KNPS, which have provided the bank with the latest technologies and security features. These partnerships have given the bank a significant competitive advantage in the region. Additionally, the bank stands out for its fast, secure, and convenient online money transfer platform, offering competitive exchange rates.

Furthermore, Ahli United Bank won Best Bank in Internal Sharia Audit Award in Kuwait for the year 2023 by the renowned International Finance magazine. This recognition is based on the efficiency and effectiveness of the bank's internal Sharia control system, its framework for assessing Sharia risks, the Sharia audit procedures guide, and effective Sharia training methods. The bank also demonstrated effective implementation of Sharia governance instructions in line with a well-structured internal Sharia audit framework, ensuring the efficiency and effectiveness of Sharia audit operations. In addition, the bank's contribution to the promotion of Islamic banking was highlighted through the development and dissemination of Islamic financial awareness materials on its official social media channels. The bank's internal Sharia audit team exhibited the necessary knowledge and skills to excel in their duties.

In addition to the aforementioned achievements, Ahli United Bank received the prestigious ISO 9001:2015 certification for information technology infrastructure for the second year in a row. This reflects the bank's leadership and excellence in the field of information technology and its ability to adhere to the highest standards of technical services to ensure quality, continuity, and security for all banking operations and services provided to its customers. ISO 9001:2015 is an internationally recognized quality management standard developed and published by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

The Conversation

Here's how China is responding to US sanctions – with blocking laws and other countermeasures

By Bashar Malkawi
University of Arizona

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

After a recent meeting between U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen and officials in Beijing, China released a statement demanding "practical action" over the issue of sanctions. The implication was that the punitive measures - imposed by the U.S. government on hundreds of Chinese individuals and entities over the past few years - impede any alleviation of the strained relations between the two economic giants.

The statement followed a testy encounter in May 2023 in which Chinese Defense Minister Li Shangfu refused to meet his American counterpart because of sanctions. Clearly, the economic measures are hurting China - prompting not only tough words but also countermeasures to limit their impact.

As a professor of law and an expert on international trade, I study both how the U.S. sanctions China and how China attempts to counter these sanctions. I also analyze whether China's countermeasures are working.

Economic sanctions are considered an important foreign policy tool that can be used to influence and change the behavior of countries.

The sanctions on China have been imposed for a myriad of reasons, including as punishment for human rights abuses, espionage activities and supporting Russia's war efforts in Ukraine. Some sanctions are intended to restrict China's technological capabilities by limiting access to key tech suppliers.

To be successful, the sanctioning country must have the economic clout to inflict economic damage on the other country and thus force change.

In the case of China, sanctions have harmed producers and consumers in both countries. They have also benefited certain third countries - for example, through trade diversion that replaces Chinese exporters with suppliers from other countries.

Traditionally, sanctions have targeted entire countries. For example, since February 2022 the U.S. has imposed sweeping sanctions against Russia for its invasion of Ukraine. In addition, the U.S. has imposed multiple sanctions against Cuba over

the past 65 years in a failed attempt to force regime change.

Economic sanctions can be primary or secondary. With primary sanctions, the U.S., for example, forbids imports of any product from the country being sanctioned. Primary sanctions also bar all U.S. companies from doing any business with the country or entities within it.

In secondary sanctions, the U.S. refuses to engage in business with any company that has a business relationship with the country being sanctioned. In its most extreme form, these sanctions also prohibit conducting business with a company that has a relationship with another company that in turn has a relationship with the sanctioned country.

In recent years, U.S. sanctions against China have become more targeted against specific individuals, products and companies. For example, the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the Treasury Department publishes a list of Specially Designated Nationals against which sanctions apply. Individuals and businesses on the list have their assets blocked, and U.S. citizens are prohibited from dealing with them. There are hundreds of Chinese individuals and businesses on the list, including officials in China's Hong Kong liaison office and major corporations such as China National Electronic Import-Export Company.

Also, the U.S. Commerce Department, through its Bureau of Industry, implemented export controls in October 2022 on certain exports to China, such as advanced computing equipment and semiconductor parts. These export controls were put in place because of concerns over China's defense modernization.

In response to the secondary sanctions and the complex enforcement and compliance issues they create for governments and businesses alike, the European Union and countries including Canada and the U.K. have enacted what are called blocking statutes. Blocking statutes typically allow an individual or business to not comply with U.S. laws and require individuals and businesses to notify authorities about any U.S. sanction enforcement measures.

The Chinese government has taken several countermeasures to retaliate against U.S. sanctions in recent years.

In 2020, the Ministry of Commerce in China issued the Unreliable Entity List. A person or company is designated as "unreliable" if Chinese authorities deem them to be harming national security or development interests of China or applying discriminatory measures against a Chinese entity. Punitive measures - such as trade and investment restrictions and fines - may be imposed on them for conduct that is contrary to China's national interests. So far, two U.S. aerospace and defense companies have been listed as unreliable entities.

In addition, in 2021 the Chinese Ministry of Commerce issued the Rules on Countering Unjustified Extraterritorial Application of Foreign Legislation and Other Measures. A Chinese blocking statute, the rules require any Chinese citizen, business or other organization that is restricted or prohibited by U.S. sanctions from engaging in normal economic activities with a third non-sanctioning country to report such matters to the Chinese authorities.

China also enacted the Anti-Foreign Sanctions Law in 2021. This law authorizes China to take action - such as restrictions on visas and who can enter or exit the country - when a foreign country adopts what China sees as discriminatory measures against any Chinese citizen or organization. In addition, censured individuals or businesses can be slapped with a freezing of assets and prevented from doing business in China. Also, a Chinese individual or business can bring a case before Chinese courts and ask for an injunction from or damages for having to comply with foreign sanctions.

Unfortunately, the effectiveness of these countermeasures is unclear. There are no available statistics to determine whether they have mitigated the impact of U.S. sanctions.

The U.S. and China are economic superpowers. Imposing sanctions and countersanctions can make it difficult for any foreign country or company that wants to do business in both countries. It is, in effect, asking them to pick sides.

Some individuals and companies within both China and the U.S. may opt to adopt a pragmatic approach to the sanctions and continue to do business either directly or indirectly. But by doing so they risk being fined by U.S. authorities.



Top & above: Some photos taken from the Al Mulla blood donation campaign

Al Mulla Group's 'Give Blood, Save Lives' campaign supports Central Blood Bank

KUWAIT CITY, July 23: As part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) policies, which embraces giving back to the community and supporting a good public cause, Al Mulla Group, a leading diversified privately held business group based in the State of Kuwait, has recently organized its annual blood donation campaign "Give Blood, Save Lives" in cooperation with Kuwait's Central Blood Bank.

The blood drive was organized in collaboration with the Group's Corporate Communications, and the staff at Al Mulla Engineering's Headquarters in Shuwaik, who also hosted the Al Mulla employees' blood drive initiative.

positive engagement of Al Mulla Group employees in community activities, in support of a public good cause towards a healthier and sustainable future of Kuwait.

Al Mulla Group is firmly committed to its CSR policies and encourages its employees to play an active role in community initiatives. Our CSR programs include, but not limited to: corporate sponsorships of educational and career development programs for Kuwaiti students and young entrepreneurs in collaboration with non-profit organizations, and NGOs in Kuwait, as well as providing internships and training programs for Kuwaiti students during their summer holidays at various sectors within the Group. The company also makes it possible for its employees to receive special corporate rates and discounts at community health and fitness clubs, promotes regular health checkups, organizes annual blood donation initiatives, as well as sponsoring employees' participation in community sports events.

During the one-day event, over 50 blood units from volunteering employees from across Al Mulla Group's headquarters facilities were collected at the collaborative socially responsible activity to support the blood inventory at Kuwait's Central Blood Bank. This initiative comes as a reflection of our Core Values of embracing the

UN agency that governs international waters mired in grueling debate over deep sea mining

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico, July 23, (AP): Members of a U.N. agency that governs international waters were locked in a fierce debate late Friday over whether to allow deep sea mining and set a new deadline for proposed regulations still stuck in draft mode.

The U.N. International Seabed Authority, which is based in Jamaica, began its two-week conference on the issue July 10 but discussions behind closed doors dragged on during the last day of the meeting.

"It's quite a marathon," Michael Lodge, the agency's secretary general, said at a press briefing Friday. "There are still loose ends to tie up."

The agency has yet to issue any provisional mining licenses, and it missed a July 9 deadline to approve a set of rules to govern such activity.

Companies and countries can now apply for a min-

ing license as demand surges for precious metals that are found in the deep sea and are used in electric car batteries and other green technology.

The U.N. agency has issued more than 30 exploration licenses but none for actual mining so far. Most of the exploration is focused in an area between Hawaii and Mexico that spans some 1.7 million square miles (4.5 million square kilometers), with the activity taking place at depths of up to 19,000 feet (6,000 meters).

Members of the International Seabed Authority said they expect to resume work on the proposed regulatory framework at the body's November meeting, the third one of the year.

Asked what would happen if a country or company applied for a deep sea mining license with no regulations in place yet, Lodge said the council would deal

with things as they came up.

"The council has the ability to meet whenever it wishes," he said.

Council President Juan José González Mijares said at the briefing that a regulatory framework has to be in place before any exploitation activity begins.

A growing number of countries are calling for a moratorium or a precautionary pause on deep sea mining, saying they are concerned about the potential environmental impact. They want more scientific studies done first.

Scientists have warned that such activity could kick up silt storms and create noise and light pollution in a watery underworld that has barely been explored.

Companies pushing for deep sea mining, however, argue that undersea mining would be cheaper and have less of an environmental impact than land mining.

The Conversation

'Glide, not search'

How to reset your view of ChatGPT for better results

By James Intriligator
Tufts University

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

ChatGPT has exploded in popularity, and people are using it to write articles and essays, generate marketing copy and computer code, or simply as a learning or research tool. However, most people don't understand how it works or what it can do, so they are either not happy with its results or not using it in a way that can draw out its best capabilities.

I'm a human factors engineer. A core principle in my field is never blame the user. Unfortunately, the ChatGPT search-box interface elicits the wrong mental model and leads users to believe that entering a simple question should lead to a comprehensive result, but that's not how ChatGPT works.

Unlike a search engine, with static and stored results, ChatGPT never copies, retrieves or looks up information from anywhere. Rather, it generates every word anew. You send it a prompt, and based on its machine-learning training on massive amounts of text, it creates an original answer.

Most importantly, each chat retains context during a conversation, meaning that questions asked and answers provided earlier in the conversation will inform responses it generates later. The answers, therefore, are malleable, and the user needs to participate in an iterative process to shape them into something useful.

Your mental model of a machine - how you conceive of it - is important for using it effectively. To understand how to shape a productive session with ChatGPT, think of it as a glider that takes you on journeys through knowledge and possibilities.

You can begin by thinking of a specific dimension or space in a topic that intrigues you. If the topic were chocolate, for example, you might ask it to write a tragic love story about Hershey's Kisses. The glider has been trained on essentially everything ever written about Kisses, and similarly it "knows" how to glide through all kinds of story spaces - so it will confidently take you on a flight through Hershey's Kisses space to produce the desired story.

You might instead ask it to explain five ways in which chocolate is healthy and

give the response in the style of Dr. Seuss. Your requests will launch the glider through different knowledge spaces - chocolate and health - toward a different destination - a story in a specific style.

To unlock ChatGPT's full potential, you can learn to fly the glider through "transversal" spaces - areas that cross multiple domains of knowledge. By guiding it through these domains, ChatGPT will learn both the scope and angle of your interest and will begin to adjust its response to provide better answers.

For example, consider this prompt: "Can you give me advice on getting healthy." In that query, ChatGPT does not know who the "you" is, nor who "me" is, nor what you mean by "getting healthy." Instead, try this: "Pretend you are a medical doctor, a nutritionist and a personal coach. Prepare a two-week food and exercise plan for a 56-year-old man to increase heart health." With this, you have given the glider a more specific flight plan spanning areas of medicine, nutrition and motivation.

Dimensions

If you want something more precise, then you can activate a few more dimensions. For example, add in: "And I want to lose some weight and build muscle, and I want to spend 20 minutes a day on exercise, and I cannot do pull-ups and I hate tofu." ChatGPT will provide output taking into account all of your activated dimensions. Each dimension can be presented together or in sequence.

The dimensions you add through prompts can be informed by answers ChatGPT has given along the way. Here's an example: "Pretend you are an expert in cancer, nutrition and behavior change. Propose 8 behavior-change interventions to reduce cancer rates in rural communities." ChatGPT will dutifully present eight interventions.

Let's say three of the ideas look the most promising. You can follow up with a prompt to encourage more details and start putting it in a format that could be used for public messaging: "Combine concepts from ideas 4, 6 and 7 to create 4 new possibilities - give each a tagline, and outline the details." Now let's say intervention 2 seems promising. You can prompt ChatGPT to make it even better: "Offer six critiques of intervention 2 and then redesign it to address the critiques."

ChatGPT does better if you first focus on and highlight dimensions you think are particularly important. For example, if you really care about the behavior-change aspect of the rural cancer rates scenario, you could force ChatGPT to get more nuanced and add more weight and depth to that dimension before you go down the path of interventions.

You could do this by first prompting: "Classify behavior-change techniques into 6 named categories. Within each, describe three approaches and name two important researchers in the category." This will better activate the behavior-change dimension, letting ChatGPT incorporate this knowledge in subsequent explorations.

There are many categories of prompt elements you can include to activate dimensions of interest. One is domains, like "machine learning approaches." Another is expertise, like "respond as an economist with Marxist leanings." And another is output style, like "write it as an essay for The Economist." You can also specify audiences, like "create and describe 5 clusters of our customer-types and write a product description targeted to each one."

By rejecting the search engine metaphor and instead embracing a transdimensional glider metaphor, you can better understand how ChatGPT works and navigate more effectively toward valuable insights.

The interaction with ChatGPT is best performed not as a simple or undirected question-and-answer session, but as an interactive conversation that progressively builds knowledge for both the user and the chatbot. The more information you provide to it about your interests, and the more feedback it gets on its responses, the better its answers and suggestions. The richer the journey, the richer the destination.

It is important, however, to use the information provided appropriately. The facts, details and references ChatGPT presents are not taken from verified sources. They are conjured based on its training on a vast but non-curated set of data. ChatGPT will generate a medical diagnosis the same way it writes a Harry Potter story, which is to say it is a bit of an improviser.

You should always critically evaluate the specific information it provides and consider its output as explorations and suggestions rather than as hard facts. Treat its content as imaginative conjectures that require further verification, analysis and filtering by you, the human pilot. (AP)

Valuable cash prizes

August 1st last day for depositing to enter Al Dirwaza account Sept draw

KUWAIT CITY, July 23: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced that August 1st is the last date to open or deposit in Al Dirwaza account to enter the September monthly draw for a chance to win prizes of KD 20,000 for 11 winners. Accordingly, the Bank is reminding its current and potential customers to open or deposit more in Al Dirwaza account to increase their chances in September's Draw that will take place in the presence of representatives from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, as well as representatives from KIB.

Ali AlSane, Manager - Product Development, Digital Transformation & Innovation at KIB, said: "We encourage everyone to take advantage of this opportunity to open or deposit more in Al Dirwaza account to increase their chances in September's Draw. Each KD 1 completed a full month's cycle in the account will count for one chance and chances are calculated based on the lowest monthly balance preceding the draw. We would like to remind our customers who already opened Al Dirwaza account that their winning chances in the draw on cash prizes increases with higher deposits. As for our future customers, we invite them to open Al Dirwaza account by visiting the branches or through KIB mobile application and benefit from best draw account in Kuwait."

AlSane further highlighted KIB's commitment to meeting and exceeding its customers' expectations by designing tailored prize offers, introducing innovative banking products, and launching promotional

campaigns that add value to their lives, in line with KIB's "Bank for Life" slogan. Required (012) Each month, 11 account holders have the chance of winning valuable cash prizes, with the first winner receiving KD 10,000 and the remaining 10 receiving KD 1,000. The Bank announces the winners of the monthly draw on its website and social media channels, as well as in newspapers. The cash prizes are deposited in their Al Dirwaza accounts within two business days from the announcement. To enter the upcoming Al Dirwaza draws, KIB customers can open an account at any time and at any place. A minimum of KD 100 is required to open an account and can only be withdrawn upon account closure.

It serves to note that Al Dirwaza account is the best-in-class savings account in the sector, with annual expected profits up to 2% disbursed on monthly basis, where the customer gets an expected profit of 2% for the first 3 months from the account opening date and up to 1% expected rate onward. The expected profits are automatically deposited into the customer's account within the first day of the beginning of each month. Moreover, Al Dirwaza account, which is compliant with the provisions of Islamic Sharia and approved by the KIB's Sharia Board, comes with a wide range of benefits. These include the ease of opening the account without requiring a salary transfer and the remote opening of the account through KIB Online or KIB Mobile application. In addition, the account automatically grants customers instant issuance of an ATM card, with a KD 2,000 ATM daily withdrawal limit, as well as the ability to issue credit cards against the cash collateral in the account.

'Industry-agnostic approach'

Arzan VC made 46 investment transactions: Hasan J. Zainal

KUWAIT CITY, July 23: Arzan Venture Capital (Arzan VC), a Kuwait-born VC firm that has been investing in startups with a MENA angle since 2015, has recently crossed the 10-exits mark. According to the data platform MAGNITT, Arzan VC ranks as #2 investor in the MEAPT region in terms of the number of startup exits (excluding secondary exits).

Hasan J. Zainal, Arzan VC's Founder & Managing Partner, commented: "The firm's investment volume increased by 81% YoY in 2022, adding 4 new investments via its second fund (AVC II) and 3 new investments via its upcoming third fund (AVC III), and thus increasing the portfolio size to 46 companies. The new additions include fintech, e-commerce and supply chain startups such as Hala (KSA), Nearpay (KSA), Money Fellows (Egypt), Lucky (Egypt), Haseel (KSA) and Khazenly (Egypt)."

Hala is a fintech startup that offers

solutions that enable merchants to digitize their payments as well as manage their sales and operations. Haseel is a fresh vegetables and fruits delivery app in Riyadh and Jeddah, while Khazenly is a tech-enabled omni-channel fulfillment and logistics solutions provider for retailers in Egypt and KSA.

Arzan VC has also made several follow-on investments into existing portfolio startups during last year and screened a total of 246 seed-stage deals from around the region. The company's strategy for 2023 remains largely unchanged: industry-agnostic approach targeting tech startups with a MENA+P angle (where P stands for Pakistan), and stages ranging from Seed up to Series B.

When it comes to its latest third fund, AVC III has a target size of USD 60M and it is incorporated in Abu Dhabi Global Market (ADGM). The fund is currently approaching its first close and has already made 3 investments with Money Fellows being the Arzan VC's largest single ticket to-date (USD 4M).

It's worth mentioning that Arzan VC has a strong regional presence with a main office in Kuwait City and regional offices in Dubai, Cairo, Amman, Riyadh and Karachi.



Zainal

Best-in-class standards

Menzies Aviation forays into Bulgarian air cargo market

LONDON, July 23: Menzies Aviation, the leading service provider to airports and airlines, has expanded its presence in the Balkans by agreeing a majority stake in Cargo Handling Services Limited (CHS) at Sofia International Airport (SOF) in Bulgaria. The joint venture increases Menzies Aviation's footprint in Europe to 50 airports in 17 countries.

Established in 2016, CHS provides a range of cargo services at SOF including warehousing, import and export handling, mail handling and temperature-controlled storage. CHS will benefit from being part of Menzies' global network and will transition to the Menzies brand and its best-in-class standards and systems.

Sofia International Airport is located 5km from the centre of Bulgaria's capital and largest city. It is the biggest international airport in the country with scheduled connections to all ma-

yor European business centres, serving 21 airlines.

Miguel Gomez Sjunnesson, Executive Vice President Europe, Menzies Aviation, said: "CHS is a well-regarded cargo provider at Sofia Airport, which has potential for significant growth. Strategically, this investment supports our ambitions to accelerate growth by expanding our air cargo business and entering emerging aviation markets. We're looking forward to working with our new partners and, in the long-term, increasing our market share at Sofia Airport."

Tim Buisseret, Commercial Director, British Embassy Sofia, said: "We are delighted that Menzies Aviation has expanded their presence to Bulgaria, and we look forward to supporting them to develop their business. Bulgaria has great long-term prospects, Sofia is a key strategic location, and I'm sure that Menzies will succeed here."



A photo from the event.

WORLD FINANCE

BEST CORPORATE GOVERNANCE, KUWAIT

2023

ZAIN GROUP

Best ESG Integration in Kuwait

Zain Group

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Zain wins two Best Corporate Governance Awards for Kuwait.

'We provide stakeholders with accurate picture'

Zain wins two Best Corporate Governance in Kuwait awards

KUWAIT CITY, July 23: Zain, a leading provider of innovative technologies and digital lifestyle communications operating in seven markets across the Middle East and Africa, announces winning the World Finance 'Best Corporate Governance Award 2023 for Kuwait', for the third consecutive year. Zain was also deemed to provide the 'Best Corporate Governance of a listed company in Kuwait' in 2023 at the Arab Federation of Capital Markets (AFCM) Annual Conference held in Muscat recently.

London-based World Finance is a reputable print and online magazine providing comprehensive coverage and analysis of the financial industry, international business and the global economy. The AFCM was established in 1978 to be the guiding body for Arab stock exchanges, under the recommendation of the Arab Central Banks Conference.

Zain's Investor Relations and Corporate Governance Framework is a cornerstone of the company's regional appeal, and has attracted ongoing praise and admiration as its exemplary operation provides stakeholders including shareholders, industry analysts, and regulatory authorities with the greatest confidence on the company's state of being.

Entity

As a leading entity listed on the Premier Market, Zain is in regular communication with the country's Capital Markets Authority (CMA), abiding fully to market regulations issued by all financial regulatory bodies in Kuwait including the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the CMA, and Boursa Kuwait.

Bader Al-Kharafi, Zain Vice-Chairman and Group CEO said, "Zain has established a culture to exceed expectations across all its areas of operation; and maintaining a positive, transparent relationship with market stakeholders is fundamental to our ongoing success. We are committed to adhering to the highest levels of governance, providing all our stakeholders an accurate picture of Zain at any point, and interact with us in a straightforward and productive manner."

Al-Kharafi continued, "The publication of detailed regulatory disclosures, Corporate Governance framework, operational and financial results reporting, as well as sustainability and thought leadership reports annually, all point to our efforts to provide quality, informative and actionable facts about the company and its '4Sight' transformational and profitable growth strategy."

Zain believes good governance plays a significant role in providing long-term sustainable value to stakeholders. Accordingly, the organization has an impressive track record in providing all stakeholders with accurate and transparent access to company information, beyond the minimum disclosure requirements.



Zeyad Al Omar and KFH team with Eng. Sager Al-Sharhan.

'Attracting talents'

Kuwait Finance House inks MoU with the 'Australian University'

KUWAIT CITY, July 23: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Australian University (AU) for strengthening cooperation between the two sides in terms of training, teaching, and attracting talents, in addition to organizing workshops and educational and social programs. The MoU also affirms KFH's leading role in supporting students and academic initiatives to raise educational standards and scientific research.

KFH Group Chief Human Resources and Transformation Officer, Zeyad Abdullah Al Omar attended the MoU signing event along with AU Asst. to the President for Support Services, Eng. Sager Al-Sharhan and a number of officials from both sides.

Al Omar stated that the MoU will establish new academic and professional opportunities between KFH and the AU, which represents an added value to both sides.

Al Omar added that, as part of the MoU, KFH will attract exceptional students to its summer programs in order to improve their competencies and prepare them professionally for their future careers, which is in line with KFH's keenness to enhance its position at the private sector level in

training and recruiting Kuwaiti talents, as well as providing them with the opportunity to build a successful career path as they are the most significant elements for achieving a sustainable development.

He also pointed out that KFH has made several achievements in supporting students and the educational process in general, saying that KFH has remarkable relationships and strategic partnerships with universities in addition to public and private educational institutions. He stressed the Bank's efforts in moving forward with its commitment and continuing to provide constant support towards professional development efforts for the youth.

Meanwhile, Al-Sharhan said: "I congratulate both sides on taking this momentous step. This MoU between AU and KFH will promote progress and the exchange of expertise by offering students the opportunity to engage in the Bank's environment and encourage them to participate in its summer training programs." "AU will provide the venue and facilities for KFH to utilize for the training of its employees by the respective AU department, in addition to co-organizing awareness campaigns for the younger generations", Al-Sharhan added.

Zain's Corporate Governance framework helps the company to mitigate risks and facilitates an effective Board oversight over the company's executive management by monitoring the implementation of policies when running daily operations. Corporate Governance promotes strong internal controls to improve integrity of financials and establishes a culture of com-

pliance. This governance structure has helped Zain to win the confidence of the market and attract global investors.

Zain's Investor Relations, Sustainability, and Corporate Governance departments are committed to raising awareness on issues related to the environment, social, and governance (ESG) matters in response to global trends and best practices.



A young boy prepares for vaccination.

AHF applauds continued effort to combat malaria in Africa

As the World Health Organization, Gavi, The Vaccine Alliance, and UNICEF recently announced the allocation of 18 million doses of the first-ever malaria vaccine (RTS, SA/AS01) to 12 African countries, AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF) commends the decision as a positive step forward in the fight against one of the deadliest diseases on the continent.

This announcement follows the successful pilot of the RTS, SA/AS01 in Ghana, Kenya, and Malawi under the Malaria Vaccine Implementation Program (MVIP) since 2019.

According to WHO, the vaccine, which has been administered to over 1.7 million children across the three pilot countries, has shown promising results in reducing severe malaria and death among children.

"The decision to allocate such a substantial number of doses to the countries with the greatest need in terms of high risk of malaria and malaria-related deaths among children under five demonstrates a strengthened commitment to addressing malaria in Africa," said AHF Africa Bureau Chief Dr. Penninah Iutung. "However, it is important to reiterate

that efforts to combat malaria successfully require a multi-faceted approach, including the distribution of treated mosquito nets, improved access to diagnostics and treatment, ramping up vaccine production and distribution to meet the demand, and the need for technology transfer to support local vaccine manufacturing."

Countries earmarked to receive the vaccines are Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, DRC, Liberia, Niger, Sierra Leone, and Uganda – in addition to the pilot countries Ghana, Kenya, and Malawi. (AP)

NerdWallet

More women than men correctly estimate life expectancy

Longevity literacy essential to smart retirement planning

By Liz Weston
NerdWallet

Women often don't score as well as men in surveys of financial literacy. One area where we seem to do better is "longevity literacy," or understanding how long we're likely to live.

Longevity literacy is essential to smart retirement planning. Overestimate your longevity, and you could retire too late or scrimp too much. Underestimate it and you could run short of money.

In a recent TIAA Institute study, 43% of women correctly estimated the life expectancy of 60-year-old women in the US. (The right answer was 85.) Only 32% of men chose the correct answer for the life expectancy for 60-year-old men, which was 82. Men also were far more likely than women to underestimate life expectancy — and that's a huge potential problem for both sexes.

A man who expects to die in his 70s might draw too much from retirement funds or start Social Security too early. That could leave him — and the spouse who may outlive him — with too little income later on.

"A lot of people do OK in their first 10 years or 15 years of retirement," says actuary Steve Vernon, a former research scholar at the Stanford Center on Longevity. "It's often in their late 70s and 80s that they started to struggle."

Life expectancy

The life expectancy statistics that often make headlines aren't the ones that matter for retirement planning, Vernon says.

For example, in December the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention noted that US life expectancy dropped for the second year in a row. But the number the CDC cited — 76.4 years — is life expectancy from birth. That figure includes infant mortality as well as the accidents, diseases, overdoses, homicides and suicides that end lives too early.

The thing about longevity is that it's persistent. The longer you live, the longer you are likely to live. One out of three men and 1 in 2 women in their mid-50s will live to 90, according to the Society of Actuaries. There's a 50% chance that at least one member of a heterosexual married couple age 65 will be alive at 92.

With longer lives comes "longevity risk": the chance that people will outlive their savings. Understanding and addressing that risk is an important element of retirement planning, but most Americans are falling short, says Surya Kolluri, head of the TIAA Institute, which conducts research on financial security.

Longevity illiterate

More than half of Americans don't understand how long people tend to live in retirement, according to a 2022 survey of more than 3,500 adults nationwide by the TIAA Institute and the Global Financial Literacy Excellence Center at the George Washington Uni-

versity School of Business.

The annual survey, known as the Personal Finance Index, has traditionally measured financial literacy. Last year, the researchers added a longevity question with a multiple choice answer. Men were asked "What is life expectancy among 60-year-old men in the US?" while women were asked "What is life expectancy among 60-year-old women in the US?" (The correct answers were determined by Social Security actuarial data from 2019.)

Men and women were about equally likely to say they didn't know the correct answer or choose the answer that overestimated life expectancy by six years. But 31% of men selected the answer that underestimated life expectancy by six years, compared to 19% of women.

Researchers aren't sure why more women than men demonstrated longevity literacy, Kolluri says. One hypothesis is that women are traditionally more involved in caregiving for older relatives and thus better acquainted with the realities of aging, he says. Another is that women are aware they live longer than men and that wives often outlive their husbands.

"I think most women are just more in tune with longevity than men are and maybe are concerned about it," Vernon says.

Retirees who answered the longevity question correctly were much more likely to report that making ends meet was "very easy" and to be "very confident" they had enough money to last their lifetimes compared to those who lacked longevity literacy, the researchers found.

Longevity risk

The single most powerful way to mitigate longevity risk is to delay claiming Social Security, Vernon says.

Social Security retirement benefits can start as early as age 62, but applying before your full retirement age — which is currently between 66 and 67 — means your check is permanently reduced. Delaying your application beyond full retirement age can add 8% each year you wait, until your benefit maxes out at age 70.

Delaying is particularly important for the higher earner in a married couple, since it's the higher earner's benefit that determines what the survivor gets after the first spouse dies.

A 2022 paper for the National Bureau of Economic Research found that virtually all American workers ages 45 to 62 should delay their applications beyond age 65 to maximize their benefits, and that more than 90% should wait until age 70. But currently, only about 10% of applicants wait that long, the researchers found.

"Most people just don't understand how long they could live in retirement, and they don't plan for it," Vernon says.

The Personal Finance Index survey was completed online in January 2022 by a sample of 3,582 U.S. adults, ages 18 and older, including 1,025 who answered that they considered themselves retired. The data were weighted to be nationally representative. (AP)

Study shows 79% of participants experience relief from MDD

Saint neuromodulation system effective in treatment of major depressive disorder

BURLINGAME, Calif., July 23: Magnus Medical, Inc., a medical device company and developer of brain stimulation technology for the treatment of neuropsychiatric disorders, has announced that the first participants have been treated in the Open Label Optimization (OLO) Clinical Trial evaluating the effectiveness of the Magnus Neuromodulation System with Saint™ Technology for the treatment of Major Depressive Disorder (MDD).

"We are very pleased to announce the start of the OLO clinical trial with Saint therapy for people with MDD who are ineffectively treated by prior antidepressant medications," said Brandon Bentzley, M.D., Ph.D., co-founder and chief scientific officer of Magnus. "Results from the previous randomized controlled trial were extremely promising — 79% of participants experienced relief from their severe depression after receiving Saint treatment. Given the enormous need for acute care in depression, we knew we needed to make Saint treatment more widely available while building a body of clinical data."

"The OLO trial is the first time the Saint Neuromodulation System will be studied at multiple sites, allowing a large sample size of adults suffering from clinical depression to access the rapid-acting, personalized treatment for their treatment-resistant major depression," continued Bentzley.

Up to nine clinics nationwide will participate in the OLO study, enrolling up to 1,000 adults suffering from a major depressive episode who have failed to receive satisfactory improvement from prior antidepressant medication in the current episode. Treatment will be delivered on an accelerated timeline — 10 sessions a day, composed of 10-minute treatments of SAINT therapy with 50-minute breaks for five consecutive days. Trial results are expected in 2027.

Relief

"Saint therapy is the beginning of a revolution in psychiatry: fast, effective, and personalized treatments that give hope to patients who have failed to receive relief from traditional approaches," said David Carreon, M.D., a primary investigator and the first to enroll in the OLO study at Acacia Mental Health, Sunnyvale, Calif. "It could profoundly change the way we care for those with treatment-resistant depression and be a model for addressing other conditions as well. Our clinic specializes in caring for the hardest and most hopeless, depressed patients by providing the best treatments available. We have started to enroll partici-

HMG Al Khobar delivers exceptional medical travel patient journey

GHA accreditation helps position Dr. Sulaiman Al-Habib Hospital as top medical destination

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla., July 23: In a significant achievement that firmly underscores its commitment to the highest standards of healthcare, Dr. Sulaiman Al-Habib Hospital in Al Khobar, Saudi Arabia, has been awarded the distinguished Accreditation for Medical Travel Services by Global Healthcare Accreditation (GHA). This accolade validates HMG Al Khobar's dedication to delivering an exceptional medical travel patient journey, from the initial interaction through to superior clinical outcomes and post-treatment care.

Dr. Sulaiman Al Habib Medical Group (HMG) is renowned for its exceptional healthcare services across 9 leading-edge hospitals located in Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and the Kingdom of Bahrain. HMG Al Khobar is the first of HMG's hospital's to be accredited by GHA, with several more expected to start the accreditation process soon.

HMG Al Khobar has garnered a remarkable reputation within the distinguished medical group, as evidenced by its numerous international accreditations. The hospital has successfully earned HIMSS EMRAM Stage-7 Accreditation from the USA, World Health Organization (WHO) Patient Safety Friendly Hospital Assessment, American College of Radiology (ACR), College of American Pathologists (CAP), and Association for the Advancement of Blood & Biotherapies (AABB), in addition to the CBAHI. It is also recognized as the first fully integrated digital health project in the region.

GHA is recognized as a global leader in medical tourism and health tourism, having developed international standards accredited by ISQua/IEEA and professional norms for medical travel in consultation with leading global experts in the industries it represents, including health providers, insurers, and employers. The GHA accreditation seal helps build trust by demonstrating to patients and international payers that the organization has implemented procedures and policies designed to mitigate risks to medical travel patients and enhance the patient experience across each step of the patient journey.

Valued

Mr. Abdullah Abdulaziz Al Turki, the General Director of the HMG Al-Khobar said, "With thousands of success stories from our valued patients and their families, Dr. Sulaiman Al Habib Hospital, Al-Khobar has earned a reputation as a world-class healthcare provider. The hospital's unique services have attracted international patients, and its impact on the country and community is significant. Obtaining the GHA Accreditation is a proud moment for us, signaling our deep commitment to advancing patient experiences and outcomes for local and international patients."

GHA is dedicated to advancing healthcare quality and safety in the medical tourism industry. Through its accreditation, certification, training, development and optimization and advisory services, GHA aims to promote transparency, patient-centered

care, and continuous improvement. Additionally, the GHA accreditation process positions healthcare providers to attract and serve medical travel patients, thereby improving not only clinical outcomes and patient satisfaction but also positively impacting the organization's business performance.

Ms. Renée-Marie Stephano, GHA's Interim Chief Executive Officer, emphasized the transformative role of GHA accreditation, saying, "Accreditation by GHA serves as a badge of trust and quality in healthcare, assuring patients, governments, insurance companies, facilitators and other stakeholders that GHA-accredited hospitals, like HMG Al Khobar, are committed to the highest standards of patient care and successful medical outcomes. Moreover, by securing GHA Accreditation, HMG Al Khobar has underscored its dedication to a key objective of Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030, which is to facilitate access and improve the quality and efficiency of healthcare services. We congratulate HMG Al Khobar for achieving this esteemed recognition."

To promote awareness of the importance of GHA accreditation for safety and patient experience, Global Healthcare Accreditation has launched an extensive bilingual (English and Arabic) consumer and buyer marketing campaign. The objective is to educate the marketplace about the significant benefits of choosing hospitals that have achieved GHA accreditation for their medical tourism programs.

pants and are eager to find out whether the overwhelmingly positive results seen at the initial trials at Stanford will translate to our own patients."

"We are delighted to have our first participants enrolled in the OLO study and happy to be working with Magnus to help provide a rapidly acting solution that may solve a fundamental problem in treating pervasive major depression," said Robert Bota, M.D., a primary investigator in the OLO study at Brain Health Solutions, Costa Mesa, Calif.

Clinical depression, also known as major depressive disorder or MDD is one of the more severe forms of depression. It is a mental health condition that causes a persistently low or depressed mood and a loss of interest in activities that once brought joy. Clinical depression is caused by various factors, including genetic predisposition, stress, and brain chemistry. MDD is an episodic disorder that can last months or years.

According to the National Institutes of Health, an estimated 21 million adults in the US suffered from at least one MDD

episode in 2020. This number represents 8.4% of all U.S. adults.2 Research shows the estimated 12-month prevalence of medication-treated MDD in the U.S. was 8.9 million adults in 2021, and 2.8 million had treatment-resistant depression.3 Far too many people experience suicidal thoughts with no rapidly acting treatment options available to them.4 More than 550,000 adults in the U.S. alone are hospitalized annually for suicidal depression, and the highest peak in suicide attempt6 and completion is immediately after discharge from the hospital.

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One of the most inspirational movies of the year

Resilience of basketball star Curry explored in Apple TV+ docu

By Lindsey Bahr

'Stephen Curry: Underrated' is easily one of the most inspirational movies of the year.

This is a portrait of a man - the greatest three-point shooter of all time - who has felt inferior playing the game he loves since he was a scrawny kid playing on his local under-10 team. It's easy to roll your eyes at supermodels who say they were teased when they were kids or famous actors who look like the captain of the football team insisting they were outcasts in high school. In the rear-view mirror, when things have gone so well after that origin story, it just always rings a little false.

But in this documentary, directed by Peter Nicks and streaming on Apple TV+ Friday, the filmmakers put you in Curry's shoes. They show you video of him on that under-10 team, indeed looking scrawnier than his counterparts and with the posture of someone who's already self-conscious about it.

They have Reggie Miller on hand to read the draft report which says Curry is "far below NBA standard in regard to explosiveness and athleticism," extremely short for a shooting guard position, and cautions "do not rely on him to run your team." Ouch.

And they close in on his face at some of the biggest moments of his career, both in college and in the NBA, to show a reaction that's neither smug nor nonchalant or overly celebratory: It's

authentic astonishment.

And as if to upend expectations even more, the present timeline of "Stephen Curry: Underrated" is not focused on a season or chasing a title - though there is plenty of basketball, including the moment he breaks the three-point record. It's almost more about college - deciding he wanted to play at school, finding the right school for himself and, many years and championships later, studying to finish what he started, while juggling his career, his contracts and his family.

Promise

In 2009, Curry decided to leave Davidson College a year early, without graduating, to pursue professional basketball. But he made a promise his mother, Sonya, that he'd go back and finish at some point.

Curry and Davidson, like most healthy athlete-school agreements, seemed to choose one another at exactly the right time. When he got in, feeling good about himself, he went to tell his friends: They'd never even heard of the small liberal arts college in North Carolina. That was a bit disappointing but what would have been even worse is if he'd accidentally sabotaged the whole thing by not responding to coach Bob McKillip, who started to worry whether his recruit was being pursued by other schools when Curry

went dark.

From high school to college on into the pros, something that struck many about Curry is how he makes a lot of mistakes but never seems to wallow in them. When he goes up against Michigan for the first time in college, he describes how everything that could go wrong went wrong. Later, his coach said he was going to start the next game. McKillip saw in his perseverance a toughness that was rare in players.

His parents, Dell and Sonya, helped shepherd that discipline but always because he wanted it - not some horrifying reversal in which the parents are the drivers of something.

You don't need to know much about basketball or care about Steph Curry to watch this film, though many probably will. But much like the Michael Jordan doc "The Last Dance," this beautifully constructed (and much more economical) narrative operates on its own terms, with a beautiful score guiding the viewer through his life.

As he says in a zen sort of way, he's just, "Trying to find the space to survey my life ... Let my mind think about how I got here."

"Stephen Curry: Underrated," an Apple TV+ release streaming Friday, is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association for "brief, strong language." Running time: 110 minutes. Three stars out of four. (AP)

Film

Variety



This image released by Sideshow/Janus Films shows Paula Beer in a scene from 'Afire.' (AP)

Film

'Challengers,' starring Zendaya, to skip Venice premiere

Tensions boil over in Petzold's 'Afire'

By Lindsey Bahr

Fire is in the air this summer, literally, and at the movies. Though the flames in German filmmaker Christian Petzold's "Afire" aren't of the nuclear variety, the smoke from his tension-filled chamber piece about a few young adults at a vacation house near the Baltic Sea certainly gets in your eyes.

This is a film about youth, climate change, ego, artistry and, well, being a human in the world. So naturally the main protagonist is an arrogant, off-putting writer aggrieved by everything and everyone around him as he tries to work on his latest novel in a would-be idyllic setting.

To be fairer to Leon (Thomas Schubert), there is a lot to be annoyed about from the start. His friend Felix's (Langston Uibel) car breaks down on the way and they have to lug their suitcases quite a distance to get to the holiday home. When they finally arrive at the home, it's a mess - plates, food, wine glasses, clutter and the distinct sense that someone else is staying there. Felix's mom forgot to tell them she'd let someone else have the place and now these two pals are going to have to share a room on top of everything. The mystery guest, Nadja (Paula Beer), who disappears during the day, can't seem to clean up after herself and makes quite a bit of noise at night with her own guest. In other words, Leon is not sleeping or getting much writing done.

Empathy for Leon, however, wears thin pretty quickly. This is a man who is entirely consumed with himself, to the point where he can neither see nor empathize with anyone around him. Similarly he cannot enjoy himself or the world - he refuses to go for swims, gets annoyed at himself when he does venture to the beach and just falls asleep, he resents people for having jobs that aren't intellectual and lets them know it, too. When Felix, a photographer, tells him about his idea for his portfolio,

he callously dismisses it. Later, someone whose intellect he respects gushes about how brilliant Felix's idea is, and Leon seethes more. And all as wildfires encroach upon the small town, threatening everything. The winds, they're told, mean they're safe.

The metaphor might not be subtle, but it's surprisingly effective and haunting considering what's to come. While Schubert is perfectly unlikable as the caustic writer, the real standout is Petzold regular Beer. Nadja is a luminous presence in a complex character who has depths that no one realizes. That's what happens when you don't ask, right?

Petzold said the film, which won the Silver Bear at the Berlin Film Festival earlier this year, was born out of actual fever dreams, as he suffered through a bout with COVID-19, and the films of Eric Rohmer, which he watched through it all. He realized the French, and even Americans, have a whole summer movie genre - these journeys of self-discovery, often on a beach - but that German cinema was lacking.

And perhaps this is a very German expression of a summer coming-of-age film - there are striped sweaters, a very photogenic Baltic Sea, romantic longing and dinners with too much wine and a hauntingly atmospheric song, "in my mind" by the Wallners, which sets a dreamy, Lynchian mood. There's also guilt, grief and loss and a poignant reminder to look at the world around us before it's gone.

"Afire," a Janus Films release expanding in theaters Friday, has not been rated by the Motion Picture Association. Running time: 88 minutes. Three stars out of four.

Also:

NEW YORK: Luca Guadagnino's "Challengers," starring Zendaya, has been pulled from the Venice Film Festival, where it was to be the opening

night film, due to the actors strike.

The R-rated "Challengers," in which Zendaya stars as a tennis coach involved in a love triangle, had been planned to kick off the Venice Film Festival on Aug. 30 before opening in theaters Sept. 15. But with actors striking from working or promoting their films - including walking any red carpets - distributor MGM, which is owned by Amazon Studios, will instead open "Challengers" in theaters April 26 next year.

"After thoughtful consideration with our partners, and given the parameters that SAG-AFTRA has outlined for its membership, we have made the difficult decision to withdraw 'Challengers' from this year's Venice International Film Festival," MGM said in a statement Friday. "We look forward to celebrating the film when we can do so with our ensemble cast, director Luca Guadagnino and the filmmaking team at a later date."

"Challengers," which co-stars Josh O'Connor and Mike Faist, is the first major fall festival film to drop out due to the ongoing actors and writers strikes. But many in the film industry are anxiously watching how long the strikes drag on and how they might disrupt the major fall film festivals. Venice, followed by the Telluride, Toronto and New York festivals, are hugely important launching pads for fall movies. But their premieres could be muted without stars in attendance.

Venice organizers announced Friday that Edoardo De Angelis's "Comandante" will instead open the 80th Venice Film Festival next month.

Several films set for release in August have also been delayed due to the strike. A24's "Problemista" has been taken off the release schedule. The film, by Julio Torres and starring Tilda Swinton, had been set to open Aug. 24. And Lionsgate is delaying Marc Foster's "Wonder" spinoff "White Bird" from Aug. 18 until later in the year. (AP)

CANNES, France:

Cannes, known for its picturesque landscapes and the prestigious Cannes Film Festival, recently played host to another highly anticipated event. The Better World Found charity gala, jointly organized by a charitable organization and renowned movie stars, took place on May 21, 2023, at the iconic InterContinental Carlton Cannes. With the theme "The Power of Youth," the gala aimed to empower the younger generation and provide them with opportunities to shape a brighter future.

The International Institute of Well-Being (IIWB), a non-profit association headquartered in Paris, places emphasis on sharing resources and is dedicated to promoting sustainable social and environmental development, improving the well-being of individuals, and advancing technology and education. Madame Dr Dazhun Zhang, PhD in Psychology, Founder of the IIWB, and author of the book "Sagesse & Abundance," once said, "Love and gratitude are a state of being, without the need for an object or a reason." With a strong focus on youth and a mission of pursuing well-being for humanity through charity, IIWB quickly became a co-organizer of the Better World Found charity gala. Emily Cheong, the Secretary-General and Grace Shi, the General-Director and Executive Member (and Spokesperson) of IIWB, led a delegation of important members to attend the event, showcasing the association's commitment.

Prominent figures, including international superstar Leonardo DiCaprio, Vice President of Brazil Celia Xakriabá, Secretary of State for Social Development of Brazil Osmar Almeida Junior, and respected Chief Raoni from the Mapuche tribe, graced the charity gala with their presence. (AP)

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla:

Jurors in a South Florida courtroom began deliberating in the double murder trial of rapper YNW Melly, and the 24-year-old artist could face a possible death sentence if convicted of the fatal shooting of two child-

hood friends.

The jury recessed after a few hours.

Broward County prosecutors delivered their closing argument Thursday morning in the October 2018 shooting deaths. They reminded jurors that the fatal shots came from



DiCaprio



YNW Melly

inside a Jeep where the victims had been shot, and by every account, from the seat where YNW Melly was sitting, the Sun Sentinel reported.

Melly, whose legal name is Jamell Demons, had his breakout in 2017 and went on to work with Kanye West on "Mixed

Personalities," which was released in January 2019, a month before Demons was arrested on murder charges.

Killed were Anthony Williams and Christopher Thomas Jr Williams and Thomas were both part of the YNW collective, known respectively as YNW

Sakchaser and YNW Juvy.

According to prosecutors, Demons, Williams and Thomas were riding in a Jeep driven by Cortland Henry, known as YNW Bortlen, after a recording session in Fort Lauderdale when Demons fatally shot Williams and Thomas. (AP)

Features

ARABO TIMES

MONDAY, JULY 24, 2023

People & Places

Film

Marketing blitz

Awash in pink: Barbie mania sweeps world

NEW YORK, July 23, (AP) — Pink sauce on that Burger King burger? What about “Barbie-fying” your pet with sweaters and beds with Barbie motifs? If that’s too low-brow, perhaps you’d be interested in hot pink Barbie monogrammed knit leggings by luxury designer Balmain instead, selling at Neiman Marcus for a cool \$2,150.

Welcome to the wonderful and weird world of “Barbie” movie marketing.

Ahead of Friday’s US release of the “Barbie” movie, parent company Mattel has created a product marketing blitz with more than 100 brands plastering pink everywhere.

There are pink benches at bus stops and pink clothing displayed in store windows. Microsoft’s Xbox has come up with a Barbie console series and HGTV is hosting a four-part Barbie Dreamhouse Challenge.

And then there are all the unofficial collaborators trying to grab a piece of the Barbie craze. Restaurants across the country are offering special pink cocktails, while interior decorators are showing options like vibrant pink backslashes to “Barbiefy” your kitchen.

Even the organization I Support the Girls — a nonprofit that has provided 22 million bras and menstrual hygiene products to homeless people, refugees and immigrants — is creating a social media campaign around menstrual periods using Barbie and having volunteers create miniature packages of Barbie-sized menstrual pads and tampons as teaching tools.

“The capability to share stories and knowledge through playing with Barbie is what made us realize we need to jump on this pop culture Barbie bandwagon,” said Dana Marlowe, founder and executive of I Support the Girls. “If you can see yourself in a toy or in a doll, we want to also make sure that we’re raising awareness about bras and clean underwear and the like.”

Some experts say all the marketing beyond the movie is only good for the 64-year-old brand, helping to attract multi-generations of fans.

“When a brand owns something as iconic as the color pink, it’s good news and bad news,” said Marc Rosenberg, a Chicago-based toy consultant who led the global marketing teams for Hasbro’s brands like Furby, GigaPets, and Hit Clips. “In this case, I think it’s all good news. Everyone in the world wants a piece of pink now.”

But pundits also say it’s going to be hard for many of the products to stand out when the world is awash in pink.

“There is such a stampede toward this that most people are going to get stepped on and will not be noticed,” said Allen Adamson, co-founder of marketing consultancy Metaforce, noting he believes there will be more losers than winners.

For some shoppers like Hollie Krause of Mahwah, New Jersey, Barbie pink blitz that ramped up since June is already getting too much.

Krause, 31, said that she loved her Barbie dolls growing up and had about 20 of them along with a Barbie Dreamhouse. So when some of the merchandise started to roll in earlier this year, she bought Barbie-themed pajamas, a Barbie T-shirt, Barbie-trademarked pink lemonade, along with some other pink outfits.

Now she’s feeling overwhelmed. “Barbie is supposed to be for everyone, but these nostalgic collaborations should feel a little bit more unique or a little bit more creative,” said Krause, who plans to focus on limited edition items.

Barbie’s first live action movie, an homage to the doll with some biting satire, comes at a time when Barbie sales have been up and down after slumping from 2012 to 2015, when it faced stiff competition from other dolls and was under attack for pushing unrealistic beauty standards to girls and lost some relevance. It enjoyed a big bump in sales during the depths of the pandemic when parents were looking to entertain their children.

Barbie now accounts for one-third of Mattel’s revenue and it has been diversifying the dolls with more skin tones and versions with prosthetic legs, wheelchairs and hearing aids. This year, it unveiled its first Down Syndrome doll.

As a result, according to market research firm Circana, Barbie has remained the top fashion doll for the past four years starting in 2019 and through June of this year in the US as well in the combined 12 countries that Circana tracks.

So far, product marketing around the movie has done well.

Category

Mattel’s Barbie that was specifically made for the movie and is dressed in a pink gingham dress, is No. 1 in sales for dolls and for the pre-school dolls and dollhouse category sold on Amazon, according to the retailer’s website.

Neiman Marcus noted that it launched its exclusive Barbie collaboration with Balmain last year and sold out of many items in the first few days. Based on the success of last year’s collaboration and the current Barbiecore cultural phenomenon, it has reissued the collection starting July 10, the retailer said.

Then there’s the mixed social media reviews for the “Pink Burger” offered by Burger King’s franchisee in Brazil. It’s offering a slice of melted cheese, bacon and a smoky-flavored hot pink sauce. The Pink Burger comes in a Barbie Combo, which also features French fries (dubbed “Ken’s Potatoes”), a pink shake and a pink-frosted donut.

“Has BK completely lost its creativity or is just too lazy to think of something better?” said one comment on Burger King Brazil’s Instagram account.

“Think pink! think pink! when you shop for summer clothes. Think pink! think pink! if you want that quelque chose.”

That advice, sung as an epiphany in the 1957 musical film “Funny Face,” has definitely been heeded — just take a look around at fashion and media. The fascination around pink — each shade and hue with its own connotation — has shaped those cultural engines for generations, revving into full force as we reach peak “Barbie” season.

The color has been a crucial detail for films and television — from that scene in “Funny Face,” to Elle Woods sporting her iconic head-to-toe vibrant pink courtroom outfit in 2001’s “Legally Blonde,” to “The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel,” where the shades of pink in costume play a symbolic role in the final season. And, now, with the Greta Gerwig-helmed film’s release, the vividly hot “Barbie Pink” is inescapable.



Danny Wagner, (from left), Josh Kiszka, Jake Kiszka and Sam Kiszka of the band Greta Van Fleet pose before the ‘Metallica Presents: The Helping Hands Concert,’ in Los Angeles on Dec. 16, 2022. Greta Van Fleet’s third album, ‘Starcatcher,’ released on Friday. (AP)



Dan Smyers, (left), and Shay Mooney from the country pop music duo Dan + Shay perform on NBC’s ‘Today’ show on Friday, July 21, in New York. (AP)



Foxx



Quando Rondo

Variety

SAVANNAH, Ga: Prosecutors want the rapper **Quando Rondo** sent back to jail after he crashed a car while free on bond pending trial on gang and drug charges.

The 24-year-old rapper, whose given name is **Tyquan Terrel Bowman**, was indicted last month in his hometown of Savannah. He was released from jail June 26 on a \$100,000 bond. Now prosecutors are asking a judge to revoke his bond.

Their filing in **Chatham County Superior Court** says Bowman crashed a car while driving at high speed, and that emergency responders “administered Narcan as he was exhibiting signs of an overdose.”

Narcan is a drug used to treat opioid overdoses. Bowman was ordered to refrain from using illegal drugs as a condition of his bond, according to court records.

Bowman’s attorney, **Kimberly Copeland**, had no comment on the case, said a woman answering the phone at Copeland’s law office Friday.

A judge scheduled a hearing on Bowman’s bond. Prosecutors obtained a subpoena for toxicology tests and other medical records from the hospital that treated Bowman after the crash. (AP)

JAKARTA, Indonesia: British pop rock band The 1975 announced on Sunday it was canceling its shows in Jakarta and Taipei after the Malaysian government cut short a music festival in the wake of the band’s lead singer slamming the country’s anti-gay laws and kissing a bandmate during their performance.

The 1975 was scheduled to have a performance at We The Fest, Indonesia’s annual summer music festival, in Jakarta on Sunday night, part of their 2023 Asia tour.

“The 1975 regret to announce that their forthcoming shows in Jakarta and Taipei will no longer be going ahead as planned,” the group said in a statement posted on We The Fest’s social media platforms on Sunday. They added that the decision was not made lightly “but unfortunately due to the current circumstances, it is impossible to proceed with the current shows.”

Music

Drake’s ‘For All the Dogs’ album may drop soon

Greta Van Fleet soars on new album

LOS ANGELES, July 23, (AP) — “Starcatcher” is the third studio from Greta Van Fleet (GVF), and the latest confirmation that the band’s love affair with the bombast of ‘70s-era rock has not grown stagnant.

We’ve come to know Greta Van Fleet from their early and obvious Led Zeppelin comparisons to the Grammy-winning ground they now lay claim to. We now accept this is not merely a trick of mimicry. They’ve grown.

“Starcatcher” offers lofty, searing songs right out of the gate. “Fate of the Faithful” is in immediate overdrive, and “Waited All Your Life” is full of powerful fits and starts, led by Josh Kiszka’s soaring vocals. “You’ve come from so far away! And do you intend to stay? Swim to shore! If this is what you’re looking for,” Kiszka belts out, his voice the additional instrument that moves the needle for the band’s sound.

His brother, bassist Sam Kiszka, said in a press release that the album represents “going back to our roots while moving forward at the same time.” They wanted something raw around the edges and found it. The growling guitar work blends nicely with the fantastical themes and lyrics.

It’s one thing to hear a musician’s work, their offering. It’s quite another to experience a band’s collective vision — in GVF’s case, that means building a sonic universe rooted in fantasy. The band continues to invite us to absorb the evolution of that vision.

Hip-hop’s top dog is readying a new album, and it could be here sooner than you think.

Drake told a capacity-filled Barclays Center crowd in Brooklyn Thursday night that his upcoming project, “For All the Dogs,” would drop in approximately “a couple of weeks.” The 36-year-old megastar, known for releasing music without an announced date, teased the potential project at his intimate Apollo show in January.

In addition to Thursday’s announce-

ment, the five-time Grammy winner, photographed wearing a Doberman dog mask earlier in the day, said he was also releasing a new freestyle on Friday.

While details are scarce, he confirmed a **Nick Minaj**-collaboration during a Detroit show earlier this month. “For All the Dogs” will mark his latest project since his 21 Savage joint album, “Her Loss,” released in November. His last solo release, the dance-themed “Honestly, Nevermind” EP, dropped in 2022.

While the summer of 2023 has marked a strong showing of girl power with women-led concerts, including **Beyoncé** and **Taylor Swift**, Drake’s 56-date “It Was All a Blur” tour has reminded the music world he is not to be forgotten.

Shows

Drizzy’s Thursday night performance marked his third of four straight sold out shows at Barclays, with three more **New York**-area stints at Madison Square Garden starting Sunday. It’s his first headline outing since the pre-COVID Aubrey & the Three Migos tour in 2018.

Drake, who released his first book of poetry last month with songwriter **Kenya Samir**, named “Titles Ruin Everything: A Stream of Consciousness,” opened with his pensive, deep album cut, “Look What You’ve Done,” a piano-led dedication to his mother, uncle, and grandmother from 2011’s “Take Care.”

He then launched into some of his early hits such as “Marvin’s Room,” “Say Something” and “Feel No Ways,” the relationship-dissolving track that became hugely popular despite not being a single. In addition to early songs, Drake delved into more material from his Young Money era before giving the crowd many of his latest and greatest big records from his solo setlist of more than 35 songs.

Declaring the greatness of his hit-making, the **Toronto** native confi-

dently told the audience — who were on their feet for virtually the entire two-hour set — “Nobody’s (expletive) with me. I got too many,” a sentiment he repeated a various times.

Throughout the night, a spectacular light show bounced throughout the arena and various giant inflatables or figures that were suspended above the stage circled Drake. They included a bride, a Peter Pan effigy, a blowup resembling an exotic dancer, and a huge singular, holographic sperm cell — yes, you read that right — with animated sperm cells swimming on stage floor monitors. He dedicated that portion of the concert to his female fans.

Bras were thrown on stage, following the recent stint of objects being tossed at artists, and even a vape pen. Drake responded with, “There’s no way you’re taking life serious if you think I’m going to pick this vape up and vape with you at the (expletive) Barclays center. You have some real life evaluating to do.”

In an unorthodox concert sequence, Grammy-winning-rapper 21 Savage followed Drake with a short set performing a few of his big records including “Red Opps,” his Post Malone collaboration “Rock Star,” “A Lot” and “Bank Account.” Drake would return and the pair ran through songs from “Her Loss,” including “Spin Bout U” and “Rich Flex.”

The “Best I Ever Had” rapper closed the show by walking down from the stage toward a gigantic statue-like figure of **Virgil Abloh** while audio from the designer played. Abloh, who died of cancer at 41 in 2021, was a Black designer who created groundbreaking fusions of streetwear and high couture, prompting many in the fashion world to label him as his generation’s **Karl Lagerfeld**.

“He’s not only inspired me through direct conversations that we’ve had, but I’ve also just met some incredible people through this man,” Drake said before closing the night with his song, “Legend.”

Indonesia, the world’s most populous Muslim nation, does not prohibit LGBTQ rights except in the conservative Aceh province.

Matt Healey, the lead vocal of The 1975, used profanity in his speech criti-

cizing the government. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: Academy Award winning actor, singer and comedian **Jamie Foxx** said in an Instagram video that he



This image released by Apple TV+ shows Stephen Curry in a scene from the documentary ‘Stephen Curry: Underrated.’ (AP) — Details Page 11

is recovering from an undisclosed medical condition.

“I went to hell and back, and my road to recovery has some potholes as well, but I’m coming back,” Foxx, appearing thin and wearing a dark pullover shirt, said in the three minute, 15 second video. “I’m able to work.”

Foxx, 55, was hospitalized in April with what his daughter, **Corinne Fox**, described at the time as a “medical complication” and Foxx did not disclose the nature of his condition in his first public comments since being hospitalized.

“I just didn’t want you to see me like that ... I didn’t want you to see me with tubes running out of me and trying to figure out if I was going to make it through,” Foxx said, thanking his daughter, sister, God and medical professionals for saving his life.

“I went through something that I thought I would never, ever go through,” Foxx said.

“Every once in a while I just burst into tears ... because it’s been tough, man, I was sick ... but now I’ve got my legs under me so you’re going to see me,” Foxx said. (AP)

Health

More malaria feared

Mosquitoes on the go as temperatures rise

NEW YORK, July 23, (AP): As the planet warms, mosquitoes are slowly migrating upward.

The temperature range where malaria-carrying mosquitoes thrive is rising in elevation. Researchers have found evidence of the phenomenon from the tropical highlands of South America to the mountainous, populous regions of eastern Africa.

Scientists now worry people living in areas once inhospitable to the insects, including the slopes of Mt. Kilimanjaro and the mountains of eastern Ethiopia, could be newly exposed to the disease.

“As it gets warmer at higher altitudes with climate change and all of these other environmental changes, then mosquitoes can survive higher up the mountain,” said **Manisha Kulkarni**, a professor and researcher studying malaria in sub-Saharan Africa at the University of Ottawa.

Kulkarni led a study published in 2016 that found the habitat for malaria-carrying mosquitoes had expanded in the high-elevation Mt. Kilimanjaro region by hundreds of square kilometers in just 10 years. Lower altitudes, in contrast, are becoming too hot for the bugs.

Similar occurrences have been found elsewhere. For example, researchers in 2015 also noticed native Hawaiian birds were squeezed out of lower elevation habitats as mosquitoes carrying avian malaria slowly migrated upward into their territory. But given 96% of malaria deaths occurred in Africa in 2021, most research on the trend is found there.

The region Kulkarni studied, which is growing in population, is close to the border of Tanzania and Kenya. Together, the two countries accounted for 6% of global malaria deaths in 2021.

Global deaths from malaria declined by 29% between 2002 and 2021, as countries have taken more aggressive tactics in fighting the disease. However, the numbers remain high, especially in Africa where children under 5 years old account for 80% of all malaria deaths. The latest world malaria report from the WHO recorded 247 million cases of malaria in 2021 - Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda and Mozambique alone accounted for almost half of those cases.

Distribution
“The link between climate change and expansion or change in mosquito distributions is real,” said Doug Norris, a specialist in mosquitoes at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, who was not involved in the research.

Despite this, uncertainty remains on the extent of how shifting mosquito populations will affect people in the future. A recent Georgetown University study investigating the movement of mosquitoes across all of sub-Saharan Africa also found the vectors have moved upward in elevation at a rate of 6.5 meters (roughly 21 feet) each year.

Mosquitoes are picky about their habitat, Norris added, and the various malaria-carrying species have different preferences in temperature, humidity and amount of rainfall. Add on the fact that people are fighting malaria with bed nets, insecticides and other tools, and it becomes hard to pin any single trend to climate change, he said.

Jeremy Herren, who studies malaria at the Nairobi-based International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology, said there is evidence that climate change is already impacting where mosquito populations choose to live. But, he said, it is still difficult to predict how malaria will spread.

For example, in Kenya, Herren said researchers have documented “massive shifts” in malaria in mosquitoes. A species that was once dominant is now almost impossible to find, he said. But those changes are probably not due to climate change, he said, adding that the rollout of insecticide-treated nets is one explanation for that shift.

In general, however, mosquitoes grow faster in warmer conditions, Norris said.

Rising temperatures are also not the only way a changing climate gives mosquitoes the upper hand. The bugs tend to thrive in the kind of extremes that are happening more frequently because of human-caused climate change.

Longer rainy seasons can create better habitats for mosquitoes, which breed in water. But conversely, while droughts can dry up those habitats, they also encourage people to store water in containers, creating perfect breeding sites. An outbreak of chikungunya, another mosquito-borne disease, between 2004 and 2005 was linked to drought in coastal Kenya for these reasons.

Researchers were also able to tie a reduction in malaria cases in the highlands of Ethiopia in the early 2000s to a decline in temperatures happening at the same time.

Weather patterns in the years prior had stalled the effects of global warming.

Pamela Martinez, a researcher at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, said her team’s findings on malaria trends in Ethiopia, which were published in 2021 in the journal *Nature*, lent more confidence to the idea that malaria and temperature - and, therefore, climate change - are linked.

Intervention

“We see that when temperature goes down, the overall trend of cases also goes down, even in the absence of intervention,” Martinez said. “That proves the case that temperature has an impact on transmission.”

The researchers also noticed mosquito populations creeping upward during warmer years.

Temperatures began to warm again in the mid-2000s, but public health officials also ramped up efforts to control malaria in the highlands region of Ethiopia around that time, which has led to a sustained decline in cases.

But even as the Ethiopian Ministry of Health drafted a plan to eliminate malaria by 2030, its authors laid out the threats to that goal: population shifts, a lack of funding, the invasion of a new mosquito species and climate change.

Recently, a southwest Florida county has documented a seventh case of malaria, state authorities said.

The Florida Department of Health reported a new locally acquired case of malaria in Sarasota County during the week of July 9-15. That’s in addition to five cases last month and one case in May.

Sarasota County and Manatee County directly to the north have been under a mosquito-borne illness alert for nearly a month. The area is located on the Gulf of Mexico, just south of Tampa Bay.

Sarasota County officials have been using aircraft, trucks and ground crews to apply insecticide to the area where the malaria cases were reported. Mosquito control workers are trapping the insects and sending them to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for evaluation.

About 2,000 US cases of malaria are diagnosed each year - the vast majority in travelers coming from countries where malaria commonly spreads.

Since 1992, there have been 11 outbreaks involving malaria from mosquitoes in the US. The last one occurred in 2003 in Palm Beach County, Florida, where eight cases were reported.



Kulkarni



A scale model of the Space Shuttle Endeavour is displayed as the second of its two Solid Rocket Aft Skirts is lifted by a crane to be placed on top of a seismic isolator pad inside the Shuttle Gallery at the Samuel Oschin Air and Space Center, which is currently under construction in Los Angeles Thursday, July 20. The two Aft Skirts flew on a combined 15 space shuttle flights, dating back to 1982, STS-3, the third mission. (AP)

Calif Science Center starts complex process to display Space Shuttle Endeavour vertically

A highly technical process began Thursday in Los Angeles to put NASA’s retired Space Shuttle Endeavour on permanent display in the vertical launch position complete with external tank and two solid rocket boosters.

Workers used a crane to hoist the bottom segments of the boosters into the California Science Center’s future Samuel Oschin Air and Space Center, which is currently under construction in Exposition Park.

The segments, called aft skirts, had to be precisely

positioned so that the entire assembly can be stacked properly. Officials say it will be the first time the procedure has been done outside of a NASA facility.

The 20-story-tall display will stand atop an 1,800-ton (1,633-metric ton) concrete slab supported by six so-called base isolators to protect Endeavour from earthquakes.

Endeavour was built as a replacement for the destroyed Space Shuttle Challenger and flew 25 missions between 1992 and 2011.

When NASA’s shuttles were retired, Endeavour was flown to California atop NASA’s special Boeing 747 shuttle carrier in 2012, drawing crowds as it flew over locations in the state associated with the space program.

After landing at Los Angeles International Airport, the shuttle was placed on a special trailer and then created a sensation as it was inched through tight city streets to the California Science Center over several days. (AP)



A woman uses water to cool off her dog during a sweltering day in the Mediterranean Sea in Beirut, Lebanon, Thursday, July 20. (AP)



Titus



Leigh

Discovery

‘Water contains risk of disease’: Officials in South Dakota’s third most populous city, Aberdeen, are warning residents that their drinking water contains an elevated risk of disease.

The Aberdeen Water Works Treatment Plant experienced mechanical malfunctions in two filters used to clean water and make it drinkable for residents, resulting in “an increased chance of disease-causing organisms in the drinking water,” according to a public notice from the city, The Argus Leader reported.

The city noticed the malfunctions after a water sample taken July 10 tested at 5.35 nephelometric turbidity units - used to measure the presence of particles in water - which is more than five times the 1 NTU standard for safe drinking water in the state, according to The Argus Leader.

The city’s notice said it’s not necessary for residents to boil or decontaminate their water, but that people with severely compromised immune systems, infants and older people are at increased risk of getting sick and should contact their health care providers before drinking the water.

One of the two malfunctioning water filters has been repaired, while the other filter remains offline until it can be fixed, according to the notice. (AP)

11 mustangs die in roundup: Nearly a dozen wild horses have died in the first 10 days of a big mustang roundup in Nevada, deaths that a Las Vegas congresswoman is calling tragic proof of the urgent need to outlaw helicopters to capture the animals on federal land.

The 11 deaths so far include five young foals, four horses with broken necks and a stallion with a snapped rear leg that was chased by a helicopter and horseback rider as it tried to flee on three legs for 35 minutes before it was euthanized, according to witnesses.

The horse that broke the leg jumping over a trap fence was a lead Palomino stallion called “Mr. Sunshine” by those who’d watched him roam wild over the years southeast of Elko.

A longtime observer and defender of the mustangs caught the animal’s struggle on video.

“It made me physically ill to see what was done to that beautiful stallion I have known for years,” said **Laura Leigh**, the founder of Nevada-based nonprofit organization Wild Horse Education.

Leigh, who’s been fighting roundups in court for more than a decade and advocates ending them altogether, said the contracted

The Conversation

Middle East among hardest hit regions

Diabetes to affect over 1.3b by 2050

By **Lauryn Stafford**, University of Washington and **Liane Ong**, University of Washington

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

The Research Brief is a short take about interesting academic work.

The number of people living with diabetes worldwide is on pace to more than double in the next three decades, for a total of 1.3 billion people by 2050. That is one of the key findings from our study on the global burden of diabetes recently published in *The Lancet*.

We analyzed and synthesized all available epidemiological data on diabetes burden - defined as health decline due to diabetes captured through the number of cases, disease severity and deaths. Our study included more than 27,000 data sources to produce estimates of diabetes prevalence, disability and deaths for 204 countries and territories from 1990 through 2021. Using a modeling tool that takes into account sociodemographic factors and obesity, we projected diabetes prevalence out to 2050.

We also estimated the proportion of diabetes disability and death attributable to specific risk factors related to obesity, diet, physical activity, environment or occupation, tobacco use and alcohol use.

This analysis is part of the larger Global Burden of Diseases, Injuries, and Risk Factors Study, which has quantified health decline due to hundreds of diseases, injuries and risk factors since 1990. Thousands of health experts and researchers around the world both contribute to and use estimates from this study, which is continually updated.

Our team projected that every country is expected to experience an increase in diabetes cases by 2050. In the regions that are expected to be hardest hit - including North Africa and the Middle East and Pacific island nations - there are countries where as many as 1 in 5 people could be living with diabetes in 2050 if current trends continue. Among older adults in these regions, diabetes prevalence is expected to be even higher.

While both Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes are characterized by high levels of blood sugar, also known as glucose, Type 2 is a largely preventable disease that occurs because of gradual insulin resistance and is commonly diagnosed among adults. Type 1, on the other hand, is an autoimmune disease where the body cannot produce insulin; it typically develops during childhood or adolescence.

Complications

The vast majority of new diabetes cases in the next three decades are projected to be Type 2. We expect the two primary drivers will be aging populations and increases in obesity. In 2021, obesity was the most important risk factor for Type 2 diabetes, accounting for more than half of disability and death from the disease.

People living with diabetes are at significantly higher risk of developing and dying from other major diseases, including ischemic heart disease and stroke, and from complications such as vision loss and foot ulcers. This compounds the stress of diabetes on health care systems, requiring more comprehensive screening and management. However, a study found that fewer than 1 in 10 people with diabetes

in low- and middle-income countries have access to comprehensive diabetes treatment.

Based on an abundance of research, the two primary drivers of the expected rise in diabetes cases will be aging and obesity. As people age, their bodies’ ability to regulate blood sugar levels changes.

In addition, studies indicate that obesity rates will continue to rise. No program has yet shown sustainable and population-level reductions in obesity.

To reverse this trend in obesity rates, an approach that targets both the behavioral and structural factors related to maintaining a healthy diet and getting enough physical activity will be needed.

While our study reports on diabetes trends and risk factors over time by age, sex and geography, there are other factors that offer clues to why diabetes disproportionately afflicts certain populations.

Research shows that there are many complex social and economic dynamics at play when it comes to trying to live a healthy lifestyle. Low income, low education level and living in urban areas are all associated with a higher risk of developing Type 2 diabetes. Studies also show that Type 2 diabetes disproportionately affects Indigenous populations across the world, largely owing to colonization and resulting disruptions to their traditional ways of life.

The rapid increase in the number of people living with diabetes that we project in our study doesn’t have to become a reality. Understanding how these trends are tied in with how people live is the first step toward changing the course of this disease over the coming decades. (AP)

wranglers were trying to pressure the mustangs into the temporary trap coral when the horse leaped out and broke the leg.

“He tried to buck off the searing pain and then struggled on three legs. He was then pursued to the far side of the valley and shot. The incident took longer than 30 minutes to

resolve,” she said. “These barbaric, cruel, intentional acts must end.”

The deaths should serve as a wake-up call, said Nevada Democratic Rep **Dina Titus**. “A horse with a broken leg was chased in the sweltering heat by a helicopter,” she said, criticizing a Bureau of Land Man-

agement practice she is trying to ban through House legislation.

“This latest instance of BLM mistreatment of Nevada’s wild horses is tragic,” Titus said. (AP)

Dingo pack leader killed: Wildlife authorities have killed the leader of a pack of dingoes that mauled a jogger on a popular Australian tourist island in a ferocious attack that a rescuer said could have been fatal.

Sarah Peet, 23, was attacked by three or four Australian native dogs as she jogged along a beach at Queensland state’s K’gari, the world’s largest sand island formerly known as Fraser Island.

The Brisbane resident was flown by helicopter to a mainland hospital in a stable condition. The health department refused to provide an update on her condition, citing patient confidentiality.

Wildlife rangers captured and humanely euthanized the leader of the pack on Wednesday, the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service said.

“Euthanizing a high-risk dingo is always a last resort and the tough decision by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service was supported by the island’s traditional owners, the Butchulla people,” a service statement said.

The dingo was the second on the island in recent weeks to be killed for biting and threatening behavior. Authorities blame dingoes’ increasing fearlessness on tourists who ignore rules by feeding them or encouraging them to approach in order to post social media images. (AP)



This 2014 photo made available by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows a feeding female *Anopheles gambiae* mosquito. The species is a known vector for the parasitic disease malaria. The United States has seen five cases of malaria spread by mosquitoes in the last two months ... the first time there’s been local spread in 20 years. There were four cases detected in Florida and one in Texas, according to a health alert issued Monday, June 26, 2023, by the CDC. (AP)

McLaughlin finishes second

Newgarden continues IndyCar oval dominance with win in Iowa

O'Hearn's pinch-hit RBI single in 9th rallies Orioles past Rays



Baltimore Orioles relief pitcher Shintaro Fujinami throws to a Tampa Bay Rays batter during the eighth inning of a baseball game in St. Petersburg, Fla. (AP)

Red Sox, Mets split doubleheader

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla., July 23, (AP): Ryan O'Hearn had a pinch-hit RBI single in the ninth inning and the AL East-leading Baltimore Orioles rebounded after blowing a five-run lead to beat the Tampa Bay Rays for the second time in three days, 6-5 on Saturday.

The Orioles, who have won 11 of 14, took a one-game lead over the second-place Rays. Baltimore started July 6 1/2 games behind Tampa Bay, which dropped to an AL-worst 4-13 in July.

The four-game series concludes Sunday.

Pinch-hitter Adam Frazier had a ninth-inning leadoff single off Pete Fairbanks (0-4), went to second on James McCann's sacrifice bunt and scored on O'Hearn's liner to right.

Cionel Pérez (3-1) got the final out in the eighth, and Félix Bautista worked a perfect ninth to get his 27th save.

Mets 5, Red Sox 4, 1st game

Red Sox 8, Mets 6, 2nd game
In Boston, Triston Casas had his first career multihomer game, and Yu Chang and Jarren Duran also went deep off Max Scherzer in the nightcap as Boston and New York split a doubleheader.

Brandon Nimmo and Daniel Vogelbach each hit a two-run homer for the Mets before the rains came on Friday night, when the series opener was suspended in the fourth inning. After they picked things up there on Saturday afternoon, the teams traded runs and the New York held on to take the day game 5-4 for their fourth win in five games.

Casas had four hits on the day, and Masataka Yoshida had three in the night game, knocking an RBI single in the seventh just before Justin Turner's two-run homer gave Boston an 8-3 lead.

James Paxton (6-2) struck out seven in six innings to snap Boston's three-game losing streak. Scherzer was charged with five runs while striking out seven; it's the first time he's allowed four homers in an outing since his 2021 season debut.

Dodgers 16, Rangers 3

In Arlington, Freddie Freeman hit two more home runs, Max Muncy and J.D. Martinez also went deep as NL West-leading Los Angeles dealt AL West-leading Texas its most lopsided loss of the season.

The Dodgers, who won for the 10th time in 12 games, matched their season highs with 18 hits and five homers. Their last long ball was Jonny Deluca's three-run shot in the ninth off Texas utility player Brad Miller, who pitched the final two innings.

Freeman went 4 for 5 with his 19th and 20th homers. Dodgers rookie starter Bobby Miller (6-1) gave up Marcus Semien's homer on his second pitch, and worked six solid innings, striking out six without a walk.

Yankees 5, Royals 2

In New York, DJ LeMahieu hit the go-ahead home run in the 7th inning. Gerrit Cole struck out 10 and New York defeated Kansas City.

Giancarlo Stanton homered and drove in three runs and Anthony Volpe doubled and stole a base for the Yan-

kees, who won their second straight game and pick up their first series win in July. New York has won 17 of the last 21 meetings with Kansas City.

Nick Pratto homered and Brady Singer struck out nine in another strong start at Yankee Stadium for the Royals, who lost for the seventh time in nine games following the All-Star break.

Pirates 3, Angels 0

In Anaheim, Endy Rodriguez hit his first major league homer, five pitchers combined on a five-hitter and Pittsburgh ended Los Angeles' four-game winning streak.

Rodriguez sent a full-count slider from Gerardo Reyes into the elevated stands in right-center leading off the sixth inning. At 23 years and 57 days old, he became the youngest Pirates catcher to homer since Jason Kendall (23 years, 42 days) on Aug. 7, 1997, against the Marlins.

Bryan Reynolds and Carlos Santana had RBI hits as Pittsburgh won for the fourth time in 17 games this month.

Luis Rengifo had two hits for the Angels, but Shohei Ohtani went 0 for 4 and struck out three times. Starter Reid Detmers (2-7) struck out nine and allowed six hits and two runs in five innings.

Athletics 4, Astros 1

In Oakland, Jace Peterson hit a go-ahead two-run single in the sixth. Zack Gelof hit his first major league home run in the seventh and Oakland snapped a nine-game losing streak to Houston.

Seth Brown connected for his 10th homer in the eighth. With one out in the ninth, Tony Kemp made a catch on the wall in left with two runners on to rob pinch-hitter Yainer Diaz of a home run and help preserve the save by Trevor May. Austin Pruitt (2-6) recorded the final two outs in the sixth for the win.

Houston starter Cristian Javier didn't allow a hit until Gelof's one-out single in the sixth then couldn't recover and finished with a season-high six walks to go with five strikeouts over 5 2/3 innings. Javier (7-2) lost for the first time in 13 starts.

Cubs 8, Cardinals 6

In Chicago, Cody Bellinger drove in four runs and Nico Hoerner had three of Chicago's 15 hits in a win over NL Central rival St. Louis.

Chicago trailed 1-0, 3-1, 5-3 and 6-5 before moving in front for the first time with three runs in the sixth inning. Bellinger yanked a two-run single into right field and Seiya Suzuki followed with an RBI single, giving the Cubs an 8-6 lead.



Cincinnati Reds' Elly De La Cruz scores a run on a groundout by Jake Fraley during the eighth inning of a baseball game against the Arizona Diamondbacks in Cincinnati. (AP)

Lars Nootbaar and Nolan Gorman homered for St. Louis, which has dropped two in a row after a six-game win streak. Nootbaar had three hits, scored three times and made two impressive defensive plays in a terrific all-around performance.

Daniel Palencia (2-0) got one out for the win. Zack Thompson (2-3) was charged with all three runs in the sixth.

Albert Alzola worked the ninth for his ninth save.

Reds 4, Diamondbacks 2

In Cincinnati, TJ Friedl, Matt McLain and Jake Fraley hit consecutive home runs in the sixth inning and Cincinnati beat Arizona for its fourth straight victory.

Diamondbacks rookie right-hander Brandon Pfaadt (0-4), just recalled from Triple-A Reno, retired 16 in a row after Spencer Steer led off the first with a single before Friedl started the power spree.

The Reds last hit three consecutive homers on July 13, 2022, when Kyle Farmer, Mike Moustakas, and Stuart Fairchild went deep at Yankee Stadium.

Reds rookie left-hander Brandon Williamson (2-2) allowed one run and three hits.

Corbin Carroll hit his 20th home run in the ninth off Alexis Diaz, who finished for his 29th save.

Rockies 4, Marlins 3

In Miami, Nolan Jones hit a three-run homer in the seventh inning and Randal Grichuk hit a go-ahead RBI single in the ninth as Colorado rallied from an early three-run deficit to beat Miami.

BASEBALL

Grichuk's first hit of the game scored Ryan McMahon. He led off the inning with a single off reliever Tanner Scott (4-3) and went to second when pinch-hitter Elias Díaz was hit by a pitch.

Daniel Bard (4-1) worked an inning of relief and earned the victory. Justin Lawrence pitched a scoreless ninth for his seventh save of the season.

MLB-batting leader Luis Arraez hit a ground-rule double in the third and an RBI triple in the fifth that gave the Marlins a 2-0 lead. His batting average rose from .373 to .375.

Mariners 9, Blue Jays 8

In Seattle, J.P. Crawford and Teoscar Hernández had two-run doubles as part of a five-run seventh inning and Seattle rallied to beat Toronto.

The teams combined for seven home runs, including each side having a three-homer inning. Seattle led 3-0, watched Toronto rally for leads of 5-3 and 7-4, before the Mariners finally took control with their big seventh inning.

Cal Raleigh homered twice for Seattle, while Dylan Moore and Julio Rodríguez added solo shots. Toronto's Nate Pearson (5-2) took the loss.

Vladimir Guerrero Jr., Brandon Belt and Kevin Kiermaier homered for the Blue Jays. Isaiah Campbell (1-0) picked up the win.

Guardians 1, Phillies 0

In Cleveland, rookie Tanner Bibee struck out eight in seven dominant innings and Amed Rosario scored on a misplayed pop-up in the sixth in Cleveland's win over Philadelphia.

Bibee (6-2) limited the Phillies to two hits and one walk in his second-longest start in the majors. Enyel De Los Santos worked the eighth and All-

Star closer Emmanuel Clase picked up his 27th save for the Guardians, who have won four of five.

Philadelphia's Zach Wheeler (7-5) worked seven innings, allowing five hits while striking out eight. Edmundo Sosa doubled and Trea Turner singled for the Phillies, who lost their fourth in a row.

Nationals 10, Giants 1

In Washington, CJ Abrams hit a two-run homer on his bobblehead night. Josiah Gray earned his first win since June 30 and Washington routed San Francisco and moved into a position to complete its first series sweep since August 2021.

With a victory Sunday, Washington can claim its first sweep since taking both games from Toronto in August 2021. The Nationals haven't swept a three-game series since June 2021 against Pittsburgh.

San Francisco has lost four in a row since a seven-game winning streak.

Gray (7-8) settled in after walking three of the Giants' first five batters, scattering four hits and striking out four over seven innings to match his longest career outing.

Webb (8-8) allowed six runs and struck out two over 1 1/3 innings, his shortest outing in 98 career starts.

Brewers 4, Braves 3

In Milwaukee, Sal Frelick went 3 for 3, drove in the go-ahead run in the eighth inning and made two outstanding catches in his major league debut as Milwaukee rallied to beat Atlanta.

Austin Riley homered for the fifth straight game in a losing cause to tie a Braves franchise record. Riley, who hit a three-run shot, has gone 10 for 21 with six homers, 16 RBIs and nine runs over his last five games.

Frelick made sure the Brewers came all the way back. Devin Williams then preserved Milwaukee's lead by working out of a bases-loaded jam in the ninth to earn his 25th save in 27 opportunities.

Padres 14, Tigers 3

In Detroit, Luis Campusano had a homer among his four hits and San Diego beat Detroit for the 4,000th victory in franchise history.

Manny Machado and Ha-Seong Kim also homered for the Padres, who trailed 3-0 after two innings.

Jackson Wolf (1-0) won his major league debut, waiting out an 84-minute rain delay in the second. He gave up three runs on six hits and a walk in five innings.

Mason Englert (4-3), who replaced Detroit starter Matt Manning after the delay, allowed nine runs and 10 hits in 2 1/3 innings.

Twins 3, White Sox 2

In Minnesota, Christian Vázquez drove in the tying run and Michael A. Taylor followed with an RBI single, all in the seventh inning, in Minnesota's win over Chicago.

Jordan Balazovic (1-0) pitched a scoreless seventh inning and earned his first big league victory. Joao Duran pitched a scoreless ninth for his 17 save of the year.

Trailing 2-1 with two runners on in the seventh, Vázquez hit what he thought was a go-ahead three-run homer off reliever Gregory Santos. But, the ball hit the top of the left-field wall and was ruled a double, scoring Byron Buxton. Later in the inning, Taylor put the Twins, hitting a sharp single to center after trying unsuccessfully to bunt earlier in the at-bat. His hit four pitches later drove in Kyle Farmer.

NEWTON, Iowa, July 23, (AP): Josef Newgarden understands what comes with the success he has had on the ovals in the IndyCar Series.

And he knows what everyone thinks when he shows up at Iowa Speedway.

"There's a pressure that's on us when we show up here, and that's the assumption," Newgarden said. "The assumption that we're going to be great, that we're the No. 2 car, and we should be really good here." Newgarden was good again at the .875-mile oval, winning for the fifth time at the track in Saturday's opening 250-lap race of a weekend doubleheader.

It was Newgarden's third win of the season, all on ovals. Newgarden also won at Texas Motor Speedway and the Indianapolis 500.

"When we walk in here, they just assume we're going to be quick," Newgarden said. "It's not the attitude you can have. You can't feel like anything is given." Scott McLaughlin finished second. Pato O'Ward, who along with Newgarden won in last season's doubleheader at Iowa, was third, and Marcus Ericsson finished fourth.

AUTO RACING

"I'm going to get him at some point," McLaughlin said of Newgarden. "I'm very determined. It's a nice little rabbit to chase when he's out front. When you know what he's doing, and can keep up to him, it's a nice feeling." Newgarden sat down with McLaughlin this week and talked about how to solve Iowa Speedway.

"I've tried to be as transparent as I can with him, as a teammate," Newgarden said. "If he knows exactly what I know, it's going to come down to who is going to do the better job. If he does a better job than me, then he deserves to win. But I hope he doesn't do a better job than me tomorrow." "What I learned with Josef the last couple of weeks was huge," McLaughlin said.

Newgarden, who started third, kept pace with Team Penske teammates Will Power and McLaughlin throughout the early portion of the race as they weaved their way through the 28-car field on the .875-mile oval. The three began lapping cars by Lap 17 and had lapped everyone but the rest of the top 10 by Lap 58.

Power, the pole-sitter for this race and Sunday's 250-lap race, led all but one of the first 120 laps. McLaughlin challenged early but couldn't get around Power, but Newgarden was

able to get into the lead on the 121st lap with a pass on the back straightaway after Power slid a little high coming out of the second turn.

The race was run without a caution flag until Graham Rahal hit the wall coming out of the fourth turn on Lap 152. Newgarden was able to maintain his lead out of the ensuing round of pit stops, with McLaughlin right behind him.

Newgarden kept the lead throughout the last round of pit stops on Lap 207, and withstood a late run from McLaughlin, who got to within a second of Newgarden as they ran into lapped traffic in the final three laps.

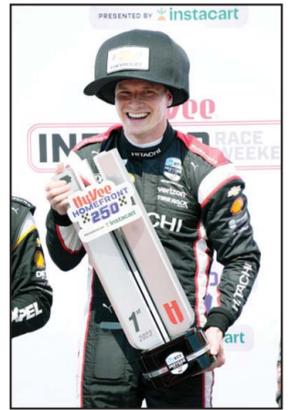
Newgarden led a race-high 129 laps. "We didn't have anything for the Pensks," O'Ward said.

Power, who has never won at Iowa Speedway, clipped the wall in Turn 4 on Lap 146 and never challenged for the lead again. He finished fifth, the last driver on the lead lap.

Newgarden moved into second place in the series standings, getting to within 98 points of leader Alex Palou, who finished eighth.

"You can't take little bites out of him," said Newgarden, who knocked 28 points off the deficit he had with Palou with six races left in the season. "It's not going to work." Newgarden will start seventh in Sunday's race, the result of his second lap in Saturday's morning qualifying that left him disappointed.

Which is why he wasn't completely celebrating Saturday's win.



Josef Newgarden celebrates on the podium after winning an IndyCar Series auto race at Iowa Speedway in Newton, Iowa. (AP)

MLB Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, July 23, (AP): Results and standings from the MLB games on Saturday.

NY Yankees	5	Kansas City	2	Minnesota	3	Chicago W. Sox	2
NY Mets	5	Boston 1st game	4	Pittsburgh	3	LA Angels	0
LA Dodgers	16	Texas	3	Oakland	4	Houston	1
Seattle	9	Toronto	8	Colorado	4	Miami	3
Baltimore	6	Tampa Bay	5	Chicago Cubs	8	St. Louis	6
San Diego	14	Detroit	5	Cincinnati	6	Arizona	2
Cleveland	1	Philadelphia	0	Washington	10	San Francisco	1
Boston	8	NY Mets 2nd game	6	Milwaukee	4	Atlanta	3

American League				National League				
East Division		West Division		East Division		West Division		
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB	
Baltimore	60	38	.612	—	Atlanta	63	34	.649
Tampa Bay	61	41	.598	1	Philadelphia	52	46	.531
Boston	54	45	.545	6-1/2	Miami	57	47	.530
Boston	52	47	.525	8-1/2	New York	46	52	.469
New York	52	47	.525	8-1/2	Washington	40	58	.408
Central Division				Central Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB	
Minnesota	52	48	.520	—	Milwaukee	55	44	.556
Cleveland	49	49	.500	2	Cincinnati	54	46	.540
Detroit	44	54	.448	7	Chicago	47	51	.480
Chicago	41	59	.410	11	St. Louis	44	55	.444
Kansas City	28	72	.280	24	Pittsburgh	43	55	.439
West Division				West Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB	
Texas	58	41	.586	—	Los Angeles	57	40	.588
Houston	55	44	.556	3	Arizona	54	45	.545
Seattle	50	48	.510	7-1/2	San Francisco	54	45	.545
Los Angeles	50	49	.505	8	San Diego	48	51	.485
Oakland	28	73	.277	31	Colorado	39	59	.398

Copper ties career-high with 29 pts, Sky beat Storm to snap skid

SEATTLE, July 23, (AP): Kahleah Copper matched her career-high with 29 points, making all 11 of her free throw attempts, to help the Chicago Sky beat Seattle 90-75 on Saturday night, extending the Storm's losing streak to a franchise record nine games.

Marina Mabrey added 22 points, including hitting four 3-pointers. Alanna Smith had nine points, a career-high 17 rebounds, a career-best tying four steals and three blocks for Chicago (9-13). The Sky snapped a four-game losing streak.

Copper hit a 3-pointer to cap Chicago's 7-2 opening. Ruthy Hebard scored inside to make it 24-10 late in the first quarter and the Sky led by double figures the rest of the way.

Wings 98, Sparks 84

In Arlington, Arike Ogunbowale scored 12 of her 25 points in the third quarter as Dallas pulled away from the Los Angeles Sparks and the Wings won 98-84 for their fifth victory in a row.

Satou Sabally added 26 points, 11 rebounds and six assists while Natasha Howard had 28 points and 11 rebounds. She also had four steals for the Wings (13-9), who have won seven of their last eight games.

Los Angeles (7-15) has lost a franchise record eight consecutive games since back-to-back wins over the Wings on June 23 and 25. The Sparks lost their first seven games, and 12 of 14, to open the 2015 season before eventually making the playoffs.

Aces 98, Lynx 81

In Minneapolis, A'ja Wilson scored 35 points on 14-of-17 shooting and

grabbed 14 rebounds to help Las Vegas beat the Minnesota Lynx 98-81, the Aces' WNBA record-tying fifth straight win by at least 15 points.

The Phoenix Mercury won five consecutive games by 15-plus points in 2014 and 2021 and the Seattle Storm accomplished the feat in 2020. The 2021 Mercury team lost in the Finals, the only team of the group that didn't win the championship that season.

BASKETBALL

Wilson became just the third player in WNBA history to score at least 35 points, grab 10-plus rebounds and shoot 80% or better from the field.

Jackie Young had 19 points, five rebounds and five assists for Las Vegas (21-2). Kelsey Plum scored 16 points and Alysha Clark 11. Chelsea Gray added 11 points and 11 assists. Diamond Miller led Minnesota (10-13) with 17 points and Napheesa Collier had 16 and eight rebounds. Kayla McBride scored 10.

Sun 86, Dream 78

In College Park, DeWanna Bonner scored 20 points and grabbed nine rebounds, Alyssa Thomas almost had another triple-double and Connecticut nearly blew a 20-point lead before the Sun beat the Atlanta Dream 86-78.

Connecticut (17-6), which beat the Dream 82-71 on the road Thursday to snap their seven-game win streak, has won five of its last six games.

Thomas finished with 15 points, 11 rebounds, eight assists and two steals. Natasha Heideman, who hit 5 of 8 from 3-point range, also scored 15 points for the Sun and Rebecca Allen added 11.

Bonner hit a free throw with 3:44 left in the second quarter to give Connecticut a 20-point lead but Connecticut went scoreless until Thomas hit a running floater almost two minutes into the second half.



Copper

Titmus, Marchand set WRs at worlds

Telles completes move to Al-Nassr



Leon Marchand of France competes during Men 400m Medley final at the World Swimming Championships in Fukuoka, Japan. (AP)

MANCHESTER, England, July 23, (AP) — Alex Telles joined the slew of soccer stars heading to Saudi Arabia by completing a move from Manchester United to Al-Nassr on Sunday.

The Brazil international spent last season on loan at Sevilla, where he won the Europa League and reunites with his former United teammate Cristiano Ronaldo.

"We'd like to thank Alex for his contributions to the club over the last three years and would like to wish him all the best for the future," United said in a statement.

SOCCER

The 30-year-old Telles is the latest player to leave one of Europe's top leagues for Saudi Arabia during this off-season, following the likes of Karim Benzema, N'Golo Kante and Roberto Firmino.

More are expected to head to the oil-rich country before the start of next season, with Riyadh Mahrez and Jordan Henderson also linked with moves.

Telles joined United from Porto in 2020. He has signed a contract with Al-Nassr until 2025.

Neither club confirmed the price of his move.



Newcastle signed winger **Harvey Barnes** from relegated **Leicester** on Sunday in a deal that could be worth a reported 38 million pounds (\$49 million).

Barnes has signed a five-year deal with Saudi-controlled Newcastle, which will play in the Champions League this season.

Australia dominate relays

FUKUOKA, Japan, July 23, (AP) — Australian Ariarne Titmus set a new world record on the way to a decisive victory in the women's 400-meter freestyle on Sunday, the opening day of the world swimming championships, with silver for American Katie Ledecky and bronze for Erika Fairweather of New Zealand.

Sixteen-year-old Summer McIntosh of Canada, the world-record holder in the event, finished fourth.

Despite it falling on the first day, the race was seen by many as the most compelling matchup of the eight-day championships with 22-year-old Titmus and 26-year-old Ledecky both having held the world record before McIntosh.

SWIMMING

Titmus took the lead 100 meters into the race and never looked back, winning in 3 minutes, 55.38 seconds. Ledecky (3:58.73) rallied from behind early to get the silver, while Fairweather (3:59.59) gained the bronze.

McIntosh's time in fourth was 3:59.94. She set the previous world record of 3:56.08 four months ago. McIntosh also set the world record in the 400 IM four months ago in 4:25.87.

Ledecky has almost never gone home from a race in the world championships or Olympics with less than a gold or silver medal. She finished fifth in the 200 meters at the delayed Tokyo Olympics, her only other less than gold or silver performance.

She entered these worlds with 32 gold or silver medals in the Olympics and worlds.

The race by the three superstar women overshadowed the world-record performance of rising French star Leon Marchand. Marchand won the 400 IM in 4:02.50 breaking the previous mark of 4:03.84 set by American Michael Phelps in 2008. The 400 IM record was the last individual mark held by Phelps.

Marchand is coached at Arizona State University by Bob Bowman, who is also the head coach of the American team at the worlds and also coached Phelps.

Unlike the 400, Marchand's race was never in doubt. He assumed the lead 40 meters in and steamed home the rest of the way.

American Carson Foster (4:06.56)



Ariarne Titmus of Australia celebrates after creating world record at the women's 400m Freestyle finals at the World Swimming Championships in Fukuoka, Japan. (AP)

picked up the silver, while Daiya Seto of Japan (4:09.41) collected the bronze.

In other medal races on the first day in Japan, Sam Short of Australia won the men's 400 in 3:40.68 with silver for Ahmed Hafnaoui of Tunisia (3:40.70) and bronze for Lukas Martens of Germany (3:42.20).

In the 4x100 men's freestyle relay, Australia took the gold in 3:10.16, with Italy earning the silver (3:10.49) and the United States the bronze (3:10.81).

In the 4x100 women's freestyle relay, Australia set a world record of 3:27.96 in a dominating win. The United States took second in 3:31.93, while China rounded out the podium with 3:32.40.

The top three finishers in each relay automatically qualified for next summer's Paris Olympics.



KUNA photo
Kuwaiti referee Mohammad Al-Shatti.

Kuwaiti referee 'honoured' to have made Wimbledon debut

KUWAIT CITY, July 23, (KUNA) — Kuwaiti referee Mohammad Al-Shatti on Sunday said he was "honored" to have represented his home nation as he made his officiating debut during the final contest of tennis' showpiece Wimbledon event last week.

Al-Shatti, who was among the group of referees to have taken charge of the final contest of the biggest spectacle in the sport of tennis, in which Spain's Carlos Alcaraz dethroned seven-time champion Novak Djokovic, told KUNA via telephone that he was thrilled to have taken part in an event of such magnitude.

The Kuwaiti referee's maiden appearance on the global stage pre-

ceded his time in charge of regional tennis events at home and other Gulf Arab countries including Qatar, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates, citing these experiences as a "gateway" that catapulted him into the limelight.

He went on to say that referees are under constant scrutiny when taking part in such significant events, pointing out that such assessment is crucial in dictating whether or not they are competent enough to handle such pressure.

Al-Shatti's debut at Wimbledon 2023 was the culmination point of a storied career as a tennis referee, he underlined, attributing that achievement to the overwhelming support he was given at home.

Record 12th straight win for Red Bull

Verstappen wins Hungarian GP to extend lead

BUDAPEST, July 23, (AP) — Formula One champion Max Verstappen needed only a few seconds to stamp his authority on the Hungarian Grand Prix on Sunday and win his seventh straight race of a crushingly dominant season.

Seven-time F1 champion Lewis Hamilton started from pole position ahead of Verstappen, who muscled him out at the first corner and never looked back.

Red Bull's 12th straight win, including the final race of 2022, broke McLaren's record for consecutive team wins set in 1988.

"That was so enjoyable to drive, 12 in a row that is unbelievable," Verstappen said. "Hopefully we can keep this momentum going for a long time."

Verstappen is cruising toward a third straight F1 title. His ninth victory overall - complete with another bonus point for the fastest lap - means the 25-year-old Dutchman already leads his Red Bull teammate Sergio Perez by 110 points.

McLaren driver Lando Norris finished second for the second-straight race and Perez was third for a much-needed second podium in six races.

"If Max retires then maybe (we can win)," Norris joked. "We're happy with the progress and to be where we are today, fighting for podiums. Our time will come later in the year."

It's hard to say how many wins Verstappen will already have if and when that times comes.

Verstappen's career win total now stands at 44 - the same number as Hamilton's car.

Hamilton started from pole for the first time since the penultimate race of 2021 in Saudi Arabia - which was also when he won his record-extending 103rd F1 race. He has not won since.

He felt he had a chance after an impressive drive in qualifying.

But Verstappen, who won from 10th here last year, overtook a sluggish Hamilton as they dived into the first turn.

"We had a really good start to I'm happy with that," said Verstappen, who was involved in two heavy crashes with Hamilton during a dramatic 2021 season. "That corner was mine. Luckily it all worked out well."

MOTOR RACING

The McLarens of Norris and Oscar Piastri also jumped past Hamilton and dropped him down to fourth.

That is where he finished at the sinewy 4.4-kilometer (2.7-mile) Hungarian track, one of the hardest in F1 for overtaking.

Daniel Ricciardo finished 13th for AlphaTauri on his F1 comeback and beat teammate Yuki Tsunoda in 15th.

Perez took some pressure off by padding out his lead in the standings over third-place Fernando Alonso to 32 points, while Hamilton's now just six points adrift of the Spaniard.

After taking fourth place at Silverstone, the Australian rookie Piastri maintained his form with a solid fifth for an improving McLaren that has grabbed a healthy 58 points in two races.

Mercedes improved as the race progressed and temperatures cooled, allowing George Russell to surge past Ferrari's Carlos Sainz Jr. to finish sixth.

Sainz was seventh ahead of teammate Charles Leclerc - who dropped a place with a 5-second time penalty for speeding in the pitlane - while Alonso and his Aston Martin teammate Lance Stroll rounded out the top 10.

Ferrari's season is fast turning into another flop.

Pitstop problems resurfaced when the team took nearly 10 seconds to change Leclerc's tires on his first

Wiegman needs to find way to get Lionesses back into gear

England won, but it was far from convincing start

SYDNEY, July 23, (AP) — As European champions and one of the favorites to lift the Women's World Cup, England was always expected to make a winning start.

At least the Lionesses can tick that item off the checklist.

Beyond that, there were few positives to take from an unconvincing 1-0 victory Saturday night against Haiti, which was making its debut at the global tournament.

A twice-taken Georgia Stanway penalty was the difference between the teams that are ranked fourth and 53rd by soccer's world governing body.

"It's so important to win your first game in a tournament. It's been a long build-up to today and we're kind of happy to just get over the line," a relieved Stanway said in the wake of the game.

The sense back in England was that it was an underwhelming start for a team that has had its problems recently.

Haiti - particularly through the outstanding 19-year-old forward Melchie Dumornay - could yet throw up some surprises at the tournament being co-hosted by Australia and New Zealand.

England's struggles in Brisbane, however, seemed to be more of its own making as its run of game time without a goal from open play stretched to more than seven hours, including a behind-closed doors warm-up game against Canada that ended 0-0.

Injuries have undoubtedly disrupted England's preparations with key players Beth Mead, Fran Kirby and Leah Williamson all ruled out. Captain Millie Bright started against Haiti in a return from a knee injury she sustained in March, and she appeared to be uneasy for much of the game.

A dispute with the English Football Association over bonuses and commercial arrangements has also cast a shadow over the build up, even if the players

have decided to pause negotiations to focus on the World Cup.

Coach Sarina Wiegman needs to find a way to get her team back into gear on the field after the triumph of last year's Euros.

Only six members of the lineup that started the final against Germany at Wembley last July were in the XI on Saturday, and consequently England lacked cohesion.

Most notable was its lack of cutting edge.

Record goal scorer Ellen White retired and is working as a pundit for the BBC during the tournament.

In her place against Haiti was Alessia Russo, who was the subject of a reported world record bid worth 500,000 pounds (\$642,000) from Arsenal last season as a result of her outstanding form for Manches-

SOCCER

ter United. She eventually joined the London team as a free agent this month and was selected for England's World Cup opener ahead of Rachel Daley, the leading scorer in the Women's Super League.

Despite that show of faith from Wiegman, Russo wasn't able to get her World Cup account up and running. England's attacking threat was hardly improved when Daley replaced her in the 76th minute.

It wasn't that England didn't have its chances, registering 19 shots with 10 on target. It was an issue of its failure to convert.

"We did create chances, but we lost the ball and then they were gone. That was hard for us," Wiegman said. "Sometimes we had the last pass instead of shooting ourselves. I hope the next game in open play we can score a goal."

Wiegman had wrestled over the decision about who to start at the point of her attack, and that may be her biggest dilemma again ahead of England's second Group D game against Denmark in Sydney on Friday.



Stanway

stop. Piastri's first was a blisteringly quick 2 seconds in comparison.

Verstappen's huge lead meant he was three seconds in front of Perez after pitting for tires on Lap 24. Hamilton was worried that his Mercedes was too slow with a lack of straight-line speed exposed by hot temperatures. Perez passed Sainz on the inside, and then Russell on the outside soon after, to move up to fifth behind the stressed-out Hamilton.

Hamilton blocked a first attack from Perez on Lap 42, so Red Bull brought in Perez for a tire change - timed at 1.9 seconds - to try and undercut Hamilton. The move paid off on a good day all around for Red Bull.

"Just to work with the whole team is always very enjoyable," Verstappen said.

Thankfully for Leclerc, his next stop took 2.2, but he undid that good work with the time penalty.



Third placed Mexican Formula One driver Sergio Perez of Red Bull Racing celebrates on the podium after the Formula One Hungarian Grand Prix auto race, at the Hungaroring racetrack in Mogyorod, near Budapest, Hungary. (AP)



Russia's Andrey Rublev, holds up the trophy after the final against Casper Ruud, Norway, during the Swedish Open ATP tournament in Båstad, Sweden. (AP)

Sports

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Jamaica hold France in surprising opener

Dutch edge Portugal as Sweden fend off South Africa

SYDNEY, July 23, (AP): Hervé Renard knows all about World Cup shocks. He also knows an early setback can be overcome in international soccer.

With that in mind, the France coach was not unduly concerned by his team's 0-0 with Jamaica on Sunday, which was one of the biggest surprises so far at the Women's World Cup.

Renard led Saudi Arabia to a famous win against Argentina at the men's World Cup in Qatar last year, before Lionel Messi's team rebounded and went on to lift the trophy for their country.

While there is no need for France to panic, this was still an unexpected result for the fifth-ranked team in the world and one of the tournament favorites.

By contrast Jamaica is ranked 43rd and entered the tournament co-hosted by Australia and New Zealand having lost all of its games at its World Cup debut in 2019 with a goal difference of -11.

"We always tell our players just don't worry about the rankings," said Jamaica coach Lorne Donaldson, who declared his country's first point ever in the competition as its greatest achievement in soccer.

SOCCER

"I think it is the No. 1 result I have seen men or women," he said. "I would put it there. If you go by the rankings you would say that result on this stage has to be No. 1."

Jamaica's players ran onto the field after the final whistle as if they'd been crowned world champions. It would have been a very different story had Kadidiatou Diani's 90th-minute header not struck the bar.

In a game of few chances, Diani had France's best opportunities to score a winner, but could not find a breakthrough at the Sydney Football Stadium.

She forced a save from Jamaica goalkeeper Rebecca Spencer in the first half and saw another effort deflected wide.

Another header in the second half also went wide of the target before her late effort came back off the bar.

The French were expected to be too strong for Jamaica, but favorites have not had everything their own way so far in the tournament. The 2019 quarterfinalists were the latest to struggle against an underdog.

Australia needed a penalty to get a 1-0 win against Ireland, while European champion England also needed a spot kick to overcome Haiti 1-0. Nigeria held Olympic champion Canada 0-0.

Jamaica did well to disrupt a France team that struggled to put together fluid moves.

In one of France's few moments of quality in the first half, Diani saw a low effort bundled around the post by Spencer. From the resulting corner, Wendie Renard headed over from close range.

Kadidiatou was fractions away from giving France a halftime lead when firing from the edge of the area. Chantelle Swaby managed to get something in the way of the shot, which deflected narrowly wide with the keeper beaten.

After seeing another header go wide after the break, Kadidiatou almost came up with the decisive moment when hitting the bar.

On an otherwise joyous night for Jamaica, it may come to regret the red card for star forward Khadija Shaw, who will be suspended for the next game.

Netherlands 1, Portugal 0

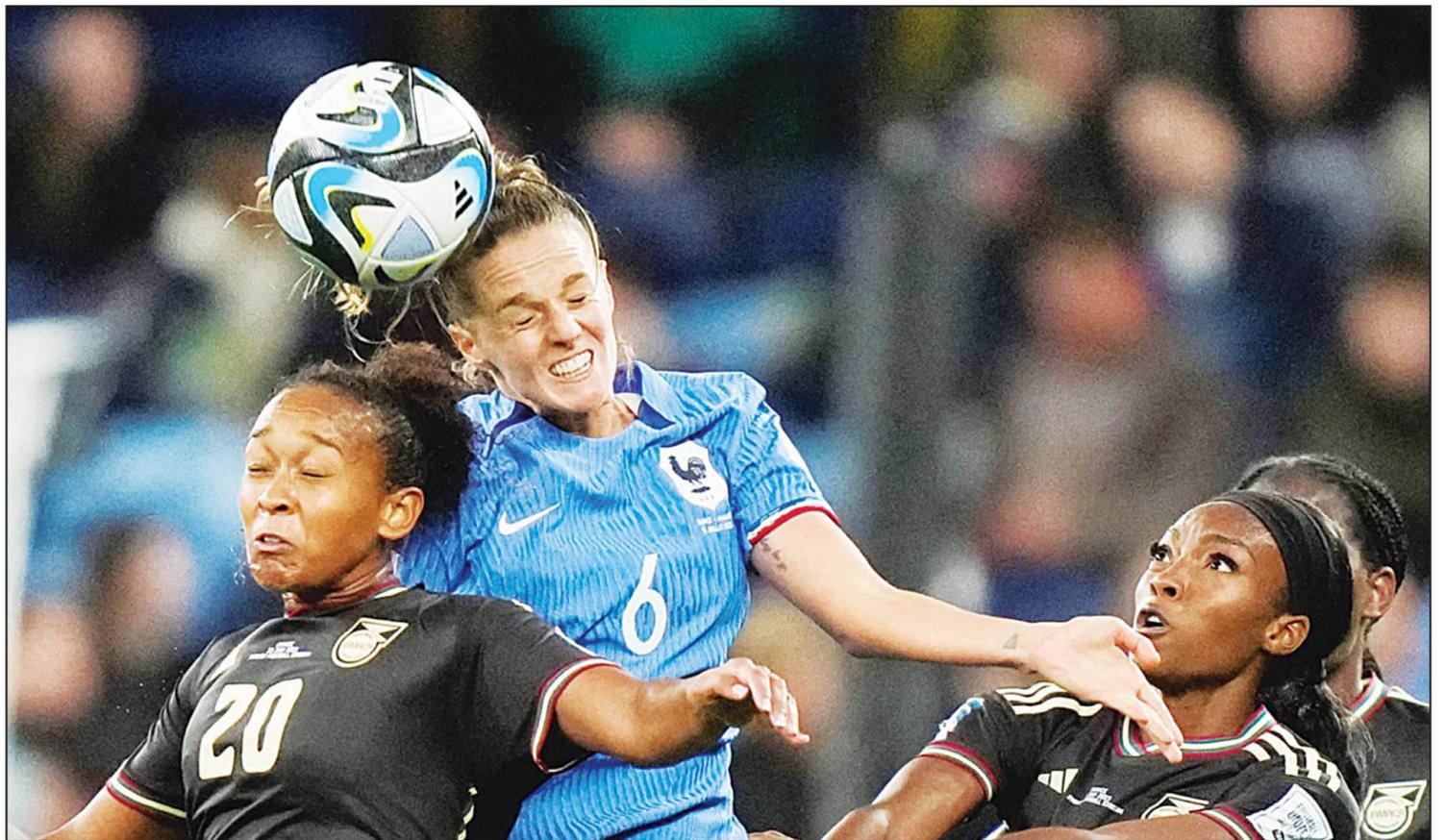
In Dunedin, Stefanie van der Gragt scored on a header in the 13th minute, leading the Netherlands to a 1-0 win over Portugal as the 2019 finalists began their tournament run.

The Dutch defender gathered herself as teammate Sherida Spitse lofted a corner kick her way, then headed the ball across the goal into the far side of the net. An offside review delayed the celebration.

The goal by the 30-year-old van der Gragt, who plans to retire after the Women's World Cup, was the quickest first goal of the tournament. The Dutch controlled the tempo of the game - Portugal's first shot of the match didn't come until the 82nd minute.

The meeting with the Netherlands, ranked No. 9 in the world, marked Portugal's first-ever tournament appearance.

On hand were 11,991 spectators, who were sheltered from the rain inside Dunedin's covered Forsyth Barr Stadium, known as the Glasshouse, which has a capacity of 25,947.



France's Sandie Toletti (top), goes for a header with Jamaica's Atlanta Primus (left), during the Women's World Cup Group F soccer match between France and Jamaica at the Sydney Football Stadium in Sydney, Australia. (AP)



South Africa's Kholosa Biyana (left), kicks the ball past Sweden's Filippa Angeldal during the Women's World Cup Group G soccer match between Sweden and South Africa in Wellington, New Zealand. (AP)

Though most of the crowd appeared to be Dutch fans, a small but vocal group of Portuguese supporters with flags and team apparel banged on drums throughout the game, the beat echoing across the venue.

Van der Gragt's first-half goal gave the Dutch a lead and allowed them to play lockdown defense. Both teams played a physical game, but Portugal was unable to match the Netherlands' technical mastery.

The Dutch victory raises the stakes for their upcoming rematch with the two-time defending world champion Americans, who beat Netherlands 2-0 in that 2019 final. A winner in that match will gain control of Group E and could very well wrap up a berth in the knockout stage.

Portugal failed to break through and become the first of the eight newcomers in the Women's World Cup to get a win.

Sweden 2, South Africa 1

In Wellington, Sweden produced a drab opening Women's World Cup performance on a gloomy night of mist and rain but managed to pull off a surprisingly difficult 2-1 victory to fend off plucky South Africa.

South Africa caught Sweden off guard when Hildah Magaia scored in the 48th minute to take a shocking lead in the Group G match while threatening to notch the first major upset of the tournament.

Sweden had dominated a scoreless first half with 71% of possession and eight corners, but there was something lacking in its performance. Sweden looked lost after halftime and South Africa took advantage when Thembi Kgatlang dropped behind the defense and struck a high shot that keeper Zecira Musovic could only parry.

Magaia hurled herself forward with such force she was carried into the goal along with the ball. She rolled into the back of the net and layed there for several moments and was eventually substituted.

Sweden, which hadn't lost a World

Cup group match since 2003 and was expected to ease past 54th-ranked South Africa, suddenly seemed in danger.

But Sweden got on the board in the 64th minute with Fridolina Rolfo's equalizer. Amanda Ilestedt then produced a perfect header from a corner with a minute left in regulation to help Sweden escape at the end of an unimpressive opening game effort.

The Banyana Banyana had danced from their team bus into the dressing room before the match, and looked likely to dance their way out before Ilestedt's late goal briefly suppressed that celebration. After time to reflect on its performance, South Africa was satisfied with its performance.

"They came off a bit disappointed because of the loss because we thought we could have got a better result," South Africa coach Desiree Ellis said. "But the way we played, we are very proud of that. We stuck to the game plan. We knew we'd get goals on transition. We knew we'd get chances."

"We scored and that is our that is one of our strengths," Ellis continued. "We have the speed up front, we have the skill up front, we have this skill within the midfield and defensively we were really, really good and that is a big plus for us."

South Africa adopted a new uniform of all black on Friday which contrasted with Sweden's bright yellow. There was also a contrast of styles as Sweden built painstakingly from the back and was at its best at set pieces, while South Africa excelled on the counter-attack.

Often it caught Sweden napping with quick touches which sped the ball forward and behind the defense. Magaia's goal was a rich return for a team that refused to be intimidated by Sweden's record and reputation - the Blagut are ranked third in the world.

It was South Africa that often looked sharper and did more to lift the gloom of the evening.

Rain began falling in Wellington about two hours before kickoff and continued steadily, sometimes heavily into the match, glazing the pitch and making it slick in places. The wind, usually omnipresent in Wellington and a factor when Spain met Costa Rica on Friday, was absent and the harbor which flanks Wellington Regional Stadium on its eastern side, was glassy.

Without wind, Sweden was able to use the long ball effectively in the first half.

In the second, having been shaken into action by the possibility of its first loss in a World Cup group match in 20 years, Sweden became more precise and Ilestedt's goal resulted from set piece solidity and clinical execution.

"We are really positive about the win, really happy," Ilestedt said. "They scored the first goal, and to win this kind of a game and score two goals, it's something we will bring further on. Obviously we were really happy about the three points. That's what matters right now."

"We are honored to be first Arab country to take part in Women's World Cup"

Morocco, Benzina set to make WC history in game against Germany

MELBOURNE, Australia, July 23, (AP) - When Nuhaila Benzina steps onto the field for Morocco's first match of the Women's World Cup against Germany, she will make history - and not just as a player for the first Arab or North African nation ever in the tournament.

The 25-year-old defender will be the first player to wear the Islamic headscarf at the senior-level Women's World Cup. She and the Atlas Lionesses face two-time World Cup champions Germany in Melbourne, Australia, on Monday.

"Girls will look at Benzina (and think) 'That could be me,'" said Assmaah Helal, a co-founder of the Muslim Women in Sports Network said of the hijab. "Also the policymakers, the decision-makers, the administrators will say, 'We need to do more in our country to create these accepting and open and inclusive spaces for women and girls to participate in the game.'"

Benzina, who plays professional club soccer for the Association's Sports of Forces Armed Royal - the eight-time defending champions in Morocco's top women's league - hasn't yet been made available to speak to reporters here at the Women's World Cup. In recent weeks, she has shared social media posts from others about the history-making nature of her World Cup appearance.

"We are honored to be the first Arab country to take part in the Women's World Cup," Morocco captain Ghizlane Chebbak said on Sunday, "and we feel that we have to shoulder a big responsibility to give a good image, to show the achievements the Moroccan team has made."

Had Morocco qualified for the Women's World Cup a decade ago, a player who wanted to wear the hijab during a game might have been forced to choose between that and representing her country.

In 2007, a referee barred an 11-year-old Canadian girl from wearing a hijab during a club match. When the issue reached FIFA, the sport's global governing body banned head coverings in competitions it sanctioned, except for coverings that exposed the neck.

FIFA cited "health and safety" concerns, some related to possible choking, with regulations forbidding "equipment that is dangerous to himself or another player."

"That really sent a strong message to Muslim women, particularly those who wear hijabs, (that) we don't belong," said Helal, an Australia-based operations manager of Creating Chances and Football United.

Helal was among the social activists, Muslim athletes, and government and soccer officials who worked to overturn the ban.

SOCCER

In 2012, FIFA granted the Asian Football Confederation a two-year trial period during which players would be allowed to wear head coverings at international competitions. No senior-level World Cups, men's or women's, were scheduled during the trial period.

In 2014, FIFA lifted its ban on head coverings. Two years later, the under-17 Women's World Cup in Jordan marked the first time Muslim players wore headscarves during an international FIFA event.

Maryam Hagi-Hashi, a Melbourne resident who attended Morocco's public practice session last week, said she is supporting the Atlas Lionesses alongside tournament co-host Australia. She appreciates the representation that the Moroccan team and Benzina provide, she said.



Dutch Formula One driver Max Verstappen of Red Bull Racing (left), leads at the start followed by British Formula One driver Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes-AMG Petronas during the Formula One Hungarian Grand Prix auto race, at the Hungaroring racetrack in Mogyorod, near Budapest, Hungary. Verstappen won the race. (AP) - See Page 15