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Iran, UAE boost public, private ties

Qatar meets top Taleban leader

TEHRAN, May 31, (Agencies): Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said Wednesday that Iran and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) would further expand their bilateral relations in both governmental and private sectors.

The Iranian minister made the remark during a meeting with UAE State Minister of Foreign Affairs Khalifah Al-Marar, adding that UAE is a credible trade partner, according to IRNA News Agency

For his part, Minister Al-Marar affirmed his country's resolve to develop relations with Iran.

In other news, the supreme leader of the Taleban met in Afghanistan with Qatar's prime minister this month, the first-such publicly known meeting between the Taleban's reclusive leader and a foreign official, the Al Jazeera satellite news network reported Wednesday.

Haibatullah Akhunzada met Qatar's Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani on May 12 in Afghanistan's southern city of Kandahar, the spiritual birthplace of the Taleban, Al Jazeera said. Sheikh Mohammed also is the foreign minister of Qatar, an energy-rich nation on the Arabian Peninsula.

The state-owned network did not specifically discuss what the two officials spoke about, though it described the meeting as aimed at ways to end the Taleban's international isolation.

Qatari government officials declined to discuss the meeting, which Reuters first reported. The Taleban did not respond to requests for comment regarding the meeting. The U.S. State Department did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

It's unclear, however, what effect such a meeting will have. The Taleban seized Afghanistan in August 2021 as U.S. and NATO troops were in the final weeks of their pullout from the country after 20 years of war. In the time since, Afghanistan has become the most repressive in the world for women and girls, depriving them of virtually all their basic rights, according to the U.N. Hunger remains endemic.

Taleban fighters also exchanged gunfire with Iranian border guards on Saturday.

Opinion

O leaders: 'And your Lord is never unjust to His servants'

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

ALMIGHTY Allah says in the Quran - "Whoever acts righteously does so for his own good, and whoever commits evil does so against his soul. And your Lord is never unjust to His servants.

When we today look at the situation of Kuwait nearly 50 years ago, we would find that the aforementioned verse applies to many of those who did wrong to themselves and their families before doing wrong to the state and the people. They thus deserve to be told - "... And your Lord is never unjust to His servants", given that their end will be miserable. This is due to the fact that they took advantage and abused their positions and powers to help the wrong people, and usurp what was not theirs.

In many state institutions, an employee considers himself as influential, as no one holds him accountable. He builds a network of relationships with corrupt people like himself in order to cover himself and protect his buddies. That is why corruption increased after the country was liberated from occupation, as these people had no faith either in their homeland or in their Lord, who gives respite and does not overlook. They believed that what happened during the seven months of occupation qualified them to loot the country because they see Kuwait as a temporary home, not a per-

manent one. There are many officials in sensitive institutions who have wronged the people, mastered the art of looting, made clandestine illegal deals, conspired against their people, and abused the leadership that placed confidence in them and entrusted them with the task of preserving the interests

A number of these people render projects as a cake that they share with other corrupt people. There are some among them who exceeded in tyranny to the extent of imprisoning the wronged ones and even revoking their nationalities just because its owners did not agree with them on their bad approach and corruption; some were banned from traveling, and many of them lost their jobs maliciously.

All these people are suffering today, either from ulcers or over the loss of a beloved one due to the circumstance they caused, or because they were imprisoned, or they left the country and live today in the darkness of alienation with much regret.

On the contrary, there are those who are pious. They honored the trust they were bestowed upon by the leadership to serve the country and its people justly. They did not disappoint the leadership that gave them its trust. This category of people are proud of themselves and they sleep every night with peace of mind.

Before the energetic Minister Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled took over the reins of the Ministry of Interior, the ministry and some of its sensitive agencies abused the country and the people in the past, and used different standards when dealing with people, which had prompted the surge

Also in the past, some transformed the Ministry of Defense and other institutions into their private farms. However, today the standards have changed. This is what any official should realize in order not to oppress. He does not transgress the rights of people because Almighty Allah forbade anything that leads to the ruin of people's lives and harms them.

As a journalist, I lived through many experiences. I saw the conditions of some people change, especially those whose tyranny exceeded to a point where the weak ended up having no say. Those engaging with it sought to harm people, as if no one would hold them accountable, or there is no afterlife. What happened to them today and where did they go?

There is a lot that Almighty Allah has forbidden, but those who were created with the morals of the devils did not pay attention, so they intend to harm their country and their people. However, the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said, "Indeed Allah gives respite to the oppressor. But when He seizes him, He does not let him escape". This is why, for the corrupt and oppressors who wreaked havoc in the country, the time for their reckoning must come.

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Day by Day

THE Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) has done the right thing by requesting the extension for debt payment for retired citizens and others, especially the so-called housing indebtedness.

This is what wise leaders do when the citizens face harsh and disturbing times so that bankruptcy does not come knocking on the doors of our institutions and businesses.

What is required to do is use the time factor to reschedule debt payment for a longer period, so as not to be cruel; and do as other countries do. We must also shun physical coercion, because it is not 'the' solution. ... Yet tomorrow is another day

Zahed Matar

Appeal for \$5.4bn less than 10% funded

UN says 15.3mn Syrians need aid

UNITED NATIONS, May 31, (AP): For the first time in Syria's 12-year war, people in every district are experiencing some degree of "humanitarian stress," and a staggering 15.3 million - nearly 70% of the population - need humanitarian aid, the United Nations said

A U.N. appeal for \$5.4 billion to help over 14 million people in Syria is less than 10% funded and the U.N. World Food Program has warned that without additional money, 2.5 million people are at risk of losing food or cash assistance from July.

The dire humanitarian situation, compounded by the February earthquake that devastated the rebel-held northwest, was spelled out to the Security Council by the U.N. humanitarian office's deputy operations director Ghada Mudawi.

The Syrian people "are more and more reliant on humanitarian assistance as basic services and critical

infrastructure are on the brink of collapse," she said.

Mudawi urged generous pledges and the swift release of funds at a European Union hosted conference in Brussels on June 14-15. She said "Syrians need the support of the international community now more than at any time in the past 12 years."

She said the need to maintain the delivery of humanitarian aid to the northwest is even more critical after the earthquake. She said U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has called for a 12-month extension of the U.N. mandate, which expires in July, saying the assistance is "indispensable" and "a matter of life and

death for millions of people" in the region. Russia's U.N. Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia, whose country is a close ally of Syria, said Moscow shares concerns about the deteriorating humanitarian situation. But he said cross-border aid delivery "has outlived its usefulness" and "we see no reason at all to extend it."

Nebenzia expressed concern that while cross-border aid was flowing and funded, the appeal to help millions of others in acute need in Syria is only 9% funded. It's "a very odd moral imperative," if aid "only applies to the terrorists in Idlib and it does not apply to the country as a whole.'



poster with a picture of Jordan's Crown Prince Hussein and his fiancee, Saudi architect Rajwa Alseif is hanged at the front of a building in Amman, Jordan Tuesday, May 30, 2023. Crown Prince Al Hussein bin Abdullah II, 28, and Rajwa Alseif, 29, are to be married on Thursday at a palace wedding in Jordan, a Western-allied monarchy that has been a bastion of stability for decades as Middle East turmoil has lapped at its borders. (AP)

Marriage weds oldest ME monarchies

Power couple set for royal wedding

Newswatch

JERUSALEM: Israel's intelligence agency said Wednesday that a retired agent was among four people killed in northern Italy when a sudden storm sank a houseboat hired for a weekend pleasure cruise on a lake.

The former agent was on the vessel with 22 other people on a lake near the town of **Lisanza**, according to Italian media reports. Two Italian intelligence agents and a Russian woman - part of the two-person crew - also died in the incident.

The Israeli prime minister's office issued a statement on behalf of the Mossad saying the unnamed agent's remains had been returned

to Israel for burial. (AP)

WASHINGTON: Consumer confidence fell in May as Americans became more pessimistic about the labor market, on top of elevated anxiety over inflation.

The Conference Board reported Tuesday that its consumer confidence index fell to 102.3 in May from 103.7 in April. It's the fourth time in five months that overall U.S. consumer confidence has declined.

The business research group's present situation index - which measures consumers' assessment of current business and labor market conditions - fell to 148.6 from 151.8 last month. (AP)

BERLIN: Seven people were arrested in raids across Germany

on Wednesday against alleged members of a network that helped finance the Islamic State extremist group's activities in **Syria**, prosecutors said. The suspects - four women and

three men, with German, Turkish, Moroccan and Kosovo citizenship - were arrested in five German states, while investigators searched 19 properties in Germany and one in The Netherlands, federal prosecutors said in a statement. The suspects are accused of supporting a foreign terrorist organization and, in some cases, of violating export laws. (AP)



Palestinians eat 'Lasima,' a dish that is popular in the southern Gaza Strip but shunned in its north, at a garden in Khuzaa. Gaza Strip, on May 20, 2023 Locals call it 'watermelon salad. But this seasonal delicacy is far from the sweet, refreshing taste the name evokes. (AP)

DAMASCUS: An Israeli airstrike targeting positions of a **Syria**-backed Palestinian group in eastern Lebanon early Wednesday killed five Palestinian militants and wounded 10 others, two Palestinian officials said.

An Israeli official speaking on condition of anonymity denied the country had any role in the incident. Israel does not typically respond to foreign reports.

Anwar Raja of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, told The Associated Press in Damascus that the Israeli strike hit positions in the Lebanese eastern town of Ousava near the border with Syr-

VIENNA: Iran has resolved two outstanding inquiries of the Inter-

national Atomic Energy Agency, a report seen Wednesday by The Associated Press said. The confidential quarterly report by the Vienna-based IAEA said in-

spectors no longer had questions on uranium particles found to be enriched to 83.7% at its underground Fordo facility. (AP)

AMMAN, May 31, (Agencies): He's heir to the throne in one of the oldest monarchies in the Middle East and a descendant of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). She's a Saudi architect with an aristocratic pedigree of her

Crown Prince Al Hussein bin Abdullah II, 28, and Rajwa Alseif, 29, are to be married on Thursday at a palace wedding in Jordan, a Western-allied monarchy that has been a bastion of stability for decades as Middle East turmoil has lapped at its borders.

The families have not said how the couple met or provided any details about their courtship. They were formally engaged at a traditional Muslim ceremony in the Saudi capital, Riyadh, in August 2022 that was attended by senior members of Jordan's royal family.

The bride and groom are destined to be-

come a power couple in the Middle East, forging a new bond between Jordan and Saudi Arabia as the latter seeks to transform itself into a regional power broker.

Here's a look at the bride and groom. Rajwa Alseif was born in Riyadh on April 28, 1994, the youngest of four children.

Her mother, Azza bint Nayef Abdulaziz Ahmad Al Sudairi, is related to Hussa bint Ahmed Al Sudairi, who is said to have been the favorite wife of Saudi Arabia's founder, King Abdul-Aziz Al Saud, and gave birth to seven of his sons, including the country's current ruler, King Salman.

For decades, the so-called Sudairi Seven, most of whom are now deceased, were seen as a major locus of power within the Saudi royal family.

Alseif's father, Khalid, is a member of the Subai, a prominent tribe in the Arabian Peninsula with ancient roots. He's also the founder of El Seif Engineering Contracting, which built Riyadh's iconic Kingdom Tower and other high-rises across the Middle East.

Rajwa studied architecture at Syracuse University in New York, where she graduated with a bachelor's degree in 2017. A graduation video shows her receiving her degree in sparkling silver sneakers.

The year before, she led a Spring Break architecture symposium in Dubai, in the United Arab Emirates, that was funded by her father's company.

"What made this trip so memorable for me... was seeing the students in the studio experience Arabic culture and architecture for the first time," she was quoted as saying by a university newspaper.

She went on to earn a degree in visual communications from the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising in Los Ange-

An official biography shared by the Jordanian royal palace says her hobbies include horseback riding and handmade arts, and that she is fluent in English, French and her native Arabic

Crown Prince Hussein was born June 28,

He is the oldest son of King Abdullah II, 61, who has ruled Jordan as a reliable Western ally and voice of moderation through more than two decades of turmoil in Israel, the Palestinian territories, Syria and Iraq, all of which border the small, resource-poor

The Hashemites, as Jordan's ruling family is known, trace their lineage back to the Prophet Muhammad. They dwelled in the Hejaz region of what is now Saudi Arabia for centuries before King Abdul-Aziz Al Saud's forces drove them out in 1925.

The Hashemites had led the Arab revolt against the Ottoman Empire during World War I, a rebellion dramatized by the 1962 film "Lawrence of Arabia." They had hoped to rule over an Arab state encompassing much of the Middle East, but Western imperial powers betrayed them. The French drove them out of Syria and a nationalist uprising toppled them in Iraq, leaving them with only Jordan.

The crown prince is named for his grandfather, King Hussein, who ruled Jordan for 46 years until his death in 1999 and remains a beloved figure for many Jordanians.

It could be years before the crown prince becomes king, but his training has already

He graduated from Georgetown University with a degree in international history in 2016 and from the British Royal Military Academy in Sandhurst the following year. He holds the rank of captain in the Jordanian military and routinely takes part in drills and

Also:

AMMAN: Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah Al-**Ahmad Al-Sabah**, the head of His Highness the Crown Prince Diwan, arrived in **Jordan** on Wednesday in his capacity as the Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah will attend wedding of Jordan's Crown Prince Al-Hussein bin Abdullah II.

He was received upon arrival at the airport by Secretary General of Greater Amman Dr. Yousef Al-Shawarbeh and the charge d'affaires of the State of Kuwait embassy, Dr. Mubarak Al-Hajri.

Expected weather for the next

By Day: Hot with light to moderate northwesterly wind with speeds of 12-38 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.

By Night: Rather hot with light to moderate northwesterly wind

with speeds of 12-30 km/h. Max Exp Min Rec Station **Kuwait City** Kuwait Airport

Abdaly 31 Jahra Salmiyah 39 31 Ahmadi Nuwaisib Wafra

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

MoH sets up clinics at 125 polling stations

Kuwaiti NGOs asked to monitor polls; Cabinet to ensure transparency

By Fawaz Esmiran

KUWAIT CITY, May 31, (KUNA): Kuwaiti nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) have always been playing a significant role in serving the society, addressing its problems and monitoring political events and public activities, including election observation.

The Kuwaiti cabinet has recently asked several NGOs to partake in watching the country's forthcoming parliamentary elections due on June, only out of its commitment to ensuring fair and transparent elections.

In this context, Kuwait Journalists Association Chairman Adnan Al-Rashed said that the cabinet had recently entrusted the association, among others, with watching the next vote in a highly commended step.

In a statement to KUNA, he boasted that his agency has been one of the effective tools and means of observing par-

liamentary elections in the country since mid-1960s. The cabinet's positive and praiseworthy move reflects

the state's confidence in Kuwaiti national organizations and their national role. Al-Rashed also spoke highly of the government's decision to increase the number of NGOs participating in the observation of the National Assembly (parliament) as clear evidence of the significant national role and efforts of civil society organizations,

For his part, Chairman of Kuwait's National Nazaha Society Mohammad Al-Otaibi said that NGOs' involvement in watching the forthcoming vote is of paramount significance at both local and international levels.

This unquestionably shows further transparency and fairness and bespeaks that Kuwait is a "state of institutions and law", he said, adding that the decision is mainly aimed at keeping a close eye on potential electoral flaws.

However, he called on all eligible voters to flow en masse to nationwide polling stations, given that the international community would monitor and follow up on the democratic race. Also speaking to KUNA, Chairman of Kuwait Transparency Society Majid

Al-Mutairi said the ultimate goal of NGOs' election observation is not only to ensure clean and fair elections, but also to assess the democratic situation and improve Kuwait's ranking in relevant international indicators. He added that his agency would conduct various reports about all the stages

of the electoral process, including ballot centers, candidates' discourse and electoral atmospheres in general.

Chairman of the Kuwaiti Parliament Performance Follow-up Society Nasser Al-Shelemi said his body's role in observing the next vote due on June

6 reflects the government's belief in the significance and role of national civil society organizations.

The cabinet's recent decision would definitely lead to the actual application of the principles of genuine partnership, and integrity and transparency criteria to the democratic process.

Minister of Social Affairs and Women and Children's Affairs Mai Al-Baghli said on Monday that the cabinet had decided to allow national NGOS to watchdog the forthcoming electoral race.

Meanwhile, Kuwait's Ministry of Health on Wednesday affirmed readiness for the upcoming National Assembly elections set on June 6.

Head of the medical emergency department Dr Ahmad Al-Shatti said to KUNA that the ministry prepared medical clinics in 125 polling stations, which includes nurses and paramedics, as well as five ambulances in each

He also pointed that people can directly contact any emergency department in public hospitals, adding that all area clinics are fully prepared to help any-

Al-Shatii called on all voters to follow the rules set by the Health Ministry, adding that voting priority is for elders, people with sicknesses or disabilities.

'Creating more jobs priority'

Support pledged for women, citizens' rights



KUNA photo

Director General of Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) Dr. Fatima Al-Salem with French Ambassador to the country Claire Le Flecher.

Media ties boost sought

Director General of Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) Dr. Fatima Al-Salem and French Ambassador to Kuwait Claire Le Flecher met on Wednesday, discussing several issues pertaining to bolstering media cooperation between Kuwait and

During their meeting, held at KUNA headquarters in Shuwaikh area, Dr. Al-Salem lauded the strong ties with

France, expressing desire to boost co-operation within the media domain.

On her part, Ambassador Le Flecher lauded media relations between Kuwait and France, commending the efforts of

She also praised KUNA's professionalism, saying that the agency provided important media and news services.

Over 500 OFWs to be deported

150 detained pending cases

KUWAIT CITY, May 31: The Ministry of the Interior has decided to deport 302 Filipinos, after it evacuated a shelter affiliated to the Philippines embassy in Kuwait which housed 462 Overseas Filipino Workers in the Al-Surra area, and moved to the Kuwait government shelter in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, where their data was checked and 232 of them were ordered to be deported while 150 others remain in detention center because there are travel restrictions against them, reports Al-Rai daily.

Security sources told the daily that the eviction process took place yesterday in coordination between the Public Authority for Manpower and the Residency Affairs Investigations Department

after informing the Philippine embassy. The house where the OFWs where sheltered is rented by the embassy in violation of laws and regulations, because living inside the house were domestic workers who had fled from their

The Ministry of Interior, according to reliable sources, is currently holding 150 Filipinos in the PAM shelter due to cases registered against them, ranging from criminal, misdemeanor, and labor disputes, and cooperation will be sought from the Ministry of Justice and PAM to complete deportation formalities.

The sources added, the Ministry has made every effort to provide health care and logistical services for the Filipino labor in accordance with what is stipulated in international agreements and taking into account humanitarian stand-

The sources indicated that the travel procedures for the batch of 232 OFWs of whom are 223 women and 9 men, will soon be completed in coordination with the Philippine embassy, and they will be deported to Manila in batches starting from Thursday.

The sources added there were 70 Filipino OFWs already living in the PAM shelter, and they will be deported separately, on Saturday, June 3, after completing their procedures and booking tickets for them.

The security sources have called on all embassies to abide by the Kuwaiti laws saying "no embassy has the right to establish special shelters for its workers fleeing from their sponsors.'

Knife attack reported

Officials suspended

KUWAIT CITY, May 31, (KUNA): First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and Acting Minister of Defense Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah issued a ministerial decision whereby barring from work the assistant undersecretary for special security and correction institutions plus the director general of the directorate general for correction

The minister also decided to form a panel to investigate the incidents that happened at the Central Prison on Tuesday, according to a ministry statement issued on Wednesday.

Knife attack at wedding: The Ministry of Interior has confirmed that securitymen quickly responded to a call through the emergency telephone number about an individual who used a sharp object in attacking another at a wedding party, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Officers from the Farwaniya Governorate Investigation Department, which is under the Criminal Security Sector in the ministry, have arrested the suspect who is currently under investigation for attempted murder.

Officers awarded medals: First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and acting Minister of Defense Sheikh Talal Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah recently issued a directive to award various degrees of the Military Duty Medal to 872 officers and non-commissioned officers in Kuwait Firefighting Force (KFF), reports Al-Qabas daily.

In a recent press statement, KFF confirmed that the awardees have fulfilled all the merit terms and conditions. It added the directive of Sheikh Talal Al-Khalid stemmed from the political leadership's concern for the KFF personnel and commitment to ensure justice and equality among them by giving them their full rights to motivate them to intensify their efforts in protecting lives and properties.

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 31: Second Constituency candidate Abdulwahab Al-Essa considers employment the most urgent issue, pointing out he is aware that no government on the planet could provide public sector jobs to all citizens.

Nevertheless, he inquired about the facilities that the government provided to the private sector in the last 10 years to encourage it to hire more nationals. He said the rest of the world support small businesses, since majority of giant businesses started as

small enterprises established in houses or small rooms. He added only 70,000 Kuwaitis are working in the private sector; hence, the need to remarkably increase this

Former MP and Fourth Constituency candidate Obaid Al-Wasmi recently organized a meeting with female voters; during which he promised to continue protecting the rights of citizens, including women. He disclosed that within his family, there are two female engineers, two female teachers and two female retirees; indicating all issues concerning women are discussed at meal times.

He revealed that since his first parliamentary stint in 2012, he has always believed that the most important factor in political reform is for the government to present its work program immediately after its formation as stated in the Constitution; in addition to its commitment to implement the program.

Specify

He added that a prime minister must specify the goals of his government within the four-year term, as well as the budget for achieving these goals; so the lawmakers can efficiently monitor the performance of the government. He wondered how can a lawmaker monitor a prime minister who has no vision. He clarified that the absence of a program or plan will subject the government and prime minister to blackmailing – to cater to the personal requests of MP, or be grilled.

Former MP and First Constituency candidate Osama Al-Shaheen held an electoral campaign in Bayan, expressing his gratitude to the citizens who have been supporting him since the beginning of his parliamentary career in 2012 until the election in 2022.

He stressed the need to combat bribery and corruption since they are the biggest obstacles to achievements. He said the executive and legislative authorities should not use the lobbying of influential traders and the corrupt as an excuse for failure to address the legitimate demands of citizens

He emphasized the importance of amending the Constitutional Court Law,

which created heresy when it decided to nullify the legislature not just once but thrice.

He argued this is not part of the authorities granted to the Constitutional Court as per the Constitution and it is not stipulated in the law on its establishment that was ratified in 1973.

He added that 70 laws, 73 final accounts, 41 budgets and six bills were ratified within the short term of the 2022 Parliament, which lasted for 152 days.

Workers from shut firms can transfer visas: PAM

in the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM), it has allowed expatriate workers, who are registered on the files of companies and establishments that were suspended during the last period, to transfer their residencies to

The sources explained that these files were closed during the last period because there were no clear automated addresses for them. It was decided to allow the transfer of their workers in consideration of humanitarian conditions.

The transfer of workers from closed files will be allowed based on certain conditions, the most prominent of which is that the transfer to other files be valid, and the transfer of the worker from one file to another is allowed, provided that more than 12 months have passed since his work permit with the suspended company.

Regarding workers of companies that hold licenses for small or medium enterprises, the sources indicated that three years must pass from the issuance of the work permit as a condition for transferring from any small enterprise company.

Regarding workers who do not meet the aforementioned conditions, the sources said that they can submit applications for paper transactions to the Disputes Department in Abu Fatira area, and the department will examine the file under which the worker is registered.

Other Voices

Qattan, Faisal & Brotherhood

By Ahmad alsarraf

Former Saudi Minister and Ambassador Ahmad Al-Qattan was born in 1953 and he was the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Cairo during the critical era from 2011 to 2016.

He received his education and stayed in Cairo which he knew well. In a televised interview with Mona

El-Shazly, Qattan said the General Vice Guide of Mus-Brotherlim hood Khairat Al Shater lied when he in 2012 said that Saudi leadership fered \$4 billion to Muslim Brotherhood



to hand over former president Hosni Mubarak to Saudi Arabia after the breakout of the Egyptian uprising in

It is too difficult to believe that the offer was made and it is also unbelievable that such offer is rejected. Al-Qattan said he was officially informed in February 2021 that the winner of the Egyptian presidential elections held in 2012 was Lieutenant Ahmad Shafiq and not the Muslim Brotherhood candidate Muhammad Morsi.

He added that he was pleased to an nounce Morsi's victory, because otherwise he would have prompted the Brotherhood, without hesitation, to burn Egypt, because they were then controlling the street. He said that he was confident that their actions would expose them within a year, as they are not fit to rule Egypt! And they were already stripped during their only year of rule.

In another interview, Ambassador Ahmad Qattan confirmed that he did not feel comfortable during his first meeting with the presidential candidate, and then the ousted president Muhammad Morsi, and described him as a man whose brain has other issues. This is evidence of the validity of what we have repeated so much that the Brotherhood, after 100 years of political action, are very unsuccessful in choosing someone to represent them, speak on their behalf, and their representatives or candidates in Kuwait is the best witness!

On the other hand, Prince Turki Al-Faisal, the former head of Saudi intelligence, confirmed that the Muslim Brotherhood cannot be trusted, indicating that they worked in the Kingdom, but their allegiance remained to the guide and not to the ruler, and he stated that he met within a committee commissioned by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques with delegates from the Brotherhood in Jeddah during the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, and it was found that they support Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, although the latter was one of their biggest supporters.

He explained how he and the Crown Prince at the time, Prince Nayef, met with the Brotherhood delegation, including Rashid al-Ghannushi, the Tunisian, al-Turabi, al-Sudani, and others, and they asked their questions, and they knew our position against the invasion, but they went to Iraq and met Saddam and publicly supported the return of Kuwait to Iraq!

I received from a friend a set of videos related to interviews of some political figures, which he kept in his archives. The first related to a part of an interview with the preacher Tariq Suwaidan, in which he says in response to a question whether Saddam had offered them, as the Brotherhood, the rule of Kuwait, and he replied angrily that this is incorrect and shameful for his saying and repeating it.

When asking the same question to Mr. Mubarak Al-Duwailah, in another program, he said that the Gulf Brotherhood have no ambition for power, and that Saddam offered them, during the occupation, the rule of Kuwait, but they refused.

In an interview with the preacher Ayed Al-Qarni, he says that he is not from the Brotherhood and does not belong to them, and he denies that. But he forgot that he had said, in a previous interview, while he was in Egypt, during the Morsi era, that he was from the Brotherhood, praising Muhammad Morsi, describing him as the president of all Egyptians, repeating his name and praising him!

As for the other, Nasser Al-Duwailah, he also gave an interview in which he denies his affiliation with the Brotherhood, forgetting that he said in a previous interview that he is one of them, and one of their cadres. I have all these interviews for any-

one who wants to see them, or who still believes that there is good behind the "Brotherhood"!

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Overhaul of laws eyed

Kuwait is seeking smart system

for expatriate workers: official KUWAIT CITY, May 31, (KUNA): Secretary General of the Supreme Planning and Development Council Dr. Khaled Mahdi said on Wednesday that Kuwait is continuously seeking to overhaul legisla-

tions concerning expatriate workers with the aspiration to set up "a smart system" to regulate bringing in the foreign labor-

Mahdi, in a statement marking launch of the report of the 2023 International Development Bank,

Dr. Mahdi indicated that mech-

anisms would be set up to test professional skills of the workers that would be allowed into the country

Notions incorporated in the aspired strategy include specifying areas where the workers are highly needed with priority for building a lucrative work environment for the citizens namely the young Kuwaitis who should be employed in the private sector.

A planned online platform will screen potential employed workers from abroad to ensure the newcomers are qualified to perform the job chosen for them. "It does not make sense that a truck driver in his home country turns into an engineer in the host state!," he sarcastically remarked alluding to some of such cases. He called for establishing an agency

for hiring the foreign expatriates in the private sector.

Meanwhile, member of the national human rights diwan, Dr. Abdulredha Asiri said in a separate statement that the department advocates protecting rights of citizens and expatriates.

The resident representative of the World Bank in Kuwait, Ghassan Al-Khojeh, indicated that authorities of the expatriates' home countries should have well-studied systems to regulate dispatch of laborers to work abroad.

The head of the International Migration Organization in Kuwait, Mazen Abulhessen, said recommendations incorporated in the report are in harmony with the international convention for migration and the IMO strategy for the Gulf.



diwaniya وانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

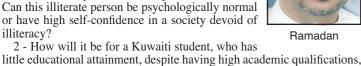
'Students need awareness on educational attainment importance'

"WHEN you ask many Kuwaiti students about the reason for their neglect of educational attainment and their focus only on obtaining university degrees or diplomas, and sometimes even a doctorate, the answer is that he – that is, the student – will not use any of what he learned at work, and that he only needs the academic qualification to obtain a salary for a job," columnist, economic writer and researcher Mohamed Ramadan wrote for Al-Qabas daily.

"Some may think that the Kuwaiti student has logic in what he says, but in fact, the Kuwaiti student focuses only on one important aspect of

academic achievement, which is the practical application of what he has studied, and neglects many other benefits, such as:

1 - That the educational attainment builds personal skills and raises morale and the level of self-confidence. As an illustrative example, can an illiterate person who does not know how to read and write these days make crucial decisions in his life and the life of his family or who is responsible for them? Can this illiterate person be psychologically normal or have high self-confidence in a society devoid of



ilv in various fields? 3 - With the continued state of lack of interest in educational attainment for many years and perhaps for successive generations, could this not contribute to the citizens' poor selection of their representatives in the National Assembly, the ease with which candidates deceive the voters, and the number of illogical popular demands, such as dropping loans and others?

to be a role model for his children or take important decisions for his fam-

"There will be no silver lining for citizens' lack of interest in educational attainment as long as a guaranteed government job focuses only on an educational qualification.

"However, more and more citizens can be made aware of the importance of educational attainment, and new approaches can be adopted that help reduce this problem.

"Here we suggest encouraging students on scholarships to study abroad to work in the country of scholarship after obtaining a university degree, and to be paid a labor support allowance for the duration of his work, provided that it does not exceed two years and that the work is for international companies to ensure receiving the desired experience and benefit.

"This approach may help to educate students on scholarships about the requirements of working outside Kuwait, which often require a high level of educational attainment. This will also help qualify and encourage Kuwaiti youth to work in the private sector, especially with work experience in international companies.'

Also:

"Perhaps one of the most important things to achieve reform and fight

corruption is to make a lot of official and popular efforts to chase corruption and confine it to the narrowest corners and not to elect the corrupt, columnist Mona Al-Wahaib wrote for Al-Rai daily.

"Here we are on the verge of new parliamentary elections... It is important that the results of these elections reveal the clear disparity between members of society in their perception of reality and in their understanding of challenges and opportunities.

"In every election, the members of society are divided into two classes: a class that is aware and conscious and has absorbed the lesson and taken from the past as a lesson, and chooses who represents the entire Kuwaiti nation, and another class that chooses who represents his sect, tribe, family, or personal interest, even if this candidate is fanatical, extremist, or

"Some predict the difficulty of the next stage. If the citizen makes a mistake in choosing who represents him/her and Kuwait, then we will say there is no reform after today and we welcome corruption every day. Therefore, research and investigation is necessary to choose who makes society's life more just and equitable, and people feel that they are stronger than fanatics and corruption; and that when they choose the righteous, the reformer, will be an impenetrable dam that protects and defends their

"It is very important to choose the best, fittest and most active candidates to set the scales of justice, fortify the judiciary and ensure its independence to carry out its desired role.

"It is no secret to any of us that the suffering is great, but if we are able to consolidate the principle of equal opportunities at the level of basic services, and at the level of jobs and social advancement, and break the severity of anxiety and social rivalry arising from the sharp discrepancy resulting from favoritism and nepotism, and get rid of sectarian and sectarian illiteracy and others in a manner final, and upgrading loyalty and belonging to the homeland, we will overcome corruption and eliminate it, but we will uproot it from its roots.

"Let us choose well, so that Kuwait will triumph over all corruption in all its financial and administrative aspects."

"First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and acting Minister of Defense Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled took a decision to stop the issuance of all types of visas for Filipinos due to steps taken by the Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines, which contradict the labor agreement between the two countries," columnist Khalid Al-Arrafa wrote for Al-Anba daily.

"This is in addition to the number of crimes committed by members of the Filipino community against Kuwaitis that are registered in Kuwaiti

"The Philippine government asked Kuwait for a meeting to negotiate on the visa suspension due to the violations committed by the embassy, so they will not be repeated in the future - the gravest of which is the embassy's allocation of a shelter for workers including those who violated

the Residency Law and those with an absconding case.

"Accordingly, a meeting was held with the Kuwaiti side to understand the violations and erroneous practices as per the labor agreement between Kuwait and the Philippines. The conditions of the Kuwaiti side were the bases of the negotiation with the Philippine delegation - the most important of which is the admission or acknowledgment of the Philippine Embassy that it violated laws, decisions and regulations enforced in Kuwait, as well as the diplomatic procedures accepted by both countries.

"We must mention that Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled is a statesman and a decision-maker. He dealt with the crisis professionally, rejecting at the same time the policy of arm-twisting and remaining silent over the embassy's violations. The Philippine side announced its rejection of the Kuwaiti conditions, followed by the minister's assertion that the sovereignty of Kuwait and the dignity of its people are red lines.

"Nevertheless, Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled did not close the door for negotiations with the Philippines, on the condition that all violations committed by the embassy are corrected, along with the implementation of all the conditions that Kuwait presented on the negotiating table.

"At the same time, he asked the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to quickly conclude labor agreements with other labor exporting countries to provide the Kuwaiti market with trained workers from various labor export-

ing countries in order not to fall under the bargaining chip. "In my opinion, the recruitment of workers from other countries will make the Philippines think a thousand times about negotiating again in order to protect the jobs of their nationals in Kuwait, whose number is currently estimated at more than 220,000."

"The Turkish presidential election exceeded the limits, as it resulted in a great challenge and resounding success that gave the Turkish president room to renew his tenure," columnist Motlaq Al-Qarrawi wrote for Al-Anba daily.

This raises questions: How did Erdogan succeed and what was the role of his party? The result has several axes, the first of which is sincerity and pure intention, second is honesty, and third is the people's love and trust, followed by the military, economic and political conditions. This comes after all the planning, organization and social communication that contributed to winning hearts and souls.

"On the role of his party, it served as a safety valve that led to cohesion of hearts and bodies, and continuous hard work characterized by fear and loftiness.

The main goals are to work for Islam and Muslims, and to support

"This is manifested in the electoral tactics of the Justice and Develop-

ment Party, as well as the paths of success day after day.

The experience is rare in the era of democracy and free elections. It is a unique experience and it is one of the country's treasures.'

— Compiled by Mai Elsoukary





Top and above: some photos from the seminar.

DDI holds scientific seminar

Light shed on Cardiometabolic Disease and its link to Diabetes

KUWAIT CITY, May 31: Dasman Diabetes Institute (DDI), established by the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences, held recently a specialized scientific seminar titled "Towards an Ecological Perspective on Cardiometabolic Disease: From Clinic To Population, and Back," in collaboration with visiting Professor Mark Daniel, a consultant epidemiologist.

Professor Daniel earned his doctorate in Health Care and Epidemiology at the University of British Columbia, Canada and completed an MRC Postdoctoral Fellowship

Epidemiology & Preventive Medicine at Monash University, Australia. Professor Daniel joined DDI this year assisting the Research Sector in epidemiological analyses of diabetes and related risk factors using large database and data linkage, from the Kuwait National Population Health and the DDI's Geohealth Laboratory, to better understand environmental factors shaping diabetes in Kuwait.

This Scientific Seminar was held at the institute and attended by many scientists, researchers and healthcare pro-

Rashidi's murder suspect remanded to police custody for 1 more month

MoJ statistics detail felony cases for 1st quarter of 2023

KUWAIT CITY, May 31: As investigations continue in the case of the murder of citizen Mubarak Al-Kashidi, the detention renewal judge has ordered further detention of the accused for another month, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The suspect is currently being charged with premeditated murder, while the Ministry of Interior continues to collect more information after the victim went missing in Kabad in March this year before and finally his corpse was recently found in Salmi after a continuous and dedicated effort by the officials of the Ministry of Interior.

An informed source told the daily the accused has denied the accusation during the prosecution's investigations, saying: "I did not kill him."

The source added, so far the man in detention is the only prime suspect but the security authorities have not ruled out the involvement of others in the case and this will be unfolded as the authorities take their investigations and interrogations to a next level.

Meanwhile, a Kuwaiti security delegation from the Ministry of Interior went to Egypt to interrogate the prime witness and who is in Egypt.

Felony cases: Recent statistics from the Ministry of Justice for the first quarter of the current year 2023 revealed that there were 1,994 felony cases pending before the Public Prosecution Office, reports Al-Qabas daily.

These cases were distributed – according to the statistics of which Al-Qabas obtained a copy - as 889 pending felony cases recorded in January, 502 in February, and 603 in March.

The statistics showed that cases of attempted murder and self-assault amounted to 147 in the first three months of this year, of which 56 were recorded in January, 39 in February, and 52 in March. As for cases of kidnapping amounted to 54, of which 21 were recorded in January, 13 in February and 20 in March.

The statistics indicated that the cases of assault and harming the reputation of others were 75, of which 29 were recorded in January, 23 in February and 23 in March; there were 314 cases of money fraud of which 125 were recorded in January, 75 in February, and 114 in March. With regard to drug and psychotropic substances, the statistics showed that they amounted to 544, of which 170 were recorded in January, 135 in February, and 239 in March.

Bank cases amounted to 860, of which 488 were recorded in January, 217 in February, and 155 in March.

H.E. Dr. Adarsh Swaika GUES Director: Anees Backer 01/06/2023 @ 10am & 10pm CHAITALI B ROY **Radio Kuwait International English Station** The Guest Show poster

TGS presents Ambassador of India

This Thursday, The Guest Show (TGS) on Radio Kuwait is honoured to present Dr Adarsh Swaika, Ambassador of India. Dr Swaika is a career diplomat who joined the foreign service in 2002. He has a PhD in Chemistry from Delhi University. His overseas postings include Russia,

Bulgaria, China and Bangladesh. Before his posting in Kuwait, the ambassador was Joint Secretary (Eurasia) responsible for bilateral relations with Russia, Ukraine, Central Asia and the Caucasian region. Kuwait is Ambassador Swaika's first posting in the Middle East. Not only is he looking forward to

learning more about the complexities of the region, but he is eager to strengthen and improve bilateral ties and mutual cooperation between Kuwait and its traditional ally, India. For this, he has been engaged in constant and proactive dialogue with various stakeholders and interlocutors since his arrival.

In this episode of The Guest Show, he speaks to Chaitali B. Roy about his journey as a diplomat, shares his experiences of different cultures and the legacy of shared cooperation and collaboration between India and Kuwait that he is determined to build on.

Kuwait last among GCC states on MEED's list of projects data

KUWAIT CITY, May 31: Kuwait ranks last among the Gulf Cooperation Council countries of the MEED magazine's list of ongoing data of planned and unanchored projects, as the value of projects under implementation is \$18 million, and planned and unanchored projects are worth \$25 million, reports Al-Anba daily.

The UAE ranked first with projects under implementation worth \$746 million, and others planned and unanchored at a value of \$433 million, followed by Saudi Arabia with \$329 million and \$368 million, respectively. In this context, the magazine quoted the Emirati company, Khazna Data Center, as saying that the huge demand for data is expected to lead to the expansion of data centers around the world, and that the company plans to build up to 20 data centers in the Kuwaiti and Saudi Arabia markets.

Without specifying the number of data centers that it plans to establish in the two countries, the UAE said it intends to announce these expansion plans later this year.

Entering the Kuwaiti market is part of UAE's plans for regional expansion, and comes on the heels of the company's recent entry into the Egyptian market, where it plans to build a \$250 million state-of-the-art data center in Cairo's Maadi Technology Center.

The company told MEED that specific details of its expansion plans "will be published in due course." As the largest hyperscale network in the MENA region, the company is constantly evaluating market opportunities to expand operations, including hyperscale joint ventures, with investors in the region and broader markets in response to demand for digital IT infrastructure.

For this reason, Khazna Data Center has set ambitious plans to expand its regional presence outside the United Arab Emirates to include Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Egypt.



'Social Affairs' keeps eye on activities of civil institutions

'Ministry's goal to request annual association projects plan'

KUWAIT CITY, May 31: Acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Community Development Abdulaziz Al-Mutairi affirmed that the ministry is keen to implement the decisions of the Council of Ministers and the NGOs Law, activate the role of civil society, and ensure the existence of effective projects and plans that are compatible with the goals and con-

tribute to the renaissance of society and achieve the public benefit, reports Al-Rai daily.

Al-Mutairi said, in a statement to the daily, that what the ministry is doing is supportive and auxiliary to achieve the goals of civil associations and promote and advance their mission, indicating that the ministry, through the management of civil associations, supervises the work of 179 public benefit associations that have obtained licenses to carry out their activities in various specializations. These

include cultural, educational, professional and medical

He stated that all public benefit associations fall under the umbrella of Law No. 24/1962 and the relevant organizing decisions, as the relationship between "affairs" and associations is based on cooperation between the government sector and civil society organizations whose role is considered supportive of government action.

He added, "The ministry recently circulated to public benefit associations a reminder of the provisions of ministerial decisions and the work law of public benefit associations, with the aim of encouraging its employees to achieve the desired goals of publicizing them, especially since the affairs teams recently monitored a set of observations and legal abuses on the activity of some of them.'

Al-Mutairi pointed out that among some of these observations and abuses are "public benefit associations addressing official bodies directly, which is contrary to Cabinet Resolution No. 666 of 2008, as they are obligated to address affairs, engage in activities and publish advertising materials without obtaining the approvals of the ministry and the competent authorities, what it is considered contrary to what was stated in Cabinet Resolution No. 836/2004. Al-Mutairi indicated that the ministry's goal is to request a

plan for annual association projects so that it can be audited and approved, in implementation of the text of Article No. 6 of Law No. 24/1962 in the matter of clubs and associations of public benefit, which prohibits associations from carrying out actions that do not fall within their objectives, which was monitored on several occasions. Take the necessary legal measures

He continued: The ministry has recently noticed the ineffectiveness of some associations and their failure to provide services to the community, which is in violation of their pub-

Al-Mutairi pointed out that the ministry also noticed the presence of many associations that do not engage in any activity and do not have a headquarters to carry out their role, and accordingly their officials will be notified to take the necessary measures towards their dissolution and liquidation in compliance with the law.



Director-General of KUNA Dr Al-Salem with Ambassador Aguilar.

KUNA chief. Spanish envoy discuss media co-op

Director-General of Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) Dr. Fatima Al-Salem discussed Wednesday with Spanish Ambassador to Kuwait Miguel Maro Aguilar ways of enhancing bilateral media cooperation.

Dr. Al-Salem, during the meeting in her office, affirmed KUNA's keenness on boosting cooperation with all diplomatic missions of sisterly and friendly countries, and providing specialized information and material in a way that would help them deliver their diplomatic message and serve bilateral interests with Kuwait

She also underlined the importance of sharing visits and experience, and offering all facilities and potential to both countries' workers and correspondents.

On his part, the Spanish ambassador stressed the importance of media role in inter-culture communication, people-topeople relations and world stability.

He also praised KUNA's role in developing Kuwait's pioneering media message, in addition to its credible and responsible news coverage. (KUNA)

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HH Amir 'congratulates' Croatia on National Day

KUWAIT CITY, May 31, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Wednesday a cable to the President of Croatia Zoran Milanovic congratulating him on his country's National Day.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir wished him everlasting health and wellness, and further progress and prosperity to his country and people.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown

Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber

Al-Sabah sent a cable to President Milanovic, congratulating him on his country's National Day

In the cable, His Highness the Crown Prince wished him and his people everlasting health and further progress and prosper-

Also, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Nawaf Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable to President Milanovic, congratulating him on his country's National Day.





Dr Swaika addressing the seminar, and (above) some of the speakers.

CII members join event oanline

Indian embassy holds seminar 'Doing Business in Kuwait' in hybrid format

KUWAIT CITY, May 31: The Embassy of India, Kuwait, organized a Training Seminar for Indian companies under the title 'Doing Business in Kuwait' in hybrid format on May 30, at the Embassy Auditorium. Taking part in the event were members of CII joining online.

During the seminar, expert consultants talked about registration, licensing, sponsorship, taxation and other legal interest for doing business in Kuwait.

This was part of embassy's initiative to facilitate Indian businesses to do business in Kuwait and further deepen India- Kuwait trade and investment cooperation.

The Indian Ambassador to Kuwait, HE Dr Adarsh Swaika, in his address to the seminal urged Indian companies to look at Kuwait as a potential destination for expanding their businesses in the Gulf region, especially as Kuwait, under Vision 2035 is looking to attract foreign companies in many important sectors such as infrastructure, digital technology, healthcare and renewable energy.

Ketan Puri, Manager, Tax & Regulatory Services, BDO Al Nisf & Partners gave an in-depth presentation on different routes of establishing presence in Kuwait for an Indian company, registration and taxation matters. Sanjiv Agarwal, CEO & MD of Protiviti

and Chetan Sharma, Head of International Division, Abdullah Kh. Al-Ayoub & Associates joined the seminar and answered questions from the participants. Pankaj Tandon, CEO and Joint Man-

aging Director, Jakson Group virtually about his experience of heading CII delegation which visited Kuwait Alok Chugh, CEO and Founder of He-

lios Consulting, Middle East spoke virtually about PPP and taxation issues. Ms Asma Shah, Senior Advocate at Rasma Legal and Mr Kashif Syed, Partner, International Legal Group joined the seminar virtually and explained employment, labour, succession and other legal matters.

Ms. Smita Patil, First Secretary (Political & Commerce) at the Embassy of India, Kuwait gave the welcome address and thanked the speakers. Over 200 participants from India and Kuwait attended the seminar in hybrid format.

'New platform to build bridges of trust'

Tawasul to see light of day with formation of new govt

KUWAIT CITY, May 31: The electronic platform 'Tawasul' will be open for all citizens and residents to submit complaints, proposals and inquiries to 72 government agencies, with direct follow-up by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmed Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, reports Al-Rai daily.

Informed sources told the daily about 400 senior officials from various state institutions were present for a visual presentation of the platform at the Jaber Cultural Center, during which a full explanation was given on what is expected to see the light after the National Assembly elections and the formation of the new government.

The sources indicated that the "continuity" will contribute to enhancing transparency, dialogue and the freedom to raise issues in what the authorities called "an official and easy manner", with direct follow-up from the various official levels.

The sources pointed out that the new platform will build bridges of trust with citizens and residents, enhance the spirit of joint communication, and present solutions to all difficulties facing visitors, with direct follow-up from various official levels, up to the Prime Minister who adopted the project and will be directly informed of the interaction of

government agencies and officials. The sources stressed that the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers officials provided a full explanation to the leaders of government agencies on the use of the "Tawasul" platform, how to follow up on complaints and requests, and monitor interaction and performance indicators for each person responsible for taking action, especially since the platform includes a section for directing urgent requests transferred from the chief's office.

The sources indicated that the interaction indicators will be a measure for evaluating the performance of officials and the speed of their interaction, as five time periods have been set to take the necessary measures towards any complaint, inquiry or suggestion, and a distinctive color is allocated for each period that shows the period that has elapsed since receiving the request, as the green color will be for the period that does not exceed 3 days, yellow (from 4 to 7 days), red (from 7 to 9 days), purple (from 10 to 14 days), and the black color is for requests that were received 15 days before, and therefore the delay puts the leader in the accountability circle for not taking appropriate

The sources confirmed that the platform is characterized by ease of use, and does not need more than authentication with the "My Identity" applica-

tion for the civil card. The application can also be submitted through the "Sahel" application as well, considering that "Tawasul" will break all barriers to communication and open the door for any citizen or resident.

Al raises risk of extinction, experts say in new warning

Scientists and tech industry leaders, including high-level executives at Microsoft and Google, issued a new warning Tuesday about the perils that artificial intelli-

gence poses to humankind.
"Mitigating the risk of extinction from Al should be a global priority alongside other societal-scale risks such as pandemics and nuclear war," the statement said. Sam Altman, CEO of ChatGPT maker OpenAI, and Geoffrey Hinton, a computer scientist known as the godfather of artificial intelligence, were among the hundreds of leading figures who signed the statement, which was posted on the Center for Al Safety's website.

Worries about artificial intelligence systems outsmarting humans and running wild have intensified with the rise of a new generation of highly capable AI chatbots such as ChatGPT. It has sent countries around the world scrambling to come up with regulations for the developing technology, with the European Union blazing the trail with its AI Act expected to be approved later this year.

The latest warning was intentionally succinct - just a single sentence - to encompass a broad coalition of scientists who might not agree on the most likely risks or the best solutions to prevent them, said Dan Hendrycks, executive director of the San Franciscobased nonprofit Center for Al Safety, which organized the move. "There's a variety of people from all top universities in various different fields who are concerned by this and think that this is a global priority," Hendrycks said. "So we had to get people to sort of come out of the closet, so to speak, on this issue because many were sort of silently speaking among each other." (AP)



OpenAl's CEO Sam Altman, the founder of ChatGPT and creator of OpenAl speaks at University College London, as part of his world tour of speaking engagements in London, on May 24, 2023. (AP)

Market Movements

UAE

31-05-2023

SAUDI - Tadawul JAPAN Nikkei **EGYPT** - EGX 30 PHILIPPINES - PSEi PAKISTAN - KSE 100 Change Closing pts -125.85 11,014.13 -440.28 30.887.88 -38.82 17,495.77 -33.31 6,477.36 -328.03 41.337.82



The Conversation

Erect guardrails, ensure accountability and address monopolistic power

How can US Congress regulate artificial intelligence?

By Anjana Susarla

Michigan State University

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

The government hasn't had great success in curbing technology monopolies, but disclosure requirements and data privacy laws could help check corpo-

OpenAI CEO Sam Altman urged lawmakers to consider regulating AI during his Senate testimony on May 16, 2023. That recommendation raises the question of what comes next for Congress. The solutions Altman proposed - creating an AI regulatory agency and requiring licensing for companies - are interesting. But what the other experts on the same panel suggested is at least as important: requiring transparency on training data and establishing clear frameworks for

Another point left unsaid was that, given the economics of building largescale AI models, the industry may be witnessing the emergence of a new type of tech monopoly.

As a researcher who studies social media and artificial intelligence, I believe that Altman's suggestions have highlighted important issues but don't provide answers in and of themselves. Regulation would be helpful, but in what form? Licensing also makes sense, but for whom? And any effort to regulate the AI industry will need to account for the companies' economic power and political

An agency to regulate AI?

Lawmakers and policymakers across the world have already begun to address some of the issues raised in Altman's testimony. The European Union's AI Act is based on a risk model that assigns AI applications to three categories of risk: unacceptable, high risk, and low or minimal risk. This categorization recognizes that tools for social scoring by governments and automated tools for hiring pose different risks than those from the use of AI in spam filters, for example.

The U.S. National Institute of Standards and Technology likewise has an AI risk management framework that was created with extensive input from multiple stakeholders, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the Federation of American Scientists, as well as other business and professional associations,

technology companies and think tanks.

Federal agencies such as the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the Federal Trade Commission have already issued guidelines on some of the risks inherent in AI. The Consumer Product Safety Commission and other agencies have a role to play as well.

Rather than create a new agency that runs the risk of becoming compromised by the technology industry it's meant to regulate, Congress can support private and public adoption of the NIST risk management framework and pass bills such as the Algorithmic Accountability Act. That would have the effect of imposing accountability, much as the Sarbanes-Oxley Act and other regulations transformed reporting requirements for companies. Congress can also adopt comprehensive laws around data privacy.

Regulating AI should involve collaboration among academia, industry, policy experts and international agencies. Experts have likened this approach to international organizations such as the European Organization for Nuclear Research, known as CERN, and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The internet has been managed by nongovernmental bodies involving nonprofits, civil society, industry and policymakers, such as the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers and the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly. Those examples provide models for industry and policymakers today.

Licensing auditors, not companies

Though OpenAI's Altman suggested that companies could be licensed to release artificial intelligence technologies to the public, he clarified that he was referring to artificial general intelligence, meaning potential future AI systems with humanlike intelligence that could pose a threat to humanity. That would be akin to companies being licensed to handle other potentially dangerous technologies, like nuclear power. But licensing could have a role to play well before such a futuristic scenario comes to pass.

Algorithmic auditing would require credentialing, standards of practice and extensive training. Requiring accountability is not just a matter of licensing individuals but also requires companywide standards and practices.

Experts on AI fairness contend that issues of bias and fairness in AI cannot be addressed by technical methods alone but require more comprehensive risk mitigation practices such as adopting institutional review boards for AI. Institutional review boards in the medical field help uphold individual rights, for example.

Academic bodies and professional societies have likewise adopted standards for responsible use of AI, whether it is authorship standards for AI-generated text or standards for patient-mediated data sharing in medicine.

Strengthening existing statutes on consumer safety, privacy and protection while introducing norms of algorithmic accountability would help demystify complex AI systems. It's also important to recognize that greater data accountability and transparency may impose new restrictions on organizations.

Scholars of data privacy and AI ethics have called for "technological due process" and frameworks to recognize harms of predictive processes. The widespread use of AI-enabled decision-making in such fields as employment, insurance and health care calls for licensing and audit requirements to ensure procedural fairness and privacy safeguards.

Requiring such accountability provisions, though, demands a robust debate among AI developers, policymakers and those who are affected by broad deployment of AI. In the absence of strong algorithmic accountability practices, the danger is narrow audits that promote the appearance of compliance.

AI monopolies?

What was also missing in Altman's testimony is the extent of investment required to train large-scale AI models, whether it is GPT-4, which is one of the foundations of ChatGPT, or text-to-image generator Stable Diffusion. Only a handful of companies, such as Google, Meta, Amazon and Microsoft, are responsible for developing the world's largest language models.

Given the lack of transparency in the training data used by these companies, AI ethics experts Timnit Gebru, Emily Bender and others have warned that large-scale adoption of such technologies without corresponding oversight risks amplifying machine bias at a societal scale.

It is also important to acknowledge that the training data for tools such as ChatGPT includes the intellectual labor of a host of people such as Wikipedia contributors, bloggers and authors of digitized books. The economic benefits from these tools, however, accrue only to the technology corporations.

Proving technology firms' monopoly power can be difficult, as the Department of Justice's antitrust case against Microsoft demonstrated. I believe that the most feasible regulatory options for Congress to address potential algorithmic harms from AI may be to strengthen disclosure requirements for AI firms and users of AI alike, to urge comprehensive adoption of AI risk assessment frameworks, and to require processes that safeguard individual data rights and privacy. (AP)



the Oval Office of the White House, on May 22, 2023, in Washington. (AP)

McCarthy scrambles for GOP approval

Biden 'shores up' Dems' support, ahead of House debt ceiling vote

WASHINGTON, May 31, (AP): Hard-fought to the end, the debt ceiling and budget cuts package is heading toward a crucial U.S. House vote as President Joe Biden and Speaker Kevin McCarthy assemble a coalition of centrist Democrats and Republicans to push it to passage over fierce blowback from conservatives and some progressive dissent.

Biden is sending top White House officials to meet early Wednesday at the Capitol to shore up support ahead of voting. McCarthy is working furiously to sell skeptical fellow Republicans, even fending off challenges to his leadership, in the rush to avert a potentially disastrous U.S. default.

Despite deep disappointment from right-flank Republicans that the compromise falls short of the spending cuts they demanded, McCarthy insisted he would have the votes needed to ensure approval.

"We're going to pass the bill," McCarthy said as he exited a lengthy Tuesday night meeting at the Capitol.

Quick approval by the House and later in the week the Senate would ensure government checks will continue to go out to Social Security recipients, veterans and others and would prevent financial upheaval at home and abroad. Next Monday is when the Treasury has said the U.S. would run short of money to pay its debts, risking an economically dan-

Package

The package leaves few lawmakers fully satisfied, but Biden and McCarthy are counting on pulling majority support from the political center, a rarity in divided Washington, testing the leadership of the Democratic president and the Republican speaker.

Overall, the 99-page bill restricts spending for the next two years, suspends the debt ceiling into January 2025 and changes policies, including new work requirements for older Americans receiving food aid and greenlighting an Appalachian natural gas line that many Democrats oppose.

For more than two hours late Tuesday as aides wheeled in pizza at the Capitol, McCarthy walked Republicans through the details, fielded questions and encouraged them not to lose sight of the bill's budget savings.

The speaker faced a sometimes tough crowd. Leaders of the hard-right House Freedom Caucus spent the day lambasting the compromise as falling well short of the spending cuts they de-

mand, and they vowed to try to halt passage by Congress. "This deal fails, fails completely," Rep. Scott Perry, R-Pa., the chairman of the Freedom Caucus, said earlier in the day, flanked by others outside the Capitol. "We will do everything in our power to stop it."

A much larger conservative faction, the Republican Study Committee, declined to take a position. Even rank-and-file centrist conservatives were unsure, leaving McCarthy desperately hunting for votes.

Rep. Nancy Mace, R-S.C., said after the "healthy debate" late into the night she was still a no.

Ominously, the conservatives warned of potentially trying to oust McCarthy over the compromise.

"There's going to be a reckoning," said Rep. Chip Roy

Biden was speaking directly to lawmakers, making more than 100 one-on-one calls, the White House said. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office said the

spending restrictions in the package would reduce deficits by \$1.5 trillion over the decade, a top goal for the Republicans trying to curb the debt load. McCarthy told lawmakers that number was higher if the two-year spending caps were extended, which is no guar-

But in a surprise that could further erode Republican support, the GOP's drive to impose work requirements on older Americans receiving food stamps ends up boosting spending by \$2.1 billion over the time period. That's because the final deal exempted veterans and homeless people, expanding the

food stamp rolls by 78,000 people monthly, the CBO said. House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries said it was up to McCarthy to turn out votes from some two-thirds of the Republican majority, a high bar the speaker may not be able to reach. In the 435-member House, 218 votes are needed

Still, Jeffries said the Democrats would do their part to avoid failure. "It is my expectation that House Republicans would keep their promise and deliver at least 150 votes as it relates to an agreement that they themselves negotiated," Jeffries said. "Democrats will make sure that the country does not default."

Liberal Democrats decried the new work requirements for older Americans, those age 50-54, in the food aid program. And some Democratic lawmakers were leading an effort to remove the surprise provision for the Mountain Valley Pipeline natural gas project. The energy development is important to Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., but many others oppose it as unhelpful in fighting climate change.

Wall St slumps with markets worldwide

Worries rise about strength of global economy, inflation

NEW YORK, May 31, (AP): Wall Street is slumping with stock markets worldwide Wednesday as worries rise about the strength of the global economy and infla-

The S&P 500 was 0.8% lower in midday trading. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 261 points, or 0.8%, at 32,781, as of 11:20 a.m. Eastern time, while the Nasdaq composite was 0.8% lower.

Stock markets in Asia fell even more following discouraging data on manufacturing from China. The world's second-largest economy has not been rebounding as strongly as many investors had hoped. That raises worries when economies around the world are contending with still-high inflation and much higher interest rates than a year earlier.

Wall Street has been able to weather such concerns pretty well recently, largely because of big gains for a handful of tech companies and others getting swept up in the buzz around AI The S&P 500 is still on track to close out a roughly flat May and may squeeze out a third straight winning month.

But some of the air seeped out of those big winners on Wednesday. Nvidia, whose chips are helping to power the surge into AI, dropped 3.3% and is heading for its first fall since it gave a monster forecast last week for upcoming sales. It's already more than doubled this year and was flirt-

ing with a total value of \$1 trillion a day earlier.

Worries are also rising for the larger U.S. economy, which has begun to slow under the weight of much higher interest rates. The Federal Reserve has raised rates at a furious pace since early last year in hopes of getting inflation under control. But high rates work by hurting the economy and hitting prices for investments. Many traders are bracing for the Fed to raise rates again at its next meeting in two weeks, but the hope is that may be the last for a while.

Expectations

A report released Wednesday morning bolstered expectations for at least one more hike after it showed employers advertised more job openings last month than expected. It's the latest signal of a job market that's remained remarkably resilient in the face of higher interest rates.

While that's good news for workers and for the economy, it also gives the Fed more leeway to keep rates high. A strong job market could keep upward pressure on workers' wages, which Wall Street fears could keep inflation high. Other, smaller portions of the economy have shown much

more pain. A report on Wednesday morning suggested manufacturing in the Chicago region is contracting by much more than economists feared. It's the latest region to report much weaker manufacturing than expected.

The U.S. banking system has also come under pressure because of the Fed. The surge in rates over the last year means customers are pulling their deposits in hopes of making more in interest at money-market funds. Higher rates have also knocked down the values for bonds and other investments banks made when rates were low.

On Wall Street, Advance Auto Parts plunged 33.6% after it reported much weaker profit for the latest quarter than analysts expected. The retailer also said it expects pressures to continue through 2023, and it cut its full-year financial forecast and reduced its dividend.

Hewlett Packard Enterprise tumbled 5.8% after it reported weaker revenue for the latest quarter than expected. HP dropped 4% after its revenue likewise fell short of forecasts. Profits for companies across the S&P 500 were largely better than analysts feared for the first three months of the year. But

they were still down from where they were a year earlier. Europe

The CAC 40 in Paris sank 0.7%, the DAX in Frankfurt retreated 0.4% and the FTSE 100 in London lost 0.2%.

The Shanghai Composite Index lost 0.6% to 3,204.56 and the Nikkei 225 in Tokyo fell 1.4% to 30,887.88. The Hang Seng in Hong Kong tumbled 1.9% to 18,234.27

The Kospi in Seoul retreated 0.3% to 2,577.12 and the S&P-ASX 200 in Sydney fell 1.6% to 7,091.30. India's Sensex lost 0.7% to 62,514.88. New Zealand ad-

vanced while Southeast Asian markets declined. Advance Auto Parts slid 26% in premarket after it badly

missed Wall Street's first-quarter earnings targets and cut full-year profit guidance by more than 40%.

In energy markets, benchmark U.S. crude lost another \$1.87 to \$67.59 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract fell \$3.21 on Tuesday to \$69.46, falling below \$70 this week for the first time in more than two months. Brent crude, the price basis for international oil trading, shed \$1.72 to \$71.99 per barrel in London. It sank \$3.53 the previous session to \$73.54.

Currencies

The dollar declined to 139.77 yen from Tuesday's 139.87 yen. The euro retreated to \$1.0680 from \$1.0719.

On Tuesday, the S&P 500 index edged up less than 0.1%, while the Dow slipped 0.2% and the Nasdaq composite rose



Tesla's Musk meets Chinese foreign minister

China's foreign minister met Tesla Ltd. CEO Elon Musk on Tuesday and said strained U.S.-Chinese relations require "mutual respect," while delivering a message of reassurance that foreign companies are welcome.

U.S.-Chinese relations are especially tense after Washington shot down a Chinese balloon believed to be gathering intelligence and warned

Beijing against supplying arms to Russia for its war against Ukraine. The Wall Street Journal reported China has rejected a request for its defense minister to meet the U.S. defense secretary when both are in Singapore

this weekend.
"We need to keep the steering wheel in the right direction of mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and

win-win cooperation," Qin Gang told Musk, according to a ministry statement.

The two sides should "avoid 'dangerous driving,' "
Qin said. He gave no details of steps to improve relations.
Musk's visit comes at a

Musk's visit comes at a time when the ruling Communist Party is trying to revive investor interest in China's slowing economy. Foreign companies are uneasy fol-

lowing raids on consulting firms and given the strained Chinese relations with Washington

Qin said China will "unswervingly promote high-level opening up" and create a "market-oriented, law-based and internationalized business environment," according to the statement. "China's development is an opportunity for the world." (AP)



In this photo taken Tuesday, May 30, 2023 and released by Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, China's Foreign Minister Qin Gang, right, poses for photos with Tesla Ltd. CEO Elon Musk in Beijing. (AP)

In the span of a week, talabat successfully prevented the wastage of three tons of food

Talabat collaborates with Naematy and Kuwait Farmers Federation to reduce local food waste

KUWAIT CITY, May 31: On the occasion of World Hunger Day and in alignment with the United Nations UNSDG goal of reducing global food waste by 2030, talabat, the region's leading tech company, is delighted to announce the launch of a unique initiative. With this initiative in collaboration with Naematy, a local NGO, and the Kuwait Farmers Federation, talabat aims to reduce waste from local farms specifically related to vegetables and fruits. As a part of this initiative, talabat collects the surplus of vegetables that would otherwise go unsold and delivers them to Naematy, which then distributes them to families in need in Kuwait

Talabat's Social Responsibility Towards the Community:

With a sense of social responsibility towards the community, talabat has partnered with Naematy and the Kuwait Farmers Federation, aiming to actively raise awareness about food wastage, promote waste recovery, and foster a stronger sense of compassion and responsibility towards the underprivileged.

This initiative reflects the company's commitment to aligning its business practices with Kuwait's national strategy for sustainable food management and waste reduction. This strategic direction is in harmony with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly UNSDG's goal number 12.3 which aims to "cut in half per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer level and reduce food losses along production and supply chains by 2030".

Abdullah Al-Mansour, Head of COMMS, PA & CR talabat Kuwait commented on the initiative: "At talabat, we have a social duty and responsibility towards our community to reduce food wastage and aim to achieve that through this partnership with Kuwait Farmers Federation and Naematy. Through this partnership, we look forward to implementing sustainable practices and fostering a culture of responsible food consumption and waste reduction throughout the entire food value chain, supporting the country in its efforts to manage food resources more sustainably and reduce food wastage.

nd reduce food wastage."

A tech company at its core:

Talabat is much more than the region's leading food and grocery delivery app. Essentially, as a technology-driven company, talabat is always bringing innovative ideas to the market, empowering their food and grocery partners to embrace digital technologies and leverage big data for the advancement of their services.

"As a tech company at its core, we at talabat, always look for innovative ideas to solve everyday challenges in the most efficient way possible. With that in mind, this initiative is the perfect example of how a tech company can utilize its knowledge of the food industry to overcome community challenges such as food wastage and contribute to the greater good of the society" Almansourcommented.

Saving up to 3 tons of food waste:

Throughout the week-long duration of this initiative, talabat successfully prevented the disposal of nearly 3 tons of food waste. By minimizing food waste, not only are the number of products wasted reduced but also the amount of water, electricity and manpower used is cut down, resulting in cost savings. When considering the expenses associated with these factors over the course of a year, each farm has the potential to save up an incredible amount of money yearly.

Mohammed Al Muzaini, Founder of Naematy commented: "We at Naematy, are dedicated to safe-guarding food, preventing waste and providing food for the needy by promoting responsible food consumption to prevent serious environmental, economic and social consequences". He then added: "We established this partnership with talabat almost a year and a half ago by together collecting food baskets and distributing them to underprivileged families, completely free of charge".

Abdullah Al Dammak member at



Abdullah Al-Mansour

Zain partners with Arab Media Forum for the promotion of media excellence



Technology empowers communities to grow and become more sustainable: Al Roudhan

KUWAIT CITY, May 31: Zain, the Strategic Partner of the 18th Arab Media Forum, contributed to the event by hosting a number of unique programs throughout the two-day conference. The event came under the patronage of H.H. the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Sabah and was attended by some of the Arab World's top media personalities and execu-

The opening ceremony was attended by the representative of the event's patron, H.E. Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al Mutairi, Zain Kuwait CEO Eaman Al Roudhan, Arab Media Forum Secretary General Madhi Al Khamees, and many ministers, ambassadors, and diplomats.

Zain Kuwait CEO Eaman Al Roudhan joined a special panel discussion about the impact of technology on the progress and sustainability of communities. During the panel, Al Roudhan highlighted the vital role technology plays in empowering communities to grow and become more sustainable. The CEO also discussed Zain's leadership po-

commented: "We recognize the vital



sition in the local market as a pioneer

how technology facilitated access

to information, paving the way to

the digital revolution, and bringing

simple and free access to resources

like e-books and scientific journals.

She further stressed on how technol-

ogy helped create a digitally cultured

community, presenting a new gen-

eration of entrepreneurs, developing

key infrastructures, advancing sci-

ence, and improving quality of life.

program, Zain hosted a number of

activities to promote media excel-

lence, including two workshops on

Throughout the forum's two-day

In addition, Al Roudhan discussed

in technology and digitization.

Top and above photos from the Zain Arab Media Forum event 2023. the essentials of hosting TV, radio, sponsoring the event, Zain contrard pedest shows and the assertion and and the asser

the essentials of hosting TV, radio, and podcast shows and the essentials of creative writing, both hosted by media influencer Ali Najem. The company also hosted a special talk show, Zain Microphone, at the event, hosted by TV presenter Abdulrahman Aljaser, who interviewed some of the event's top guests and discussed the future of media and the impact of technologies like AI on the

age of information.

Zain's strategic partnership with the forum extended throughout the past 10 years and came this year to further reflect the company's strong belief in the significant role media plays within the community. By

sponsoring the event, Zain contributed to shouldering the local and regional media sectors and continued to support the Arab World's biggest media gathering.

This year, the Arab Media Forum celebrated its 20th year, and came under support from the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS). The event welcomed high-profile executives from the Arab world, including foreign affairs ministers, media and information ministers, owners and executives of Arab media institutions, media personalities, journalists, authors, actors, and more.

Zain's annual presence in this

forum highlights its commitment to become a socially responsible organization that actively contributes to developing the communities in which it operates. The company will continue supporting this unique event that is considered the top in the region.

أحمد نواف الأحمد الصباح

الملتقب الأعلامي العربي

The Arab Media Forum has proven itself to be one of the region's most prominent events that attend to Arab media. Since 2003, the event brought together many ministers, editors-in-chief of local and regional newspapers, media executives, journalists, academics, authors, actors, businessmen, and social figures from all around the Arab world.

ABK announces Fahad Al Zahem as winner of weekly draw prize

role community partnerships play in the success of any initiative, especially KUWAIT CITY, May 31: Al when it comes to raising awareness Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) anabout food wastage. With that said, nounced Ghaneemah Fahad Al together with talabat, we established a system to collect excess vegetables Zahemas the winner of KD10,000 in the Alfouz weekly draw. The from our farmers that were then dewinner was announced on Monlivered to Naematy to be distributed among families in need". He then day, May 29, 2023. The draw added: "Within only one week of the was held under the supervision collaboration, we were ableto save up of the Ministry of Commerce and to 3 tons of product wasted". Industry.

Throughout the seven days of this The Alfouz draw account ofongoing initiative, talabat was able fers ABK customers the chance to to raise awareness about the daily win life-changing rewards. With volume of wasted food and products Alfouz, ABK customers will get by promoting more sustainable food a chance to win KD10,000 in the consumption practices and cultivatweekly draw and the ultimate ing a greater sense of empathy and grand prize of KD5,000 monthly responsibility towards those who are additional income for 10 years. less privileged.



Alfouz weekly winner.

Both new and existing ABK customers can benefit from this opportunity, with a minimum account balance of KD100 only.

ABK encourages everyone to open Alfouz draw account and/ or increase their balances to have more chances in winning in the upcoming draw which will happen on Monday, June 5, 2023. The higher the deposits are, the higher the chances to win.

For more information about ABK, please visit eahli.com or contact an ABK customer service agent via 'Ahlan Ahli' at 189899. Alternatively, you can visit your nearest ABK branch.

Agility holds its Annual General Assembly Meeting

Agility, a long-term investor and operator in supply chain services, infrastructure, and innovation, held today its Ordinary Annual General Assembly Meeting, with a quorum of 67.432%. The Extraordinary General meeting will be adjourned to June 7, 2023, since the quorum was not met.

The company's shareholders approved all items on the agenda, including Agility's audited financial statements, and the Board of Directors' recommen-

dation for not distributing dividends for the fiscal year ending December 31st 3022.

Agility reported full-year 2022 earnings of 26.83fils per share on net profit of KD 68 million. EBIT-DA increased 65.7% to KD 180.5 million, and revenue grew 77.6% to KD 863.4 million

to KD 863.4 million.

Agility Vice Chairman Tarek
Sultan said: "It's important to emphasize that we take a long-term
view in value creation. When it
comes to our controlled business-

es, the acquisitions we have done in 2022, helped us accelerate growth, expand our geographic reach, and increase our exposure to sectors that have strong future growth potential. On the investments side, stock market volatility affected our holdings, but we look beyond daily share price movements to the strategic value, growth and returns we believe our investments will deliver for our shareholder over the long-term." (KIINA)

AUB congratulates winners of Al-Hassad Weekly Draw

Ahli United Bank (AUB) Congratulates the Winners of Al-Hassad Weekly Draw of Al-Hassad Islamic account, which was held on May 31 at the bank's head office in the presence of a representative of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

merce and industry.

The bank announced 10 Winners of KD 1,000 as follows: Aisha Mohammed Esmail Al-Bahri, Karuna Thangam Edwin, Khaled Abdullah Eid Al-Otaibi, Saad L H

Al-Dousari, Hussain Ali Hasan Al-Mutawaa, Khalil E A Ashkanani, Aamer B S Al-Azmi, Loulwah Mohammad Fhaid Al-Otaibi, Heyam Jawad Mahmoud Jouhar Hayatand Ameenah Dawoud Belal Fayrouz.

la Fayrouz.

In its new package, Al-Hassad Islamic Saving Account presents a broader variety of rewards. Customers could now participate in the draw to win a monthly KD 100,000 prize, in addition to 10

weekly prizes of KD 1,000 each. The grand quarterly prize of KD 250,000 in cash for the winner remains the most important aspiration of customers. It is a real chance for them to realize their life dreams. In addition to this attractive package, there will be the annual expected profits on the basis of a Wakala contract that increases the attractiveness of the Al-Hassad Islamic Saving Account to customers.

Nurturing talent and strategic acumen targeted

AIU students shine in business competitions

KUWAIT CITY, May 31: American International University (AIU) hosted two prestigious business competitions that showcased the talent and strategic acumen of its students. The first eventwas the Strategic Management Case Competition held on May 4. The competition challenged students to devise strategic plans for mock companies.

The event comprised lightning rounds and a final presentation, with guest judges Mr. Mohammad Reda, Information Analyst at Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research and Mr. Thinyan S A AlWaqaian, KFH Capital Investment Company, offering insights and posing questions. The students' presentations showcased their strategic thinking, innovative solutions, and practical application of knowledge.

The winning team of the case competition, Group A, composed of Hanady Maarafi, Ibrahim Mohammad Alhubail, Shahad Mohammad Al Khaldi, and Shaheen Mohammad Al-Dhafeeri, demonstrated exceptional teamwork, strategic management skills, and a profound understanding of the case study. Their presentation stood out for

KUWAIT CITY, May 31: its creativity and ability to ad-American International University (AIU) hosted two prestures the case study.

In another impressive feat, AIU organized the SOB Investment Competition, which took place on May 11 and featured teams presenting their investment strategies. The esteemed guest judges, Mr. Fahad AlYaseen, Member of Board of Directors in multiple companies in GCC and Mr. Mohammad Alajmi, Certified Financial Analyst at the Kuwaiti Capital Market Authority, provided valuable feedback and praised the students' deep understanding of the subject matter. The competition highlighted the students' ability to assess the market accurately and impressed both guests and faculty.

Both events received praise from the guest judges and highlighted the promising capabilities of AIU's business students. The competitions provided valuable opportunities for students to hone their skills, receive feedback from industry experts, and apply their knowledge in real-world scenarios. AIU continues to foster an environment of excellence, encouraging students to excel in various fields and preparing them for future success in the business world.









Top and above: Some photos from the event

Research, commercial utilization eyed

UAE's TTI launches 'open-source' Falcon 40B large language model

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates, May 31, (Busniess Wire): The Technology Innovation Institute (TII), a leading global scientific research center and the applied research pillar of Abu Dhabi's Advanced Technology Research Council (ATRC), today strengthened its growing international influence in the field of artificial intelligence by announcing that "Falcon 40B," the UAE's first large-scale AI model, is now open source for research and commercial use. This pioneering move demonstrates Abu Dhabi's commitment to fostering collaboration across sectors and driving advancements in generative AI.

This press release features multimedia. View the full release here: https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20230525005043/en/

"Falcon 40B," the UAE's first large-scale AI model, is now open source for research and commercial use. (Photo: AETOSWire)

Falcon, a foundational large language model (LLM) with 40 billion parameters, trained on one trillion tokens, grants unprecedented access to researchers and small and mediumsized enterprise (SME) innovators alike. TII is providing access to the model's weights as a more comprehensive open-source package, with the aim of enabling access to powerful LLM capabilities, promoting transparency and accountability, and supporting innovation and research in the field

In the current AI ecosystem, developers are finding LLMs that provide access to model weights more appealing due to the enhanced capabilities they offer for fine-tuning compared to those without. While the majority of LLMs have granted exclusive licenses solely to non-commercial users, TII has taken a key stride in offering researchers and commercial users access to the Falcon 40B LLM.

In conjunction with the release of Falcon 40B as an open-source model, TII has launched a call for proposals, inviting scientists, researchers, and visionaries who are enthusiastic about harnessing the potential of the foundation model. They are encouraged to contribute their innovative ideas and leverage the model to build inspiring use cases or explore further possibilities for its application to cover areas like engineering, healthcare, sustainability, coding, and much more.

As an incentive for exceptional research proposals, selected projects will receive "training compute power" in the form of investment, enabling innovators to leverage robust computational resources for accelerated data analysis, complex modeling, and new discoveries. This support will nurture and accelerate the development of novel ideas, providing the necessary resources to turn them into impactful AI solutions with commercial viability and societal benefits.

VentureOne, the commercialization arm of ATRC, will facilitate computation power to productize the most innovative solutions. "Making Falcon 40B open source represents a critical milestone in our commitment to fostering AI innovation," said H.E.Faisal Al Bannai, Secretary General of the Advanced Technology Research Council (ATRC). "We are disrupting LLM access and enabling researchers and entrepreneurs to come up with the most innovative use cases. We will further support these submissions with computation power as funding through VentureOne, helping to advance a thriving research ecosystem."

Falcon, first unveiled in March 2023, showcased exceptional performance and underscored the UAE's commitment to technological progress. Based on Stanford University's HELM LLM benchmarking tool, Falcon 40B outperformed its renowned counterparts in utilizing significantly less training compute power. With only 75 percent of the training compute of OpenAI's GPT-3, 40 percent of DeepMind's Chinchilla AI, and 80 percent of the training compute of Google's PaLM-62B, the tool substantiated TII's commitment to advancing developments in generative

AI.
Dr. Ray O. Johnson, CEO of TII, said: "Computing power plays a pivotal role in expediting AI system training and enabling faster implementation of use cases. As the new fuel that drives technological innovation, the move to offer such support will be game-changing in enhancing the capabilities of innovators, and enabling them to push the boundaries of their projects to achieve remarkable advancements."

Falcon 40B is a breakthrough led by TII's AI and Digital Science Research Center (AIDRC). The same team also launched NOOR, the world's largest Arabic NLP model last year, and is on track to develop and announce Falcon 180B soon.

Dr. Ebtesam Almazrouei Director, AI Cross-Center Unit, TII, said: "The open-source release of Falcon 40B, 7.5B, and 1.3B parameter AI models and our high-quality REFINEDWEB dataset, exemplifies the profound scientific contributions of the UAE. With each breakthrough, we defy limitations, reshape the realm of possibilities, and pave the way for collaborative efforts with transformative impact."

The UAE recently moved up five places to rank as the top Arab country and the 37 th out of 166 countries in the UN Frontier Technologies Readiness Index 2023. Complementing a long list of progressive technology milestones, the open-source generative AI model is set to boost the UAE's credentials as a mainstream AI player.

If you are interested in accessing the Falcon AI models or submitting for the use case call for proposal, we invite you to visit FalconLLM.TII.ae. Falcon LLMs open sourced to date, will be made available under a license built upon the principles of open-source Apache 2.0 software, which allows for a wide range of free use.

UPAC holds AGM for the financial year ending 31st December 2022

Revenue up 28.7%

KUWAIT CITY, May 31: United Projects for Aviation Services Company (UPAC), a commercial real estate and facilities management company, held today its Annual Ordinary General Assembly Meeting, with a quorum of

97.233%.

UPAC shareholders approved all the items on the AGM agenda, including UPAC's audited financial results. They endorsed the Board of Directors' recommendation not to distribute dividends for the fis-

cal year ending 31December 2022. In 2022, UPAC recorded full year 2022 revenue of KD 9.89 million, up 28.7% from 2021, with a net profit of KD 690 thousand or 1.67 fils per share.

Nadia Akil, Chief Executive Officer – UPAC, said: "I'm pleased with our results and with UPAC's performance in 2022. The company's improved numbers are mainly a result of the gradual resumption in air passenger traffic at Kuwait International Airport throughout 2022. We are happy to see that overall operations as well as flight volumes are returning to normal levels, where UPAC expects to benefit from increases in daily flights and passenger

volumes in 2023 and beyond. Reem Mall has opened to the public in February 2023, with about 100 units operating to date. The mall has been welcoming Abu Dhabi residents and visitors for some time now given one of the mall's main anchors, Carrefour Hypermarket, had already opened to the public in early 2022, giving shoppers the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the location and layout of the mall. Since the official opening in February, the mall has been gradually rolling out more stores, the list includes the largest Homecentre store in the UAE, as well as Zara, Mango, Boggi, Stradivarius, Bershka, Centrepoint, Sephora, Kiko, Chattels & More, Nike, and VOX Cinemas, all of which provide an unmatched shopping experience for the mall's customers.

UPAC is pleased to announce that Snow Abu Dhabi, which is Abu Dhabi's first and only indoor snow play destination, is set to open its doors to the public on 8 June 2023, and will offer year-round snowy adventures for friends and families to enjoy. UPAC expects a steady increase in additional store openings by more tenants over the coming months.

Abu Dhabi's \$1.3 billion Reem Mall is the region's first, fully integrated omni-channel retail ecosystem with digital, e-commerce, and logistics capabilities. It brings together all consumer and retail services to ensure a seamless customer experience.

In Kuwait, UPAC operates three major projects, including the manage-

Gulf Bank: 13 tips to know before traveling to use bank cards safely

KUWAIT CITY, May 31: To raise awareness during the travel and tourism season and in support of the Let's Be Aware "Diraya" campaign AbdulMohsen Al-Nassar: Never

share your PIN or OTP with anyone and make sure you read their contents thoroughly.

As part of its keenness to promote

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

With the advent of the travel and tourism season this summer, the Corporate Communications Officer at Gulf Bank, Mr. Abdul Mohsen Al-Nassar, provides a number of tips for those wishing to travel during the summer, in order to ensure that they use their bank cards safely, and enjoy the many services that Gulf Bank offers. The tips are as follows

1. Ensure that your cards are valid to cover the entire travel period.

2. Ensure that all personal details are up to date with the bank such as your phone number, email, etc.

3. Ensure to have sufficient credit limits andcheck your account balance.

4. Never give your card or your PIN number to any person, and

الكلية ا

Abdul Mohsen Al-Nassar

should you lose your card or face any issues, immediately contact the Bank's Call Center. You can also stop the card via mobile app or web-

5. Download the mobile app of the bank to track your card usage and spending while traveling.

6. Ensure your online banking access is working.
7. Ensure to book flights through

7. Ensure to book flights through well-known and credible websites only.

8. Avoid false offers and advertisements to avoid the risk of fraud.
9. Ensure that the PC or mobile

you are using for booking has the latest update.

10. Never share your 3D Secure one-time password used to protect your online shopping with anyone.

11. Ensure to read the contents of the OTP message, the name of the store and the payment amount before using the OTP in the payment process.

12. Be aware that thebank will never ask you to enter your personal information through email or calls; never click on a Web link received by non-trusted emails.

13. Some cards have some travel privileges – we recommend checking the offers available for your card via Gulf Bank's website, or Visa and MasterCard websites.

The Central Bank of Kuwait, in cooperation with Kuwait Banking Association, has launched the Diraya "Let's Be Aware" campaign in 2021, to acquaint bank customers with the most important banking services provided to them. This is to ensure the safety of transactions and to enhance financial inclusion, as well as monetary and economic stability – through comprehensive awareness of customers' rights and obligations.

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

in Kuwait, UPAC is a leading com-

please visit the website: www.upac.

ment and operations of Kuwait International Airport's Terminal 1 airport mall, parking and related facilities, as

well as the management of real estate and parking facilities at the airport's Sheikh Saad terminal and parking and

real estate
e airport's
arking and

related facilities at Terminal 4, the dedicated Kuwait Airways terminal.

About UPAC
Established in 2000, publicly listed on Boursa Kuwait, and headquartered

mercial real estate and facilities management company with a specialization in Build Operate Transfer (BOT) initiatives. Its services cover project management and consultancy, real estate development as well as property and facilities management. UPAC manages over 24,000 sqm of commercial space at the Kuwait International Airport (Terminal 1), Sheikh Saad Terminal, as well as the parking lot and related facilities at Kuwait International Airport's Terminal 4. UPAC is part of the Kuwaiti-led consortium developing Abu Dhabi's Reem Mall, a \$1.3 billion project spread over 270,000 sqmon Al Reem Islandand opened in February 2023. For more information,



UPAC logo

Toyota to invest \$2.1b more in N.C. battery plant, will build big SUV at factory in Kentucky

Toyota will invest another \$2.1 billion in an electric and hybrid vehicle battery factory that's under construction near Greensboro, North Carolina.

The plant will supply batteries to Toyota's huge complex in Georgetown, Kentucky, which will build Toyota's first U.S.made electric vehicle, a new SUV with three rows of seats.

The plans, announced Wednesday, won't immediately create any more jobs at either the Kentucky or North Carolina factories. Susan Elkington, president of

Toyota Motor Manufacturing Kentucky, said the new vehicle reflects the company's "journey toward an electrified future."

Toyota will tap into a "growing market segment" with its new three-row SUV, Elkington said. She sidestepped media questions Wednesday regarding specific details of the new vehicle, saying: "I know everybody really wants to know about the vehicle, but today's announcement is re-ally about our manufacturing location." Toyota plans to employ 2,100 work-

ers at the North Carolina battery factory,

which will start production in 2025. The investment will prepare infrastructure for expansion. It brings the total investment in the Randolph County plant to \$5.9 billion to meet the company's goal of selling 1.8 million electric or hybrid vehicles in the U.S by 2030. Toyota broke ground to be-

gin building the plant in 2021 The 9 million-square-foot Kentucky complex now employs 9,500 people who make the Camry sedan, RAV4 Hybrid SUV, several engines and other components. The company says jobs will shift to

the new electric vehicle when production starts in 2025.

The North Carolina battery plant will have six battery production lines, four for gas-electric hybrid vehicles and two for fully electric vehicle batteries, Toyota said in a statement. The site near Greensboro is relatively close to many of Toyota's existing U.S. auto assembly plants in Missouri, Kentucky, Indiana, Alabama and Texas.

"With this proactive infrastructure investment, we will be able to quickly support future expansion opportunities to

meet growing customer need," Sean Suggs, president of Toyota Battery Manufacturing North Carolina, said in a statement.

Toyota Motor Corp. plans to sell 2 million zero emission hydrogen and battery electric vehicles worldwide per year by 2030. In the U.S., the company plans to sell 1.5 million to 1.8 million vehicles by 2030 that are at least partially electrified.

Toyota's new President Koji Sato has promised what he called an aggressive shift on "electrification" of vehicles includ-

New survey highlights consumer concern over need for transparency in generative-Al content

BRIGHTON, England, May 31, (Business Wire): New research conducted by StoryStream shows that 94% of consumers would like to see more transparency and regulation around the use of Generative AI technology in marketing and advertising. User-generated Content remains the most authentic and trustworthy format of content when making purchase decisions online.

This press release features multimedia. View the full release here: https:// www.businesswire.com/news/home/20230530005045/en/

According to the new survey, 94% of consumers want more transparency and regulation around the use of Generative AI technology in marketing and advertising. (Graphic: Business Wire)

The survey, which included 600 respondents from the USA, U.K., Canada and Australia, examined opinions on various aspects of Generative AI, ranging from ethical considerations to trust in AI-generated content. The findings shed light on the evolving landscape, and offer valuable insights for businesses beginning to navigate the realm of AI-powered marketing.

The survey found that a significant majority of respondents (66%) believe that Generative AI holds the potential to replace human creativity and ingenuity in marketing and advertising. However, opinions on the ethical implica-tions of utilising Generative AI technology for content creation were split, with only 42% of respondents firmly supporting its use, 34% opposing it, and 24% remaining undecided. And while 77% of respondents believed that Generative AI technology would lead to more personalised and relevant marketing experiences, the survey also found that only 51% of respondents were comfortable with the idea, with 29% being opposed, and 20% undecided.

Transparency and regulation were key concerns for consumers. A majority of respondents (58%) stated that they would be more likely to trust a brand that openly disclosed its use of Generative AI in its marketing

Alex Vaidya, CEO of StoryStream: "Excitement - and outright astonishment - at the growing capabilities of Generative AI technology is understandably huge. But while the industry continues to explore the use cases for this powerful new set of tools, it's perhaps been a little too easy to forget about the opinions of customers and consumers.

"In this research, we've asked consumers - specifically consumers already broadly familiar with the concept of Generative AI - what they want to see from brands in their marketing and advertising. And what we're learning is that understanding consumer expectations and concerns will remain a crucial ingredient for building trust.'

The survey also explored topline consumer perceptions of Generative AI technology, revealing that 59% of consumers hold a generally positive impression of it. Analysis of different age groups revealed that Gen Z respondents were most likely to have a positive impression (74%), while the 55+ age range exhibited the lowest positivity rate at only 35%. User-generated Content emerged as the most trusted and authentic content format, favoured by 45% of respondents. Brand-created content followed at 22%, while AIgenerated content garnered 12%, surpassing stock imagery and film (8%) and influencer-created content (8%).

StoryStream is the visual commerce platform for authentic online shopping experiences. Specialising in User-generated Content and Video Commerce solutions, the SaaS-based technology is used by leading brands including Sainsbury's, John Lewis, Porsche and Homebase to transform audience engagement and grow revenues while creating a more trusted customer experience.

Consumers overestimating ability to detect deep fakes

Global survey suggests

SUNNYVALE, Calif. May 31, (Business Wire): Jumio, the leading provider of automated, end-to-end identity proofing, risk assessment and compliance solutions, today released the Jumio 2023 Online Identity Study, the second installment of its annual global consumer research, conducted by Censuswide.

This year's results highlight an understanding among consumers around how generative AI and deepfake technologies could accelerate identity fraud, and the subsequent need for digital identities for online verification and authentication But consumers also appear to overestimate their ability to spot deepfakes, which can render them even more vulnerable

The study examined 8,055 adult consumers split evenly across the United Kingdom, United States, Singapore and Mexico. Over twothirds (67%) say they are aware of generative AI tools - such as ChatGPT, DALL-E and Lensa AI - which can produce fabricated content, including videos, images and audio. Awareness was highest among consumers in Singapore (87%) and lowest among those in the UK (56%).

Awareness of generative AI and deepfakes among consumers is high - 52% of respondents believe they could detect a deepfake video. This sentiment reflects overconfidence on the part of consumers, given the reality that deepfakes have reached a level of sophistication that prevents detection by the naked eye.

This is concerning given that recent figures from UK Finance found that impersonation scams cost the UK £177 million in 2022. The research specifically called out how this has been driven by scams becoming harder to spot as warning signs, such as typos or fake-looking websites, are less prevalent due to the use of generative AI tools. In the U.S., consumers lost \$2.6 billion to impersonation scams in 2022, up from \$2.4 billion in 2021, according to the Federal Trade Commission.

Jumio data also shows a steady uptick in the use of increasingly sophisticated deepfakes across the globe and across industries, with a heavier presence in the payments and crypto sectors.

"A lot of people seem to think they can spot a deepfake. While there are certainly tell-tale signs to look for, deepfakes are getting exponentially better all the time and are becoming increasingly difficult to detect without the aid of AI," said Stuart Wells, Jumio's chief technology officer. "While AI-powered technology will increasingly be required by businesses to spot and protect their networks and customers from deepfakes, consumers can protect themselves by treating provocative images, videos and audio with skepticism. Some quick research will usually uncover whether it's a fake or not."

As consumers become more aware of these technologies, there is also an emerging understanding of how they could be used to fuel identity theft. Over half (57%) believe that online identity theft will become easier as a result, and consumers in Singapore showed the highest level of understanding of their potential harmful use (73%). These levels decrease among consumers in Mexico (62%), the U.S. (49%) and the UK (43%).

"Organizations have a duty to educate their customers on the nuances of generative AI technologies to help them develop more realistic expectations of their ability to detect deepfakes," said Philipp Pointner, Jumio's chief of digital identity. "At the same time, even the best education will never be able to completely stop a fraudster's use of evolving technologies. Online organizations must look to implement multimodal, biometric-based verification systems that can detect deepfakes and prevent stolen personal information from being used. Encouragingly, our research indicated strong consumer appetite for this form of identity verification, which businesses should act on

The survey found that over twothirds (68%) of consumers are open to using a digital identity to verify themselves online. The top sectors where they would prefer a digital identity over a physical ID (like a driver's license or passport) are financial services (43%), government (38%) and healthcare

The research was conducted by Censuswide, with 8,055 consumers split evenly across the United Kingdom, United States, Singapore and Mexico. The fieldwork took place April 4-6, 2023, Censuswide abides by and employs members of the Market Research Society which is based on the ESOMAR principles.

Jumio helps you to know and trust your customers online. From account opening to ongoing monitoring, the Jumio KYX Platform provides advanced identity proofing, risk assessment and compliance solutions to accurately establish, maintain and reassert trust.

Leveraging advanced technology including automation, biometrics, AI/machine learning, liveness detection and no-code orchestration with hundreds of data sources, Jumio helps organizations fight fraud and financial crime, onboard good customers faster and meet regulatory compliance including KYC and AML. Jumio has processed more than 1 billion transactions spanning over 200 countries and territories from real-time web and mobile transactions.

Based in Sunnyvale, California, Jumio operates globally with offices and representation in North America, Latin America, Europe, Asia Pacific and the Middle East and has been the recipient of numerous awards for innovation. Jumio is backed by Centana Growth Partners, Great Hill Partners and Millennium Technology Value

Smart living home control

etisalat by e& chooses SoftAtHome for service

PARIS, May 31, (PR Newswire): SoftAtHome, an independent software company for broadband, video, and analytics, today announced having been chosen by "etisalat by e&" as Alexa Voice control trusted solution provider to deliver the latest smart eLife Set-Top Box (STB) and backend software to enable Alexa voice control features in Arabic and English.

SoftAtHome delivered the world's first STB support for ring cameras by enabling video streaming between Ring cameras and etisalat by e&'s entertainment platform eLife TV.

The new generation of STBs includes a smart speaker with a mic, an IoT chipset, and STB with voice enabled Alexa feature in both English and Arabic. Etisalat by e& subscribers will now benefit from a voice-controlled living room media and service hub that uses push-totalk and far-field for convenient connected home services directly from the comfort of your sofa.

Khaled El Khouly, Chief Consumer Officer, etisalat by e& UAE, said: "It was great to integrate SoftAtHome with their expertise on Amazon Alexa being an added advantage in our new 'Smart Living Home Control' service, delivering the promise of smart living and differentiating from other regional service providers. Our customers can now easily use their voice to control all their connected devices at home. They can also use the application to manage their devices from anywhere outside their home with the smart living app, offering significant opportunities for improving their way of living.'

David Viret-Lange, CEO of Soft-tHome, added: "Voice assistants AtHome, added: are our new daily life companions. We bring voice command expertise and have been an Amazon Alexa trusted solution provider since 2020. I am proud that etisalat by e&, our partner for many years, has relied on our expertise to deliver the end-toend voice solution on their latest settop boxes, enhancing the end-user

video experience. etisalat by e&'s Smart-living customers can now control connected smart home devices with Alexa voice commands, accessible and controllable through their eLife TV. They can operate various compatible actions by voice in front of their TV, such as switching channels, controlling volume, searching for content, controlling their Smart home object, seeing who is at their front door (if equipped with Amazon Ring compatible doorbells), playing music, reading the news, setting timers and

alarms, and more. deployments of its watch'ON solutions in several markets, and now in UAE, SoftAtHome has become a leading Amazon Alexa enabler in the service provider ecosystem for more immersive experiences. SoftAtHome delivers a complete solution to etisalat by e&, including the backend infrastructure. Its cloud based VASP solution enables a connected home experience, including Alexa video skills.

About SoftAtHome

SoftAtHome is an independent software provider with six different solutions for broadband (Connect'ON), Wi-Fi (Wifi'ON), Security (Secure'ON), Smart Home (Things'ON), video (Watch'ON), analytics and QoE monitoring (Eyes'ON). Telecom and broadcast operators deploy the company's products in over 25 million home networks and millions of mobile devices. The company, owned by operators, has over 300 employees, mainly software engineers committed to open-source communities Creating a climate secure future

DXC Tech predicts five ways software will accelerate sustainability in 5 yrs

LONDON, May 31, (PR Newswire): DXC Technology (NYSE: DXC), a leading Fortune 500 global technology services company, has forecast five ways software will help create a more sustainable future in the next

"Technology has an outsized role in almost every aspect of sustainability - from increasing productivity, efficiency, and cost savings, to monitoring and modelling progress," said Henrik Hvid Jensen, Chief Technology Strategist, DXC. "As a global IT services leader, DXC sees a number of pivotal ways that technology will help us to drive sustainable development in the next five years."

1. Organizations will adopt circular economy business models

Globally, natural resources are lwindling and their increased exploitation to cater for global demand is having a negative impact on the environment. To build a competitive global circular economy that produces no waste, companies must adapt their business models to maximize resource efficiency, develop recyclable products, and repurpose waste as new offerings.

One of the biggest challenges of moving to a circular economy is collecting and sharing data about a product throughout its entire lifecycle. Digital product passports (DPPs) offer that capability and promise to act as a transparent record of a product's sustainability, environmental and recyclability attributes. The European Union is positioning itself as a first mover in the space and expects most products in the region to be covered by DPP regulation by 2030.

2. AI will help manage natural

AI will become increasingly important for tackling most environmental sustainability issues including biodiversity, energy, transportation, and the management of agroecosystems. In the agriculture sector, AI can produce insight and increase automation to improve environmental stewardship and detect diseases and potential infestations before crops or livestock are threatened. Technology not only impacts individual farms output, but data generates valuable insights that can positively influence policy decisions at the local or national level.

For example, DXC is partnering with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPA) in Spain to transform the Spanish agricultural sector through data analytics and AI. One project uses AI algorithms to accurately predict forest fires by evaluating environmental data sources collected by MAPA and its partners. Elsewhere, AI helps farmers makes more informed decisions about what crops to plant and where.

3. AI will increase the viability of renewable energy

McKinsey estimates that by 2026, global renewable-electricity capacity will rise more than 80 percent from 2020 levels. For example, Europe will add approximately 36 million renewable-class assets, such as solar panels, electric vehicles (EVs), and energy storage, to the grid in 2025, and 89 million by 2030.

Automation and data analytics can help manage decentralized energy sources, direct excess electricity and flag potential grid weak points before they become significant issues, and help utilities redirect power to where it's needed in real time.

4. There will be a major shift to software-defined EVs in the next decade

for nearly a quarter of global greenhouse emissions and is a major cause of city air pollution. To address this, regulators in the U.S., Europe and elsewhere are reviewing policy and implementing laws to limit the sale of new gas and diesel cars. As a result, eighteen of the world's largest automakers have switched or pledged to switch, either completely or significantly, to EV manufacturing in the coming years.

EVs will be software-defined vehicles (SDVs) with automated capabilities to manage the car more efficiently with particular attention to environmental sensitivities. SDVs feature smart routing and energy optimization that can mitigate issues related to charging capacity and range.

5. Finance systems will be reengineered to consume less energy

Transitioning to more environmentally sustainable operations is a top priority for banks and financial services organizations. More sustainable software, more efficient algorithms and better data processing are key to these efforts. The global green finance market has thus grown from \$5.2 billion in 2012 to more than \$540 billion in 2021.

In addition to growing environmentally conscious portfolios, the financial services sector is significantly reducing its energy consumption by enabling efficiencies in data centers. Upgrades include data deduplications and compression which can improve data storage layout and storage efficiency while slashing energy usage. Beyond the traditional financial sector, new approaches are helping to increase the sustainability of the cryptocurrency-mining process.

We can all look forward to the day when sustainability is the new standard and software will be at the heart of helping us create a climatesecure and competitive future," added Henrik Hvid Jensen, Chief Technology Strategist, DXC.

such as prpl or RDK. SoftAtHome's hybrid products uniquely leverage the best from Cloud-based software components and software embedded in multiple mobile and fixed devices. About etisalat by e&, UAE

'etisalat by e&' embodies the telecom arm of e& in the UAE, with a mission to maximise stakeholder value, deliver an unparalleled customer experience and optimise business performance for sustainable growth and success.

Leveraging the latest world-class technologies, etisalat by e& will grow core and digital services, en-

riching consumer value propositions with digital services catering to new consumer lifestyles and emerging demands beyond core telecom services, including health, insurance, and gaming. etisalat by e& will continue to act as a trusted partner to enterprises in meeting their connectivity needs and beyond. Bolstering its leadership position

as a digital telco that champions customers in a hyper-connected digital world, etisalat by e& will pivot the new sustainable demand into future spaces such as private networks, autonomous vehicles and AI.

US, Europe working on voluntary AI code of conduct

LONDON, May 31, (AP): The United States and Europe are drawing up a voluntary code of conduct for artificial intelligence, a top European Union official said Wednesday, as the developing technology triggers warnings about the risks it poses to humanity and growing calls for regulation.

The voluntary code would bridge the gap while the 27-nation EU works on groundbreaking AI rules that won't take effect for up to three years, European Commission Vice President Margrethe Vestager said at a meeting of the EU-U.S. Trade and Technology Council, which is jointly led by American and European officials.

"We need accountable artificial intelligence. Generative AI is a complete game changer," Vestager said, adding that a draft of the code was expected within weeks.

She said officials will seek feedback from industry players, invite parties to sign up and promised 'very, very soon a final proposal for industry to commit to voluntarily," she said at a press conference after the council's meeting in Sweden.

The council has "an important role to play in helping establish voluntary codes of conduct that would be open to all like-minded countries," U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said.

The breathtaking rise of generative AI systems such as ChatGPT has dazzled users with their capability to mimic human responses while stirring fears about the risks they pose, setting off a global debate about how to design guardrails for the technology.

Scientists and tech leaders warned that mitigating AI risks should be a global priority because it could lead to human extinction, according to a statement posted online Tuesday and signed by hundreds of experts.

Sam Altman, CEO of ChatGPT maker OpenAI, signed that statement and has suggested that AI should be regulated by a U.S. or international agency.

The EU is at the forefront of the global movement to regulate artificial intelligence with its sweeping AI Act. The legislation is set for final negotiations, with political approval expected by year's end.

But those rules won't take effect for two to three years "in the best possible case," while AI technology is developing "by the month," Vestager said.

BUSINESS



All-new Mazda CX-60



Kuwait Automotive Imports Company officials and guests during the launch of Mazda CX-60

SUV elevates standard for driving experience

Kuwait Automotive Imports Co launches all-new Mazda CX-60

KUWAIT CITY, May 31: Mazda, a renowned Japanese automaker, is thrilled to announce the official debut of the Mazda CX-60, among of its much-anticipated creations. With its innovative performance, architecture, and innovation, this brand-new SUV elevates the standard for the driving experience.

The Mazda CX-60 captivates onlookers with its striking presence and dynamic forms by combining Mazda's distinctive KODO design language with cutting-edge technology and unparalleled craftsmanship. The car's powerful yet elegant external styling highlights its athletic prowess and demonstrates Mazda's dedication to producing works of art that endure.

Its alluring exterior reveals a performance powerhouse. The Mazda CX-60 is equipped with a cutting-edge SKYACTIV-G engine that has been carefully designed to deliver outstanding handling while preserving exceptional fuel efficiency. The seamless acceleration, swift handling, and the cabin's extreme silence will give drivers a driving experience that will stay with them forever.

Attracting

The Mazda CX-60's interior redefines luxury and comfort. The cabin's interior is crafted with high-quality materials and unrelenting attention to detail, enveloping passengers in an opulent and elegant setting. Every function and control was put with the driver in mind for simple access, making every travel enjoyable and hassle-free.

The Mazda CX-60 has cutting-edge technology and state-of-the-art safety features. Lane-keep support, blind-spot monitoring, and adaptive cruise control are just a few of the cutting-edge driver-aid technologies that guarantee unrivaled safety while driving. The user-friendly entertainment system keeps drivers and passengers engaged and entertained during the trip thanks to seamless smartphone connectivity and an immersive sound system.



Mr. Masami Yanagawa, General Manager Overseas Market Operations & Itochu (left), Mr. Yousef Al-Shaya, CEO of KAICO (center) and Mr. Ashish Tandon, General Manager at KAICO



The interiors of Mazda CX-60



All-new Mazda CX-60 cars in the showroom

Kuwait Automotive Imports Company (AlShaya and AlSagar) proudly announces the successful launch event for the highly anticipated all-new CX-60. This momentous occasion took place at the Mazda showroom, attracting an array of automotive enthusiasts, Mazda fans,

industry professionals, and distinguished members of the local community.

The event garnered significant at-

tention and excitement as attendees eagerly awaited the unveiling of Mazda's latest addition to its exceptional lineup of vehicles. Adding to the significance of the launch event, esteemed Japanese visitors from Mazda, Mr. Masami Yanagawa, General Manager Overseas Market Operations & Itochu were in attendance. Mazda's representatives, including key executives, joined the occasion to witness the introduction of the CX-60 to the local market. This presence symbolizes the strong partnership between Mazda and KAICO, emphasizing their shared dedication to delivering exceptional vehicles and customer experiences.

During the event, attendees had the exclusive opportunity to interact with the CX-60 up close and experience its remarkable features firsthand. The CX-60's striking aesthetics, advanced safety features, and unparalleled driving dynamics left a lasting impression on all who attended.

"We are delighted to introduce the all-new CX-60 to our valued customers and automotive enthusiasts in this grand manner," said Mr. Yousef Al-Shaya, CEO of KAICO. He further expressed his excitement, stating, "This event showcases our commitment to offering the finest vehicles in the market, and we are proud to present the CX-60, which embodies Mazda's relentless pursuit of excellence."

Mr. Ashish Tandon, General Manager at KAICO, shared his joy, saying, "We are thrilled to have hosted this momentous occasion and introduced the all-new CX-60 to our valued customers and Mazda enthusiasts. This launch reflects our commitment to delivering unparalleled automotive experiences and services."

Mazda's brand manager, Mr. Waleed Al Qahtani, expressed his enthusiasm, stating, "The launch of the CX-60 in partnership with KAI-CO marks an exciting milestone for Mazda. We are delighted to witness the enthusiasm and passion of the Kuwaiti audience for our brand."

For more information about the CX-60 or to schedule a test drive, please contact Mazda Dealership (KAICO) at 2226 226.

MindMed releases presentation highlighting how firm unlocks power of psychedelics

Learn4Life helps students with trauma with resiliency accreditation

LOS ANGELES, May 31: Trauma-resilient practices are the next step in helping teachers effectively support students affected by childhood trauma, a growing epidemic among our youth.

A new program that trains and certifies schools and educators called Trauma-Resilient Educational Communities (TREC) is based on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) science and protocols. Three schools of Learn4Life, a network of 85 public high schools, have earned accreditation by completing a 20-hour curriculum that supports educators in identifying trauma in students. It helps build resilience to life's ups and downs, develops healthy relationships and practices restorative justice rather than punishing students who act out because of trauma

Trauma in students can manifest in different ways, such as truancy, poor performance and even behavioral problems. Long utilized in healthcare industries, trauma-resilient care is becoming an essential tool for educators, especially at the high school level.
"We know that before we can

reach students' heads, we need to reach their hearts," explained Craig Beswick, trauma specialist at Learn4Life. "With a societal cost of \$458 billion to treat this epidemic, moving from 'informed' to 'resilient' practices will benefit everyone.

According to Beswick, the Learn4Life students who engage with TREC resiliency programs and social-emotional learning curriculum:

■ Earn 17 percent more credits each learning period than non-TREC-engaged students;

■ Graduate at a six percent higher ■ Are less likely to be suspended or face other disciplinary meas-

"One of our principals told a student who was misbehaving that we were not going to punish him but wanted to find out what was going on and figure out how to get through it together," Beswick explained. "The angry student's whole demeanor changed, and he downshifted past the fight or

teachers. Tabitha Elwood, an English teacher at Learn4Life in San Diego, said the TREC program has helped her and her colleagues to cultivate a culture of caring rather than complaining.

"We've learned to pause and

choose our responses. It's empowering to make an individual choice with organizational ripples," she said. "TREC is transforming us and our teaching practice as we listen to our students' stories and speak into their lives in a truly trauma-informed wav.'

Learn4Life is a network of nonprofit public high schools that provide students personalized learning, career training and life skills. Each school is locally controlled, tuition free and gives students the flexibility and one-on-one attention they need to succeed. Serving more than 53,000 students - including full-time and intersession students — we help them prepare for a future beyond high school.

Also:

NEW YORK: Mind Medicine (MindMed) Inc. (NASDAQ: MNMD), (NEO: MMED), (the "Company" or "MindMed") has announced that it has released an investor presentation in connection with its 2023 Annual Meeting of Shareholders. The presentation details how under the guidance of MindMed's world-class Board of Directors the Company is executing against a well-defined plan to create value — with two Phase 2 clinical readouts for lead product candidate MM-120 (LSD D-tartrate) expected in late 2023. Mind-Med urges all shareholders to vote "For" the Company's six highly qualified director nominees using the universal proxy card at the upcoming Annual Meeting, scheduled for June 15, 2023.

Robert Barrow, Chief Executive Officer and Director of Mind-Med, stated: "MindMed is at a pivotal inflection point. As we approach our first clinical trial readouts, we are well-positioned to address multiple areas of unmet need for patients and to generate value for our shareholders. All six of our director nominees are proven with significant experience serving on public company boards and in

KonsultaMD SuperApp revolutionizes

healthcare access in the Philippines MANILA, Philippines, May 31: The Globe Group, a leading digital solutions platform in the Philippines, achieved a major milestone in its health tech initiative with the recent launch of the KonsultaMD SuperApp. This groundbreaking app showcases new capabilities and a deeper and broader provider network, marking a significant advancement in the coun-

try's healthcare industry. The SuperApp is the next-generation iteration of KonsultaMD, a telehealth platform established by the Globe Group in 2015 that has since been instrumental in digitizing healthcare services in the Philippines. It bridges the gap between various health and medical services, consolidating them into one cohesive platform.

This feature is particularly beneficial for those residing in remote areas where access to doctors is limited or none at all. About six out of 10 people die yearly without ever seeing a doctor, according to a university study. Roughly half of Filipinos, meanwhile, have no access to primary healthcare facilities within 30 minutes, the Department of Health earlier told the Senate.

Services

In a February 2023 report, the Philippine Institute for Development Studies said in a report that there are 27 provinces in the Philippines with less than 0.5 hospital bed per 1,000 population, which can prove problematic especially as seen at the height of the pandemic, when hospitals went over capacity due to the flock of COVID-19

Bringing together services of top medical apps KonsultaMD, HealthNow and AIDE, the SuperApp features doctor consultations, a 24/7 online pharmacy with same-day delivery, at-home lab testing, diagnostics, wellness services, physical therapy, nursing care for newborns and elderly patients, and a concierge service for premium subscribers. These services offer convenience, safety, and privacy, catering to individuals with diverse healthcare needs.

The app also empowers users to consult with over 1,000 medical professionals with more than 40 specializations including mental health, through on-demand video or chat from the comfort of their own homes.

This early, the SuperApp is already reating waves with its seamless integration of technology and medicine, seeing an increase in daily transactions with an immediate acceleration in downloads and registrations. It is outperforming the legacy app across key benchmarks, including browsing

engagement, conversion, and payment. "We have very exciting plans for KonsultaMD. It seeks to address a very big issue in the Philippines. With a ratio of one doctor for every 30,000 citizens, bringing healthcare access to the public is really our goal. The more we make the SuperApp easy to use and inject many more services into it, we think it's going to resonate with our customers and the public," said Ernest Cu, Globe Group President and CEO.

of FCM's candidates could derail our progress at the worst possible time. FCM's candidates simply do not possess the right experience or backgrounds — especially in comparison to MindMed's nominees.

outcomes independently adjudicated. "This milestone for Endologix un-

derlines our dedication to clinical research and patient care," stated Matt Thompson, President, and CEO of Endologix. "The Jaguar trial, our second randomized study aimed at assessing comparative endograft performance, follows in the footsteps of our successful LEOPARD study. We strongly believe in ALTO's role in managing AAA, given its low-profile, wide applicability within EVAR and in the durability of the adaptive sealing technology. These evaluations are instrumental in shaping optimal treatment strategies and enhancing patient

Technology

Featuring a unique, patented, sealing technology, the ALTO Abdominal Stent Graft System is the latest generation of innovative therapies for AAA patients. ALTO utilizes a low-profile delivery system and, unlike standard EVAR devices, features an exclusive Adaptive Sealing Technology that molds in-situ to the patient's specific

based, global medical device company dedicated to improving patients' lives

treat a wide spectrum of vascular disease from abdominal aortic aneurysms to lower limb peripheral vascular disease. Endologix's current commercial EVAR products include the AFX®2 Endovascular AAA System and the ALTO® Abdominal Stent Graft System. On October 1, 2020, Endologix became a private company, wholly owned by Deerfield Management, an investment management firm committed to advancing healthcare through investment, information, and philanthropy. In April 2021, Endologix completed the acquisition of PQ Bypass, Inc., a privately held medical technology company, adding the Detour System and TORUS Stent Graft to the Company's product pipeline. The

Detour System and the TORUS Stent Graft have not been approved for sale by any regulatory body. The Detour System is an investigational device, limited by United States law to inves-

tigational use.

MindMed trades on NASDAQ der the symbol MMED.





Innovative solutions to transform patient care

Endologix study evaluates Alto compared to other EVAR devices

Concept's MagicTouch PTA gets FDA OK to treat superficial femoral artery disease

TAMPA, Fla., May 31: The US FDA, on the 24th of May 2023, granted an Investigational Device Exemption (IDE) approval for Concept Medical Inc's Sirolimus Coated Balloon (SCB) MagicTouch PTA for the treatment of Superficial Femoral Arteries (SFA). This marks the fourth IDE approval for the Company's Sirolimus coated balloon.

The Company has already received three other pivotal IDE approvals for its SCB MagicTouch family of products for the coronary In-Stent Restenosis (ISR), Coronary Small Vessel and Below-the-Knee indications.

Lower extremity Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD) affects an estimated quarter million adults in Europe and North America and is associated with significant morbidity and mortality, with atherosclerosis being the main cause. Stenosed and occluded SFA remain major contributors to the PAD.

The IDE approval will allow Concept Medical to initiate pivotal clinical study to demonstrate safety and effectiveness of the MagicTouch PTA Sirolimus coated balloon in femoral and popliteal segments. The

The KonsultaMD SuperApp exem-

plifies Globe's commitment to making

healthcare accessible to all, with plans

for further expansion and improve-

ment. This one-stop shop is now avail-

able for download on the Google Play

Endologix Inc. a privately held,

global medical device company, dedi-

cated to providing disruptive therapies

for the interventional treatment of

vascular disease, has announced the

completion of the 150th case in the

Jaguar study. This randomized con-

trolled trial is evaluating Endologix's

ALTO Abdominal Stent Graft System, comparing its effectiveness to other

commercially available endovascular

aneurysm repair (EVAR) devices in

the treatment of abdominal aortic an-

The Jaguar (ObJective Analysis to GaUge EVAR Outcomes Through

Randomization) Study is a prospec-

tive, randomized, multi-center study,

designed to enroll 450 patients at up

MindMed is a clinical stage bi-

opharmaceutical company devel-

oping novel product candidates to

treat brain health disorders. Our

mission is to be the global leader

in the development and delivery

eurysms (AAA).

Store and Apple App Store.

data generated from this IDE clinical study will support a future premarket approval (PMA) application in the USA.

MagicTouch PTA is the world's first Sirolimus coated balloon with extensive commercial usage in Europe, major markets of Asia and the Mid-Eastern markets. It is also the most clinically studied Sirolimus Drug Coated Balloon (DCB) for PAD treatment, which includes the largest head-to-head RCT against Paclitaxel DCB, and the largest RCT against uncoated balloon.

Treatment

Presently, the treatment options for PAD are limited to uncoated PTA balloons, paclitaxel coated DCBs and a DES, thus restricting the physician's choice and alternatives for patients. Uncoated balloons have been identified with substandard results post intervention due to recurrent re-narrowing of arteries, and Paclitaxel safety remains a debate due to association of the drug with long-term mortality. Sirolimus which has already proven safety in coronary artery disease treatment, will fill this gap in PAD of safety and efficacy in near future.

"We are extremely proud to have received the 4th IDE approval from the USFDA for MagicTouch PTA in the SFA indication," said Dr. Manish Doshi, Founder and M.D. -Concept Medical Group. "This milestone underscores our unwavering commitment to advancing medical technology and providing innovative solutions that have the potential to transform patient care.

MagicTouch PTA is a CE approved and commercially marketed Sirolimus coated balloon outside the United States of America for the treatment of de-novo, stenotic and in-stent restenotic lesions in Superficial Femoral (SFA), popliteal, Below The Knee (BTK) and iliac arteries, using proprietary Nanoluté Technology.

CMI is headquartered in Tampa, Florida and has operational offices in The Netherlands, Singapore and Brazil and manufacturing units in India. CMI specializes in developing unique combination products with patented coating technology that can deliver any drug / pharmaceutical agent across the luminal surfaces of blood vessels.

by providing innovative therapies for the interventional treatment of vascular disease. Endologix's therapeutic

portfolio includes a variety of products

in various stages of development that

are designed to treat diseases that cur-

rently have clinically relevant unmet

needs. These products are designed to

Trauma-resilient care is becoming an essential tool for educators, especially at the high school level.

to 60 sites. Three hundred patients will be randomly assigned to the ALTO cohort, with 150 allocated to the comaortic neck anatomy.

Endologix LLC is a Californiaparator group. The study will followup patients through five years, with

> of treatments that unlock new opportunities to improve patient outcomes. We are developing a pipeline of innovative product candidates, with and without acute perceptual effects, targeting neuro

transmitter pathways that play key roles in brain health disorders.

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'The Ride' takes peaks, valleys of pro bull riding by the horns

NEW YORK, May 31, (AP): If at first you're thrown from the bull, try, try again — at least that's part of what the new docuseries "The Ride" highlights.

"Bull riding: you have to eat, sleep and breathe it. Whenever you go to bed at night, you got to be thinking about it," said 25-year-old Ezekiel "Blue" Mitchell. "And when you wake up in the morning, you've got to be thinking about it.'

Cameras followed an engaging cast of competitors, along with coaches and executives, during the Professional Bull Riders' 30th anniversary last year and the debut of its new Team Series. The eightepisode Prime Video docuseries, now airing, documents the peaks and valleys experienced by the fearless competitors of the PBR league and those closest to them.

Previously an individual-focused competition, the new format features eight squads competing in five-on-five matches across a 28-game regular season to secure a spot in the championship tournament in Las Vegas. "The Ride" isn't only about the sport — but also about getting back in the saddle after being thrown down in the arena of life.

Some competitors were a little uneasy about having their lives and most vulnerable moments —documented by cameras, but Mitchell, the Austin Gamblers rising star, was unbothered

"I've been in a particularly odd situation since I became a professional athlete with the PBR. Being an African American, I've been used to cameras and people wanting to talk to me, so it was nothing different," said Mitchell, a native Texan whose father notes in the series that they didn't always feel welcome at competitions and faced discrimination.

"Growing up in the rodeo scene around Houston and the surrounding areas... there were African American bull riders that were riding professionally whenever I was coming up as a younger guy. So, I had some people there to look to," said Mitchell.

PBR was founded in 1992 by 20 bull riders seeking mainstream at-

tention for the sport, each contributing \$1000 — money many didn't have — to form the organization. Today, around 800 riders globally compete in more than 200 events annually, hoping to qualify for the finals and take home a \$1 million bonus.

"It's not a hobby sport. This is a sport that you've got to have a passion and literally love enough to die for," said Tiffany Davis, who serves in an assistant GM-like capacity for the Carolina Cowboys, based in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. "I hate to say that, but it's very dangerous.

Injury

Davis knows the risks all too well. In 1998, engaged and in wedding planning mode, her life was flipped-upside down after her 25-year-old superstar fiancé, Jerome Davis, suffered a catastrophic injury after falling from a bull during a Fort Worth, Texas, competition. The 1995 world champion suffered a broken neck and remains unable to walk. Instead of leaving a sport that doled out such cruel fate, the couple

doubled down. Jerome Davis serves as the Cowboys' coach, and the family is as intertwined with the sport as they've ever been.

"We love to do this and it's a passion. And the bull riders, for example, it's something that's instilled in them by God... just like some people have a passion to jump out of airplanes and stuff, this is their passion,"

said Tiffany Davis. "My husband, for example, you'll see he's paralyzed still from the sport of bull riding...when the doctor come in and told him that, 'Hey, you're never going to walk again,' the first thing my husband said to the doctor was. 'You mean I can't ride bulls anymore?

The riders aren't the only ones whose jobs involve safety risks. Recently, during routine maintenance, a bull kicked a gate, knocking Tiffany Davis unconscious and in need of stiches on her forehead and staples in her back.

When (bull riders are) finding girls, I'm like, 'If this is what you want to do the rest of your life, you better find a girl that ain't scared to wear mud boots during the week and her stilettos on the weekends, she said with a smile.

The Davises other livelihood is stock contracting which provides animals for competitions. They hope the series dispels negative misconceptions of how bulls are treated, stating the money-making animals are also lucrative athletes that receive top-notch care including chiropractors, progressive therapy techniques and high-end nutrition. She says the healthiest and strongest bulls result in the best product for competitions, and especially the fans.

With sports documentaries becoming more popular and fans craving content beyond the competition, there's optimism that "The Ride" can expose an even wider audience to the PBR. Executives also hope to take advantage of the re-emerging pop culture interest in Old West nostalgia, in part due to shows like the "Yellowstone" franchise.

Mitchell, who's aiming for individual "gold buckle dreams" to go along with his team title aspirations, hopes "The Ride" will attract a new audience to the sport he holds so dear.

Variety



This image released by Amazon Prime Video shows Ezekiel 'Zeke' Mitchell in a scene from the series 'The Ride.' (AP)

Film

Parmet hopes that the film speaks to everyone

An intoxicating tale in 'Starling Girl'

By Lindsey Bahr

aurel Parmet's directorial debut "The Starling Girl " puts the viewer in the modest shoes of a 17-year-old girl named Jem. She's grown up in a Christian fundamentalist community in Kentucky and has internalized its teachings, feeling deep shame for drawing attention to herself and her body, which as an artistically-inclined member of the dance troupe is especially difficult to avoid.

But her world starts to change when Owen, a handsome 28-year-old youth leader played by Lewis Pullman, returns from a mission in Puerto Rico. Jem, played by Australian actor Eliza Scanlen, develops an intense infatuation with him that soon evolves into something more.

It's a film about many things — family, patriarchal societies, toxic relationships, power dynamics, first loves and, ultimately, growing up — but it's neither outwardly judgmental nor blunt. "The Starling Girl," is done with a delicate touch. "(Jem) is a very complex character and I think quite different from other portrayals of young women in communities like this," Scanlen said. "What makes this film stand out is it's not making any kind of definitive statement about the church or fundamentalist communities. It's actually trying to humanize the people who live in them."

The story comes from Parmet, who while in Oklahoma for another project got to know some woman in a patriarchal Christian community. Though she grew up worlds apart, as a child of parents who work in movies and television (a cinematographer and a costumer), she realized that they had commonalities too — from feelings of sexual shame to the need for validation from men.

The film touches on these ideas and also draws from her own experience of having a relationship with an older man when she was a teenager. And, because it's told from Jem's point of view, the journey is a bit of a rollercoaster for the audience who may even find themselves emotionally wrapped up in Jem and Owen's romance, despite knowing that it

is fundamentally wrong. "Something that I was trying to do with this film is have the audience be with the main character moment to moment," said Parmet, "You are with her every step of the way. You feel her intoxication, you feel this vivid opening up that she's experiencing while at the same time conveying that this relation-

ship is problematic." Parmet drew visual and tonal inspiration from Pawel Pawlikowski's "My Summer of Love," a film that she finds lush, green, immediate, intimate, stim-

ulating and dangerous. **Dynamic**

A key part of making that dynamic work was finding the right Owen — someone who you believe Jem would fall for and also someone that the audience falls for too, at least for a time. Pullman, Parmet said, had the gentle charisma to straddle the complex line. Jem can't see that he's a lost soul himself, and he likely doesn't even realize he's a groomer or in the wrong. In rehearsals, Scanlen, Pullman and Parmet would try to determine who has the power in a certain scene.

"Plenty of people walk out hating Owen, which is, you know, valid and makes a lot of sense," Pullman said. "But I think my weird goal in all this was, if there was anybody who was in a relationship similar to it, I wanted him to be approachable enough that they could see themselves in him, right? I didn't want to make him so such a such a monster that people wouldn't look at themselves in the mirror and question whether their actions at all might parallel

As Jem, Scanlen found in their dynamic a powerful truth about the possibility of both having agency in a relationship and also being a victim of abuse at the same time. The film also explores how patriarchal systems can be harmful for men too. Like

Owen, Jem's father (Jimmi Simpson) is struggling in the community as an addict whose recovery is not being supported in a helpful way.

"I do think the film is about all of us," Simpson said. "We all subscribe to some kind of rule system that helps us get through life a little easier."

Parmet also hopes that the film speaks to every-

"I hope that people see themselves in the story and in the characters, no matter their background," Parmet said. "It's a story that's really about trying to figure out who you are.'

Making an independent film is never the most glamorous pursuit (Kentucky, though beautiful, was also quite buggy) but all were driven by a shared sense of purpose and a belief that their director is an auteur in the making who is just getting

"The beauty of making indie films is that everybody's in it together and in it for the right reasons," Scanlen said. "You're just there to make something

Also:

LOS ANGELES: Fans of "Cobra Kai" know Xolo Maridueña as Miguel Diaz, but the Los Angeles native is about to get a much bigger platform as the star of the new DC Comics movie "Blue Beetle" (Aug. 18). Maridueña plays Jamie Reyes, one of the highest profile Latino comic book characters.

"As a Mexican American playing a Mexican American, there's a lot of pride that comes with representing your community in a positive light," he said. "It was a little nerve wracking trying to encompass a culture in a movie. But we have like 40 Latinos who we get to show their perspectives.'

It's a year of transition as he awaits the spotlight and says goodbye to "Cobra Kai," which is in its final season. But even with the higher profile, Maridueña joked that he's still going to have to clean up for his dog. (AP)

custody already on unrelated federal drug charges.

At the time the other two men were indicted, authorities said Jay's death involved a drug deal gone bad. In a letter filed with the court on Tuesday, prosecutors said Bryant and the two other men entered the building that evening, and then fled after the shooting.





was recovered at the scene. Jay was in Run-DMC with Joseph "Run" Simmons and Darryl "DMC" McDaniel in the early 1980s. The group helped bring hip-hop music into the mainstream. Run DMC's hits include

"King of Rock," "It's Tricky" and

They said Bryant was seen going

into the building, and his DNA

a remake of Aerosmith's "Walk This Way." (AP)

FORT PIERCE, Fla: A South Florida art dealer was sentenced Tuesday to two years and three months in federal prison in connection with a scheme involving the sale of fake Andy Warhol paintings.

Daniel Elie Bouaziz, 69, was sentenced in Fort Pierce federal court, according to court records. He pleaded guilty in February to a single count of money laundering, while prosecutors agreed to drop 16 other counts related to fraud and embezzlement. Bouaziz was fined \$15,000, and a restitution hearing is scheduled for Aug. 16. (AP)

case that languished for years. Federal prosecutors in the Eastern District of New York filed a

NEW YORK: HBO said 2.9 million people watched or streamed

the series finale of "Succession" on Sunday night, a series record that is expected to grow as delayed viewing is taken into account. That beat the first-night record

of 2.75 million for an episode that

aired on April 30, earlier in the

fourth and last season of the fam-

ily drama about a media company.

expand significantly when delayed

viewing is taken into account. For

example, "Succession" episodes

this season have been seen by an

cording to the Nielsen company.
The series finale provided an

answer to the question central

to the story, about whether any

of media magnate Logan Roy's

"Succession" didn't approach HBO's record of 19.8 million peo-

ple who watched the 2019 finale of

"Game of Thrones" on its premiere

night. HBO estimated that some 46

million people have watched that episode when delayed viewing is

HBO said that "Barry," its

series starring Bill Hader, had

700,000 viewers on the night of

have been average 3.4 million viewers this season. (AP)

NEW YORK: A third man has

been charged in the 2002 shooting

death of Run-DMC star Jam Mas-

ter Jay, prosecutors said Tuesday,

marking the latest movement in a

its finale this past week. Episodes

his media empire

taken into account.

children would inherit control over

average of 8.7 million viewers, ac-

The audience can be expected to

superseding indictment on Tuesday, charging Jay Bryant, 49, in the death of Jason "Jay" Mizell, known professionally as Jam Master Jay. Two other men, Ronald Wash-

ington and Karl Jordan Jr., had previously been indicted in August 2020 for the death of Jay. The hiphop trailblazer was shot in the head in his studio on Oct. 30, 2002.

Bryant's attorney, César de Castro, said in an email that they had just learned of the charges.

"Securing an indictment in a secret grand jury, applying an extremely low burden of proof. is one thing. Proving it at trial is another matter," he said.

Bryant, from Queens, was in

People & Places

Television

Vocabulary important

National Spelling Bee needs different prep

OXON HILL, Md., May 31, (AP): Navneeth Murali would strongly prefer for the Scripps National Spelling Bee to get rid of the onstage, multiple-choice vocabulary questions that were introduced to the competition two years ago.

'It's sort of hit or miss, the onstage vocab format, and it's sort of brutal in my opinion," the 17-year-old former speller said.

The vocabulary questions are part of a series of changes to the post-pandemic bee, which is leaner and, in some ways, meaner. Accomplished spellers can be bounced from the bee without ever misspelling a word. And because there is no alternative path to the bee as there was in the late 2010s, the regional bees spellers must win to qualify can be incredibly tense,

and sometimes shocking. Last year's national runner-up, Vikram Raju, didn't make it back in his final year of eligi-

The tweaks help ensure the bee, which began Tuesday with the preliminary rounds and concludes Thursday, finishes on schedule with a sole champion. That's an important consideration after the eight-way tie of 2019. But some in

the spelling community say they make the competition more dependent on luck and less about rewarding spellers for their years spent mastering roots and language patterns and exploring the farthest reaches of Merriam-Webster's Unabridged dictionary.

During their initial appearances onstage Tuesday at a convention center outside Washington, spellers were asked to spell one word and define another, both from a list provided in advance. Of the 229 spellers, 57 were ousted for misspelling (24.9%), while 33 of the 172 who spelled their first word correctly (19.2%) got vocabulary answers wrong.

"Scripps has done a good job of evolving and not staying fixed in place, even if some of the particular choices they make, I would not myself have made if I were in their shoes," said Scott Remer, a former speller, study guide author and coach who is tutoring 29 competitors in this year's bee.

Coaching

Navneeth, a high school junior from Edison, New Jersey, had his last, best chance to win a national title wiped out by the pandemic in 2020, and he has since poured his energy into coaching. Along with another ex-speller-turned-guru, Grace Walters, he mentored last year's champion, Harini Logan.

The way Navneeth sees it, the SAT-style vocabulary questions are here to stay, and there's no excuse for spellers not to be prepared.

"Last year, I did miss on a vocabulary word, and it felt like it was the type of vocabulary word I should have known," said 13-year-old Shradha Rachamreddy of San Jose, California, one of Navneeth's pupils. "They're not obscure. It's a mix of general knowledge and specific speller knowledge."

During Navneeth's time as a speller, vocabulary was only part of a written test that also included spelling. It was important - the test score determined who made the semifinals - but the stakes weren't as high. Spellers could get a few definitions wrong and still make it through.

Now, vocabulary rounds are sprinkled through the onstage competition, and if a speller gets one multiple-choice question wrong, they're out. Yet Navneeth still observes spellers treating vocabulary as an afterthought in their preparation. His students have been working on it for a full year, and he also wrote a book, "Defining Success," intended to help spellers prepare for the vocabulary portion.

"Since the stakes are much higher, it's not something you can wing," Navneeth said. "It's something that you need to prepare for and practice and get used to. Because I've placed an emphasis on it from the beginning of the next season, I feel that it's something my students are primed for.'

Vikram, last year's runner-up, took eventual champion Harini all the way to a "spell-off" - Scripps' term for its lightning-round tiebreaker. He looked forward to returning this year as an eighth-grader, the last school year in which spellers are eligible.

Instead, Vikram was bounced in his regional bee in Denver, which lasted 53 rounds over a span of more than five hours. Vikram and his parents argued that he misspelled because the bee's pronouncer made one of several mistakes, but their appeal was unsuccessful.

The bee went so deep off-list, there were several words that Vikram had to actually anticipate what the word might be based on the language or the definition," said his mother, Sandhya Ayyar. "After these several rounds, he reached a point where, 'I don't know what's the word or what I'm supposed to spell here."

Compete

In 2018 or 2019, Vikram still could have gone to nationals, because Scripps had a wild-card program meant to ensure that spellers from highly competitive regions had a chance to compete on the biggest stage. However, the program was open to spellers of widely varying abilities as long as their families were able to pay their way, and the 2019 bee swelled to more than 500 competitors, some of whom clearly didn't belong.

Scripps had planned to curtail the wild cards in 2020, making them available only to eighth-graders like Vikram who had previously competed at nationals. But that bee was canceled because of the pandemic, and in 2021, Scripps got rid of the wild cards altogether. Ayyar's request to Scripps to bring them back this year was rebuffed.

Corrie Loeffler, the bee's executive director, wouldn't rule out creating a new qualifying system in the future, but she declined to change this year's competition rules retroactively.

"We heard from a handful of people, and it's a tough thing," Loeffler said. "You're talking about kids who have worked really hard and want the opportunity to show off what they've worked for, and that's something we don't take lightly, but we also take the rules of our competition very seriously.

"I feel for Vikram very strongly, especially as a former speller. I told his parents that; I told him that. He has so much to be proud of. That spell-off from last year, nobody is going to forget that.

The bee began with television host Paul Loeffler -Corrie's brother - sending well wishes to 12-year-old Lance Sanchez of Guam, who was unable to travel to Washington to compete because the US territory's airport was closed by Typhoon Mawar. Lance is a sixthgrader and has two years of eligibility remaining.



This image released by Lincoln Center Theater shows Jordan Danica as Sir Lancelot in a scene from a Lincoln Center Theater revival of the classic musical 'Camelot' in New York. (AP)



Lucy Boynton and Sian Clifford pose for photographers upon arrival at the premiere of the film 'Chevalier' in London, May 30. (AP)





Variety

MEXICO CITY: Nicaraguan poet and novelist Gioconda Belli, known for her feminist and erotic literature, was awarded the Reina Sofia Ibero-American

Poetry prize Monday.
Considered among Latin America's best-known writers, Belli's work has been translated into more than 20 languages and includes 15 poetry collections, eight novels, and seven books of essays, testimonials and children's stories. The prize is considered the most important for Spanish and Portuguese

Her first poems were published in the Managua newspaper La Prensa when she was 20 years old. Her first poetry collection, "Sobre la grama," or On the Grass, was published in 1972.

"I couldn't be happier than to have won this poetry prize," Belli said via Twitter Monday. "I celebrate the enriching of **Nicaragua**'s poetry tradition. I dedicate it to my Nicaragua, mother of my inspiration, sorrowful country of my hope. Long live poetry!!!"

Belli was stripped of her Nicaraguan citizenship by the government of President **Daniel Ortega** and lives in **Spain**. Along with dozens of other prominent critics of Ortega's regime, Belli saw her properties in Nicaragua seized by the government in February.

Belli already had Italian citizenship,

but also accepted citizenship from Chile.

PARIS: Ten noted thinkers, writers and filmmakers, including director Ken Loach and Nobel literature laureate An**nie Ernaux**, signed an open letter published Tuesday, calling on the president of Algeria to free a jailed journalist they said was punished for refusing to bow to

the government line. In the letter to President Abdelmad**jid Tebboune**, published in the French daily Le Monde, the luminaries said that prominent journalist Ihsane El Kadi was in prison "because he refuses to submit to the pressures of those who govern the country and wanted to make him a counterfeit journalist.'

An Algiers court sentenced the 64-year-old El Kadi on April 2 to five

Stage

Tony Award nominee for 'Camelot'

Donica, is Broadway's rising star

NEW YORK, May 31, (AP): When Jordan Donica was about 9 or 10, his aunt took him to New York City with a mission: Get the notion of making it on Broadway out of his system. Thankfully, that mission failed spectacularly.

'It was raining and I was dancing through the streets of Times Square, loving every second of it. My aunt had to tell me to slow down," he recalls, now happily a New Yorker. "The thing that I love the most is here, at its height - the core where everything explodes

With determination and talent, Donica still hasn't slowed down, earning playing the hunky, gallant knight Sir Lancelot in a gorgeous Lincoln Center Theater revival of the classic musical

"I'm just thankful and it just makes me want to do the work even more. Really. That was the first thought I had was, 'I'm excited to get back to work," he says.

Donica's story is of a man with a huge voice who moved a lot in his youth but always had Broadway as his North Star. He would tell friends as early as middle school that he knew what he was going to do with his life. His first email address had the words "Broadway Bound" in it.

A 2016 graduate of Otterbein University, Donica sharpened his craft in regional theater, playing Jesus in "Jesus Christ Superstar" at the Weathervane Playhouse in Ohio and was in the ensemble in "South Pacific" at the Utah Shakespeare Festival.

He made his Broadway debut in 2016 as Raoul in "The Phantom of the Opera," coming full-circle. He had been in the audience as a kid during that New York visit, mesmerized by the skill of the Phantom. "I was like, 'I need to learn how to use my voice the way that man is using his voice.' And I set out to do that."

Donica has had roles on TV's "Charmed" and "Blue Bloods" and also starred as Marquis de Lafayette and Thomas Jefferson in the Los Angeles and San Francisco companies of the musical "Hamilton." He originated the role of Freddy Eynsford-Hill in the 2018 Lincoln Center Theater revival of

"My Fair Lady." In the lavish, sweeping "Camelot," he plays a virtuous if egotistical knight who is in a love triangle with King Arthur and Guenevere. The story has been updated by Aaron Sorkin to focus on the dream of democracy, but the songs by Alan Jay Lerner and Frederick Loewe remain.

Connection

Tony-winning director Bartlett Sher hired Donica for both "My Fair Lady" and "Camelot," roles that required the actor to be ardent and sweet in the first and a brash, sword-catching hunk in the second.

"You have a wonderful artist on your hands who's capable of immersing themselves in a part and in a world and delivering very different things in both cases," says Sher. "There's that kind of connection in his body, relationship to his voice, deep intelligence and endless creativity that makes him so special."

Donica in "Camelot" first appears on stage almost like a righteous angel singing "C'est Moi" with the lyrics "Here I stand as pure as a prayer/Incredibly clean with virtue to spare" but ends the musical very human, what he describes as a sobering and yet fun

"Camelot, to me, is America. And we have to fight every day to tell the stories of what freedom is and what America is. Because if we don't speak about it and put it into existence, it doesn't actually exist," he says.

The role is vocally and physically demanding. He gained 15 pounds beforehand, anticipating he'd sweat much of it away. He recently visited his physical therapist, who instantly knew Donica had lost weight because the settings on the table didn't fit him

Born in Minnesota, Donica spent his first birthday in Chicago, then moved to Tennessee for eight years and then on to Indiana. He would watch Kidz Bop and TV commercials with singing kids - Oscar Mayer hot dogs and Welch's juice ads - and wonder if that was a path.

"I remember being a little kid and just like seeing the kids on those commercials and turning to my mom being like, 'I could do that. Why don't I do that?" he says. "I don't think she really thought I was being that serious. But, in my mind, I was very serious

He joined a community theater in Indianapolis and attended theater camp, where there was once a team-building trust fall activity and Donica was the only one willing to commit and fall backward into a stranger's arms.

"I remember the teacher going like, 'You're going to do well in this because you trust,'" he recalls. "Theater world is a safe place. I've been taught to trust, meaning you're going to be put in a dangerous situation.

The trip to New York was a test for a boy who loved wide-open fields and wasn't fond of crowds. His mom didn't want to dissuade him, just wanted to make sure he really wanted it. Now she's been invited to see him at the Tony Awards.

On June 11, he faces-off for best performance by an actor in a featured role in a musical against Kevin Cahoon and Alex Newell of "Shucked." Justin Cooley from "Kimberly Akimbo" and Kevin Del Aguila of "Some Like It Hot."

Donica, who used to watch old Tony ceremonies on YouTube, still can't comprehend he'll be attending. "I don't think I still really believe it because I never really set out to win a Tony Award or anything like that. All I ever dreamed about as a kid was performing at the Tonys."

years in prison with two years suspended after his conviction on charges of receiving foreign funding for his two media outlets, Radio M and the online news site

Maghreb Emergent. The outspoken El Kadi is widely con-

sidered a rare independent voice within the press, and his outlets the lone spaces to defy a tightening noose around press freedom in **Algeria**. His media outlets were ordered shut down.

El Kadi was initially detained at his



Hailee Steinfeld arrives at the world premiere of 'Spider-Man: Across The Spider-verse' on Tuesday, May 30, at the Regency Village Theatre in Los Angeles. (AP)

home in December and has remained jailed since then. (AP)

LONDON: The big cheese of extreme UKsports events is back.

Hundreds of spectators gathered y to watch dozens of reckless racers chase a 7-pound (3 kilogram) wheel of Double Gloucester cheese down the near-vertical Cooper's Hill, near Gloucester in southwest England.

The first racer to finish behind the fast-

rolling cheese gets to keep it. The cheese-rolling race has been held at Cooper's Hill, about 100 miles (160 kilometers) west of London, since at least 1826, and the sport of cheese-rolling is believed to be much older.

comes with safety concerns. Few competitors manage to stay on their feet all the way down the 200-yard (180 meter) hill, and this year several had to be helped, limping, from the course. Canadian contestant **Delaney Irving**,

The rough-and-tumble event often

19, won the women's race despite being briefly knocked unconscious. "I just remember hitting my head, and

now I have the cheese," said Irving, who comes from Nanaimo, British Columbia.

Matt Crolla, 28, from Manchester in northwestern England, won the first of several men's races. Asked how he had prepared, he told reporters: "I don't think you can train for it, can you?" (AP)

Climate

Battle of climatic titans

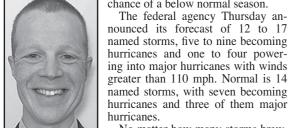
How busy will Atlantic hurricane season be?

NEW YORK, May 31, (AP): Two clashing climatic behemoths, one natural and one with human fingerprints, will square off this summer to determine how quiet or chaotic the Atlantic hurricane season will be.

An El Nino is brewing and the natural weather event dramatically dampens hurricane activity. But at the same time record ocean heat is bubbling up in the Atlantic, partly stoked by human-caused climate change from the burning of coal, oil and gas, and it provides boosts of fuel for storms.

Many forecasters aren't sure which weather titan will win the summer showdown because this scenario hasn't happened before on this scale. So most of them are calling for a near draw, something about average. And that includes the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, saying there's a 40% chance of a near-normal season, 30% chance of an above average season and a 30%

chance of a below normal season. The federal agency Thursday an-



Klotzbach

ing into major hurricanes with winds greater than 110 mph. Normal is 14 named storms, with seven becoming hurricanes and three of them major hurricanes. No matter how many storms brew, forecasters and disaster officials re-

mind US coastal residents from Texas to New England and people in the Caribbean and Central America that it only takes one hurricane to be a catastrophe if it hits you.

'That's really what it boils down to is: Which is going to win or do they just cancel each other out and you end up with a near-normal season?" said Colorado State University hurricane researcher Phil Klotzbach. "I respect them both. The two forces couldn't be more opposite.

El Nino is a natural temporary warming of the Pacific that happens every few years and changes weather worldwide. Climate models predict as the world warms, El Ninos get stronger.

Storms

Decades of observation show that generally the Atlantic is quieter with fewer storms during El Nino years. El Nino's warmer waters makes warmer air over the Pacific reach higher up in the atmosphere, influencing winds and creating strong upper level winds that can decapitate storms, killing them, Klotzbach said. It's called wind shear.

El Nino's effects are not direct and "it's not as in-your-face as a very warm ocean," said University of Miami hurricane researcher Brian McNoldy.

The Atlantic, especially hugging the African coast to the far east where storms form, is about 3.6 to 5.4 degrees (1 to 2 degrees Celsius) warmer than the average of the last 30 years and is the warmest it has been for this time of year, Klotzbach said. Warm Atlantic waters not only make storms stronger and more able to withstand El Nino's shear but they create an opposite direction upper level wind that could counterbalance El Nino.

"It's starting to outpace 2010 by a decent margin, which is sobering because 2010 was stinking hot," Klotzbach said. "The anomalously warm ocean temperatures unquestionably have a human fingerprint on them," said former NOAA

hurricane scientist Jim Kossin, now of the risk firm The Cli-Scientists don't even have past years that look the same to

help figure out what will happen, Klotzbach and McNoldy So which is going to win between El Nino and the hot

"I know it's not a satisfying answer to say 'we just don't know,' but we don't," said University of Albany atmospher-

ic sciences professor Kristen Corbosiero. The pioneer in the field, Colorado State, is predicting a

slightly below normal 13 named storms, six hurricanes with two of them becoming major. All but a handful of nearly two dozen private, university and government forecast teams and models call for a near normal Atlantic hurricane season with between six and eight hurricanes.

But they hedge their bets too.

"AccuWeather is expecting a near normal to slightly below normal season due to the onset of an El Nino," said AccuWeather senior hurricane forecaster Dan Kottlowski, who then added that the warm Atlantic complicates everything. "Due to extensive warm water, there is still a higher than normal chance for a high impacting hurricane to affect the US this season.'

The University of Arizona looks at the same two clashing forces and sees a different outcome, predicting a higher-than-normal nine hurricanes, 19 named storms and five major hurricanes because it expects "the Atlantic side to be dominant, leading to a very active season," said University of Arizona atmospheric sciences professor Xubin Zeng.

Forecasters ran out of names during a record 30 of Atlantic named storms in 2020 and with 21 storms in 2021. Last year was normal. Earth had a La Nina for the past three years, which generally increases Atlantic hurricane activity. Hurricane season runs June 1 to November 30.

McNoldy said this summer may be quieter in the Caribbean where El Nino's shear can have more sway, but busier in Bermuda and US East Coast north of the Caribbean, where El Nino isn't as potent.

Random chance plays a big role, Kossin said: "It's a bit like rolling dice but with the addition (warm ocean) and subtraction (El Nino) of weights to the dice.'

Also:

NEW YORK: Typhoon Mawar was a Category 4 super typhoon with maximum sustained winds of 150 mph (241 kph) or greater when it crossed the northern tip of Guam recently. It was the strongest typhoon to hit the US Pacific territory since 2002.

A few commonly used weather terms and their definitions, which rely on material from the National Weather Service:

Atmospheric river: Long and wide plumes of moisture that form over an ocean and flow through the sky over land. Blizzard: Wind speeds of 35 mph (56 kph) or more and considerable falling and/or blowing of snow with visibility

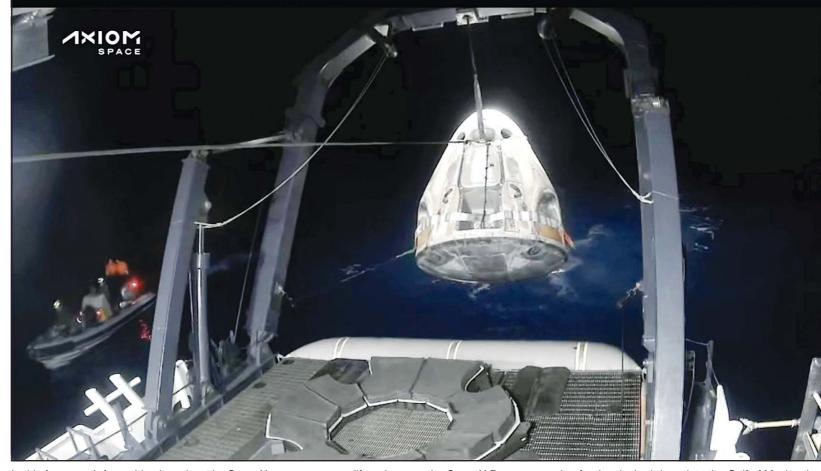
of less than one-quarter mile (0.40 kilometer) for three or

more hours. Cyclone: A storm in which strong winds rotate around a moving center of low atmospheric pressure. Depending on their size and location, cyclonic storms can be called torna-

does, waterspouts, typhoons or hurricanes. Derecho: A widespread and usually fast-moving straightline windstorm. It is usually more than hundreds of miles long and more than 100 miles (161 kilometers) across.

El Nino, La Nina: El Nino is a naturally occurring climate phenomenon that starts with unusually warm water in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific and then changes weather worldwide. The flip side of El Nino is La Nina. It is an occasional but natural cooling of the equatorial Pacific that also changes weather worldwide.

Hurricane or typhoon: A warm-core tropical cyclone in which the minimum sustained winds are 74 mph (119) kph) or more. Hurricanes are spawned east of the international date line. Typhoons develop west of the line. They are known as cyclones in the Indian Ocean and Australia.



In this frame grab from video broadcast by SpaceX, recovery crews lift and secure the SpaceX Dragon capsule after it splashed down into the Gulf of Mexico, just off the Florida Panhandle, late Tuesday, May 30. The private flight carrying two Saudi astronauts and other passengers returned to Earth after a nine-day trip to the International Space Station. (AP)

Private flight with 2 Saudi astronauts returns from space station

A private flight carrying two Saudi astronauts and other passengers returned to Earth late Tuesday night after a nine-day trip to the International Space

The SpaceX capsule carrying the four parachuted into the Gulf of Mexico, just off the Florida panhan-

dle, 12 hours after undocking from the orbiting lab.
The Saudi government picked up the multimilliondollar tab for its two astronauts: Rayyanah Barnawi,

a stem cell researcher who became the first Saudi woman in space; and fighter pilot Ali al-Qarni. Barnawi wiped away tears as she wrapped up her

experiments and prepared to leave the space station. "Every story comes to an end and this is only the beginning of a new era for our country and our re-

gion," she said Monday.

A Knoxville, Tennessee, businessman who started a race car team, John Shoffner, paid his own way

to the space station.

The ticket-holders were accompanied by retired NASA astronaut Peggy Whitson, who now works for the Houston company that chartered the flight, Axiom Space.

They rocketed into orbit last week on Axiom's second chartered flight to the space station. The company plans to send up more clients by year's end. (AP)



Family members watch the incoming waves in Itoman, southern Japan, Wednesday, May 31, as Typhoon Mawar moves towards the Okinawa Islands. (AP)



Discovery

Whale spotted in Sweden: Norwegian authorities said Tuesday that a beluga whale, which was first spotted in Arctic Norway four years ago with an apparent Russian-made harness and alleged to have come from a Russian military facility, has been seen off Sweden's coast nearly 2,000 kilometers (around 1,250 miles) to the south. "During the last few weeks, it has

moved quickly and swam several hundred kilometers" before reaching waters off Sweden's west coast, Olav Lekve of the Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries said. He said it has been reported off Ly-

sekill, which sits north of Goteborg, Sweden's second-largest city. There was no immediate comment from Swedish authorities.

Last week, the white mammal was spotted in the inner Oslo fjord where the directorate urged people to avoid contact with the animal to ensure its safety and wellbeing. Whale-watchers in Norway have nicknamed it Hvaldimir, combining the Norwegian word for whale - hval and the Russian first name Vladimir.

The directorate pointed out that there was a risk of injury for Hvaldimir when more recreational boats than usual gathered in the fjord as people sought to catch a glimpse of a huge US aircraft carrier, the USS Gerald R. Ford, which briefly

visited the Norwegian capital.
Carl Bildt, Sweden's former foreign minister, jokingly suggested to TV4 that Hvaldimir should be granted political asylum in Sweden, saying "it is possible that it is a refugee protesting against (Russian President Vladimir) Putin's war" in

'Tree' felled by storm: Torrential rains in Sierra Leone's capital felled the centuries-old Cotton Tree, a national treasure whose loss has left "a gap" in people's hearts, the country's President Julius Maada Bio said.

"There is no stronger symbol of our national story than the Cotton Tree, a physical embodiment of where we come from as a country," Bio told the Associated Press. "Nothing in nature lasts forever, so our challenge is to rekindle, nurture, and develop that powerful African spirit for so long represented,.'

Standing 70 meters tall and 15 meters wide, the roughly 400 year-old tree has been Sierra Leone's national symbol for

It has appeared on bank notes, woven into lullabies and visited by royalty, such as Queen Elizabeth the II, to mark the country's independence in 1961, accord-

The Conversation

Experts aim to design opioid drug without side effects

'Your body naturally produces opioids' By John Michael Streicher

University of Arizona

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

Opioid drugs such as morphine and fentanyl are like the two-faced Roman god Janus: The kindly face delivers pain relief to millions of sufferers, while the grim face drives an opioid abuse and overdose crisis that claimed nearly 70,000 lives in the US in 2020 alone.

Scientists like me who study pain and opioids have been seeking a way to separate these two seemingly inseparable faces of opioids. Researchers are trying to design drugs that deliver effective pain relief without the risk of side effects, including addiction and overdose.

One possible path to achieving that goal lies in understanding the molecular pathways opioids use to carry out their effects in your body.

The opioid system in your body is a set of neurotransmitters your brain naturally produces that enable communication between neurons and activate protein receptors. These neurotransmitters include small proteinlike molecules like enkephalins and endorphins. These molecules regulate a tremendous number of functions in your body, including pain, pleasure, memory, the movements of your digestive system and

more Opioid neurotransmitters activate receptors that are located in a lot of places in your body, including pain centers in your spinal cord and brain, reward and pleasure centers in your brain, and throughout the neurons in your gut. Normally, opioid neurotransmitters are released in only small quantities in these exact locations, so your body can use this system in a balanced way to regulate itself.

The problem comes when you take an opioid drug like morphine

ing to a statement by Zebek International.

a press agency working with Sierra Leo-

While the tree had withstood dam-

age throughout the years, including a

lightning strike that has left it partially

ne's government.

or fentanyl, especially at high doses for a long time. These drugs travel through the bloodstream and can activate every opioid receptor in your body. You'll get pain relief through the pain centers in your spinal cord and brain. But you'll also get a euphoric high when those drugs hit your brain's reward and pleasure centers, and that could lead to addiction with repeated use. When the drug hits your gut, you may develop constipation, along with other com-

How can scientists design opioid drugs that won't cause side effects?

mon opioid side effects.

One approach my research team and I take is to understand how cells respond when they receive the message from an opioid neurotransmitter. Neuroscientists call this process opioid receptor signal transduction.

Neurotransmitters

Just as neurotransmitters are a communication network within your brain, each neuron also has a communication network that connects receptors to proteins within the neuron. When these connections are made, they trigger specific effects like pain relief. So, after a natural opioid neurotransmitter or a synthetic opioid drug activates an opioid receptor, it activates proteins within the cell that carry out the effects of the neurotransmitter or the drug.

Opioid signal transduction is complex, and scientists are just starting to figure out how it works. However, one thing is clear: Not every protein involved in this process does the same thing. Some are more important for pain relief, while some are more important for side effects like respiratory depression, or the decrease in breathing rate that makes overdoses fatal.

So what if we target the "good" signals like pain relief, and avoid the "bad" signals that lead to addiction and death? Researchers are tackling this idea in different ways. In fact, in

For Sierra Leone, the loss is compara-

ble to the fire that destroyed Paris' Notre

Dame cathedral in 2019, said Zebek, the

Sierra Leone is among the countries

ing of the tree but a stump.

government's press agency.

2020 the US Food and Drug Administration approved the first opioid drug based on this idea, oliceridine, as a painkiller with fewer respiratory side effects.

However, relying on just one drug has downsides. That drug might not work well for all people or for all types of pain. It could also have other side effects that show up only later on. Plenty of options are needed to treat all patients in need.

My research team is targeting a protein called Heat shock protein 90, or Hsp90, which has many functions inside each cell. Hsp90 has been a hot target in the cancer field for years, with researchers developing Hsp90 inhibitors as a treatment for many cancer types.

We've found that Hsp90 is also really important in regulating opioid signal transduction. Blocking Hsp90 in the brain blocked opioid pain relief. However, blocking Hsp90 in the spinal cord increased opioid pain relief. Our recently published work uncovered more details on exactly how inhibiting Hsp90 leads to increased pain relief in the spinal cord.

Our work shows that manipulating opioid signaling through Hsp90 offers a path forward to improve opioid drugs. Taking an Hsp90 inhibitor that targets the spinal cord along with an opioid drug could improve the pain relief the opioid provides while decreasing its side effects. With improved pain relief, you can take less opioid and reduce your risk of addiction. We are currently developing a new generation of Hsp90 inhibitors that could help realize this

There may be many paths to developing an improved opioid drug without the burdensome side effects of current drugs like morphine and fentanyl. Separating the kindly and grim faces of the opioid Janus could help provide pain relief we need without addiction and overdose. (AP)

more than 1,000 people were killed by a landslide due to heavy rains. (AP)

Bid to remove 10K kgs of waste:

200 tonnes of waste are generated in the Mount Everest region every year. That is why Sagarmatha Next, an experience centre at 3,775 meters on the foot of Mount Everest, is dedicated to raising awareness on the issues through art and design. Sagarmatha Next is now releasing a new film to help raise awareness and support for the important cause of keeping Mount Everest free from waste.

"We are excited to celebrate our first anniversary and the release of our new film. The film shows how this remote region attracts thousands of visitors and how we must all come together to preserve it for future generations," said Varun Saraf, Director at Saraf Foundation and founder of Sagarmatha Next.

With 80,000 yearly trekkers visiting Sagarmatha National Park, approx. 200 tonnes of solid waste are generated. Given the lack of infrastructure and connectivity, this waste is left behind in the mountains. Sagarmatha Next works with the local NGO SPCC to find innovative ways to remove and upcycle waste from the mountains. Started in 2019. carry me back is a crowdsourced waste removal system, that offers every trekker an opportunity to remove 1 kg of waste from the mountains. (AP)



Red ruffed lemurs are given frozen fruit treats, in the warm weather, at Blair Drummond Safari Park in Stirling, Scotland, Tuesday May 30. (AP)

Spanish club will face Wolfsburg in Eindhoven

Bonmatí aims for 2nd Women's CL title with Barca

SANT JOAN DESPÍ, Spain, May 31, (AP): When Barcelona midfielder Aitana Bonmatí was the only girl playing on her village's soccer team, she quickly learned that she would have to fight for the game she loved.

That character-forging experience has helped the 25-year-old Bonmatí lead her team to a fourth Women's Champions League final in five years. On Saturday, the Spanish club will face German team Wolfsburg in Eindhoven for the title.

Back in her younger days, her opponents weren't the source of trouble. It was her own teammates

"I was the only girl and I remember having lots of fights. The boys had a hard time accepting that a girl could play soccer," Bonmatí told The Associated Press recently in an interview at the stadium where Barcelona's women play most of their games. "It was like 'I can't step on a girl,' or 'How can a girl play ahead of me?'
"But I don't blame those boys, it

was an issue of education and society as a whole," she said about her childhood in Sant Pere de Ribes, a village just south of Barcelona where Bonmatí grew up watching Lionel Messi and his teammates dominate men's European soccer on TV. "I think those years helped me grow as a person, forging my character, and as a player. I believe they made me a more physical player, and the intensity I play with I got from that time.'

Bonmatí is hoping Barcelona will win its second European Cup, and, if all goes well and a group conflict with Spain's coach can be resolved, play at her second Women's World Cup this

Bonmatí has been a key part of Barcelona becoming the dominant team in Spain, where it has won four league titles in a row, and is now a regular finalist in Europe's elite club tournament.

Slick with the ball, possessing great vision and quick with her feet, her dribbling and passes for teammates

are critical to Barcelona's possessionbased attack. Bonmatí is proud that her style of play is pure "Made in Barce-

This season, Bonmatí tops the Champions League with seven assists and is tied with six other players with five goals, second only to Wolfsburg forward Ewa Pajor with eight.

SOCCER

"When I was young, I didn't have women players to look to as references. So my references were 100% masculine: Xavi Hernández and Andrés Iniesta," she said. "At the end, a Barcelona midfielder knows how to manage each second of the match, when to push the pace, when to hold the ball to let the team regroup.

Bonmatí also knows what it is like to lose two Champions League finals both to Lyon. The French club beat Barcelona in the 2019 final and in last year's final when Lyon scored three times in the first half for a 3-1 victory.

"It is important not to concede early (Saturday) so those phantoms of the past don't reappear," she said. "(But) it is very important to know how to handle those moments when the rival scores. Even if things are not going our way, we have to know how to keep our heads in the game.'

But between those losses Bonmatí helped Barcelona rout Chelsea 4-0 in the 2021 final, becoming the first club to have won both men's and women's Champions League titles. Bonmatí was MVP of that final for her goal and

her role as Barcelona's passing engine. This season she has taken a step forward, literally. With two-time Ballon d'Or winner Alexia Putellas missing most of the season with a leg injury, Bonmatí was moved forward by coach Jonatan Giráldez into a more attacking

Bonmatí debuted with Spain's senior team in 2017. She played in the 2019 Women's World Cup and the 2022 European Championship. But then things went awry.

Bonmatí was one of 15 players, including five of her club teammates, who renounced playing for Spain in September, citing their differences with coach Jorge Vilda. The Spanish soccer federation backed Vilda and the rebels have not played for Spain since.

Bonmatí hopes that there can be a reconciliation so she can play at the Women's World Cup in Australia and

New Zealand in July.

"I always say that I am prepared to play in each and every competition, after all I am a professional player with ambition. So I would be lying if I said that I haven't thought about the World Cup this season," she said. "But this does not only depend on me. It is true that there has been an attempt to bring the two sides together, but we will see what happens.

"Once you have taken a step forward," Bonmatí said, "it's the other



In this Tuesday, July 26, 2022 file photo, England's Beth Mead applauds during the Women Euro 2022 semi final soccer match between England and Sweden at Bramall Lane Stadium in Sheffield, England. Mead will miss the Women's World Cup after failing to recover in time from a knee injury.

Jones gets key block, Sun hold off Fever

Stewart shines in return to Pacific Northwest

UNCASVILLE, Conn.. May 31, (AP): Tiffany Hayes scored 22 points, Brionna Jones had 19 points and 11 rebounds and the Connecticut Sun held off the Indiana Fever 81-78 on Tuesday night.

Rookie Aliyah Boston made her first career 3-pointer to pull Indiana within 79-76 with 48.1 seconds left. After a timeout, DeWanna Bonner missed a contested layup and Indiana raced the other way, but Jones blocked a shot at the rim. Indiana retained possession and Boston made a putback to make it 79-78.

Hayes was fouled with 9.4 seconds left and



made two free throws for a three-point lead. Indiana found Lexie Hull open in the corner for a potential tying shot but her 3-pointer came up short. Alyssa

Thomas added 13 points, 17 rebounds and seven assists and Natisha Hiedeman scored 11 for Connecticut (4-1). Bonner, who started the second half after accidentally getting hit in the face before halftime, finished with eight points and five assists.

Hayes scored a season-high 18 points, on 7-of-9 shooting, to help Connecticut build a 38-34 halftime lead. The Sun led 22-14 after the first quarter but only scored two points in the opening six minutes of the second to trail 26-24.

BASKETBALL

Boston finished with 20 points and Kelsey Mitchell added 19 points for Indiana (1-3). NaLyssa Smith had 14 points and 15 rebounds. The Fever ended a WNBA record-tying 20-game losing streak with a victory in their last game.

Liberty 86, Storm 78

In Seattle, Breanna Stewart had 25 points and 11 rebounds in her return to the Pacific Northwest and the New York Liberty beat the Seattle Storm 86-78.

It was Stewart's first game in Seattle since going to the Liberty as a free agent during the offseason. The former MVP helped Seattle win two titles with Sue Bird, who sat courtside for the return.

Stewart took over in the third quarter with 10 points and six rebounds to help New York extend a narrow halftime lead to 68-56 entering the fourth. She finished 8 of 14 from the field and 8 of 9 at the stripe.

Seattle got within single digits early in the fourth before Sabrina Ionescu sank a deep 3-pointer to make it 72-61. Stewart's fast-break layup, off a nice pass from Courtney Vandersloot, gave New York an 86-

Ionescu finished with 20 points for New York (3-1), which has won three straight games. Stefanie Dolson scored 10 points and Vandersloot had a season-high 11 assists. Jonquel Jones scored nine points in

Jewell Loyd led Seattle (0-3) with 26 points and Ezi Magbegor had 12 points and 14 rebounds.

Kia Nurse made Seattle's first 3-pointer of the game with 4:15 left in the third quarter to get within 57-53, but New York made 3-pointers on its next two possessions and Stewart followed with a three-point play for a 13-point lead.

Wings 94, Lynx 89

In Arlington, Natasha Howard scored 25 points, Satou Sabally had 23 points, 11 rebounds, five as-



New York Liberty forward Breanna Stewart (30) shoots from between Seattle Storm guard Kia Nurse (0), center Ezi Magbegor and center Mercedes Russell (21) during the first half of a WNBA basketball game in Seattle. (AP)

sists and three steals and the Dallas Wings beat the Minnesota Lynx 94-

Dallas guard Arike Ogunbowale hustled to deny a fast-break layup and Veronica Burton made 1 of 2 free throws at the other end for a 90-84 lead with 32.8 left. Ogunbowale added two free throws at 19.1 left for a six-point lead.

Ogunbowale finished with 21 points for Dallas (3-1). Kalani Brown, who signed a contract earlier on Tuesday, scored 12 points and Burton had a season-high nine assists. Crystal Dangerfield scored all nine of her points in the fourth quarter and Sabally recorded her seventh career double-double.

Dallas led 52-46 at halftime behind Howard's 20 points, Sabally's 17 and Ogunbowale's 12. The rest of the Wings combined for three points in the half on 0-for-8 shoot-

ing
Kayla McBride, who missed the past two games due to personal reasons, scored 18 points for Minnesota (0-5), which has lost its first five games for the first time since 2007. Napheesa Collier and Tiffany Mitchell each added 17 points to conclude a three-game road swing. Jessica Shepard made her first six

shots and finished with 15 points. McBride passed Lauren Jackson for 19th on the WNBA all-time 3-pointers list.

Dream 83, Sky 65

In College Park, Rhyne Howard scored 20 points, Allisha Gray and rookie Haley Jones each added 13 and the Atlanta Dream eased past the Chicago Sky 83-65

Cheyenne Parker had 10 points and eight rebounds for Atlanta (2-2). The Dream made 18 of 24 free throws compared to 9 of 11 makes for the Sky.

The Dream led 40-25 at halftime after Chicago shot just 28% and turned it over eight times. The Sky finished the game 25 for 77 (33%) with 15 turnovers.

Dana Evans scored 11 points to lead Chicago (3-2). Kahleah Copper, Marina Mabrey and Kristine Anigwe each added 10. Sky starters Courtney Williams was 2 of 10 from the field and Elizabeth Williams went 3 for 10.

Atlanta continues its five-game homestand against reigning WNBA champion Las Vegas on Friday.

Nuggets favored to win their first NBA championship

Beating Heat will be 'biggest challenge of our lives': Marlone

DENVER, May 31, (AP): Aaron Gordon bristled at the notion the Denver Nuggets must operate the "rust versus rest" seesaw with 10 days between their Western Conference title celebration in Los Angeles and the start of the NBA Finals against the Miami Heat.

Rest? "We've been working," Gordon declared about 15 hours after the Nuggets finally learned who they'll have to beat to secure the franchise's first Larry O'Brien gold ball trophy. "It's not like we've had our hands back and feet kicked up.'

Rust? "We've been locked in, in the gym, working diligently," Gordon insisted. "So, we feel like we're in a good space. It's been a good balance of work to rest. Happy we have home court advantage.

Miami's 103-84 shellacking of the Celtics in Boston in Game 7 on Monday night sent the Heat to Denver for Game 1 on Thursday night. Had the Celtics been the first of 151 teams to ever overcome a 3-0 deficit in a best-ofseven basketball series, the Nuggets would have headed East for

Games 1 and 2. Instead, the Nuggets get to stay in the Mile High City, where they've been since returning from their 113-111 win over the Lakers on May 22, and host a Heat team that's been playing every other night and won't have much time to acclimate to the city's mile-high altitude.

BASKETBALL

So, yes, Gordon acknowledged, he was actually rooting for Jimmy Butler to come to Denver this week, and not because he wanted to avoid Jayson Tatum, either.

"You always want to keep home court," Gordon said. "So, first and foremost what we worked for all season was to get home court advantage.'

Top-seeded in the West for the first time in franchise history, the Nuggets have won all eight of their playoff games at Ball Arena, pushing their league-best home record

ers not to pay attention to all the accolades or outside noise. "Well, as I told our team, forget the eight seed stuff," Malone said. "They beat Milwaukee 4-1. That team had the most wins in the NBA this year. They beat Boston 4-3 and they were up 3-0, the team with I think the second most wins in the NBA this year." "So, you get to the NBA Finals, it's not about seeding anymore," added Malone, "and for those who are thinking that this

to 42-7, while going 12-3 overall

in these playoffs, including series

clinching wins on the road against

The Heat haven't won in Den-

ver since Nov. 30, 2016, but it's

the Nuggets who are novices on

Miami has been to the Finals

"We've got the utmost respect

many times before, winning it all

for them. They fight and they

The Nuggets are one of six

teams who have never won an

NBA title. This is their first

championship series appearance

since losing to Julius Erving and

the New York Nets in 1976, after

which the wonderful and wacky

Fanduel Sportsbook favors the

Nuggets to win their first NBA

championship over the Heat, who

are the second No. 8 seed to make it

this far. But coach Michael Malone

repeated his admonition to his play-

ABA was disbanded.

scrap, they have no quit in them,

in 2006, 2012 and 2013.

the Suns and Lakers.

this stage.

Gordon said

is going to be an easy series, I don't even know what to say to you people. "This is going to be the biggest challenge of our live. This is the NBA Finals. We're trying to win the first NBA championship in franchise history, and it's going to be the hardest thing that we've

ever done, which is the way it

should be."

squad for upcoming European

Championship qualifiers against Gibraltar and Greece after missing Les Bleus' previous games due to injury. France tops the Group B

Galaxy fire Klein

Deschamps recalls

Nkunku, Dembélé

PARIS, May 31, (AP): Christopher Nkunku and Ousmane

Dembélé were recalled Wednes-

day to France's national team. The two strikers were includ-

ed in coach Didier Deschamps'

standings in qualifying after back-to-back wins against the Netherlands and Ireland. The two-time world champions take on Gibraltar in Portugal on June 16, then host Greece three days later at the Stade de France.

Nkunku, who plays for RB Leipzig in the Bundesliga, has been sidelined for months due to a knee injury while Barcelona's Dembele missed a series of games due to a hamstring problem.

SOCCER

Deschamps will be without the injured Paul Pogba and N'Golo Kanté, with William Saliba also missing because of a back injury.

France squad:

Goalkeepers: Alphonse Areola (West Ham), Mike Maig-nan (AC Milan), Brice Samba (Lens)

Defenders: Axel Disasi (Monaco), Wesley Fofana (Chelsea), Theo Hernandez (AC Milan), Ibrahima Konaté (Liverpool), Jules Koundé (Barcelona), Ferland Mendy (Real Madrid), Benjamin Pavard (Bayern Munich), Dayot Upamecano (Bayern Munich)

Midfielders: Eduardo Camavinga (Real Madrid), Youssouf Fofana (Monaco), Antoine Griezmann (Atlético Madrid), Adrien Rabiot (Juventus), Aurélien Tchouaméni

(Real Madrid),
Forwards: Kingsley Coman
(Bayern Munich), Ousmane
Dembélé (Barcelona), Olivier Giroud (AC Milan), Randal Kolo Muani (Eintracht Frankfurt), Kylian Mbappé (Paris Saint-Germain), Christopher Nkunku (RB Leipzig), Marcus Thuram (Borussia Mönchengladbach).

The LA Galaxy have fired president Chris Klein with the five-time Major League Soccer champion franchise sitting at the bottom of the overall standings.

The Galaxy announced the decision Tuesday to part ways with Klein, a former Galaxy player. He had been the team's president since 2013, presiding over its steady decline over the past decade and becoming the primary foes of its frustrated fans' ire

Dan Beckerman, who runs the sports and entertainment conglomerate that owns the Galaxy, said the team has "not achieved our goals or met the standard that we have established for the LA Galaxy.'

Anthony Hudson quit as interim head coach of the U.S. men's soccer team on Tuesday, just two weeks before he was to lead the Americans in the CONCACAF Nations League

He was replaced by B.J. Callaghan, another holdover from former coach Gregg Berhalter's

semifinals.

Hudson's departure was announced just six days after the U.S. Soccer Federation said he was remaining as coach of the Americans through the CON-CACAF Gold Cup this summer. The USSF said Hudson was taking a job with a club but did not identify the team or the role



In this Monday, May 22, 2023 file photo, Denver Nuggets forward Aaron Gordon (50) reacts after dunking in the second half of Game 4 of the NBA basketball Western Conference Final series against the Los Angeles Lakers in Los Angeles. (AP)

Cubs bullpen shines in victory over Rays

Athletics hold off Braves

CHICAGO, May 31, (AP): Nico Hoerner homered and the Chicago Cubs made the most of a rare gaffe by Tampa Bay, handing Shane McClanahan his first loss of the season with a 2-1 victory over the Rays on Tuesday night.

The game was tied at 1 when Ian Happ led off the sixth with a shallow fly ball that dropped between Tampa Bay second baseman Brandon Lowe and right fielder Josh Lowe in a miscommunication between the fielders.

That was enough for Chicago, which topped the majors' best team for the second straight day after entering the series with a four-game losing streak.

Julian Merryweather (1-0), Mark Leiter Jr. and Adbert Alzolay combined for four innings of one-hit ball in relief of Kyle Hendricks. Merryweather earned his first major league win, and Alzolay got six outs for his

McClanahan (8-1) allowed six hits, struck out seven and walked two in 5 2/3 innings. The left-hander was bidding to become the first pitcher in franchise history to begin

Rangers 10, Tigers 6

In Detroit, reliever Grant Anderson won in an overpowering major league debut and Texas beat Detroit to improve to 35-19, the best record in franchise history at the one-third mark.

Anderson stuck out seven of the nine batters he faced after taking over for starter Martín Pérez in the fifth inning. He struck out the first four he faced.

Texas second baseman Marcus Semien extended his hitting streak to a career-best 19 games with a fifthinning single. Jonah Heim drove in four runs, Josh Jung homered and had three runs and Aroldis Garcia had four hits and three runs.

Miguel Cabrera had three hits and drove in two runs for Detroit. Cabrera passed Ken Griffey Jr. for 15th place with 5,272 total bases. Alex Faedo (1-3) took the loss.

Orioles 8, Guardians 5

In Baltimore, Anthony Santander hit a bases-clearing triple during Baltimore's five-run second inning, then added a pair of doubles to lift the Orioles over Cleveland.

Kyle Gibson (7-3) won his third straight start, allowing three runs and seven hits in 5 2/3 innings. Félix Bautista pitched a perfect ninth for

his 14th save in 18 chances. Josh Bell hit an RBI single in the fourth for Cleveland. Santander doubled in the fifth and scored on Henderson's single, which chased

Guardians starter Cal Quantrill (2-4). Bell hit a sacrifice fly in the sixth, and Andrés Giménez followed with an RBI double. Josh Naylor hit a two-run single in the seventh.

Dodgers 9, Nationals 3

In Los Angeles, Freddie Freeman extended his hitting streak to 19 games, capping a four-hit game with an eighth-inning homer, and Los Angeles defeated Washington.

J.D. Martinez homered and drove in three runs, and Jason Heyward also went deep. Tony Gonsolin (3-1) allowed one run and three hits in six innings. Los Angeles has won 13 of 14 at Dodger Stadium since late April.

Keibert Ruiz homered and Lane Thomas had two hits to extend his hitting streak to a career-best 15 games for the Nationals. Thomas has reached base in a career-high 26 straight games.

Jake Irvin (1-3) gave up four runs on eight hits in five innings.

Athletics 2, Braves 1

In Oakland, Seth Brown scored on a fielding error by Atlanta third baseman Austin Riley in the ninth inning, and Oakland recorded consecutive victories for the second time this season.

Braves reliever Raisel Iglesias (1-2) walked three of the first four Oakland batters in the ninth. Jonah Bride hit a sharp grounder that Riley bobbled. Bride easily beat Riley's throw to first as Brown scored, giving the A's their fifth walk-off win of the season and first back-to-back victories since May 5-6 in Kansas

Kevin Pillar hit his sixth homer of the season for the NL East-leading Braves.

Atlanta starter Bryce Elder had five strikeouts and worked around three walks in 7 1/3 innings while lowering his majors-leading ERA to 1.92, among qualifiers.

Shintaro Fujinami (2-5) retired the only batter he faced on a foul pop-up to the catcher and earned the win.

A's starter JP Sears, whose seven no-decisions going into the game were tied for most in the majors, added to that with a solid outing. He allowed one run and four hits in six innings, yet remained winless since

Sept. 20, 2022.

Yankees 10, Mariners 2

In Seattle, Aaron Judge homered for the third time in two games, Anthony Volpe and Greg Allen also went deep and New York stretched its winning streak to four.

While Judge hitting another homer will get the headlines, it was Volpe's long ball that broke open the game. With two outs in the third inning, Seattle starter Logan Gilbert (3-3) caught too much of the plate with a 1-2 slider and Volpe drove the pitch 413 feet for a three-run shot and a 6-0 lead. It was Volpe's eighth homer of the season and snapped a 2-for-22 slide for the rookie.

Nestor Cortes (5-2) mostly cruised through five innings, allowing two runs and five hits with six strikeouts. Ty France and Teoscar Hernández had RBI doubles in the fifth inning. Judge nearly stole another hit from Hernández after robbing him of a homer on Monday, but his diving attempt at Hernández's liner fell for a

Astros 5, Twins 1

In Houston, Alex Bregman and Chas McCormick each homered in the second inning and had two RBIs and Houston built a big lead early.

BASEBALL

Bregman and McCormick connected off Joe Ryan (7-2) to put Houston up 3-0 - and snap Ryan's career-long streak of six starts without allowing a homer.
Brandon Bielak (2-2) allowed

three hits and one run with six strikeouts in 5 2/3 innings, helping the Astros bounce back after losing the series opener 7-5 in 10 innings.

Minnesota rookie Royce Lewis doubled a night after homering with four RBIs in his season debut after tearing the ACL in his right knee last May. It was the only extra-base hit for the Twins, who went 1 for 8 with runners in scoring position.

Diamondbacks 5, Rockies 1

In Phoenix, Zac Gallen pitched six shutout innings, Ketel Marte and Evan Longoria homered in the first inning and Arizona earned its third consecutive win.

Gallen (7-2) gave up five hits and two walks and struck out seven to win for the first time in three starts and lower his season ERA to 2.72. The right-hander hasn't allowed a homer in 63 innings - dating to his second start of the season.

Nolan Jones hit his first homer of the year in the ninth for Colorado against reliever Kevin Ginkel. Ezequiel Tovar had three of the Rockies' eight hits.

Kyle Freeland (4-6) pitched 5 2/3 innings, giving up six hits and five runs. His career woes against the Diamondbacks continue; he's 3-8 with a 5.49 ERA in 19 starts against the division rivals.

Blue Jays 7, Brewers 2

In Toronto, Vladimir Guerrero Jr. and Alejandro Kirk each had three hits, Whit Merrifield reached twice and drove in two runs and Toronto snapped a four-game home losing streak.

William Contreras hit a two-run home run, his second homer in two games, as the Brewers lost for the fourth time in five games.

Yusei Kikuchi (6-2) allowed two runs and three hits in five innings. snapping a three-start winless streak. Kikuchi walked a season-high five and struck out four.

Adrian Houser (1-1) came in having pitched 11 1/3 scoreless innings over his previous two outings. He gave up seven runs, six earned, and a career-worst 11 hits in 4 1/3 innings.

Reds 9, Red Sox 8

In Boston, Jose Barrero hit a grand slam to lift Cincinnati to a fourth straight win.

Will Benson had three hits to back Ben Lively (3-2), who pitched 5 2/3 shutout innings. He struck out six for the Reds, who blew it open with a five-run seventh inning.

Raimel Tapia had three of Boston's 14 hits and drove in a pair of runs. The Red Sox lost their second straight and have dropped six of eight.

Boston scored all eight of its runs in the final three innings, getting five



Los Angeles Dodgers' Freddie Freeman (5) hits a home run during the eighth inning of a baseball game against the Washington Nationals in Los Angeles. (AP)

in the ninth but couldn't quite catch the Reds, who clinched the win when reliever Alexis Diaz struck out Triston Casas for the final out and his 13th save.

Brayan Bello (2-2) threw 33 pitches in the first inning and left after the fourth with the Red Sox down 1-0. Bello allowed one run on five hits, struck out four and walked two.

White Sox 7, Angels 3

In Chicago, Andrew Vaughn drove in three runs, Romy González homered and Chicago beat Los An-

The White Sox looked as if they were headed toward their fourth straight loss after Los Angeles raced to a 3-1 lead against Lucas Giolito (4-4). But the White Sox turned it around in a big way, scoring five runs in the fourth against Tyler An-

Vaughn smacked a three-run double to put Chicago on top. González drove him in with a double, stole third and scored when Gio Urshela allowed catcher Chad Wallach's throw to wind up in left field, stretching it to 6-3.

Luis Robert Jr. and Jake Burger each had three hits, and the White Sox came out on top despite a shaky start by Giolito. The right-hander lasted five innings, giving up three

Pirates 2, Giants 1

In San Francisco, Connor Joe homered against his former team and Pittsburgh snapped a five-game losing streak against the Giants.

Joe, who played for San Francisco in 2019, homered off John Brebbia in the first inning. Michael Conforto tied the game with an RBI single in the bottom of the inning.

Sean Manaea (2-3) allowed one unearned run in four innings of re-

Pirates starter Johan Oviedo struggled with his command but held the Giants to one run in 4 1/3 innings. He walked five and struck out five.

Dauri Moreta (2-1) relieved Oviedo in the fifth and was credited with

the win following a scoreless inning. David Bednar retired the side in order in the ninth with two strikeouts

for his 10th save in 11 chances. Padres 9, Marlins 4

In Miami, Xander Bogaerts sparked a five-run ninth inning with a tiebreaking single and Matt Carpenter drove in two runs with his second double of the game, lifting San Diego over Miami.

Bryan De La Cruz hit a two-run nomer for the Marlins, who came home after a three-game sweep at the Los Angeles Angels.

NL Cy Young Award winner Sandy Alcantara failed to hold a 4-2 lead and is 1-5 in his last nine starts. He allowed four runs, five hits in 6 1/3 innings while walking five, one shy of his career high.

Nick Martinez (3-2) pitched a scoreless eighth around a single and walk, retiring Jorge Soler on an inning-ending double play grounder.

Padres starter Ryan Weathers allowed three runs, seven hits and three walks in four innings.

Mets 2, Phillies 0

In New York, Kodai Senga allowed one hit through seven dominant innings and Francisco Lindor homered to help New York shut out Philadelphia in the first meeting this season between the NL East rivals.

Eduardo Escobar added an RBI single and Mets center fielder Brandon Nimmo robbed Nick Castellanos of a potential home run with a leaping catch at the fence.

Senga (5-3) struck out nine and permitted one baserunner - a soft single by Kody Clemens that fell in front of left fielder Tommy Pham in

the third. Adam Ottavino worked a hitless eighth, getting a huge lift when rookie Francisco Álvarez threw out fellow catcher J.T. Realmuto trying to steal second after a leadoff walk.

Philadelphia got 6 2/3 encouraging innings from left-hander Ranger Suárez (0-2), who entered with a 9.82 ERA.

Cardinals 2, Royals 1

In St. Louis, Miles Mikolas pitched eight shutout innings, Nolan Arenado hit an RBI double and Nolan Gorman drove in a run with a sacrifice fly as St. Louis split the two-game set between the I-70 rivals. Mikolas (4-1) matched a career

high with 10 strikeouts and allowed three hits. Gionvanny Gallegos replaced Mikolas in the ninth and gave up a double and single to start the inning. Vinnie Pasquantino scored on a fielder's choice by Bobby Witt Jr., cutting the deficit to a run. Gallegos went on to retire the next two hitters and record his seventh save.

The Cardinals got a run in the sixth with two outs against Carlos Hernández (0-2). Paul Goldschmidt reached first on an infield single. Arenado hit a run-scoring double to left-center.

Zack Greinke started for the Royals but didn't figure in the decision. He pitched five scoreless innings, allowing two hits and a walk with six



Baltimore Orioles relief pitcher Danny Coulombe throws a pitch to the Cleveland Guardians during the seventh inning of a baseball game in Baltimore. (AP)

A mix of Beckham and Gazza

Grealish emerging as face of English soccer

LONDON, May 31, (AP): Armed with the boyish charm and marketability of David Beckham and the skills and playfulness of Paul Gascoigne, Jack Grealish has a potent mix that has seen him quickly emerge as the face of English soccer.

Now that he is starting to add tro-phies to his growing list of endorse-ment deals that already include Gucci and Puma, the possibilities appear end-less for the Manchester City winger who is the most expensive English soccer player of all time.

Grealish - he of the bulging calf muscles and swept-back hair - was albefore a 2021 move from Aston Villa to City for 100 million pounds (then \$139 million) that took his appeal to a new level.

Nearing the end of his second season at City, the 27-year-old Grealish has finally established himself as a key part of a Premier League-winning team that is seeking to clinch the second leg of a treble of major titles this season by beating Manchester United in the FA Cup final on Saturday.

SOCCER

He is far more than a soccer player

these days, though. "People like Jack Grealish are the new sports lifestyle icons," Alan Seymour, a sports academic and author in business and marketing, told The Associated Press. "As he's matured and got more attuned to what is required of him as a footballer, on the field and off the field, it's why he is right up there with the very best sports personalities for marketability, not only in football

but away from football." Elements of the wild-child image that shadowed him in the early years

of his career remain. At the height of the lockdown amid the pandemic, Grealish was found slurring his words after crashing his car in a residential estate and was later banned from driving for nine months. Then there were those images of him playing a prominent role in City's Pre-

In this Saturday, Jan. 14, 2023 file photo, Manchester City's Jack Grealish celebrates after scoring his side's first goal during the English Premier League soccer match between Manchester United and Manchester City at Old Trafford in Manchester, England. (AP)

mier League title celebrations last year. when he was seen swigging a beer and - bleary-eved and with a croaky voice - aiming a dig at Newcastle midfielder Miguel Almiron that gained plenty of air time.

Grealish unashamedly accepts that's who he is. He recently said he might have been a nightclub promoter if he wasn't a soccer player and that he'd always be prone to the kind of excesses that mean he embodies the spirit of a regular soccer fan.

But the loveable, charming part of Grealish's personality is inescapable. It shines through in every interview he does - he pinches himself that he is a soccer professional, playing against the likes of Real Madrid in the Champions League - and in his public friendship with a young City fan named Finley, who has cerebral palsy. He's a popular member of the City squad, striking up a particularly close relationship with superstar striker Erling Haaland off the

"I feel so much more confident in this team," said Grealish, who was left out of many of City's big games last season while he adapted to the demands of manager Pep Guardiola. "I feel fitter and back to what I know, what I can do. This is why City bought me and I have so much to offer.'

Big brands think so, too. He is an ambassador for fashion house Gucci and for Bose audio equipment, and this year signed a boot deal with Puma that's reportedly the most lucrative by a British player, worth about 10 million pounds per season over the next five years. He has 7 million followers on Insta-

gram and 4.2 million on TikTok. The British press are even starting to liken Grealish and his girlfriend, fashion model Sasha Attwood, to David and Victoria Beckham, and the way Grealish wears a handband - boyband-style - to manage his floppy hair furthers the comparisons with Beckham, even if their playing style is very different.

"He has boyish charm and likeability, that impish, roguish element to him," Seymour said. "If I put it into marketing speak, you have a point of difference and point of parity - his point of difference is his appeal.

"The synergy (with Beckham) is clearly there," he added. "But a sportsperson always says I don't want to be compared to, I want to be the new, 'I am.' I think Jack Grealish will always go out of his way to point that out. He is putting himself out there and that is what sponsors look for.'

The comparisons with Gascoigne, the mercurial central midfielder who helped England to the semifinals of the 1990 World Cup and the 1996 European Championship, come in the way Grealish carries the ball with such pace and directness that he is constantly one of the most-fouled players in the Premier League.

Grealish knows he needs to score more goals and have more assists to be rated as one of the world's best attackers, but his technique and first touch is up there with the game's finest players.

Guardiola values, in particular, the control Grealish brings to the team from his spot on the left of the team's front three and that - plus his work rate - is why he is now a first-choice pick for the biggest games.

Like the FA Cup final on Saturday and the Champions League final against Inter Milan the following

"We still have some massive games left," Grealish said, "and we feel un-

MLB Results/Standings

Detroit Oakland Toronto Baltimore Seattle Philadelphia Cleveland NY Mets St Louis Kansas City Toronto Milwaukee Cincinnati Chicago Cubs Boston San Diego Miami Arizona LA Dodgers Pittsburgh Colorado Tampa Bay Chicago W. Sox 7 11 3 Washington San Francisco LA Angels National League American League East Division
W L
32 23 **East Division** GB 23 27 27 29 .684 **W** 39 **L** 18 Atlanta 32 20 Miami 28 27 .509 New York 28 27 .509 Philadelphia 25 29 .463 Washington 23 32 .418 Central Division W L Pct Tampa Bay .636 .596 .527 Baltimore New York 35 34 29 20 23 26 4 6-1/2 Toronto 28 26 .519
Central Division
W L Pct 9-1/2 W L F
28 26 .5
27 27 .5
25 29 .4
24 30 .4
25 32 .4
West Division GB 27 28 30 34 39 28 25 24 23 17 Minnesota Detroit Cleveland .509 .472 .444 Milwaukee Pittsburgh Cincinnati .519 .500 .463 2 3-1/2 Chicago Kansas City .404 .444 West Division Los Angeles 34
Arizona 32
San Francisco 28
San Diego 25
Colorado 24 Pct .607 .582 .509 .463 .429 .648 .593 22 23 27 29 32 W 35 32 29 28 12 19 22 27 27 45 Texas 3 1-1/2 Houston .518 .509 .211 Los Angeles Oakland

WASHINGTON, May 31, (AP): Results and standings from the MLB games on



Arvna Sabalenka of Belarus plays a shot against Iryna Shymanovich of Belarus during their second round match of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris. (AP)

Sports

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Stearns stuns former champ Ostapenko

Tsitsipas ousts Carballes Baena

PARIS, May 31, (AP): Like many a kid, Peyton Stearns enjoyed participating in sports and tried her hand at plenty.

"Soccer, gymnastics, basketball, tennis, whatever," the 21-yearold American said Wednesday at the French Open after eliminating 2017 champion Jelena Ostapenko 6-3, 1-6, 6-2 to reach the third round at a Grand Slam tournament for the first time. Only hours after husband Gael Monfils won a five-set thriller in Tuesday night's session, Elina Svitolina rallied past qualifier Storm Hunter 2-6, 6-3,

In the men's bracket, former runner-up Stefanos Tsitsipas ousted Roberto Carballes Baena 6-3, 7-6 (4), 6-2. The fifth-seeded Greek was a bit slow to find his range and was made to work hard for two sets but rolled on after he won the tiebreaker.

Then Stearns paused, before adding with a chuckle: "Well, not so much tennis.

By her own admission, she came to tennis relatively late for someone who would end up at its highest

TENNIS

level, starting private lessons at age 8. It wasn't until about three or four years later, the 2022 NCAA champion for the University of Texas explained, that she decided to focus on holding a racket.

"Gymnastics was very structured. I didn't like that so much. I liked to do what I want when I wanted," said Stearns, who had never played in the French Open's main draw until this week. "I chose tennis because I loved that you can just hit the living daylights out of the ball.'

So that's what she does, and did quite effectively against the 17thseeded Ostapenko, outhitting a big hitter - Stearns compiled more winners, 30-29 - and leaving the field at Roland Garros with just one remaining woman who has won the title there: No. 1 Iga Swiatek, the champion in 2020 and 2022, who plays her second-round match Thursday. Barbora Krejcikova, the 2021 win-

ner, lost in the first round. "Sometimes I surprise myself with how lethal my ball comes off (the racket) sometimes for my opponents, and how it really puts them in trouble," Stearns said. "Maybe I didn't realize that earlier on, but playing against top players, I realize that it is true. It comes off pretty heavy and big and that's how I play. Definitely helps with confidence.'

Her victory over Ostapenko can be placed alongside a slew of other early upsets in Paris, where the sometimes-odd bounces of the red clay and the changing weather conditions can contribute to unexpected outcomes.

No. 5 seed Caroline Garcia of France was defeated by Anna Blinkova 4-6, 6-3, 7-5, meaning 17 of 32 seeded women already were gone before the second round was halfway finished. In the men's bracket, No. 2 seed Daniil Medvedev bowed out Tuesday against a qualifier ranked 127nd.

"I feel like at Roland Garros, it's tricky with the clay," said No. 3 Jessica Pegula, who advanced Wednesday when her opponent, Camila Giorgi, stopped playing because of knee pain after dropping the first set. "You can see - to me, it feels like - a

lot more upsets.' Do not tell Stearns hers was a stunning result, even though she is ranked 69th in her first full season on tour and carried a 0-1 career Slam record into this week.

"I expected this out of myself. Maybe not this early in my career. ... I'm ahead of what I projected myself doing," she said, "but by no means cutting myself short."

She had her own little cheering section at Court 14, a group that included her mother, Denise, Stearns' coach, her coach's girlfriend and a friend, which helped.

So did Stearns' boundless selfbelief, which she said allowed her to settle down amid some feelings she described as "crazy, nerve-wracking, overwhelming - all the emotions into one.

Her tennis idol growing up was Maria Sharapova, who won five Grand Slam titles and reached No. 1 in the WTA rankings.



Joshua Wynder (left), and Justin Che (right), of the United States fight for the ball against New Zealand's Fin Conchie during a FIFA U-20 World Cup round of 16 soccer match at the Malvinas Argentinas stadium in Mendoza, Argentina. (AP)

Asian champions Uzbekistan eliminated

In this Sunday, Sept. 25, 2022 file photo, Golden State Warriors general manager Bob Myers poses for a photograph during an NBA bas-ketball media day in San Francisco.

Sharapova was a powerful ballstriker who found her initial success on faster surfaces such as grass courts, winning Wimbledon at age 17, and hard courts, her next major championships coming at the U.S. Open and Australian Open. But Sharapova eventually did collect two French Open titles later in her career.

That's not why Stearns came to be a fan, though.

"My mom and I loved watching her because of her outfits," Stearns said with a snicker. "My mom's a big shopper.'

Swedish Tennis player Mikael Ymer was docked a total of 37,370 euros (about \$40,000) after being disqualified for smashing his racket against the umpire's chair at a tournament the week before he competed at the French Open.

An ATP Tour spokesman said Ymer forfeited the 9,980 euros (about \$10,500) in prize money and 20 rankings he earned for reaching the second round of the Lyon Open. Ymer also was handed an on-site fine of 27,490 euros (about \$29,000).

The spokesman said the ATP Fines Committee will conduct a review of what happened to determine whether any additional penalties are warranted.

The 56th-ranked Ymer, who is 24 and owns a victory over current No. 1 Carlos Alcaraz, was defaulted in Lyon for an outburst late in the first set against French teenager Arthur Fils last week.

Ymer was upset that the chair um-

US crush NZ to reach U-20 World Cup quarterfinals

Kirk, Dunleavy Jr. potential in-house replacements

Myers 'departing' as Warriors president and GM after four NBA titles, 11 seasons

SAN FRANCISCO, May 31, (AP): Bob Myers can no longer put all of his energy into running the Golden State Warriors, and that's why he is ready to walk away as one of the most successful professional sports executives ever.

"This is tough, this is hard. I have so many different things, emotions that I'm still processing," Myers said, fighting tears in making his announcement Tuesday. "But the bottom line is this job, the one I'm in, I would say this for

BASKETBALL

any professional general manager or coach, requires complete engagement, complete effort, 1000%. If you can't do it, then you shouldn't do it. That's the answer to the question

"... It doesn't feel right to do something when I can't give it everything, and that's what it takes to do what we've done over the last 12 years.'

Myers is departing as Golden State's president of basketball operations and general manager after building a championship team that captured four titles in an eight-year span and reached five straight NBA Finals from 2015-19. He shared his decision with owner Joe Lacob on Tuesday

Yet basketball is and always will be in Myers' blood and the thrill of competition so ingrained in him, he's certainly not done in the business - even if he isn't quite sure what's

pire would not check a ball mark af-

ter a shot by Fils landed near a line.

As the players went to the sideline

for the ensuing changeover, Ymer

smacked the base of the umpire's

stand with his racket twice - destroy-

ing his equipment and damaging the

tion, making Fils the winner of the

That led to Ymer's disqualifica-

After his 7-5, 6-2, 6-4 loss to 17th-

seeded Lorenzo Musetti in the first

round at Roland Garros on Sunday,

Ymer was asked whether he wanted

to explain why he reacted the way he

pretty clear from the video what

caused it and why I reacted the way

I reacted. Not justifying it at all, of

course," Ymer replied. "But for me

to sit here and to explain? I think

it's pretty clear what led me to that

place. I think that's pretty clear in

"With all due respect, I think it's

did in Lyon.

the video."

next. He knows there will be an enormous void on game day and every other day in between.

He will miss Stephen Curry's warmup routine, his close friendship with coach Steve Kerr and all the special playoff runs they shared together, noting, "I'm proud of what I did and proud of what we did?

One of the most successful GMs over the past decade in any sport, Myers' contract expires June 30 and there has been speculation for months about his future, given the sides had yet to reach agreement on an extension or a new deal. Myers added about his decision, "This wasn't about money, just want to make that clear, it's not about money, I make

plenty of money, I got offered plenty of money."

The 48-year-old Myers grew up in suburban Danville going to Warriors games for his birthday, played basketball at UCLA and learned key skills on the other side of the business when he became an agent before switching careers and emerging as a top NBA executive. He did so with a personable nature and regularly attending practices to chat with players, staff, Kerr and his assistants.

Lacob acted on a tip from Danny Ainge to consider the unproven Myers and after interviewing other candidates over months, Lacob realized how much he really liked Myers despite his inexperience. Myers then spent a year as assistant GM under Larry Riley before being promoted a year later.

Kerr has loved working alongside Myers in a collaborative way, something that can be unusual in professional sports between the front office and head coach.

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina, May 31, (AP): The United States reached the Under-20 World Cup quarterfinals in convincing fashion without conceding again after beating New Zealand 4-0 on Tuesday in Mendoza.

The Americans dominated the round-of-16 match to advance to the quarterfinals for the fourth consecutive U20 World Cup.

SOCCER

After a 14th-minute opener from Owen Wolff, son of former U.S. international and current Austin MLS coach Josh Wolff, the U.S. didn't score again until the 61st minute through Cade Cowell. Justin Che and secondhalf substitute Rokas Pukstas, a late

addition to the squad, added on. The U.S. is the only team yet to concede a goal in the tournament, and will next face either Gambia or Uruguay on

The Americans had 8 shots on goal and restricted New Zealand to one, and overall outshot the Junior All Whites

Later Tuesday, Israel produced a late winner to beat Asian champion Uzbekistan at Santiago del Estero, a second consecutive dramatic victory for the tournament rookies.

Anan Khalaili scored from close range with virtually the last kick of the match. The Israelis next face the winner of Wednesday's round-of-16 match between Brazil and Tunisia.



Italy's Fabio Fognini plays a shot against Australia's Jason Kubler during their second round match of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris. (AP)

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