



baseball

Page 15



basketball

Page 16

Abbas in Beijing as China courts role

Warning on settlement

BEIJING, June 13, (Agencies): Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas began a visit to China on Tuesday that comes as Beijing is seeking a larger role in Middle East politics and competing for energy resources.

In announcing the visit, China's Foreign Ministry said China was willing to help broker relations between the Palestinian Authority and the Israeli government that have deteriorated to the lowest level in recent years. The ministry did not say who Abbas would meet in Beijing or give other details of his four-day visit.

Increased fighting over the last year between Israel and the Palestinians in the West Bank has resulted in the deadliest period of violence between the sides in years in that territory.

The visit also comes after China hosted talks between Iran and Saudi Arabia that resulted in the two restoring diplomatic relations.

That development was seen as representing a diplomatic victory for China as Gulf Arab states perceive the United States slowly withdrawing from the wider region.

But it remains to be seen how far the reconciliation efforts between Iran and Saudi Arabia will progress. The rivalry dates to the 1979 revolution that toppled Iran's Western-backed monarchy, and in recent years the two countries have backed rival armed groups and political factions across the region.

State broadcaster CCTV quoted Foreign Minister Qin Gang as saying that "China supports the resumption of peace talks between Palestine and Israel as soon as possible on the basis of the 'two-state solution,' and is willing to play an active role in this regard."

Meanwhile in Cairo, Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry, on Monday, called for regional and international efforts to de-escalate the situation in the occupied Palestinian lands in order to set the scene for the revival of the Middle East peace process.

Continued on Page 4

Newswatch

CARACAS: In his first visit to Latin America, Iran's hardline president on Monday met with his Venezuelan counterpart and declared that both countries have "a common enemy," alluding to the United States, before signing a series of cooperation agreements.

President Ebrahim Raisi's visit to Venezuela came a year and a day after President Nicolás Maduro visited him in Iran. Both countries are under heavy U.S. economic sanctions.

Raisi said the link between the two countries "is not normal, but rather a strategic relationship," insisting that their nations have "common interests and we have common enemies."

"They do not want the two countries, Iran and Venezuela, to be independent," Raisi said referring to the U.S. government. His tour of allied nations in Latin America, including Cuba and Nicaragua, comes amid rising tensions with the administration of U.S. President Joe Biden. (AP)

WASHINGTON: The United States and Italy agreed on Monday to boost efforts to bring stability in the Mediterranean, including Tunisia, which is facing some difficulties and economic challenges.

The remarks were made in a joint press conference between US Secretary of State Antony Blinken with Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani.

Blinken said, "in Tunisia, Italy has played an invaluable role in urging the Tunisian government to implement durable solutions to the country's political and economic challenges."

"We very much would welcome the Tunisian government presenting a revised reform plan to the IMF and for the IMF to be able to act on the plan presented, but these are sovereign decisions," Blinken said. (KUNA)

SEOUL: South Korea and Saudi Arabia have held talks on military cooperation for the first time in four years, Seoul's Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said Tuesday, as they seek to strengthen defense ties. Yonhap News Agency reported.

Lieut Colonel Lee Young-Su, head of the JCS' Chief Directorate of Strategic Planning, and Major General Hamed Rafea Al-Amri, chief of staff of Saudi Arabia's General Staff, led the ROK-Saudi Arabia Military Cooperation Committee meeting in Seoul on Monday and Tuesday, according to the JCS. (KUNA)

STOCKHOLM: The Swedish government decided Monday to extradite a Turkish citizen resident in Sweden who had been convicted in 2013 of drug crime in Turkey.

The move came as NATO-member Turkey continued to hold up Sweden's bid to join the military alliance.

The man, who had served his prison sentence and was living in Sweden legally, claimed the real reason for his extradition was that he was active in a pro-Kurdish political party and supported a group Ankara considers to be terrorists.

Sweden's Supreme Court said there were "no obstacles" to his extradition, and that the man was under investigation in Turkey for posting online manipulated photos of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan which is punishable under Turkish laws. (AP)

CAIRO: Egypt and Iraq affirmed Tuesday keenness on bolstering joint Arab work to counter various challenges facing Arab nation and achieve the hopes and aspirations of the people to live in peace and stability.

This came in a meeting between Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi and Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed al-Sudani where the two exchanged perspectives on regional issues of common interest in light of the pivotal role of both nations, reported Egyptian Presidency spokesperson Ahmad Fahmy via statement. (KUNA)

NICOSIA: Turkey's president said Monday that any deal resolving Cyprus' ethnic division of nearly half a century must be based on recognition of a breakaway Turkish Cypriot state in the island nation's northern third.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's remarks in the north during his first overseas visit after his reelection last month aren't new, but suggest that Ankara's policy line on Cyprus remains unwavering, despite international condemnation of the two-state deal proposal that runs contrary to U.N. resolutions calling for a single, federated Cyprus. (AP)

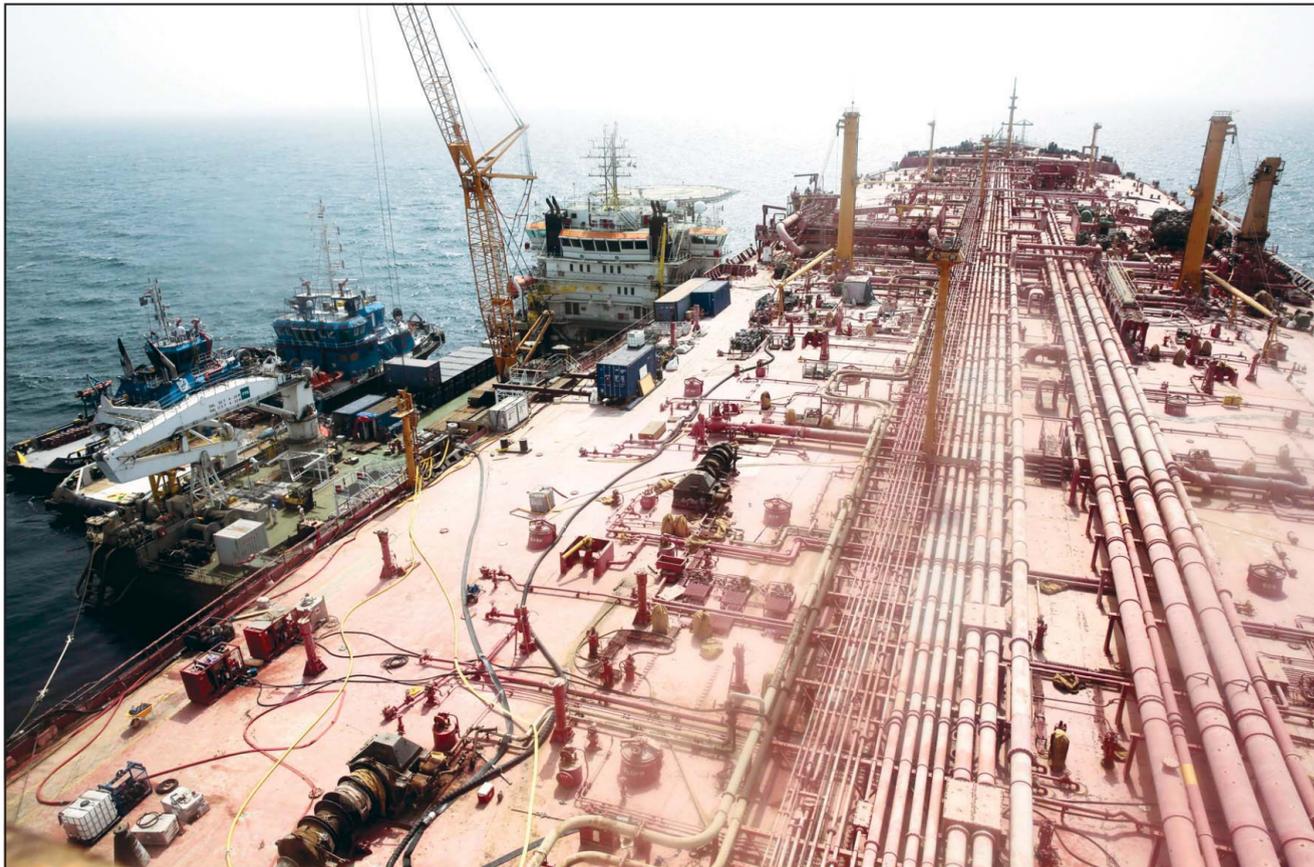
Day by Day

The investments of foreigners in the UAE, especially the Emirate of Dubai, are about a trillion dollars. These investments are in real estate. There is no doubt that the real estate will remain in the UAE, even if those who own the real estate leave the country or die. The real estate will remain in the state, and will be owned by the state, which will boost its financial assets. Another advantage is that the UAE benefits from taxes on this real estate.

O State of Kuwait, why officials not take a look at what is happening around us, and open the doors of the country to investors and all people?

... Yet, tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar



Technical vessels are seen by the decrepit Safer tanker on Monday, June 12, 2023, off the coast of Yemen. Safer has posed an environmental threat since 2015, as it decayed and threatened to spill its contents of 1.14 million barrels into the Red Sea and Indian Ocean. In May, the United Nations announced that the first step of the ship's salvage process had begun, with the arrival of a ship that would remove atmospheric oxygen from the ship's oil chambers. The United Nations has secured an insurance coverage to start a ship-to-ship transfer of 1.14 million barrels of crude from a rusting tanker moored off the coast of war-torn Yemen — oil that could cause a major environmental disaster. The United Nations Development Program described

the insurance is 'a pivotal milestone' in a yearslong effort to evacuate the cargo of the FSO Safer, which is at risk of rupture or exploding.

The UNDP has been trying to start a salvage operation to avert what it says could amount to 'one of the world's largest, man-made disasters in history.' It secured tens of millions of dollars in pledges for the operation, which started late in May with experts pumping inert gas to remove atmospheric oxygen from the oil chambers of the vessel. Transferring the stored oil is expected to start later this month, according to David Gressly, the U.N. humanitarian coordinator for Yemen. After completing the transfer of oil, Safer would eventually be towed away and scrapped, he has said. (AP)

Opinion

'Bulldozer' of 47 MPs needs a government 'bulldozer'

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

AN amazing number of parliamentarians turned up for their meeting, which was unexpected.

In this regard, we must recognize their initiative and gesture upon which to build on. This can establish a new phase different from what the country has become accustomed to in the past years.

First of all, MP Muhammad Hayef is noted for coordinating this meeting in his diwaniya and his success in bringing together 47 parliamentarians of different orientations. Their agreement on some broad lines is considered a consensus, which must apply to the rest of the files that concern the people.

We also recognize the formation of some committees to follow up as a successful step, which needs activation in the National Assembly in order to look at about 400 projects and legislation proposals, which have been stored in its drawers for years but it is better late than never.

There is a lot that awaits the parliamentarians with regard to populist laws, or factors that the country needs for advancement including freedoms and liberties. It is inconceivable that a citizen who posted a message on Twitter criticizing the behavior of an official would be put in prison for five years. Some of them were sentenced for 40 to 60 years.

It is true that the parliamentarians have the right to agree on the names of the National Assembly Speaker or the members of the office of the parliament and committees. However, work must be done to rid Kuwait of the crises that were caused in the last stage, as it is unacceptable that the country has been torn between conflicts for 30 years. Everything in it is broken, and its projects are prey to bribery and the game of personal interests. It is also suffering from poor education.

On this occasion, the Minister of Higher Education did well by putting an end to playing with people's lives through outputs that are not at the required level in several disciplines. It is necessary to restore confidence in the local health sector, instead of permanently opting for overseas treatments.

Likewise, it is not right to accept graduates with certificates from the Philippines or other countries that they did not visit, or whose language they do not speak, but end up getting appointed to the highest positions using these certificates. Whoever obtains a forged certificate does not build a state because of butterflies in his stomach that keeps him unsettled or jittery, and hence surrounds himself with his likes.

Continued on Page 4

Email: ahmed@aljarallah.com

Follow me on:



ahmedaljarallah@gmail.com

Ten killed in Ukrainian city

Zelenskyy hometown struck

KYIV, June 13, (AP): Russian missiles rained down in a central Ukrainian city overnight, killing at least 11 people and wounding more than two dozen in a warehouse and an apartment building, regional officials said Tuesday.

The attack in Kryvyi Rih, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's hometown, comes as Ukrainian forces are in the early stages of a counteroffensive to try to drive Russian forces from about one-fifth of Ukrainian territory that they now occupy - more than 15 months after invading the country.

Russian forces have unleashed overnight missile strikes repeatedly against targets across Ukraine in recent weeks, and Tuesday's toll was among the highest from a single attack. In late April, missile strikes hit an apartment building in the central city of Uman, killing 23 people, including six children.

Images from the latest missile attack relayed by Zelenskyy on his Telegram channel showed firefighters battling a blaze as flames poked through broken windows in the damaged apartment building. Charred and damaged vehicles littered the nearby ground.

"More terrorist missiles," he wrote. "Russian killers continue their war against residential buildings, ordinary cities and people."

The Russian Defense Ministry said Russian forces used long-range air-launched cruise missiles to hit Ukrainian military reserves and depots holding Western weapons and ammunition.

The governor of the Dnipropetrovsk region, Serhiy Lysak, wrote on Telegram that the bodies of seven people were recovered from a private company's warehouse, and

"another four destinies were cut short" at the apartment building. He said search operations had been called off.

Kryvyi Rih Mayor Oleksandr Vilkul said on the social media app that 28 people were wounded.

Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city, meanwhile, was attacked with Iranian-made Shahed drones, and the surrounding region was shelled, local Gov. Oleh Synchubov said on Telegram. The shelling wounded two civilians in the town of Shevchenkove, southwest of Kharkiv, and a drone strike damaged two buildings in Kharkiv.

The Kyiv military administration reported that the capital came under fire as well on Tuesday, but the incoming missiles were destroyed by air defenses and there were no immediate reports of any casualties there.

Air defenses overnight shot down 10 out of 14 cruise missiles and one of four Iranian-made Shahed drones launched by Russian forces, Ukraine's General Staff said on its Facebook page.

Meanwhile, Ukraine's deputy defense minister, Hanna Maliar, told Ukrainian TV that its forces are continuing their offensive in four areas in the south and east.

The head of Ukraine's ground troops said the country's forces were "moving forward" outside Bakhmut, in Ukraine's east. Oleksandr Syrskyi wrote on Telegram that Russian forces are "losing positions on the flanks."

For weeks, Ukrainian officials have been reporting small gains west of Bakhmut, which was largely devastated in the war's longest and bloodiest battle before Moscow's forces took control last month.

Call to close Al-Hol camp

BAGHDAD, June 13, (Agencies): Iraq's National Security Advisor Qassem Al-Araji called on Monday for the immediate closure of the infamous Al-Hol refugee camp in northern Syria, considering it a serious threat to Iraq and the World.

Speaking at a symposium organized by the Al Nahrain Center for Strategic Studies in Baghdad, Al-Araji urged all countries to



Plasschaert

repatriate their nationals from the camp which houses over 50,000 of the ISIS militant group families.

The gathering was also attended by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert and a large number of the foreign ambassadors.

The Iraqi official suggested the organization of an international conference at the level of foreign ministers to discuss the camp dismantling.

He pointed out that Iraq had repatriated 1,369 families from the camp to rehabilitation centers and 800 families have completed the rehabilitation process and were reintegrated into the society.

Al-Araji warned that the existence of thousands of children in this camp risk create a new generation of terrorists.

He, however, stressed that convicted terrorists had to be held accountable for their crimes.

The Al-Hol camp is located in the Syrian countryside of Al-Hasakah, near the Iraqi border, and is under the control of the US army and the Syrian Democratic Forces.

Al-Hol Camp - named after a town near the Iraqi border - is an open wound left by Syria's 12-year conflict. Tens of thousands of people were taken to the facility after the extremist group's defeat in Syria in March 2019.

The camp holds about 51,000 people, the vast majority women and children, including the wives, widows and other family members of IS militants, mostly Syrians and Iraqis.

There are also around 8,000 women and children from 60 other nationalities who live in a part of the camp known as the Annex. They are generally considered the most die-hard IS supporters among the camp residents.



In this photo released by Dnipro Regional Administration, emergency workers extinguish a fire after missiles hit a multi-story apartment building in Kryvyi Rih, Ukraine, Tuesday, June 13, 2023. (AP)

Prayer Timings

Fajr 03:13 Asr 15:22
 Sunrise .. 04:48 Maghrib .. 18:48
 Zohr 11:48 Isha 20:20

Local

Expected weather for the next 24 hours:

By Day: Hot with moderate to fresh northwesterly wind with speeds of 20-50 km/h causing rising dust.
By Night: Rather hot and dust

Weather

will subside gradually with light to moderate northwesterly wind with speeds of 10-35 km/h.

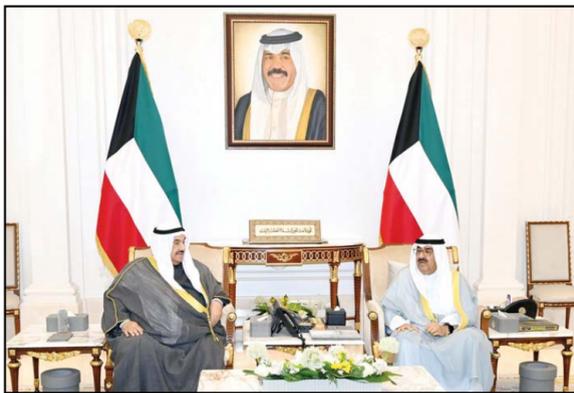
Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	46	35
Kuwait Airport	46	34
Abdaly	46	30

Jahra	46	34
Salmiyah	43	33
Ahmadi	39	33
Nuwaisib	45	30
Wafra	45	28

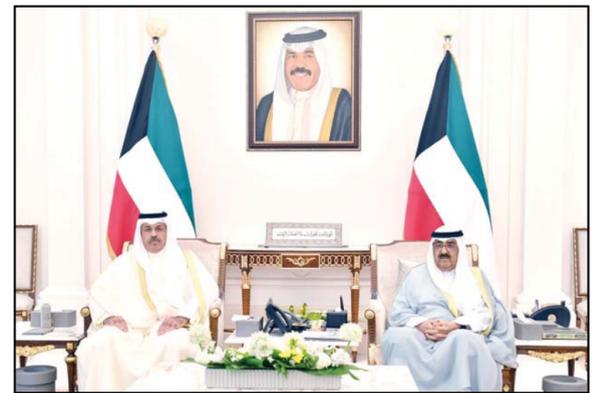
BIOMETRIC/FINGERPRINT APPOINTMENT: <https://meta.e.gov.kw/En/>



HH the Crown Prince receives HH Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah.



HH the Crown Prince Sheikh receives His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah.



HH the Crown Prince receives His Highness Sheikh Ahmad Al-Nawaf Al-Sabah. KUNA photos

HH Crown Prince holds more discussions on gov't formation

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace a number of local figures in a continuation of traditional discussions on forming the new cabinet.

Amongst those received were former Prime Minister His Highness

Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, former Prime Minister His Highness Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Crown Prince also held a similar discussion via phone with former Prime Minister His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. (KUNA)



KUNA photo

Sheikha Fadia Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah visits one of the stalls at the exhibition.

Sheikha Fadia opens exhibition

'Back productive families to secure their financial status'

KUWAIT CITY, June 13, (KUNA): President of the Kuwaiti Federation of Women's Associations, Sheikha Fadia Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah, stressed the need to support productive families and small projects to empower them economically, to support the national product, and to highlight the role of productive Kuwaiti women in the wheel of economic development.

Sheikha Fadia said in a statement to reporters on the sidelines of the opening of the Productive Families Exhibition, which was held by the International Organization for the Empowerment of Women and Capacity Building on Monday and will last for two days, that the projects of productive families are the first line of defense to protect many families from need and devote self-reliance.

She called for the need for society to interact with these projects, especially after they have proven their ability to compete in the local markets with their high quality and refined tastes that meet the needs of consumers and satisfy their aspirations in the interest and well-being of society.

She indicated that there are many obstacles facing the projects of productive families and their launch, noting that among these obstacles is the lack of mechanisms and destinations for financing and caring for productive families, as well as weak marketing mechanisms and lack of experience in managing small and micro projects.

Sheikha Fadia stressed the need to sponsor and support this sector, transform the projects of productive families into successful commercial projects, spread and deepen the culture of self-employment among members of society, and encourage productive families to produce and work.

She called for strengthening and highlighting the role of women and empowering them economically, and working to increase the income of families, stressing the need to launch initiatives to develop the standard of living of families, support their stability, enhance their status and improve their role.

For her part, the President of the International Organization for the Empowerment of Women and Capacity Building, Ibtisam Al-Quoud, stressed in a similar statement the need to support such projects and shed light on them to support productive families and inform the public about the crafts and manual works they offer.

Al-Quoud said that the organization was keen to hold the exhibition by inviting small business owners and includes many creative arts that were well received by the attendees.

She added that the aim of the exhibition is to support those projects that face many obstacles and need support to introduce their products.

Empowerment

A number of participants in the 43rd edition of women's empowerment and capacity building conference, titled "Tamkeen", underlined Monday the need to provide more support to empower women in leading positions.

Speaking in the conference held by the international organization for women's empowerment and capacity-building, in

'Infiltration tackled'

24/7 border patrols

KUWAIT CITY, June 13: The Director General of the General Department for Land Border Security Major General Mijbil Fahad Bin Shawq revealed that the land borders with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Republic of Iraq are monitored 24 hours a day by human element and a security system linked to a central operations room, reports Al-Anba daily.

During a press interview, Major General Mijbil bin Shawq explained that there is an electrical security system and a trench separating the Kuwaiti and Iraqi borders to prevent any attempts to infiltrate or smuggle contraband.

There is continuous coordination and cooperation between Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Iraq for the exchange of information, and to hold bilateral and tripartite meetings to discuss some issues and find a solution to them. These meetings resulted in curbing infiltration attempts and smuggling of contraband through the land borders.

He stressed that the officers of the General Department for Land Border Security represent the authority supervising the protection and security of the coalition crossing Khabari Al-Awazem Port and providing support in cooperation and coordination with other parties, adding that border security is responsible for protecting and securing the oil sites in the restricted area.

Major General Bin Shawq affirmed that 41 border posts and nine security points distributed throughout the land borders with Saudi Arabia and Iraq cover the requirements for protecting the borders.

cooperation with the Kuwaiti Union of Women's Associations, those participants stressed the need to give women more opportunities to help them get more posts and underscored the importance of enhancing achievements made by Kuwaiti women in different fields.

In a speech, former minister of information Sami Al-Nisf called for supporting women in order to help them achieve more successes and enable them to get leadership positions to keep pace with the international community.

Iqbal Al-Ahmad, a media person, called for changing the stereotypical view of some people towards women that says that 'women's role is at home'.

She considered that "men created this view because they enact laws and regulations that affect women and their ability to get leadership positions".

Mona Al-Arbash, member of Kuwait Bar Association's women and business committee, underscored the necessity of making legislative amendments to contribute to further advancement of women and their contribution to the labor market, referring to some "gaps in gender inequality".

Reforms, economy discussed

MPs working on parliamentary committees formation

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh
Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 13: A total of 47 newly elected MPs on Tuesday met in the office of the Financial and Economic Affairs Committee at the National Assembly building.

MPs-elect Ahmad Al-Saadoun and Jenan Bu Shehri were among those who attended the meeting, while MPs-elect Muhammad Al-Mahan and Essa Al-Kandari were absent. Al-Mahan is outside the country and Al-Kandari is absent for medical reasons.

MP-elect Marzouq Al-Ghanim was also absent. He disclosed earlier that he was not invited to the first meeting.

The second meeting is aimed at coordinating views on forming the parliamentary committees, nominating members of the Assembly Office and specifying priorities.

They deliberated on the priorities stated in 37 bills covering different issues like political reform, economy, education and housing.

The first meeting, which was held some days ago, resulted in the formation of a three member-committee tasked to receive the list of MPs-elect who wish to join parliamentary committees and a seven-member committee tasked to coordinate the priorities.

MP Falah bin Jame'e said it is too early to reveal if he will run for speakership, while MP Muhammad Al-Mutairi, who is nominated for deputy speaker, stressed he is not concerned about positions as long as the majority of the MPs is pro-reform. He added that his main concern is to hold the sessions according to the Constitution and National Assembly Law in the interest of the citizens.

MP-elect Majed Al-Mutairi disclosed that he will run for membership of the Interior and Defense Affairs and Health, Social and Labor Affairs committees.

MP-elect Badr Sayyar Al-Shemmari unveiled his plan to run for membership of the Interior and Defense Affairs Committee.

Meanwhile, MP Abdullah Al-Anba said he asked Minister of Commerce and Industry Muhammad Al-Eban to address the problem of hundreds of individuals who passed the customs training course more than six months ago and have yet to be appointed. He affirmed that Al-Eban promised to appoint them next week.

Making clips of patients is against the law: MoH

KUWAIT CITY, June 13: The Ministry of Health has confirmed that protecting the patient's privacy and dignity without discrimination is stipulated in Article Nine of the Practice of Medical and Allied Professions Law, in addition to the rights of patients and health institutions, reports Al-Rai daily.

The ministry stressed that filming or photographing patients while getting their medicines is against the law and ethics of the medical profession, as the law prohibits third parties from filming or photographing the patient or the practitioner in the health facility for any reason and by any means, except under conditions stated in Article 21.

It affirmed that the procedures for giving or prescribing medicines are carried out through a tightly controlled electronic system, along with the disbursement conditions for expatriates with a valid residency permit and health insurance, and payment of the prescribed fees.

It went on to say that patients with chronic diseases receive their medications periodically -- once a month or every two months.

The ministry issued this statement due to the spread of video clips and photographs of patients getting their medicines at a hospital pharmacy or health center on social media.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Health has added the vaccination certificate service on the unified government services online platform -- 'Sahl', reports Al-Jarida daily.

On its Twitter account, the ministry disclosed this service includes details of the vaccinations of a person and his children who are below 16 years old, indicating such information can be downloaded directly on the platform.

In another, unrelated development, while the electrical load index continues its gradual rise, approaching the 16,000 megawatt mark, the Ministry of Electricity and Water announced that the water consumption rate has exceeded half a billion gallons, reports Al-Rai daily.

Informed sources attributed the reason for the high rate of water consumption to the high temperature, indicating that despite the high consumption rate to about 505 million gallons, the production rate exceeded it by 8 million gallons.

The sources called on consumers to reduce electrical loads at peak times and not to use devices with high loads.

98 expats nabbed: The Tripartite Committee in the Residence Affairs Investigations General Department at the Interior Ministry, in cooperation with the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM), recently arrested 98 expatriates in Mutla'a for violating the Residency and Labor laws, reports Al-Anba daily.

All those arrested were referred to the concerned authorities for legal action.



KUNA photo

The Kuwaiti ambassador to Japan during the planting of a pine tree in the name of the State of Kuwait in the garden (Rikuzen Takada).

Kuwait pays tribute to Japan tsunami victims

Kuwait's ambassador to Japan Sami Al-Zamannan paid his respects on Tuesday at a ceremony to commemorate the victims of an earthquake-triggered tsunami in Japan back in 2011, which killed thousands of people and caused a humanitarian catastrophe.

"Kuwait and Japan have been allies for more than 62 years and have always stood alongside each other," the Ku-

wait diplomat said as he met with senior Japanese officials on the sidelines of the remembrance ceremony, praising the "depth" of bilateral relations.

Observing a minute of silence to honor those who lost their lives in the natural disaster, Japan's emperor Naruhito thanked all countries who stood by Tokyo and assisted with reconstruction efforts in the aftermath of the calamity. (KUNA)

Other Voices

Abu Murad and press house

By Ahmad alsarraf

Abu Murad, who is seventy years old, worked in Kuwait before the invasion, and stayed there during its great ordeal, and after liberation he joined a "well-known press house", in a modest job, with a more modest salary, and continued his hard work until the newspaper was closed under administrative orders.

Abu Murad depended for his living on his simple salary, and the little commission he received after collecting the debts of Al-Dar from others. And when the time came to collect his dues from Al-Dar Press, he did not find anyone to fulfill it.

He has lived in Kuwait with no savings except for his indemnity which he depended upon to support him when he decided to go back home, but in 2015 he and other employees, were surprised by the issuance of a decision to dismiss them without any compensation; end of service or salaries, and told them that the newspaper is not able to pay their dues, and they have no choice but to resort to the judiciary.

Thus, Murad and his colleagues, who were affected by the closure of the institution, resorted to the judiciary.

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

diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'Activation of public libraries vital to preserve reading skills of young'

"DO electronic libraries on the Internet replace public libraries? The relationship between the two matters is one of complement, not differentiation, and the advanced societies that produced electronic contents do not dispense with their public libraries, but rather developed their services to rebuild their societies," columnist **Dr. Latifa Hussein Al-Kandari** wrote for *Al-Qabas* daily.

"Public libraries play a prominent role in developing awareness and knowledge for all segments of society, as they are the flowing river of science, knowledge and arts that help students at all academic levels in academic growth and building their personality properly.

"When this river of knowledge dries up and its role diminishes, the loss is severe. Flattening of thought, just as leisure time increases among young people, and the soul, if you do not occupy it with good, evil will occupy it.

"Therefore, the importance of public libraries stems from their being developmental institutions that are open to all and constantly evolving, reflecting the civilized society's hospitality with science and supporting the cultural renaissance with organized collective action. It can provide the comfortable place to view books and various information.

"The increase and diversity of library services in society is a sign of intellectual awakening and civilizational renaissance. If knowledge is power, then the library is a source of wellness for the mind, soul and body.

"Contemporary academic institutions are keen to prepare qualified cadres with high skills and extensive knowledge to work in libraries, because they are the active artery for transmitting culture from one generation to the next.

"Visiting the public library on a regular basis is extremely important for educating young people and advancing all segments of society. It is an enjoyable trip and a great opportunity, especially during the summer vacation.

"Nations are measured by their intellectual and cultural wealth and the ability of their people to preserve and develop this rich heritage. In the same context, how do we describe ourselves as having great potential when there are no attractive libraries for young people to spend their time in developing their talents?

"In the light of my visits to a very large number of libraries in the world, I came to the following: Tell me about the activity of your public libraries, and I will tell you the degree of advancement of your society.

"In the Oslo Public Library, I saw thousands of visitors per day of all ages, and the Mitterrand Library in France, and in Turkey, public libraries are thriving with cultural activities and programs, and they have mobile libraries that develop the skills of community members, and daily embrace large numbers of human beings.

"In the public library in Finland and the Carnegie libraries in America, you will find useful projects and special pillars for the educational, cultural and social development of children.

"We in Kuwait really need a mass cultural current to activate our public libraries in order to preserve the reading skills of young people, to enjoy our time, to renew our activity, and to liberate ourselves from the shackles of

heedlessness and boredom.

"I took great pains when I visited the public libraries in some large residential areas, and found them either closed or long deserted; for example, a public library closed more than 10 years ago under the pretext of maintenance, and others 3 years ago.

"In some of our academic educational institutions, the library closes its doors at noon, bearing in mind that students are in the institution until eight o'clock in the evening. The library is one of the main pillars of educational institutions and provides its patrons, students and researchers, with various sources of information.

"Therefore, it is very important to open the doors of these cultural edifices, morning and evening, throughout the academic year and others, to facilitate access to multimedia, and benefit from it more and permanently.

"Public libraries need to announce their summer plan and educational programs to accommodate everyone (young and old, men and women) while taking care of people of determination, striking a balance between theoretical and applied sciences, and creating and refining experiences in an organized manner.

"I suggest building bridges with voluntary work associations to employ and invest human energies to activate our libraries to become like beehives in their activity, giving, organization and benefit.

"Public libraries are in dire need to diversify the tributaries of periodicals and keep up with new magazines and publications, which is a vital requirement to attract a readership.

"When public libraries are linked to people's needs, creativity, innovation, and pioneering serve the community.

"We call on local newspapers, such as *Al-Qabas* newspaper, which has distinguished media efforts, to carry out press coverage of the activities of public libraries, highlighting their innovations, directing those in charge of these libraries, and proposing the most important solutions to meet the challenges facing these cultural monuments."

Also:

"There is no doubt that the government is primarily responsible for the interests of the country in accordance with what was stipulated in the constitution in Article (123) and in accordance with Islamic law as well," columnist **Ahmad Yaqoub Baqer** wrote for *Al-Jarida* daily.

"The famous hadith states: "All of you are shepherds and each of you is responsible for his flock, so the imam is a shepherd and he is responsible for his flock."

"The Kuwaiti constitution stipulates that the Amir exercises his powers through his ministers, that is, the government, in order for it to bear the responsibility.

"Based on this rule, the government is primarily responsible for managing all the affairs of the country, such as achieving progress and preparing the risks that may occur.

"It is also responsible for providing job opportunities for the huge numbers coming to the labor market. These requirements are confirmed by the Constitution.

"However, specialists in every field note that there is a clear shortcoming in many areas that fall under the authority of the government, especially in-

sues of economic reform in terms of providing appropriate revenues for the country, advancing the economy and providing job opportunities, which led to the spending of 80% of the budget without any additional resources to the state and portends an upcoming serious crisis.

"The government has always blamed the constitution, which did not give it sufficient power to pass its laws, programs and five-year plan.

"Sometimes it blamed members of the National Assembly and their interference and obstruction of its projects, and sometimes the parliamentarians' interrogations and lack of cooperation. While we fully believe in the impermissibility of invoking these excuses.

"We cannot absolve the previous councils of practices that harmed the country, its economy, its resources, and its justice at times.

"The council often passed laws that contradict the public interest, and placed great financial burdens without any justification.

"Often, competent ministers were interrogated and removed from office. The government, and the powers of the government were interfered with and laws were passed that contradict the five-year plan, despite it being promulgated by law.

"We conclude from this that both the government and the council bear the responsibility, and if we go back to the previously mentioned hadith, we will find that it has detailed this principle.

"Therefore, every member of the government and the council must seek the help of trusted specialists in every subject, and remember that he has sworn to perform his work with honesty and honesty, and to preserve public funds, so the government must work in a scientific manner that achieves the goals of the country and the sustainability of the economy for the sake of providing a decent life for generations.

"It must work to maximize the revenues necessary for the future in addition to combating corruption, and it must not rely on a single source of fluctuating prices for the country's income, regardless of the difficulties it faces in the parliament, and it must not neglect real development or give in to structural imbalances in public finance since all of these dangers threaten the country in the future.

"On the other hand, members may not, based on their oath, introduce laws that harm the economy and strain public money, or not stand against them on the pretext that this affects their success in the elections. Thus, the two parties share the responsibility.

"The government does not invoke the Council's positions because it can raise the matter of non-cooperation to the Amir of the country if it deems that the Council, by its majority, obstructs the plan, overwhelms the public interest in its work, or approves laws that drain public finances. Also, members are not entitled to use the majority available to them to pass laws that harm the country and its finances and impede development.

"They are not allowed to invoke the government's mistakes and inability because they can pass legislation that implements the plan and is appropriate for developing revenues, applying justice and combating corruption, in addition to holding the government accountable and declaring non-cooperation.

"In short, both authorities are shepherds, and both are responsible for their subjects."

— Compiled by Mai Elsoukary



Top and above: Some photos of the attendees.

Embassy of Japan & JICA joint event held

Prof Kato Hiroshi delivers lecture

KUWAIT CITY, June 13: On Monday, June 12, H.E. Mr. Morino Yasunari, Ambassador of Japan to the State of Kuwait hosted an event of a special lecture featuring Prof. Kato Hiroshi, Vice-President of the International University of Japan and the former Senior Vice-President of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), who has more than 40 years' experience of being engaged in the field of development assistance at JICA.

The event took place in collaboration between the embassy and JICA, with distinguished guests from KFAED, African embassies, and international organizations based in Kuwait, with the aim to illuminate the future potentials of Japan-Kuwait cooperation for the world prosperity through the lecture by Prof. Kato, which is titled "International Development Cooperation between Africa and Japan."

The event followed the lecture meeting hosted by KFAED on June 11.

In the beginning, His Excellency Ambassador Morino gave opening remarks, in which he emphasized that development assistance toward Africa constitutes a major priority of Japan's diplomacy, pointing out that Japan has consistently been organizing the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) every three years since 1993. Noting the presence of a representative from KFAED on the floor, His Excellency expressed his expectations on the potential for cooperation between Japan and Kuwait for the development in Africa and all over the world.

Following that, Prof. Kato delivered a special lecture in which he explained the history and characteristics of Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA),



Prof Kato

especially pointing out three central ideas behind the Japanese development assistance: supporting the self-help efforts to achieve economic growth, respecting the role of the recipient governments, and avoiding any negative impacts of development projects. The professor introduced successful cases of Japanese aid in South East Asian countries, emphasizing that the same approach is now applied in Africa with a lot of success. He also expressed his expectations that more and more African countries choose Japan as a trustworthy partner of development cooperation.

The Q&A session witnessed a lively discussion between Prof. Kato and the audience, for example, about the difference of development assistance approaches between Japan and other donor countries or organizations.

MoJ starts paying inmates' debts using proceeds from 'campaign'

Drugs, firearms seized from 6 people

KUWAIT CITY, June 13: The General Department for Sentences Enforcement at the Ministry of Justice has started paying off the debts of debtors as part of the campaign titled "Our assistance is a joy for them", reports *Al-Anba* daily.

A number of families of those who have been imprisoned due to financial cases praised the campaign for quickly responding to their desire for the release of their relatives before Eid al-Adha so that they could spend the holiday with their families.

The Minister of Social Affairs and the Minister of Women and Childhood Affairs Eng. Mai Al-Baghli held a meeting with the special committee to follow up the work of the debtors' campaign titled "Our assistance is a joy for them" in order to approve the final mechanism for disbursement according to the priorities set by the target groups and to send a letter to the Ministry of Justice with the final outcome of the campaign.

The campaign succeeded in collecting KD 11,441,745 through contributions from 59,252 donors during the holy month of Ramadan.

The criteria for identifying the debtors who benefited from the campaign were set according to priorities, led by the elderly and women with files in the Civil Execution Department.

6 held with drugs: Officers from the Drug Control General Department in the Ministry of Interior arrested six individuals for the possession of about three kilograms of various types of narcotic substances; 1,364 psychotropic pills; two firearms and a pistol, reports *Al-Qabas* daily.

During interrogation, the suspects admitted that the confiscated items belonged to them for personal consumption and trading.

First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and acting Minister of Defense Sheikh Talal Al-Khalid affirmed that all sectors in the Interior Ministry are keen on combating drugs and tracking down drug dealers.

Mol prosecutes e-media: The Media Violations Monitoring Committee at the Ministry of Information has referred some electronic media sites to the Public Prosecution for publishing interviews with students during exams -- a violation of the ministry's circular banning such interviews, reports *An-nahar* daily.

In addition, the latest statistics released by the Ministry of Education showed that the number of students who dropped subjects in the second semester decreased remarkably compared to the first semester. Students who dropped the French Language subject decreased from 217 to 26 and from 247 to 36 for Mathematics.

Complaints via e-Baladia: The Director of the Department of Information Systems Center in the Kuwait Municipality, Eng Tariq Al-Madani, announced the launch of the first experimental version of the e-Baladia application for the public on mobile phones and smart devices on the IOS - Android systems, reports *Al-Anba* daily.

He said the the application aims to encourage effective community participation in reporting violations and complaints to municipal authorities saying the step comes in line with the launch of the national campaign by the Kuwait Municipality for a clean environment and a beautiful life.

Al-Madani indicated that the municipality is keen, through the development of this application, to make it easy to submit a complaint, as the user of the application can monitor the complaint and report it in 3 simple steps by logging into the application through authentication via 'My Identity', choosing the type of complaint and taking picture of the violation and sending it to the municipality through the application.



5 teams participated in extinguishing the fire.

Firefighters contain blaze in wood stores

KUWAIT CITY, June 13, (KUNA): The Kuwait Fire Force announced Monday evening that five of its brigades had controlled a fire that broke out earlier in the day in a number of wood stores in the Khuwaisat area, without causing any injuries. In a statement issued by the Public Relations and Media Department, the Fire Department said that a report was received by the Central Operations Department Monday evening stating that a fire broke out in a number of warehouses in one of the private restrooms in the Khuwaisat area.

It added that the Central Operations Department directed five firefighting teams to the site of the accident, to find out upon arrival that the

fire broke out in warehouses containing wood, hazardous materials, oils, gas cylinders, batteries, and flammable petroleum and chemical materials, to start combating and besieging it because it did not spread to other warehouses.

It explained that storing these materials in large quantities at the site made the firefighters face difficulty in the control process, which came with the follow-up of the First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and Acting Minister of Defense Sheikh Talal Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, through communication with the head of the Kuwait Fire Force, Lieutenant General Khaled Al-Mekrad.



ORDER WITH US

15% Off

+2000 REWARD POINTS



ROGANJOSH WITH SAFFRON RICE

ORDER NOW





An image of the project's geographical location.



The joint work team of the Municipality, the National Bank and the Arab Bureau.



A virtual image of what the final project looks like. KUNA photos

'Project aims to create new environment of tourism'

Waterfront development project for Shuwaikh Beach enters into force

'Private & public sectors partnership main pillar for sustainable economy'

Conference aims to achieve success of partnership: Suleiman

KUWAIT CITY, June 13, (KUNA): Partnership between both private and public sectors is imperative for varied and sustainable economy in achieving Kuwait's 2035 Vision, General Secretary of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development (SCPD) Dr. Khaled Mahdi said



KUNA photo
Secretary General of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development, Dr. Khaled Mahdi poses for a group photo during the Kuwait's conference for partnership between the private and public sectors.

Monday.

Mahdi made the statement while inaugurating the second Kuwait's conference for partnership between the private and public sectors, with the participation of some government agencies.

Partnership between the two sides is one of the main tools in enabling the private sector economically and encouraging foreign investment, Mahdi told the attendees in the conference.

Cooperation between the two sectors "is no longer a complementary policy for economic development only, but also necessary and inevitable for economic growth," he noted.

It contributes to creating new job opportunities, raising production efficiency, achieving better value for investment, and helping transferring technology and its localization, in addition to creating investment opportunities for the local and foreign private sector, he elaborated.

Meanwhile, Bader Suleiman, head of the Kuwaiti Federation of Engineering Offices and Consultant Houses (KFEOCH) which organized the conference, said the gathering aims at discussing executive, legal and legislative aspects required to achieve the success of partnership projects and removing obstacles.

KUWAIT CITY, June 13, (KUNA): Kuwait Municipality announced today, Tuesday, the entry into force of the joint cooperation agreement with the National Bank of Kuwait to develop the Shuwaikh Beach project, in cooperation with the Arab Office for Engineering Consultations.

The Municipality said in a press statement after the inaugural meeting between the three parties that this agreement comes within the framework of the Municipality's strategy to consolidate partnership with all parties in the country, in which the National Bank of Kuwait contributed KD 3 million to develop a part of Shuwaikh Beach at a distance of 1.7 kilometers over a period of one year 17 months.

Implementation

During the meeting, Deputy Director General for Projects Sector Affairs at Kuwait Municipality Maysa Boushahri stressed the importance of supporting Kuwait Vision 2035 through the implementation of many projects in support of the state's development plan in implementation of the royal directives.

Boushahri said that the project aims to create a new environment of tourism projects, entertainment and sports services in a location that enjoys attractive vitality, noting that the Municipality continues to develop waterfronts in various regions of the country.

For his part, Izzat Halal, General Manager of the Engineering Affairs Group at the National Bank of Kuwait, stated that the implementation period of the project will be in two phases.

Job performance bonus for 'eligible' employees

KUWAIT CITY, June 13: Chief Executive Officer of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation Sheikh Nawaf Al-Saud issued a circular to disburse the excellent job performance bonus for eligible employees at the corporation and its subsidiaries on July 6, reports Al-Anba daily.

The beneficiaries of the bonus were determined through the evaluation of the employees' performance in the previous fiscal year.

Halal added that the project consists of 4 main areas, as the first area includes sports stadiums, recreational facilities and a wide green area, while a sandy beach area has been allocated in the second area, while the third area is a closed garden with green spaces, while the fourth area consists of paths designated for walking and bicycles.

For his part, CEO of the Arab Office for Engineering Consultations, Tariq Shuaib, affirmed the office's keenness to implement local development plans and their interest in strengthening the operational processes and infrastructure of the engineering and construction consultancy sectors in Kuwait, expressing his pride in participating in this project.



albander
hotel & resort

June

Room Promotion









KUNA photo
KOTC inaugurates the construction of two electricity generation stations using solar energy.

KOC initiates new gas pipeline

KOTC targets energy efficiency

KUWAIT CITY, June 13, (KUNA): State-run Kuwait Oil Tanker Company (KOTC) said on Monday that work is now underway to build two new solar power plants as part of national plans aiming to attain energy efficiency.

The construction of the two solar plants are part of state goals to invest in and adopt renewable energy sources, said KOTC Acting chief executive Sheikh Khaled Al-Sabah amid a ceremony to launch the project, underlining the "environment-friendly" nature of the endeavor.

The project falls in line with a national energy transformation strategy that seeks to reach net-zero carbon dioxide emissions by the year 2050, added the official, citing a number of measures KOTC has taken to slash carbon emissions.

The new power plants are an "innovative and unprecedented" approach towards building "vibrant" energy infrastructure, according to KOTC's renewable energy projects supervisor Saad Al-Qahtani, saying the project also allows the private sector the chance to contribute towards state endeavors.

Upon completion, the pair of solar plants

will be a major step forward in providing adequate power supply sources in Kuwait, he added. Meanwhile, Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) announced Tuesday, the operation of a new strategic gas line extending from northern Kuwait operations area to Mina Al-Ahmadi, with a size of 40 inches. In a statement, KOC said that the 140 km long line comes in line with the company's plan to increase natural gas production to meet the requirements of the local market.

The capacity of the line reaches 900 million standard cubic feet, as it starts from the gas booster station 132 in northern Kuwait, passing through the gas and condensate separation facilities in the north and south of Kuwait, to finally reach Mina Al-Ahmadi refinery, the statement added. The pipeline will contribute to keeping pace with the KOC strategy for the year 2040, which aims to increase oil and gas production and make the best use of Kuwait's hydrocarbon resources, KOC said.

The line meets the requirements of global markets while ensuring the highest standards of security, safety, and environmental preservation, taking into account the requirements of the local consumer.

'Bulldozer' of

Continued from Page 1

These headlines are just a few of the problems facing Kuwait, which urgently needs to start passing legislation to diversify the sources of income, instead of just relying on oil. It should follow the example of other Gulf countries that opened their doors to investors in order to enhance its commercial and economic cycle.

For instance, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia currently has about 12 million foreigners, and the UAE has about nine million. They are not intimidated by the large number of expatriates working to enhance the financial cycle and increase added economic values.

The world opens its doors to expatriates and immigrants to further enhance the economic and social movement, while Kuwait closes itself as if the world was infected with the plague, and it should not be dealt with.

Therefore, we beg to ask - What harms Kuwait if there are 20 million expatriates who contribute to the local economy and build industries? We have not heard of any of the expatriates in the Emirates who took with them the real estate or the house that they bought, or the factory that they built there, when they left the country.

Indeed, the parliamentarians have a lot of work to do, and it is good to call for them to continue the session and not to adjourn it for the summer vacation. This is because Kuwait needs every second to get out of its crises. This is their mission as they can impose the reform agenda on the government, and work with it for the sake of Kuwait.

We reaffirm that this meeting is a good sign, and it is credited to MP Muhammad Hayef. We pray to Almighty Allah that the MPs will be at the heart of one man for reform, instead of rioting and imposing personal programs, just as this parliamentary "bulldozer" needs a government "bulldozer" to accompany it.

Abbas in

Continued from Page 1

Shourky's statement came during his meeting with UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Tor Wenneslan, said the Egyptian Foreign Ministry.

The statement revealed that Shoukry had expressed deep worry over the increase of violence in the West Bank due to Israeli continuous aggression that led to several casualties and tension in the region.

On his part, Wenneslan expressed gratitude towards Egypt's crucial role in the Middle East peace process and efforts to find a viable solution for the Palestinian cause.

In related news, Secretary-General of the Arab League Ahmad Aboul-Gheit on Tuesday warned against Israel's plan to build thousands of settlements in the West Bank.

Aboul-Gheit pointed out in a statement that usurping land on which the Palestinian state should be based in the future only undermines the two-state solution and demanded the US take a firm stance against such plans.

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

Promo period from 1st - 21st June 2023

Terms & conditions apply

Tel: +973 17701201 - Ext. 351 | Email: reservation@albander.com | www.albander.com | @albanderhotelandresort

The Conversation

People who use conversational receptiveness rated more positively

To have better disagreements, make your counterpart feel heard

By Julia Minson
Harvard Kennedy School

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

Your 18-year-old daughter announces she's in love, dropping out of college and moving to Argentina. Your yoga-teaching brother refuses to get vaccinated for COVID-19 and is confident that fresh air is the best medicine. Your boss is hiring another white man for a leadership team already made up entirely of white men.

At home, at work and in civic spaces, it's not uncommon to have conversations that make you question the intelligence and benevolence of your fellow human beings.

A natural reaction is to put forth the strongest argument for your own – clearly superior – perspective in the hope that logic and evidence will win the day. When that argument fails to have the intended persuasive impact, people often grow frustrated, and disagreement becomes conflict.

Thankfully, recent research offers a different approach.

For many years, psychologists have touted the benefits of making parties in conflict feel heard. Making someone you're arguing with feel that you're listening can calm the troubled waters, allowing both parties to get safely to the opposite shore. Two problems can get in the way, though.

First, when encountering disagreement, most people jump into "persuasion mode," which doesn't leave much room for listening, or even for pursuing other goals for the interaction. Any conversation could be an opportunity to learn something new, build a relationship that might bear fruit later, or simply have an interesting experience. But most of those goals get forgotten when the urge to persuade sets in. Second, and just as important, is that even when people do wish to make their counterparts feel heard they don't know how to do so.

I lead a team of psychologists, negotiation scholars and computational linguists who have spent years studying ways that parties in conflict can behave to make their counterpart feel they are thoughtfully engaging with their perspective.

Rather than trying to change how you think of or feel about your counterpart, our work suggests that you should focus on changing your own behavior. Focusing on behavior rather than thoughts and feelings has two benefits: You know when you are doing it right, and so does your counterpart. And one of the easiest behaviors to change is the words that you say.

We used the tools of computational linguistics to analyze thousands of interactions between people who disagree with each other on hot-button social and political issues: police brutality, campus sexual assault, affirmative action and COVID-19 vaccines. Based on these analyses, we developed an algorithm that picks out specific words and phrases that make people in conflict feel that their counterpart is thoughtfully engaging with their perspective.

These words and phrases comprise a communication style we call "conversational receptiveness." People who use conversational receptiveness in their interactions are rated more positively by their conflict counterparts on a variety of traits.

Then we experimented with training people to use the words and phrases that have the most impact, even if they're not naturally inclined to do so. For example, in one of our earlier studies, we had people who held different positions about the Black Lives Matter movement talk to each other.

Arguments

Those who received a brief conversational receptiveness training were seen as more desirable teammates and advisers by their counterpart. Training also turned out to make people more persuasive in their arguments than those who did not learn about conversational receptiveness.

We encapsulate this conversational style in the simple acronym H.E.A.R.:

■ **H** = Hedge your claims, even when you feel very certain about your beliefs. It signals a recognition that there are some cases or some people who might support your opponent's perspective.

■ **E** = Emphasize agreement. Find some common ground even when you disagree on a particular topic. This does not mean compromising or changing your mind, but rather recognizing that most people in the world can find some broad ideas or values to agree on.

■ **A** = Acknowledge the opposing perspective. Rather than jumping in to your own argument, devote a few seconds to restating the other person's position to demonstrate that you did indeed hear and understand it.

■ **R** = Reframing to the positive. Avoid negative and contradictory words, such as "no," "won't" or "do not." At the same time, increase your use of positive words to change the tone of the conversation.

In a recent set of studies, my colleagues and I recruited people who were supportive of or hesitant about getting COVID-19 vaccinations. We paired vaccine-

supportive participants with the vaccine hesitant and instructed them to persuade their partner to get the shot. Before the interaction, we randomly assigned the vaccine supporters to receive brief instructions in conversational receptiveness or guidance simply to use the best arguments they could think of.

We found that participants who received a couple minutes of instruction in conversational receptiveness were seen as more trustworthy and more reasonable by their counterparts. Their counterparts were also more willing to talk to them about other topics.

In a subsequent study, we explained the concept of conversational receptiveness to participants on both sides of the issue. Just knowing that they'd be engaging with someone trained in this technique made both parties report being 50% more willing to have a vaccine conversation. People felt more confident their discussion partner would hear them and less worried they'd be a dismissive jerk.

This approach might be especially beneficial in conversations in which one party is highly motivated to engage while the other is less so. When such conversations turn contentious, the less motivated person can simply walk away.

That's an all-too-familiar experience for parents of teenagers who seem to have advanced degrees in ignoring unwelcome advice. Health care providers often face a similar challenge when they try to persuade patients to change behaviors they do not wish to change. In the workplace, this burden is most acutely felt by people lower in the hierarchy trying to have their views heard by higher-ups who just don't have to listen.

Conversational receptiveness is effective because it makes the interaction less confrontational and therefore less unpleasant. At the same time, it allows both parties to express their perspective. As a result, it gives people some confidence that if they approach a topic of disagreement, their partner will stay in the conversation, and the relationship will not sustain damage.

In recent years, many scholars across the social sciences have expressed concern about Americans' seeming inability to talk to their political opponents.

Yet the skills that are necessary for Democrats and Republicans to engage with one another are similarly lacking in our families and in our workplaces.

Our work on conversational receptiveness builds on extensive prior research on the benefits of showing engagement with opposing perspectives. By focusing on language that can be easily learned and precisely measured, we offer people a broadly applicable toolkit to live up to their best conversational intentions. (AP)

The Conversation

Chemicals harm fertility

Cosmetics may threaten 'young' women's health

By Leslie Hart
College of Charleston

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

Walk through the personal care aisles of your local store and you'll see dozens of products that promise to soften your skin, make you smell better, extend your lashes, decrease wrinkling, tame your curly hair, or even semi-permanently change the color of your lips, hair or skin.

Remember the adage "If it seems too good to be true, it probably is?"

Many of product promises like these are based on chemicals that can also be hazardous to your health, including endocrine-disrupting chemicals that can interfere with fertility and reproduction, fetal growth and infant development.

That's a big concern, because these products are heavily marketed to young women in the years before they might consider starting a family.

Recent studies have demonstrated that college-age women use cosmetic products at higher rates than other groups. Additionally, many of these young women are unaware of the health risks from frequent use of popular products containing contaminants of emerging concern. And finding cleaner alternatives often means paying more.

As an epidemiologist who has fought my own fertility battles, I study exposure to endocrine-disrupting chemicals found in everyday products, such as cosmetics, shampoos, lotions and plastics. I have been working to raise awareness of the health risks to young people and encourage prudent use of cosmetic products.

Treat

According to the US Food and Drug Administration, the term "cosmetic" can include deodorants, perfumes, lotions, nail polish, shampoos and other hair products, as well as eye, lip and face makeup.

This is important to know, because unless these products are used to treat a condition, such as dandruff or perspiration, they are not federally regulated in the same way drugs are. That leaves it up to cosmetic companies to decide how to communicate product safety.

Personal care products contain many types of chemicals that manufacturers add for specific purposes, including some that can interfere with or disrupt the normal functioning of the endocrine system. For example, they commonly add UV filters like oxybenzone to protect skin from sun damage, phthalates to enhance fragrance, parabens and triclosan for their antimicrobial properties, and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS, to enhance durability.

However, not all of these chemicals are present in all products, so figuring out how to avoid exposure can be complicated. For example, in a 2021 review of studies detecting endocrine-disrupting chemicals in daily-use cosmetic products, phthalates were present in perfumes, shower gels, shampoo and nail polish. Parabens were detected in lotions, creams, shampoos, body wash, face cleansers and lipstick. Triclosan was detected in toothpastes, soaps and other cleansers. And UV filters were present in sunscreens, lotions, toothpaste, and lipstick.

Many of these chemicals can co-occur in products, putting consumers at

risk of exposure to multiple chemicals at once, and sometimes without warning, as labels do not always list endocrine-disrupting chemicals among the ingredients.

As you rub cosmetic products onto your skin, breathe in their scent or use them to brush your teeth, the chemicals found within can travel throughout your body, targeting your endocrine, nervous and cardiovascular systems.

When these chemicals are endocrine disruptors, such as phthalates, parabens, triclosan and PFAS, they can mimic naturally produced hormones or block hormone receptors. Their presence can result in abnormal hormone production, secretion or transport throughout the body.

These hormonal changes can lead to reproductive problems, including poor sperm quality, miscarriage and endometriosis. They can also lead to thyroid disruption and abnormal growth and development.

Neurological conditions such as attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), cognitive impairment and depression have also been linked to chemicals added to cosmetic products. So have cardiovascular issues such as high blood pressure, insulin resistance and coronary heart disease.

Exposure

The level of risk is often difficult to measure and depends in part on the amount of exposure, the type of chemical and how the chemical interacts with the endocrine system. One study of women ages 18-44 in Utah and California found increased exposure to a common phthalate was associated with twice the odds of developing endometriosis, which can be painful and interfere with pregnancy. In a meta-analysis of pregnant women with occupational exposure to endocrine-disrupting chemicals, researchers calculated a 25% increase in the odds of low birth weight when mothers were exposed to more than one type of endocrine-disrupting chemical.

Our study of college-age females found that, on average, young women use eight different personal care products each day that can contain endocrine-disrupting chemicals, but some report as many as 17. This is concerning, as the number of products people use has been linked to higher exposure to endocrine-disrupting chemicals.

Furthermore, 80% of the women we surveyed did not know whether their cosmetic products contained harmful chemicals. Studies have found significantly higher exposure to phthalates and other chemicals among adolescent girls who wore foundation, blush and mascara than among those who did not. One found that when adolescent girls stopped using products containing endocrine-disrupting chemicals, the concentrations in their urine dropped by as much as 45%.

The European Union has led the way on regulating the use of these chemicals in cosmetic products, with US policies generally lagging behind, but that's changing.

Washington state recently passed legislation that bans PFAS, lead, phthalates, formaldehyde and other harmful chemicals starting in 2025 and creates new incentives for companies to produce safer products. New York banned mercury, a neurotoxin that can be used as a skin lightener, effective June 1, 2023. (AP)



Photos from the event.

'Music is their passion'

KMA presents 'Treasure of Talents' festival

KUWAIT CITY, June 13: On May 27 -- Saturday morning, young musical talents in Kuwait gathered at the prestigious Yarmouk Cultural Center, which they do at the end of every school year. This cultural center, which was established 40 years ago under the leadership of HE Sheikha Hussah Sabah Al-Saleh Al-Sabah, plays major role in the Kuwaiti society's culture and education.

Kuwait Music Academy (KMA) presented the 21st Young Musicians Festival with the theme, 'Treasure of Talents'. KMA's end of school year mega-event started early morning until late evening, consisting of an eight-part concert. Participants and audience changed according to the program and interests. The participants performed solo and together; playing the piano, violin, flute and clarinet as well as singing. The repertoire was diversified -- from classical to jazz and entertaining music.

Some moments were very moving as beautifully dressed girls -- only a bit taller than the violin's bow -- climbed up the piano chair; while small boys firmly played the violin and flute concertos, followed by gifted teenagers and adult ladies and gentlemen who excellently played a world renowned repertoire. Around 120 talented Kuwaitis and expatriates from more than 30 countries under the guidance of KMA Director and well-known pianist Karol Masternak and lecturers Kinga Masternak, Inna Agibalova, Victor Shramko, Dmitrii Krasnokov, Tudor Buciumanu, were applauded by their enthusiastic family and followers.

The highlight of the event was a gala concert. It started with the Awarding Ceremony, followed by the perfor-

mance of two guest stars -- the fantastic international opera singer, soprano Alexandra Novina-Checinska, and pianist Kinga Masternak.

The wonderful program started with Chopin's song, while the famous opera arias were completed with popular musical hits and songs. The enthusiastic audience applauded endlessly and gave a standing ovation for the brilliant encores.

Several ambassadors, distinguish guests, young musicians and many music lovers attended the event.

H.E. Ambassador of United Kingdom Belinda Lewis wrote immediately after the concert: "Kuwait Music Academy Gala Concert featured the fabulous Aleksandra Novina-Chacińska and the wonderful Kinga Masternak. I was honored to award the 'Female Face of Music' to Sara Soliman.

H.E. Ambassador of Poland Pawel Lechowicz awarded the 'Special Chopin Prize' to Shaun Thomas and the 'Szymanowski Prize' to Tejia Wang. He affirmed that "passion for music fuels our desire to make our contribution, whenever possible, to peace and arts, with love and trust in the power of youths."

H.E. Ambassador of Ukraine Dr Oleksander Balanuta awarded 'The Best Kuwaiti' to Danah Ahmed Rabeea. He said: "We highly value the trilateral team, Ukraine-Poland-Kuwait, for the unwavering support for Ukraine in times of need, in addition to the cultural field."

Founders of KMA Professor Cezary Owerkowicz and Fajer Al-Mazidi Special Award went to two persons: Ali Taqi and Dr Mohammed El Maraghy. They stated: "We are very proud of our students' achievements; along

with the excellent and devoted teachers at KMA, and friends, with whom we create a real family based on our love for music. Development of young talents is our common passion. This is the motto of Kuwait Music Academy & Treasure of Talents Festival."

Following are the awardees at the 21st Treasure of Talents Festival: Special 'Frederic Chopin Prize' of HE Ambassador of Poland: Shaun Thomas

Special 'Karol Szymanowski Prize' of HE Ambassador of Poland: Tejia Wang

Special 'Best Kuwaiti Talent Prize' of HE Ambassador of Poland: Danah Ahmad Rabeea

Special 'Female Face of Music Award' of HE Ambassador of the United Kingdom Belinda Lewis: Sara Soliman

Special 'Prof. Cezary Owerkowicz & Fajer Al-Mazidi Award': Ali Taqi and Dr Mohammed El Maraghy

Youngest Star Award: Dana Tu and Tamara Saleh

Junior Piano Award: Danya Ayed Adel, Elissey Kon, Ioannis Papadopoulos, Witold Masternak and Zaid Al Sabouni

Piano Award: Alya Tamer, Ayomide Olusegun, Dana Roy, Hanna Mouihate, Kathryn Isabella Fox, Keisha Mokashi, Lareen Khashawi, Lea Al Khudary, Mina Innoue, Noora Tin, Qays El Dirani, Sabrina Daoudi

Best Progress Award: Alexis Dias, Sharifah Al-Rkhan and Tala Husami

Vocal Award: Gabrielle Khalaf, Hasan Hajiyah, Mohammed Al-Khawaja and Najlaa Al-Fakih

Flute Award: Ibragim Badavi

Violin Award: Giragos Kyoumijian

Clarinet: Yunu Kim



Young winners pose with their teachers

Beijing criticizes new US sanctions on companies over pilot training

China on Tuesday criticized new sanctions imposed by the United States on companies believed to be involved in training Chinese military pilots and aiding weapons development.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin urged Washington to "stop abusing export control measures" to hobble Chinese companies.

"The United States has repeatedly overstretched the concept of national security, abused state power, unwarrantedly suppressed Chinese compa-

nies, and wantonly disrupted the international economic order and trade rules," Wang said at a daily briefing in Beijing. "It has reached a level of unscrupulous hysteria." China "demands that the U.S. immediately correct its wrong practice of politicizing, instrumentalizing, and weaponizing economic, trade, and sci-tech issues with a pretext of human rights or military-related issues," Wang said.

On Monday, the U.S. government placed 43 "entities" on an export control list over national security and foreign

policy concerns. The list includes both Chinese and foreign companies.

Among those listed were Frontier Services Group Ltd., a security and aviation company previously run by Blackwater founder Erik Prince, and Test Flying Academy of South Africa, a flight school under scrutiny by British authorities for hiring retired British military pilots to train Chinese fliers. The companies are barred from receiving U.S. exports for activities deemed contrary to U.S. national interest. (AP)



The American and Chinese flags wave at Genting Snow Park ahead of the 2022 Winter Olympics, Feb. 2, 2022, in Zhangjiakou, China. China on Tuesday, June 13, 2023, criticized new sanctions imposed by the United States on companies believed to be aiding the violation of human rights or threatening American security, including hypersonic weapons development and training Chinese military pilots. (AP)

Market Movements

13-06-2023

	Change	Closing pts		Change	Closing pts
UAE - DFM	+0.29	3,712.68	PAKISTAN - KSE 100	-0.57	41,536.16
JAPAN - Nikkei	+1.80	33,018.65	SAUDI - Tadawul	-0.08	11,413.82
PHILIPPINES - PSEI	+0.00	6,507.26			
EGYPT - EGX 30	+0.92	17,866.81			

Business

Sides to work together to enhance knowledge of and access to financial services

Western Union, DMW sign MoU in support of OFW

MANILA, Philippines, June 13, (Business Wire): Western Union and the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) announced that they have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to support the international remittance needs of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW). The MoU bolsters Western Union's relationship with the DMW, while demonstrating its commitment to the country and supporting the financial needs of Filipinos worldwide.

The MoU reaffirms Western Union's role to enable Filipino workers send money home to their loved ones through its global money movement network. In the Philippines, the two entities will work together to enhance knowledge of - and access to - financial services for Filipino workers through joint financial literacy programs and other campaigns. Western Union will also support the DMW in advocacy such as anti-human trafficking and anti-illegal recruitment programs.

"I am excited and humbled to have signed this important MoU with the Department of Migrant Workers. It stands firmly at the center of Western Union's strategy to support Overseas Filipino Workers," said Jean Claude Farah, President of Middle East and Asia Pacific at Western Union.

"This week is particularly special because our signing coincides with National Migrant Workers' Week. It also leads into the Philippines' 125th Independence Day next week - a momentous occasion for the country and its citizens around the world. Today, over 10 million Filipinos live and work

abroad, contributing to global economies as well as their own. They are the country's modern-day heroes. We are proud of the role we play in connecting them to their families. I am confident that our collaboration with the DMW will be instrumental in our combined journey of enabling accessible financial services for all," said Farah.

World Bank data shows that the Philippines is the fourth-largest remittance-receiving country globally, with Filipinos sending USD 38 billion in remittances home in the last year alone. The highest number of diaspora currently reside in the United States of America, Canada, Singapore, the United Kingdom, Japan and the Middle East.

"We appreciate the partnership with Western Union, a long-time partner, especially in the area of remittances," said Susan Ople, Secretary of Migrant Workers at the Philippines Department of Migrant Workers, as she underscored the importance of partnerships. "We want our Overseas Filipino Workers to come back home with excitement in their hearts on what the future holds for them and their families, through meaningful partnerships across the government bureaucracy and with NGOs and private companies serving as their mentors and cheerleaders. With your help, OFWs will not have to travel alone. They will have coaches and mentors to support them in all the stages of their journey."

The Department of Migrant Workers is the exclusive home of Overseas

Filipino Workers and their families in government. It is mandated to protect their rights and welfare. It is also tasked to develop and implement a full-cycle national reintegration program which shall be embedded in all stages of migration, from pre-deployment, on-site during employment, and upon return.

Western Union, which has been operating in the country for over three decades, began its relationship with the DMW over 20 years ago. It is the only money transfer operator with a physical presence for Filipino workers at the Department's main site in Manila. The MoU will also enable both entities to explore the possibility of expanding Western Union's presence to DMW sites across the country, with the intention of further extending financial and other related services to Overseas Filipino Workers and their families.

The Western Union Company (NYSE: WU) is committed to helping people around the world who aspire to build financial futures for themselves, their loved ones and their communities. Our leading cross-border, cross-currency money movement, payments and digital financial services empower consumers, businesses, financial institutions and governments-across more than 200 countries and territories and nearly 130 currencies-to connect with billions of bank accounts, millions of digital wallets and cards, and a global footprint of hundreds of thousands of retail locations. Our goal is to offer accessible financial services that help people and communities prosper. For more information, visit www.westernunion.com.

Wall Street rises as inflation continues cooling trajectory



A person walks past an electronic stock board showing Japan's Nikkei 225 and New York Dow indexes at a securities firm Tuesday, June 13, 2023, in Tokyo. Asian stock markets were mostly higher Tuesday ahead of a U.S. inflation update and a Federal Reserve decision on another possible interest rate hike. (AP)

Asia markets higher

NEW YORK, June 13, (AP): Stocks rose Tuesday after a cooler reading on inflation cemented Wall Street's bets for the Federal Reserve to hold off on hiking interest rates this week.

The S&P 500 was 0.7% higher in afternoon trading, ticking further into heights it hasn't touched since April 2022. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 177 points, or 0.5%, at 34,243, as of 12:52 p.m. Eastern time, while the Nasdaq composite was 0.8% higher.

The U.S. stock market has been on a roll amid hopes the economy can avoid a severe recession and inflation will fall enough for the Federal Reserve to take it easier on its rate increases. Tuesday's report showed that food, fuel and other prices for consumers were 4% higher in May than a year earlier, the latest slowdown from its peak above 9% last summer.

The data pushed traders to immediately amp up bets for the Fed on Wednesday to announce no change to interest rates. If it does, that would mark the first meeting in more than a year where it doesn't hike rates.

The Fed has already pulled its benchmark short-term rate up to its highest level since 2007, which has slowed inflation but has also helped cause several U.S. bank failures and a contraction in the manufacturing industry.

Oracle was one of the biggest forces pushing the S&P 500 higher after it reported stronger profit for the latest quarter than expected. It climbed 1.1%, as it also announced plans to develop

artificial-intelligence services for organizations.

A rush into AI has helped a select group of stocks to huge gains this year, driving much of the stock market's rally. Nvidia rose 3.2% Tuesday to raise its gain for the year to 178%. That's raised concerns about a possible bubble, though supporters say AI is the next revolution to remake the economy.

A survey of global fund managers by Bank of America found the majority believe widespread adoption of AI in the next two years will increase profits, according to a BofA Global Research report.

That survey, though, also said the majority of fund managers believe the Fed is still not done hiking interest rates. Many traders expect the Fed to resume raising rates in July, even if it holds steady this week.

Tuesday's inflation report showed that not only is overall inflation still too high, so are prices underneath the surface. The Fed prefers to look at inflation after stripping out food, fuel and housing costs, hoping to get a better view of where the trend is heading. Such "supercore" inflation is still above the Fed's comfort level.

The worry is that additional hikes by the Fed will mean more pressure on the U.S. banking system when it's already cracked under the weight of much higher rates. Bank customers are pulling their deposits in search of higher yields at money-market funds. At the same time, high rates are knocking down the values of bonds that banks bought and other investments they made when rates were low.

Three high-profile U.S. bank failures since March have shaken confidence in the system, and that's caused some banks to make it tougher for house-

holds and businesses to get loans. That puts additional brakes on the economy, raising the risk of a recession.

Zions Bancorp. fell 2.1% after it appeared to cut its forecast for upcoming net interest income to "decreasing" from "moderately decreasing."

Just two weeks remain until the start of the third quarter of the year. That's notable because many investors came into this year predicting a recession would hit by the third quarter, yet the job market has remained remarkably resilient and propped up the economy.

"Today, the recession has not arrived, and we are witnessing that reckoning in public market equity valuations via the recent rally," said Alexandra Wilson-Elizondo, deputy chief investment officer of multi-asset solutions at Goldman Sachs Asset Management.

But that doesn't mean the economy is in the clear. "With inflation stubbornly high, we do see the business cycle eventually ending in recession, as the Fed will have to break the back of the labor market to make material progress toward their 2% target" on inflation, she said.

In the bond market, yields initially dropped after the inflation report, but later recovered. The yield on the 10-year Treasury rose to 3.79% from 3.74% late Monday. It helps set rates for mortgages and other important loans.

The two-year yield, which moves more on expectations for the Fed, rose to 4.63% from 4.58%.

Europe

London and Paris opened higher. In early trading, the FTSE 100 in London rose 0.1% to 7,580.12 and

the CAC 40 in Paris advanced 0.6% to 7,290.47. The DAX in Frankfurt gained 0.4% to 16,155.17.

Asia

Asian stock markets were mostly higher Tuesday ahead of a U.S. inflation update and a Federal Reserve decision on another possible interest rate hike.

Shanghai declined while Tokyo and Hong Kong advanced. Oil prices rebounded from Monday's plunge.

The Shanghai Composite Index lost less than 0.1% to 3,227.57 after China's central bank lowered its one-week lending rate for the first time since last summer. That appeared to reflect official concern about the health of China's economic recovery after growth in factory and consumer activity weakened.

The Nikkei 225 in Tokyo surged 1.8% to 33,018.65 and the Hang Seng in Hong Kong advanced 0.5% to 19,495.06.

The Kospi in South Korea added 0.2% to 2,635.28 and Sydney's S&P-ASX 200 was 0.2% higher at 7,135.30.

New Zealand, Bangkok and Indonesia advanced. Singapore declined.

Oil

In energy markets, benchmark U.S. crude rose 26 cents to \$67.38 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract fell \$3.05 on Monday to \$67.12. Brent crude, the price basis for international oil trade, gained 43 cents to \$72.27 per barrel in London. It lost \$2.95 the previous session to \$71.84.

Currencies

The dollar declined to 139.52 yen from Monday's 139.62 yen. The euro advanced to \$1.0796 from \$1.0756.

IFC and JBIC to bear the cost

Envision to undertake 500 MW wind project in Egypt

CAIRO, June 13, (PR Newswire):

Envision Energy, a global leader in renewable energy solutions, is pleased to announce that its state-of-the-art wind turbines have been selected for the Amunet 500 MW wind farm project in Egypt, developed by UAE-based AMEA Power. Leveraging Envision's proven technology and track record, the project has successfully obtained financing from a prominent consortium of banks, including the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC).

Envision's EN 171-6.5 MW wind turbines have been chosen for this project due to their exceptional efficiency, reliability, and safety even in harsh environments. The turbines feature advanced control systems that optimize performance and maximize energy production, while minimizing downtime and maintenance costs.

Expected to be commissioned by mid-2025, the Amunet project will supply affordable and clean energy to Egypt's grid, contributing to the country's goal of generating 42% of its electricity from renewable sources by 2035.

"We are thrilled to partner with AMEA Power for the 500 MW project in Egypt," said John Lee, General Manager of Asia and Africa at Envision Energy. "In addition to wind, Envision has extensive expertise in new energy infrastructure, combining renewables with energy storage, digital grid, green hydrogen and power-to-x technologies. As a trusted net-zero technology partner, we are committed to bringing these solutions to our customers in Egypt and

around the world."

"AMEA Power is excited to build the project with our trusted partner Envision Energy. Together we will help drive Egypt's transition to a sustainable energy future," said Aqueel Bohra, Senior Director, Project Development at AMEA Power.

About Envision Group Envision Group is a world-leading green technology company and net zero technology partner. With the mission of "solving the challenges for the sustainable future of humankind", Envision designs, sells, and operates smart wind turbines and smart storage system through Envision Energy; AIoT-powered batteries through Envision AESC; and the world's largest AIoT operating system through Envision Digital. It also owns Envision Racing Formula E team. Envision continues to promote wind and solar power as the "new coal", batteries and hydrogen fuel as the "new oil", the AIoT network as the "new grid", the net-zero industrial parks to the "new infrastructure", and to promote the construction and cultivation of green "new industry".

Envision Group was ranked among the Top 10 of the 2019 'World's 50 Smartest Companies' by the MIT Technology Review. In October 2021, Envision was ranked second in the world on the Fortune "Change the World" list. Envision Group joined the global 'RE100' initiative and became the first company in mainland China committed to 100% renewable electricity by 2025.

For more information, please visit www.envision-group.com

Instant Pot maker seeks 'bankruptcy' protection

WASHINGTON, June 13, (AP): The maker of Pyrex glassware and Instant Pot has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection as the company that was already struggling is stung by inflation, with Americans pulling back on spending.

According to a filing with the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Texas this week, Instant Brands, based outside of Chicago, has more than \$500 million in both assets and liabilities.

Inflation has buffeted consumers after a pandemic-fueled binge on goods for the home, but spending has also moved elsewhere as people are again able to travel, or go to restaurants and shows.

And Instant Pots, which became a must-have gadget several years ago, have been disappearing from kitchens.

Sales of "electronic multicooker devices," most of which are Instant Pots, reached \$758 million in 2020, the start of the pandemic. Sales had plunged 50% by last year, to \$344 million.

Dollar and unit sales have declined 20% from last year in the period ending in April, according to the market research company NPD Group.

Just last week, S&P Global downgraded the company's rating due to lower consumer spending on discretionary categories and warned that ratings could fall again if Instant Brands seeks bankruptcy protection.

"Net sales decreased 21.9% in the first quarter of fiscal 2023, relative to the same period last year," S&P analysts wrote. "This marked the seventh consecutive quarter of year-over-year sales contraction. Instant Brands' performance continues to suffer from depressed consumer demand due to lower discretionary spending on home products."

U.S. manufacturers have also been hit, like consumers, by elevated inflation and higher interest rates.

Ben Gadbois, CEO and president of Instant Brands, said the company managed its way through the COVID-19 pandemic and global supply chain issues, but has run short of cash.

"Tightening of credit terms and higher interest rates impacted our liquidity levels and made our capital structure unsustainable," Gadbois said in a prepared statement Monday.

Instant Brands, whose brands also include Corelle, Snapware, CorningWare, Visions and Chicago Cutlery, said it has received a commitment for \$132.5 million in new debtor-in-possession financing from its existing lenders.

The company was acquired four years ago by the private-equity firm Cornell Capital and it was merged with another kitchenware company, Corelle Brands.

Instant Brands' entities located outside the U.S. and Canada are not included in the Chapter 11 filings.

MSRY Behbehani launches all-new Subaru Crosstrek

A continuing legacy of safety features with an innovative concept for superior driving

KUWAIT CITY, June 13: Mohammad Saleh and Reza Yousef Behbehani Co., dealers of Japanese Subaru cars, unveiled the all-new Subaru Crosstrek, which was designed to be among the best multi-use sporty SUV ever.

The new car is uniquely special due to its exciting design that inspires confidence and ease of movement at a time, with details that catch the eye from the first moment. The design supports seamless and absolute flexibility to give the driver an experience that combines fun and luxury together. The vehicle has an amazingly powerful performance, four-wheel drive with advanced distribution, and an intelligent dual-wheel steering system for more precision and control balance.

The innovative design is highlighted by a bold front grille with a chrome upper grille and front lights with a sharp and exciting look. It is also special due to its front and rear lights and LED lights that are clear, efficient and long life "40 times the life of normal lighting". The vehicle supports front and rear openings to absorb and reduce air resistance, which is reflected positively on stability, comfort and fuel economy.

The car is available in two classes, the middle and the top class that supports additional specifications. The car features a 4-cylinder engine 2000 cc with 156 horsepower and works with a CVT transmission equipped with 8 different speeds. For speed lovers, the car is equipped with sports control from the steering wheel.

As for the interior design, the vehicle is distinguished by the elegant design and unique specifications, with cloth seats, an 11.6-inch touch screen display, wireless Apple Car Plus, dual-zone climate-controlled front air conditioning and an electronic parking brake lever. The 17-inch wheels, painted in a matte black color, add more elegance to the body.

For the safety of the passengers and for more security, the vehicle is equipped with a rear parking camera and The fourth generation of the comprehensive safety monitoring system, Eye-Sight, which includes cruise control with front distance control, in addition to front and rear shock absorbers, automatic lane keeping, rain sensors, and headlights.



The official launching of the all-new Subaru Crosstrek.

tem, Eye-Sight, which includes cruise control with front distance control, in addition to front and rear shock absorbers, automatic lane keeping, rain sensors, and headlights.

On the other hand, the car supports the advantage of starting the vehicle and opening the doors without a key. To add more quality to the vehicle specifications, some modifications have been added to the body, such as high-quality adhesives for the durability of the body from the top, front

and rear, which reduces vibration and noise, and lower sound dampers for more sound insulation and an additional back support for the driver's comfort, while driving for long distances.

For a comprehensive experience, Subaru added to its top class-Crosstrek more impressive specifications such as 360-degree surveillance cameras, 18-inch aluminum wheels, wireless mobile charger, sunroof, leather seats, an electric driver's seat with adjustable back support in addition to an updated

road handling system for rugged roads and slopes.

Subaru General Manager, Mr. Maher Abu Shaaban, revealed that "the company offers its customers a wonderful offer at the launch, which is: comprehensive insurance for one year, an extended warranty of up to five years, open-wheel drive, maintenance up to 50,000 km or three years, whichever comes first, and roadside assistance for up to five years, noting that the car is currently available in showrooms in Kuwait.

Abu Shaaban said: "At Behbehani Company, we attach utmost importance to serving our valued customers through a trained and certified technical staff from the manufacturers of Subaru Japan, equipped with special equipment and accurate electronic testing devices. The company also provides original spare parts that are guaranteed and at competitive prices.

Abu Shaaban added, "We are proud of the innovative design and high standards that this car offers to our custom-

ers, especially in terms of the safety and security specifications that Subaru has always distinguished."

Abu Shaaban invited the company's valued guests and customers to test drive the car and feel its excellence and wonderful performance.

It is worth mentioning that Subaru cars are 100% Japanese and are equipped with their own symmetrical four-wheel drive system that provides the highest levels of stability, control and unparalleled driving pleasure.



'MSRY Behbehani' showroom.



The interior of the all-new Subaru Crosstrek.



Test-drive of Subaru Crosstrek.

'Bank for Life'

KIB provides Eidiya notes at all branches in lead-up to Eid

KUWAIT CITY, June 13: In the lead-up to the joyous occasion of Eid Al Adha, Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced that it would be providing Eidiya services across its branches in Kuwait. These services are part of the Bank's continuous efforts to celebrate all holidays and special occasions with the community in which it operates while providing diversified offerings for a unique banking experience. In addition, KIB is once again offering the Eidiya Home Delivery service exclusively for its KIB Black segment customers.



Faisal Al-Shuwairid

Discussing the initiative, Faisal Al-Shuwairid, Assistant General Manager of the Retail Banking Department at KIB, said: "Inspired and driven by our slogan, 'Bank for Life,' we continue to provide Eidiya services during specific celebratory times as part of our persistent efforts to offer the best banking solutions to our customers that suit their modern lifestyles. Providing Eidiya notes across all KIB branches and Kuwait's most popular and well-trafficked malls will allow us to celebrate Eid Al Adha with our esteemed customers and help meet their needs."

Al-Shuwairid noted that KIB customers would be able to obtain Eidiya in all note denominations with complete ease, including KD 1, 5, 10, and 20. He added that the public had gladly welcomed the Eidiya initiative during previous Eid holidays, as citizens rushed to distribute cash gifts to eager children waiting to enjoy the happy occasion as part of a centuries-old tradition.

Furthermore, KIB will offer its Eidiya requests home delivery service exclusively for its Black segment customers to provide added convenience. The service, which proved to be a great success over the past two years, makes deliveries available all over Kuwait, 24 hours a day/seven days a week. Black segment customers can apply for KIB's Eidiya home delivery until June 22, 2023. The exclusive service can be accessed through KIB's contact center, reachable on 1866866, or by the private customer relations manager.

Concluding his remarks, Al-Shuwairid highlighted that driven by the Bank's deep-rooted belief in the importance of offering customers targeted services suited to their



KIB Black Eidiya.

Mass affluent, high net worth individuals more engaged online than two years ago

WESTON, Mass., June 13, (AP): Seven in 10 clients of financial advisors (69%) report spending more time checking their accounts online today than they did two years ago, according to findings from Advisor360's latest survey. In addition, while 74 percent of respondents check their portfolios through their advisor's client portal at least weekly, 33 percent of Generation Z and young millennials are in their accounts daily, more than any other generation surveyed.

This press release features multimedia. View the full release here: <https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20230612466509/en/>

Older Gen Z and Young Millennials Check Their Investment Accounts More Than Other Generations Source: Advisor360

Advisor360's new examines the way in which mass affluent and high net worth (HNW) individuals engage with their financial advisors using

technology. During the spring of 2023, the company surveyed 2,000 investors ages 20 through 83 who use a financial advisor and / or an insurance broker ("advisor"). Survey participants had at least \$250,000 managed by their advisor, with \$568,342 in assets on average.

While survey participants rely on technology to help facilitate a connection with their advisor, the majority do not want a do-it-yourself (DIY) experience. Eight in 10 (82%) say that their advisors offer a client portal and the majority of those who use the portal are happy with it (91%).

Real-time portfolio access was the top factor that determines whether a client's experience using their advisor's portal was positive. Of least importance? Access to educational content and market research. Only 10 percent consider this feature important for having their advisor's technology meet expectations. The majority of those surveyed are satisfied with their ability to update their profiles online, move money and share documents with their advisors.

"We wanted to better understand technology's role in facilitating the advisor-client relationship from the client perspective," said Rich Hart, Advisor360's Senior Vice President of Corporate Development. "Our survey confirmed that individuals who hire financial advisors want the professionals to do their jobs and are not interested acting as their own investment managers. Although they want to be connected to their advisor and their assets, clients rely on their advisors to do the heavy lifting."

Indeed, the number one way that mass affluent and HNW investors judge their advisor is by how well they help them achieve their financial goals. These individuals are largely willing to give their advisors a complete picture of their financial situations to do so. While 86 percent believe their advisors should have a comprehensive view of their total wealth profile - that is, assets, liabilities, investments, insurance, real estate, bank accounts - only 40 percent say their advisors have this already.

Innovation at any cost?

Lenovo Study reveals CIO commitment concerns around technology innovation

HONG KONG, June 13, (AP): A global annual survey of Chief Information Officers (CIOs) by Lenovo reveals that despite economic headwinds and IT budget challenges, the world's CIOs are bullish about the power of technology to deliver value for their organizations. Despite their optimism, the risks are real, as 83% are concerned that there will be insufficient budgets to properly invest in innovation and digital transformation, and almost half (48%) say they are "extremely" or "very" concerned.

This press release features multimedia.

The second edition of the annual Lenovo Global Study of CIOs found that CIOs (48%) are also more likely to prioritize innovation in new technologies over optimizing their current tech stack. The stakes are high, with 60% of CIOs reporting that a freeze in investment to innovation would impact their business at once or within weeks across business automation, business model transformation, data analytics and environment, social, and governance initiatives. Adding to this, 33% of CIOs do not feel their organization is sufficiently resilient.

"The job of the CIO has never been more demanding, and the findings indicate they are taking increasing risks in response. The more complex the technology landscape, the more challenging it is for the CIO to enact organization-wide digital transformation and prioritize initiatives and investments that will deliver business outcomes," said Ken Wong, President of Lenovo Solutions and Services Group.

While one in five CIOs expect their IT budgets to increase by more than 10% in the next 12 months, the majority (59%) expect their budgets to only increase from 1% to 10%. To mitigate potential risks, CIOs are hyper-focused on ensuring that their tech stack and teams are becoming more agile and resilient (81%). This finding is consistent with CIOs' dissatisfaction with much of their installed IT base, with most saying that they would replace half or more of their tech stack if they had the chance.

It comes as no surprise that CIOs are turning towards "as a Service" (aaS) offerings for their tech stacks. Deploying aaS solutions simplifies and optimizes everything, enabling IT leaders to focus on innovation and

be more agile in responding to their organizations' changing needs. A pay-as-you-go consumption model - from procurement to deployment and management of infrastructure to hardware and licensing - empowers CIOs and IT teams to focus on innovation or more strategic imperatives, a benefit that most CIOs are aware of.

The vast majority (92%) of CIOs are considering adding new aaS solutions to their tech stacks over the next two years. This is on the back of 71% of CIOs who said between 11% and 50% of their IT is currently delivered on an aaS basis. Software aaS, infrastructure aaS and device aaS are cited by more than half of CIOs as being much or somewhat more used than in the previous year.

Two major priorities stood out from the study. First is the emergence of artificial intelligence and machine learning (AI/ML) as mainstream IT priorities that are fueling ambitions for innovation. Second is people-related opportunities, given that attracting and retaining talent is critical to a company's success.

AI/ML has quickly become an urgent priority for CIOs as they strive to stay up to date with the rapid pace of technological progress. No less than 43% feel "urgent pressure" to address AI/ML as a priority, only slightly behind cybersecurity (51%). As many as three in five IT leaders also have experienced pressure to further optimize their companies' operations.

Talent-related responsibilities including recruitment and retention (59%), managing a remote workforce (59%), managing global teams (58%), and diversity, equity, and inclusion (55%) remain significant challenges for CIOs as they expand their role to digitize operations across departments.

"Given the focus on cutting edge technology such as AI and perennial challenges in talent management, there is a clear gap that IT solution partners, such as Lenovo, can help fill. The ability to design and deliver on a range of solutions from hardware to edge to cloud, and powered by AI, not only streamlines day-to-day operations but also empowers organizations to innovate with agility and maximizes their tech stack to fulfill their business ambitions," said Wong.

The full study is available at Tech Today.

Annual drive aims to encourage more people to donate blood and plasma

Boursa Kuwait organizes 'Blood Drive' in collaboration with KCC

KUWAIT CITY, June 13: In commemoration of World Blood Donor Day, Boursa Kuwait and the Kuwait Clearing Company (KCC) organized a blood drive at the Boursa Kuwait building on Sunday, June 4, which was held in partnership with the Central Blood Bank.

Started in 2004 by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the World Health Organization and other international partners, the annual event is held on June 14, coinciding with the birthday of

Austrian biologist and physician Karl Landsteiner, considered the founder of modern blood transfusion.

The theme for this year's campaign is "Give blood, give plasma: share life, share often", and sheds light on the patients requiring life-long transfusion support, as well as underlining the role every single person can play by giving blood or plasma. It also highlights the importance of giving blood or plasma regularly to create a safe and sustainable supply of blood and blood products that can always be available for

patients to receive timely treatment.

This year's campaign aims to celebrate the individuals who regularly donate blood, encourage more people to become new donors, highlight the critical roles of voluntary regular blood and plasma donations in achieving universal access to safe blood products for all populations, as well as mobilize support at the national, regional and global levels among governments and development partners to invest in, strengthen and sustain national blood programs.

Held in line with Goal 3 - Good

Health and Well-Being - and Goal 17 - Partnership for the Goals - of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Boursa Kuwait's blood drive leveraged sustainable partnerships to promote the important social cause.

Boursa Kuwait's Corporate Sustainability strategy stipulates ensuring initiatives apply and fall in line with the company's corporate social responsibility (CSR), industry best practice standards and investor expectations. With the two pillars of Community, and Environment, the strategy

provides the foundation for creating strong and sustainable partnerships that ultimately achieve success and allows Boursa Kuwait to leverage the capabilities and strengths of other organizations specializing in different fields and integrate sustainability efforts with the company culture.

As part of this strategy, Boursa Kuwait has launched a variety of initiatives in partnership with both local and international organizations including the United Nations, the United Nations High Commission for Refugees

(UNHCR), the Kuwait Red Crescent Society and the Kuwait Association for the Care of Children in Hospital (KACCH) amongst others. The exchange embraces a forward-thinking approach to creating long-term value for stakeholders with a focus on supporting nongovernmental organizations and charity programs, raising financial literacy and capital market awareness, empowering women, fighting pollution and contributing towards the improvement of Kuwait's socio-economic conditions.

Warba provides corporate clients with 'comprehensive' banking experience

Unwavering commitment to delivering finest digital solutions



Salem Khaled Al Jumaian and Rashid Al Bashri during the opening ceremony.

KUWAIT CITY, June 13: Warba Bank has recently introduced a new banking service aimed at enhancing collections and payments for its corporate clients. This initiative is a testament to their ongoing commitment to offer a diverse range of unique digital banking solutions and expand their services to cater more effectively to their expanding customer base. Through the introduction of innovative financial products and services, Warba Bank aims to provide exceptional support and meet the evolving needs of its corporate clients.

In a press release, Faisal Abdulrazzaq Al-Nassar, the Chief Corporate Banking Officer at Warba Bank, emphasized the significant value of providing tailored solutions and services to meet the needs and preferences of corporate clients. Warba Bank recently introduced a bill payment link service, allowing companies to send payment links to their customers through the online corporate banking service and application. This convenient feature enables customers to easily make payments using the provided link, streamlining company operations, and ensuring customer satisfaction. The new service also includes a reminder feature for customers who haven't completed their payments, along with the option to cancel the sent link if needed. Furthermore, the service provides comprehensive reports that detail both collected and outstanding amounts, offering valuable insights for businesses.

Furthermore, he emphasized that Warba consistently strives to elevate the standard of digital banking services for corporate clients, aiming for a future marked by innovation and distinction, with utmost consideration for customer convenience. Al-Nassar highlighted that Warba Bank's core message is centered around achieving the utmost levels of innovation and excellence in customer service, while also strengthening its market position across all facets of operation, particularly in Sharia compliant core financial services.

Warba Bank received the prestigious "Most Innovative Islamic Digital Banking Services for Corporations - Kuwait 2022" award from "Global Business Outlook" in recognition of its excellence in corporate banking services. The bank earned this recognition through a series of notable achievements, including the implementation of cutting-edge digital banking solutions that foster stronger connections with its corporate clients. These accomplishments encompass exceptional performance, expansion in digital banking operations, an enhanced customer banking experience, a culture of innovation, and a commitment to sustainability. These factors collectively contribute to a secure and evolving business environment throughout 2022. Warba Bank remains dedicated to following this approach in 2023, ensuring optimal service provision and facilitating all necessary procedures for its valued clients.

Warba has emerged as a success story in the banking sector, making remarkable strides in a relatively brief timeframe. With its prominent position in the digital banking arena, the bank has secured a leading role in this domain. Notably, Warba Bank stands out as one of the largest local banks, boasting a substantial number of shareholders. Moreover, the bank's significant market value has propelled its ranking among the top 50 banks in the Middle East, as recognized by Forbes Middle East for the year 2023.



Faisal Al Nassar



Some of the company's workers donating blood.

Company workers participate

KIC blood donation campaign: 'Your Blood is Life for Others'

KUWAIT CITY, June 13: Kuwait Insurance Company organized a blood donation campaign under the slogan "Your Blood is Life for Others", which was held in cooperation with the Blood Transfusion Services Department at the Central Blood Bank located in Jabriya. This was done with the participation of a large number of the company's employees and customers, as part of the company's efforts to coordinate with the State and serve the country through voluntary work that embodies solidarity and cooperation among members of society.

In her comments, Corporate Communications Manager of Kuwait Insurance Company, Fajer Al-Sayegh, said: "This campaign stems from Kuwait Insurance Company's belief in the importance of blood donation, which is a noble humanitarian act because it contributes to saving the lives of thousands of patients and accident victims who are in dire need of blood. This campaign also aims to instill a culture of voluntary donation by spreading awareness and educating the local community on the importance of blood donation. A large number of the company's employees and KIC customers were keen to participate in volunteer work, especially directed at serving the category of patients and injured who suffer from blood deficiency and confirming that blood donation is a na-



One of the workers donating blood.

tional duty". Al-Sayegh added: "We are proud of the continuous cooperation with the Kuwaiti Blood Bank to launch this campaign, which aims to encourage everyone to donate blood regularly, and thus each individual will contribute to providing a stock of blood, which is the message that we seek to spread and strengthen, in society".

In conclusion, she thanked the medical staff at the Central Blood Bank, all those in charge of the campaign as well as the employees, for their active participation and support.

Hazmat Logistics is an exclusive agent for flydubai's air freight services

To expand its operations in the region and the Middle East, the Hazmat Logistics Air Cargo Company, affiliated to the Salem Khaled Al Jumaian Group and Partners, signed an agency contract to provide general freight services exclusively for the Emirati carrier, Flydubai, where the General Manager and Founder of Salem Al Jumaian Group, Mr. Salem Khaled Al Jumaian, and Vice President of Cargo at Flydubai Rashid Al Bishri, launched the Hazmat Logistics Flydubai office to provide air freight services to the UAE carrier, according to the highest international standards and advanced technologies.

On this occasion, Al-Jumaian said that obtaining an air freight agency for Flydubai is an added value for both parties. It would also be in the interest of the market and customers looking for excellence, safety and credibility. It would also enhance cooperation opportunities in the field of providing air freight services of all types and requirements. Pointing out that the air freight sector is growing rapidly, which would open up

opportunities for companies operating in this field, but at the same time it will put them in a position of greater responsibility towards customers. It will also hold us, as a shipping company, responsible for accelerating the increase in capabilities, diversifying services and improving the work environment in light of great competition between the sector companies.

Al-Jumaian added, "The growth of the air cargo sector in Kuwait coincides with the infrastructure projects that are currently taking place in accordance with the vision of the "New Kuwait 2035", which includes the expansion of the airport, roads, ports and other vital facilities. He pointed out that air cargo is now considered a way of transport that has high credibility and great confidence by customers, and that it has witnessed a great development in its electronic systems and the possibility of tracking the shipment and knowing its location and arrival time, and that air freight became safer, especially for materials that require fast transportation and special standards of dealing.



Yousef Al Mutawa receiving an award on behalf of KFH.

Almutawa: KFH a key contributor and supporter of development initiatives

KUWAIT CITY, June 13: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has participated in the 2nd Kuwait Public Private Partnership conference (PPP2) as a platinum sponsor.

This participation is part of KFH's keenness to support initiatives that aim at executing mega projects in line with the state's directives and efforts towards achieving the sustainable development goals.

KFH General Manager Corporate Banking, Yousef Almutawa said that KFH's participation comes from its leading standing in the local and global economy as the largest bank in Kuwait and the second largest Islamic bank in the world in terms of assets, which amount to about KD 36.9 billion, in addition to having the biggest market capitalization of around KD 11 billion at the private sector level.

In his speech at the conference opening, Almutawa affirmed KFH's commitment in supporting and financing government development projects as well as offering a wide range of banking and financing solutions that serve vital sectors such as energy, water, electricity, and infrastructure.

He added that the Bank manages a credit portfolio with high-quality assets and has implemented several initiatives to enhance its relations with customers which had an enormous effect on supporting the national economy

and achieving KFH's mission to create a solid investment environment.

He pointed out that KFH is playing a significant role in financing SMEs given their important role in diversifying the national economy and creating job opportunities for youth in addition to contributing to mega-financing projects.

He indicated that KFH's economic and national role will continue supporting development efforts, leading Islamic finance, and contributing to offering innovative products and services which consolidate the Bank's position in implementing its economic visions, supporting growth and sustainability, improving economic environment, as well as boosting green finance role and ESG standards.

He stressed the importance of concerted efforts to enhance the cooperation between the private and public sectors in executing partnership projects which are vital for the success of the development plan, adding that KFH is a key contributor and a firm supporter of all plans that aim at the growth and prosperity of the country.

Almutawa hoped the conference will lead to fruitful outcomes for the economy that contribute to strengthening the partnership between the public and private sectors to serve development efforts in various fields.

NerdWallet

Millennial Money: How to use ChatGPT to plan your next trip

Planning travel can be a daunting maze. Guidebooks, by their nature, send all readers to the same destinations. And web searches can yield an unhelpful mess of content.

Yet some tech-savvy travelers are finding success using artificial intelligence chatbots like ChatGPT and Bard to inspire and plan their vacations, treating these services like free, on-demand travel agents.

"I liked the idea of ChatGPT because it gives you a very clear list," says Alpa Patel, an avid traveler based out of New York City.

Patel has been planning a family trip to Edinburgh, Scotland, for the summer. After getting frustrated with the cookie-cutter travel websites served up by Google, she had an idea: Why not ask ChatGPT for some advice?

"I started with the best places to stay and it gave me a list of neighborhoods, along with the best hotels. I actually picked my hotel through that list," Patel says.

Set your preferences Although Patel enjoyed the simplicity of these responses, she quickly found another reason why AI chatbots like ChatGPT can be useful for travel planning: customization.

Google was giving her endless recommendations for the Scottish Highlands, but Patel's younger son gets carsick, so she didn't think it would be feasible for him to spend hours in a car to get there. She found ChatGPT was able to give her reasonable alternatives.

"I very specifically asked, 'What are good day trips when you have a child who suffers from car sickness?' It came up with some ideas that you could go to by train," she says.

Steven Kreimendahl, co-founder of the blog Travel to Blank, was planning a trip to Japan in the spring with his wife and mother-in-law and used ChatGPT's personalized recommendations to

consider the group's different travel styles.

"My wife and I love traveling all day, while my mother-in-law prefers a slower form of travel," Kreimendahl says. "I gave ChatGPT as much detail as possible and let it run with that."

This approach differs from traditional ways of researching travel ideas. It requires some creativity on the traveler's part to identify their niche interests, such as 1950s architecture in New York City or the best tonkotsu ramen in the Ginza neighborhood of Tokyo. Rather than simply reading a list of ideas, trip planning with AI chatbots involves feeding it the preferences that matter to you.

"The more information it has, the better response you'll get," Kreimendahl says.

Push back and verify While web search results, artificial intelligence models can't get their feelings hurt. That means it's OK to shoot down ideas you don't like - in fact, it's encouraged. While web search results essentially reset with every new query, the language models powering chatbots can carry on long conversations, remembering and responding to questions and feedback throughout.

"Sometimes it's really broad, like, 'just relax for the day,'" Kreimendahl says, citing ChatGPT's recommendation for a multiday itinerary. "Don't be afraid to dig in deeper and ask for more specific requests."

And while these models are great at generating ideas and answering simple questions, nothing they say should be taken as, well, true. ChatGPT, for example, is based on historical information up to 2021, so you can't expect it to provide the latest details, which you might find with a search engine like Google. The chatbot may recommend a restaurant that closed during the pandemic or a train line that isn't running on your travel dates.

Bid to combat online misinformation

Microsoft media literacy program aims to empower internet users

WASHINGTON, June 13. (AP): People are hungry for accurate and reliable information online and may just need help to find it, according to a new media literacy project launched by Microsoft.

The tech company worked with the Trust Project, a nonprofit consortium of news organizations, to create advertisements directing internet users to a list of eight "trust indicators" that can be used to assess a website's credibility. The indicators include things like the clear labeling of opinion pieces, a code of practices and the attribution of sources.

Most people who saw the list expressed greater confidence in their own ability to find reliable news while ferreting out misinformation - a promising finding that suggests media literacy can be a cheap and scalable solution to the daunting problem of online misinformation.

"This was a bit of an experiment for us," said Ginny Badanes, senior director of Microsoft's Democracy Forward Initiative, a unit at the company that focuses on efforts to strengthen democracy and online journalism. "The world is changing very quickly and people need tools to equip themselves."

Misinformation

The stakes are high. Misinformation on sites like Twitter, Facebook and YouTube has been blamed for encouraging political polarization, undermining trust in democratic institutions and promoting vaccine opposition, election denialism and violent extremism.

The speed and power of the internet can make online misinformation seem like an unresolvable problem. Journalistic fact checks are effective, but they're labor intensive, aren't read by everyone, and won't convince those already distrustful of traditional journalism. Content moderation by tech companies is often inconsistent and only drives misinformation elsewhere.

Australia to attract most

UK set for bigger net exodus of 'millionaires' than Russia

LONDON, June 13. (AP): The UK is expected to see a net outflow of 3,200 high-net-worth individuals (HNWIs) in 2023 - higher than the projected 3,000 net loss for Russia, according to the Henley Private Wealth Migration Report 2023. This will make the UK the third-biggest loser of millionaires globally after China (net loss of 13,500) and India (net loss of 6,500). Perhaps most notably, the UK's anticipated HNW flight is double that of last year, when it saw a net exodus of 1,600 millionaires.

The report by investment migration advisory firm Henley & Partners features the latest net inflows and outflows of dollar millionaires (namely, the difference between the number of HNWIs with investable wealth of USD 1 million or more who relocate to, and emigrate from, a country) as projected by global wealth intelligence firm New World Wealth. The figures focus only on HNWIs who have moved - namely, who stay in their new country more than six months a year. Note: All HNW figures are rounded to the nearest 100.

'Down Under' back on top

Australia is expected to attract the highest net inflow of HNWIs in 2023 at 5,200, and although the UAE drops into 2nd place following its record-breaking influx in 2022, it is still expected to enjoy an impressive net arrival of 4,500 new millionaires this year. Singapore ranks 3rd with a net inflow of 3,200 HNWIs, its highest on record, followed the US with an expected net inflow of 2,100 millionaires.

Switzerland (net inflow of 1,800) and Canada (1,600) are in 5th and 6th place, respectively, with Greece (1,200), France (1,000 - double last year's net intake of 500 millionaires), Portugal (800), and New Zealand (700) all making it onto this year's Top 10 list for net HNW inflows. Israel is predicted to tumble out of the Top 10 with its net inflow of millionaires set to almost halve to just 600 compared to 1,100 in 2022.

Dr. Juerg Steffen, CEO of Henley & Partners, says there's been a steady growth in millionaire migration over the past decade, with global figures for 2023 and 2024 expected to be 122,000 and 128,000, respectively. "In general, wealth migration trends look set to revert to pre-pandemic patterns this year, with the notable exceptions of former top wealth magnets, the UK and the US."

Brexit a bad bet for Britain

The UK's peak net outflow year was 2017, following the Brexit referendum in 2016. Prior to this, the country enjoyed net positive inflows of HNWIs. While net losses dropped slightly between 2017 and 2019, the 2023 forecast indicates a far more significant millionaire exit is currently underway.

Prof. Trevor Williams, former Chief Economist at Lloyds Bank Commercial, says "whatever one may think about the merits of Brexit, this cohort is voting with its feet. Coupled with the policy change to remove permanent non-domiciled taxpayer status, Brexit has made the UK less hospitable and welcoming to HNWIs." Sunita Singh-Dalal of Hourani & Partners agrees that "the recent unsettling British 'Non-Dom debate' triggered by unprecedented political volatility, coupled with rising debt, a dysfunctional healthcare system, high crime rates, and a general sense of lingering malaise, has clearly tarnished the lustre of London."

The appeal of another financial giant, the US, is also dwindling fast. America is notably less popular among migrating millionaires than pre-Covid, owing in part to the threat of higher taxes. The country still attracts more HNWIs than it loses to emigration, with a net inflow of 2,100 projected for 2023, although

LOS ANGELES, June 13: One small step for an intrepid crew of 24th century space explorers could be a giant leap - or flop - for Microsoft when the Xbox-maker launches its long-awaited video game Starfield.

Players must fend off pirates, navigate strange moons, build outposts and fix their own starships in a space epic that is due out on Xbox in September after years of development and delay. Microsoft gave its most detailed glimpse of the upcoming game at a Los Angeles event Sunday.

The release could be one of the most important in Xbox's history as it looks to attract gamers with a headliner on par with Nintendo's latest Zelda game and PlayStation's upcoming Spider-Man 2, said Mat Piscatella, a game industry analyst for market researcher Circana.

After months of watching Nintendo's Switch console and Sony's PlayStation steal the momentum in a lagging market - with boosts from Hollywood adaptations of Nintendo's Super Mario and the PlayStation exclusive Last of Us - Microsoft could use a blockbuster to drive sales of its

while prompting cries of censorship and bias. Efforts to regulate the internet are legally and politically challenging.

Measures to promote critical thinking and media literacy, however, have shown remarkable success in helping people learn how to detect misinformation themselves. Google launched a series of videos on YouTube in Eastern Europe last year designed to teach people how misinformation works; the

Xbox consoles and its monthly game subscription service.

"Starfield may have the potential to be as big or bigger than" popular games on rival platforms, especially thanks to the strong track record of the studio that made it, Piscatella said. "But the 'may' there is a big one."

Much of the anticipation centers on the past commercial successes of Microsoft-owned Bethesda Softworks, the studio behind long-running series such as Doom, Elder Scrolls and Fallout. Bethesda describes Starfield as its "first new universe in over 25 years."

Developing

Bethesda was already well on its way toward developing it when Microsoft acquired its parent company ZeniMax Media for \$7.5 billion in 2021. In fact, Bethesda first sought to trademark the Starfield name a decade ago, and teased the game in a brief trailer five years later in 2018.

Now Starfield is caught up in Microsoft's planned takeover of Call of Duty maker Activision Blizzard. Sony has raised antitrust objections to the \$69 billion deal over concerns that Microsoft could make some of Activision's

campaign was recently expanded to Germany.

Often, claims masquerading as reliable news don't cite their sources, mix opinion and fact and use slanted stories or headlines designed to exploit powerful emotions like fear, anger or disgust.

Legitimate news organizations, by contrast, will identify their sources, invite feedback, include diverse voices and hold their journalists to a code of



A Microsoft Xbox Series X video game console is seen, on Dec. 7, 2021, in Marple Township, Pa. One small step for an intrepid crew of 24th century space explorers could be a giant leap - or flop - for Microsoft when the Xbox-maker launches its long-awaited video game Starfield. (AP)

best games exclusive to Xbox.

On Monday, the Federal Trade Commission sued to block Microsoft and Activision from completing their

conduct, said Sally Lehrman, a journalist and chief executive at the Trust Project.

Products

The ads were seen by users of Microsoft products and systems, including email. Over the course of six months, the ads prompted twice as many people to visit the project's site; 62% of those who visited the site said it helped them feel more confident

merger in the US.

PlayStation has its own exclusives - including top-sellers Last of Us, the Marvel Spider-Man games and some Fi-

about assessing online information.

"I'm very encouraged by our results," Lehrman said, noting that short internet ads are a relatively cheap, easy solution compared to complicated and controversial government regulations or hit-or-miss efforts by tech companies.

The need for media literacy has become more obvious as deepfakes and artificial intelligence makes misinformation easier than ever to spread,

nal Fantasy games. But Sony has argued to antitrust regulators around the world that Microsoft's decision to make ZeniMax games like Starfield and Redfall exclusive to Xbox shows that Microsoft has the ability and incentive to foreclose rivals to games it acquires through big mergers.

British regulators have also moved to block the deal, though other countries have approved it, including regulators representing the 27-nation European Union.

Microsoft's ongoing battle to close the Activision deal and build enthusiasm for its existing stock of games comes at a slow period for game sales after interest soared at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Consumer spending on video games and hardware in the U.S. was \$4.1 billion in April, a 5% drop from a year ago, according to Circana.

A 6% decline in game revenue was partly offset by 7% growth in hardware sales, particularly for the PlayStation 5 and Switch. It marked the best April for console sales since the pandemic caused a sales spike in 2020.

Lehrman said.

But will people actually watch advertisements designed to help them become smarter consumers of news and information? Lehrman said the research shows that they will - especially when the ads are effective at grabbing people's attention.

"Are we asking people to eat their broccoli? I always reject that because I think broccoli is delicious," she said. "But we have to make it delicious."

Americans warned not to mail checks if possible

Cases of check fraud escalate dramatically in United States

Companies cut expenses amid recession fears

Once a reliable cash cow, Amazon's cloud business slows as firms pull back on AWS

NEW YORK, June 13. (AP): Check fraud is back in a big way, fueled by a rise in organized crime that is forcing small businesses and individuals to take additional safety measures or to avoid sending checks through the mail altogether.

Banks issued roughly 680,000 reports of check fraud to the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, also known as FinCEN, last year. That's up from 350,000 reports in 2021. Meanwhile the US Postal Inspection Service reported roughly 300,000 complaints of mail theft in 2021, more than double the prior year's total.

Early in the pandemic, government relief checks became an attractive target for criminals. The problem has only gotten worse and postal authorities and bank officials are warning Americans to avoid mailing checks if possible, or at least to use a secure mail drop such as inside the post office. Meanwhile, as the cases of fraud increase, victims are waiting longer to recover their stolen money.

Check usage has been in decline for decades as Americans have largely switched to paying for their services with credit and debit cards. Americans wrote roughly 3.4 billion checks in 2022, down from nearly 19 billion checks in 1990, according to the Federal Reserve. However, the average size of the checks Americans write rose from \$673 in 1990 - or \$1,602 in today's dollars - to \$2,652 last year.

Declining

"Despite the declining use of checks in the United States, criminals have been increasingly targeting the U.S. Mail since the COVID-19 pandemic to commit check fraud," FinCEN wrote in an alert sent out in February.

Checks are still frequently used by small businesses. Eric Fischgrund, who runs FischTank PR, a 30-person public relations firm in New York, had about 15 checks that were being mailed to him from clients stolen after they all went through the same Postal Service distribution center. Ten of them were successfully cashed by criminals.

The checks were stolen in March and Fischgrund became aware of the problem in April, when several of his clients who were never late missed payments. The Postal Service investigated and Fischgrund has recovered about 70% of the revenue, but some of the cases haven't yet been resolved.

According to the investigator on the case, the perpetrators used technology that melted ink in the "to" field of the checks so they could write in fake names. FischTank instructed all its clients to change their paper format because it was dealing with a check fraud issue.

Fischgrund said he'd never previously had an issue with check fraud in the nearly 10 years he has run his own business. Now he has a clause in invoices and new client contracts that asks for electronic payments only.

"I don't think we'll ever go back to asking for checks as an option," he said.

Today's check fraud criminals are not small operations, or lone individuals like the Leonardo DiCaprio character in the 2002 movie "Catch Me If You Can," counterfeiting checks from his hotel room and apartment. They are sophisticated criminal operations, with participants infiltrating post office dis-

tributions centers, setting up fake businesses or creating fake IDs to deposit the checks. "Walkers," or people who actually walk in to cash these checks, receive training in how to appear even more legitimate.

In one case in Southern California last year, nearly sixty people were arrested on charges of committing more than \$5 million in check fraud against 750 people.

Criminals are getting the checks or identification information by fishing mail out of U.S. postal boxes, looking for envelopes that appear to be either bill payments or checks being mailed. The most common type of check fraud is what's known as check washing, where a criminal steals the check from the mail and proceeds to change the payee's name on the check and, additionally, the amount of money.

Some criminals are going further and using the information found on a check to gather sensitive personal data on a potential victim. There have been reports of criminals creating fake entities out of personal data obtained from a check, or even opening new lines of

credit or businesses with that data as well. This allows fraudsters to create new checks using old account data. That's why check fraud experts are saying Americans should avoid sending checks in the mail or at least take additional safety steps to avoid becoming a victim.

Competing

Google and Microsoft, which offer competing cloud businesses, posted strong showings in their respective businesses during the most recent quarter, but they've also seen some slowdown in recent months. Still, it's easier for them to keep growing compared to Amazon, which can face more hurdles since it's already a market leader and has to grow a larger customer base, said Sid Nag, an analyst at the information-technology research and consulting firm Gartner.

Another challenge for Amazon, Nag says, is that businesses are increasingly using multiple cloud services and moving away from single providers, a move that can boost tech options and prevent companies from being reliant on only one vendor. The firm predicts more than 90% of businesses will use multiple providers by 2026, a jump from 76% in 2020.

"Amazon's seeing an artifact of that phenomenon affecting their growth rate," Nag said.

Despite the pullback, AWS is still expected to be a long-term revenue driver for Amazon. Nag said many companies can't afford to spend the amount of money it takes to run their own data centers, which would require expensive equipment and real estate. And with this in mind, Amazon is mak-

ing big investments. Last month, the tech giant said it plans to spend more than \$12 billion on cloud infrastructure in India by 2030, adding to multi-billion-dollar cloud investments it announced earlier this year in Malaysia and Australia. Amazon is also planning to build five new data centers in Oregon after it was awarded a controversial \$1 billion tax break.

Generative AI, which recently boomed in popularity following the release of Open AI's ChatGPT, is another interest area for AWS. But Amazon seems to be playing catch-up to its competitors. Unlike Microsoft and Google, Amazon hasn't made a splashy entrance into the market with its own chatbot or AI imaging tool. Instead, the company is aiming to lure in developers who can build generative AI applications on its cloud infrastructure.

The slowdown at AWS also comes Amazon's core e-commerce business is experiencing declines in growth following the COVID-19 boom. The company has retained most of the gains it made during the pandemic, which is good news for the retailer. But it can be difficult to keep eking out more incremental gains off the back of its monumental pandemic-era growth, said Neil Saunders, managing director of GlobalData Retail.

Amazon is also facing more challenges in the grocery arena, an \$800 billion market where it's attempting to gain market share with its Amazon Fresh and Go convenience stores, as well as Whole Foods, which it purchased in 2017. The company said in February it was shutting down some Amazon Fresh and Go stores that weren't living up to their promise.

But those systems become moot if criminals are able to persuade tellers - often at the front lines for check acceptance - to look past any red flags.

"These fraudsters are much more aggressive than they were in the past, and they are pressuring tellers to override internal systems that might flag a potentially suspicious transaction," Paul Brenda, a senior vice president at the American Bankers Association.

Banks generally reimburse customers if they are victims of check fraud within days. However, due to the growing number of fraud cases, refunds have slowed down in recent months. In March, a trio of Democratic Senators asked the banking industry to be more prompt in reimbursing victims of check fraud whenever possible.

Another safety tip for businesses is to opt in to a bank's "positive pay" services with a business checking account. Positive pay means you pre-authorize checks for a certain amount as well as the check number, cutting down criminals' ability to wash the check and withdraw money for an amount that isn't pre-authorized.

The Conversation

Vitamin A one of many nutrients lacking in diets of world's poorest children

Philippines rated 'Golden Rice' safe, but farmers might not plant it

By Glenn Davis Stone, Sweet Briar College and Dominic Glover
Institute of Development Studies

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

'Golden Rice' is probably the world's most hotly debated genetically modified organism (GMO). It was intended to be a beta carotene-enriched crop to reduce Vitamin A deficiency, a health problem in very poor areas. But it has never been offered to farmers for planting.

Why not? Because Golden Rice has an activist problem, according to its proponents. They insist that the rice would have prevented millions of child deaths by now had it not been blocked by anti-science activists.

In particular, they single out Greenpeace, which has campaigned against approval of Golden Rice as part of its broader opposition to GMOs. Greenpeace responds that its actions are not what has kept Golden Rice from reaching the market.

We study developing-world agriculture, including use of genetically modified crops, and are conducting ongoing research on Golden Rice, originally funded by the Templeton Foundation. We advocate keeping an open mind about Golden Rice, which may eventually have some nutritional potential in limited cases. But our view, based on numerous scientific studies, is that the rice is still beset by problems that have little to do with activists.

Vitamin A is one of many nutrients lacking in the diets of the world's poorest children. Vitamin A deficiency, or VAD, can cause blindness and even premature death.

Contain

The vitamin comes directly from animal products and indirectly from beta carotene in plants, which the human body can convert to Vitamin A. Plant scientist Ingo Potrykus, who co-developed Golden Rice, has claimed that "VAD often occurs where rice is the major staple food." White rice grains contain no beta carotene.

But it's not rice's job to provide vitamins. Most diets across Asia and Africa consist of a carbohydrate core such as rice or maize, which provides calories and bulk, and a sauce, stew or soup for flavor and nutrients.

Since rice is a poor source of vitamins and minerals, any child eating a rice-only diet will be sick. Genetically modifying rice to contain beta carotene is at best a band-aid for extreme cases of VAD, not a corrective for a widespread problem.

Potrykus and colleagues devised a strategy for producing Golden Rice in 1992, and announced in 2000 that they had developed an experimental prototype. Potrykus appeared on the cover of Time magazine with his rice, which the cover proclaimed "could save a million kids a year."

The biologists were on to something, but the prototype was nowhere near ready for farmers or consumers. The beta carotene concentration was far too low, and researchers did not know if the plants would grow well. The prototype was also a rice variety that farmers in VAD areas would not grow.

In 2002 Golden Rice research moved to the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in the Philippines to be developed for Filipino farmers. Meanwhile scientists at the global agricultural company Syngenta, which had acquired commercial rights to the rice, began to develop a new package of genes to improve the

beta carotene levels. By 2005 they unveiled Golden Rice 2, which accomplished this.

Next, researchers inserted these GR2 genes into multiple plants, with the goal of introducing them without disrupting other genes. Each insertion is called an "event." IRRI breeders took the most promising event and began breeding the trait into two trusty lowland rice varieties.

But there was a problem. Field trials showed that the introduced genes had indeed disrupted other genes and lowered the rice's productivity, so breeders turned to a different event. By 2017 field trials showed that this rice grew adequately. The rice was submitted to the Philippine Bureau of Plant Industry, which designated it as safe in December 2019.

Free

However, Golden Rice still has to be approved for commercial sale and still needs a company to grow marketable quantities of seed. Proponents' claim that the rice would be given free to farmers is false: No one has offered to produce and distribute the rice seed for nothing. And even if someone were to grow marketable quantities of seed for sale, two crucial problems remain.

First, the claim that Golden Rice will remedy Vitamin A deficiency remains unproven. As IRRI scientists themselves stressed in 2013, "It has not yet been determined whether daily consumption of Golden Rice does improve the vitamin A status of people who are vitamin A deficient."

Vitamin A is fat-soluble, and children with VAD rarely have fats in their diet. Moreover, they usually suffer from gut parasites and infections that make it harder to convert beta carotene to vitamin A.

A 2012 study, which has been cited over 70 times - despite being retracted in 2015 for breaching research ethics - seemed to show that Golden Rice would raise children's vitamin A levels. But children in the study were fed balanced meals that included fats, thus demonstrating only that Golden Rice worked in children who did not need it.

Even the latest analysis of Golden Rice's safety points out that research has yet to show that it will mitigate VAD. And by the time Golden Rice gets to undernourished children, its beta carotene level may be very low, since the compound deteriorates fairly quickly.

Second, there is no clear way for the rice to get to the children who need it. Projections of the benefits of Golden Rice assume that farmers will immediately grow it, but families poor enough to be affected by VAD often lack land to grow rice for themselves. VAD in the Philippines has been highest in Mountain Province, where farmers are unlikely to plant lowland rice varieties, and in part of metro Manila where no rice farming occurs.

To reach undernourished kids in areas like these, Golden Rice would have to be grown by commercial farmers and sold in markets. We examined whether farmers would plant Golden Rice in a new study of seed selection practices in a "rice bowl" area of the Philippines.

Farmers choose from a large and rapidly changing array of rice seeds, based on agronomic performance, market demands and local trends. Their choices show that varieties containing the "Golden" trait are out of fashion, overtaken by newer and better performing varieties. (AP)

Avatar gets FDA clearance for VR surgical planning solution

ABA therapy needs precision treatment planning to attain timely access to care

AI-based software cancer diagnostic solutions

Relay introduces new hospital delivery bot, RelayRx to tackle nursing shortage

IRVINE, Calif., June 13: According to a recent report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 1 in 36 children in the US is diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder, or ASD, an increase from the 2018 estimate that found a prevalence of 1 in 44. Diagnosis typically occurs by age 4, with minority groups tending to be diagnosed later and less often.

Most experts agree early intervention creates the best opportunity to support healthy development and deliver benefits across the lifespan for individuals with ASD. The CDC reports that applied behavioral analysis, or ABA therapy, is the most widely accepted, evidence-based form of treatment used in clinical settings that "encourages desired behaviors and discourages undesired behaviors." ABA supports increased language and communication, improved social skills, and enhanced attention in individuals with ASD.

The growing recognition of ABA therapy's efficacy and positive outcomes has led to an increased demand for these services across various communities. However, the limited availability of qualified ABA therapists and professionals has resulted in a gap between the demand and supply of this essential treatment. A 2021 study of Trends in Geographic Access to Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBAs) led by Dr. Marissa Yingling found that despite the growth of the ABA industry, more than half of all counties in the U.S. lack a single BCBA.

This dearth of providers, coupled with administrative burdens imposed by funders of ABA treatment, including health plans, makes timely intervention with ABA less accessible for many families.

As part of a five-part clinical quality publication series, the latest report issued by ACES 2020, LLC (ACES), an autism treatment provider whose clinical model is grounded in proven outcomes, explores how the company's Center of Excellence (COE) framework has allowed the company to drive medically necessary treatment plans to avoid gaps in care and produce high-quality outcomes. Specifically, ACES' client-centric approach, including understanding the participant's ecosystem through comprehensive assessment bundles and high-touch coordination of care practices, allows the company to better navigate and overcome some of the referenced barriers to treatment.

Offer

"The increased demand for proven clinical outcomes in the ABA field requires providers to offer precise treatment plans that are authorized quickly by funders, so that individuals impacted by autism, their caretakers and their families can find relief through ABA therapies faster," Leah Felty, vice president of payor relations and program management for ACES, said.

Felty said ACES employs a systematic and proprietary approach to communicate quality individualized treatment plans, based on the ACES Center of Excellence framework of personalized assessments and data collection, the needs of the individual client and family, how many hours of treatment are needed, coordination of care needs, and their treatment history.

BALTIMORE & CAMPBELL, Calif., June 13: Relay Robotics, Inc., a leading manufacturer of autonomous service robots to the healthcare industry, has introduced its newest hospital robot, RelayRx, at the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) Summer Meetings & Exhibition. Relay delivery robots have been deployed at 15+ hospital systems over the past five years. RelayRx delivers twice the capacity (10 gallons, 41 liters) of earlier models, with an expanded 8" touchscreen.

This announcement of RelayRx comes at a key economic time in healthcare. Over 100,000 registered nurses have left the workforce in the last two years according to the American Hospital Association. Moreover, a recent PBS NewsHour story reported that in the next two years, there will be a shortage of 450,000 bedside nurses in the US.

"RelayRx for hospitals brings urgent relief to nurses, pharmacy techs, and hospital staff," said Michael O'Donnell, Chairman and CEO, Relay Robotics. "They are our heroes today and we need to provide them all the tools that technology and innovation provide so they can spend more time with patients."

Relay robots are used daily at leading hospitals worldwide, including Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, CHU Sainte-Justine, El Camino Hospital, Hutchinson Health, MedStar Georgetown University Hospital, University of California, San Diego and Yale New Haven Health Lawrence + Memorial. Hospitals use Relay robots to make deliveries from every department includ-

ing pharmacies and labs to every corner of their facility, quickly and efficiently. RelayRx is effectively another "transport system" for these hospitals.

Decisions

"Before our Relay robot, we had to stop and make hard decisions. Do I transport these specimens now to the lab myself, or do I help this patient? I have three patients in line, but there are three stat samples. Which do I do first? Now it's very simple, we just send our robot," said Jamie Schmidt, Lab Supervisor, Hutchinson Health, Hutchinson, MN.

Relay and its technology leaders have been building robots for 10+ years and pioneered human friendly robot design and software functionality, including elevator integration.

"We're proud of the technology and design advancements we've made in RelayRx to expand the delivery capacity and better serve hospital staff and their use cases like lab deliveries and chemotherapy from the pharmacy to the infusion center," said Steve Cousins, Relay Robotics Founder & Chief Technology Officer.

Also:

PARIS LA DÉFENSE: Thales, a global leader in Software Monetization and Licensing, is collaborating with Lunit, a global provider of AI-powered cancer diagnostics and therapeutics solutions, to help accelerate the profitability of its software, protect their core technology, and enhance back-office software automation.

Thales' Sentinel platform provides services optimized for AI software based on flexible systems and custom-

er-friendly interfaces. The collaboration has enabled Lunit to maintain their software diversity, secure their intellectual property (IP) and successfully distribute solutions through the Sentinel platform.

The relationship between Thales and Lunit initially started three years ago when Lunit, growing at a rapid pace, recognized the need to manage its software more efficiently in terms of security and business. The company chose Thales' Sentinel solution, which complies with various regulations while providing high levels of encryption and the prevention of reverse-engineering. As a result, Lunit has been able to deliver tamper-proof software, which is necessary in the business ethics and regulatory sector.

In addition, Lunit plans to automate its back office based on the Sentinel platform to meet the rapidly increasing needs of its customers after it became a public company. The Sentinel platform will also be used to automate the issuance of licenses directly by partners to prevent mistakes caused by human error, further strengthening customer satisfaction and operational efficiency.

"Through Thales' Sentinel platform, Lunit has achieved robust safeguarding of its core technology while efficiently streamlining the creation and distribution of diverse packaged products across multiple business models, all without additional engineering," said Minhong Jang, Co-founder, and Chief Business Officer of Lunit. "Working with Thales has played a vital role in protecting the core technology of our AI solution that drives Lunit's world-wide growth."

ACES pays close attention to the client's support system. Participation of the individual and their family in the decision-making process of treatment is obtained through consultation and review of the plan.

"Providing clinicians with more insight into the holistic needs of the individual and their family leads to more effective treatment planning, tied directly to medical necessity criteria, promoting alignment for appropriate utilization of prescribed ABA treatment," Felty said. "ACES has spent years developing trusting relationships including alignment of medically necessary criterion with our payer partners, which means we're not negotiating back and forth with our partners in peer reviews or appeals in order to get the necessary treatment right away."

Felty added that treatment adherence to medically necessary treatment recommendations (e.g., level of services, treatment interventions, coordination of care) positively relates to improved treatment effectiveness and positive outcomes.

"Our main goal is to facilitate meaningful and effective responses to treatment that generalize across all environments and improve the well-being of the individual and their support system," Felty said.

Also:

MOUNTAIN VIEW, Calif.: Medtech startup Avatar Medical has announced that its virtual reality (VR) surgical planning solution has received 510(k) clearance from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Avatar Medical helps surgeons better prepare their procedures through the use of virtual reality (VR) representations of their patients. These patient avatars are generated instantly from CT scan or MRI images with an underlying proprietary technology based on four years of research in human-data interaction and machine learning conducted at the Institut Pasteur and Institut Curie. They serve as valuable tools for pre-operative planning and can also be displayed during surgical procedures.

More than 100 surgeons from 20

different hospitals and universities, including UMass, CUNY and Columbia University, have benefited from the solution. To date, it has been used for case studies, student education and patient engagement, leading to 6 medical publications.

"Avatar Medical is a unique hardware agnostic XR software platform. With the ability to plan based on pre-operative imaging and then evaluate as well as confirm based on intraoperative imaging, I now have an additional level of capability and confidence in my advanced percutaneous and endovascular interventions," says Venkatesh Krishnasamy MD, Interventional Radiology, Associate Professor of Radiology, Columbia University.

"After receiving tremendous positive feedback from surgeons over the past 3 years, the FDA's clearance is a major milestone in getting our VR solution in their hands to care for their patients. We expect European medical device certification for next year", says Xavier Wartelle, CEO of Avatar Medical.

MEDICAL CLASSIFIEDS

Take care of your health

To advertise in this page please call: (+965) 24813566 Ext.: 513 or E-mail: advt@arabtimesonline.com

ROYAL CITY CLINIC
A CARING MISSION

Dr. Nishida C
MBBS, MS
Orthopaedics

Scan to connect

For Appointments
+965 55443382
24340122

Timings
Saturday to Thursday
10am to 2 pm & 4 pm to 8.30 pm
Friday Off

JLEEB AL-SHYOUKH, BLOCK 23,
BUILDING-4, NEAR POLICE STATION

مركز شفاء الجزيرة الطبية-الفروانية
SHIFA AL JAZEERA MEDICAL CENTRE - FARAWANIYA

Our Services
PRP | Peels | Painless laser hair removal | Treatment for scars, acne scars, wrinkles, aging, | Skin tightening, stretch marks
Cellulite, fat, warts, moles, corns | Mesotherapy | Crystal Peel & diamond microdermabrasion | Whitening treatment (Localized & Whole body) Dualpeel | Carboxytherapy
Dualpeel | Botox | Fillers | Hair loss treatment | Nail surgeries
Skin biopsies | Cryotherapy | Dermapen

Dr. Abdul Nazer
MBBS, MD
Dermatologist & Cosmetologist

Phone : 24 734 000
Hotline: 60 749 749

CLINIC WORKING HOURS: 7 am to 12 Midnight

Behind Maghateer Commercial Complex & Opp. Police station - Farwaniya
info@shifaaljazeera.com.kw - www.shifaaljazeera.com.kw

Maddow's 'Deja News' boon to fans who like historical tangents

Television

NEW YORK, June 13, (AP) — Rachel Maddow has something special for anyone who appreciates the occasional digressions into history on her weekly MSNBC show.

She and her longtime producer, Isaac-Davy Aronson, debuted the first episode of "Rachel Maddow Presents: Deja News" on Monday. The six-episode podcast looks at historical incidents that can teach us lessons about current events.

The first program, about a little-remembered Feb. 6, 1934, riot outside the parliament building in Paris has obvious parallels to the Jan. 6, 2021, Capitol insurrection in Washington.

"If Jan. 6 was history repeating itself in some form, does that help us?" Maddow asks in the episode. "Does that help us in our understanding of what Jan. 6 meant and what we should do about it going forward? Would it be comforting to us to know that this really wasn't the first time, or would we be just even more weirded out about it?"

Both of Maddow's prior podcasts have roots in history: "Bag Man" was about former Vice President Spiro Agnew, and "Ultra" examined American extremists.

"I have this soft spot for history as an explanatory thing," she told The Associated Press. "I'm a completist. If you tell me something is going on geologically, I want to know about the formation of the star that created the solar system, that created that planet, that created that rock."

"Deja News" is the nickname that "The Rachel Maddow Show" privately uses for some of its historical segments. While they can oc-

asionally test a viewer's patience during a TV show - get to the point, Rachel! - the stories are perfect for a podcast.

Extra time allows the podcast to more thoroughly examine the historical similarities and grapple with what may come next, Aronson said. "Having that time and space to breathe is really great," he said.

A day after the Paris riot, the new head of France's government resigned and was replaced by someone more conservative - precisely what the demonstrators wanted. Yet the incident united leftists, and led to the election of a much more liberal government two years later.

Nearly 90 years later, though, like-minded French citizens honor leaders of the far-right riot with rallies commemorating the day and visits to the grave of its leader.

Knowledge

In Maddow's view, news is too often covered in a vacuum, when a passing knowledge of history can put things into better perspective.

"Recognizing that some of these problems are recurrent, rather than truly novel, doesn't make the problems any smaller," she said. "It just makes me more confident in my ability to keep engaging, to not shut down, to not be overly scared or intimidated by the scale of a problem and to think about it with the help of people like us in previous generations who had to contend with the problem before."

It also underscores the importance of who is in charge of writing and teaching history, she said.

Anticipation for "Deja News," which has a logo starring an inquisi-

tive groundhog, put it near the top of Apple's podcast chart before being released. New episodes will come out every Monday, with the second one showing how Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis' battles with woke politics and the LGBTQ community echo an effort from nearly 60 years ago.

Maddow is a year into her new schedule, with her TV show airing on Monday nights.

"It's great," she said of the reduced workload. "It has absolutely saved my life."

Five nights a week on TV was burning her out. She initially resisted the once-a-week schedule, not wanting to do a magazine-type review of the week's news. Instead, they hit upon the trick of doing it as if it were just another daily show, focused on that day's news.

She's immersed in other projects. Besides "Deja News," she's adapting "Bag Man" and "Ultra" into movies, finishing a book that will be out this fall and making a scripted TV series about a group of women in post-World War II Washington that is being held up by the writer's strike.

"I need to learn time management," she said. "I'm actually probably working more hours than I used to. My girlfriend thought I was going to have more time off and more time to spend with her."

She appears on MSNBC during big events, like last Thursday, when news broke that former President Donald Trump had been indicted. But she said she's been energized by the ability to try new things.

"I thought I had the best job in the world but I didn't," she said. "Now I do."

Variety



This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Ezra Miller, (from left), Sasha Calle and Ezra Miller in a scene from 'The Flash.' (AP)

Film

Calories and cameos fuel hero

Miller speeds back to future in 'Flash'

By Jocelyn Noveck

It's not nice to fool Mother Nature,' went a famous '70s commercial catchphrase. But we learn in "The Flash" - the much awaited, long gestated new DC Studios offering - that it's Father Time one musn't cross. Because trying to change the past can really mess you up when you get back to the future and realize you've inadvertently changed that, too.

But of course, we already knew that. We learned it from Marty McFly, immortalized by Eric Stoltz in "Back to the Future."

Relax! Of course it was Michael J. Fox, though Stoltz was initially cast in the role. But in "The Flash," Barry Allen (Ezra Miller) realizes just how badly he's messed up the space-time continuum when he arrives back from changing the past - just one teensy little thing, really - and learns that in his current world, Fox never replaced Stoltz. "I've destroyed the universe," he frets in a laugh-out-loud moment.

If only the whole film, directed by Andy Muschietti and written by Christina Hodson, felt this breezily clever and entertaining. Alas, the final act bogs down in what feels like an endless, generic CGI battle and a kitchen-sink resolution that leaves one feeling just a little exhausted and somewhat confused.

We first meet Barry - Miller, whose naturally jittery energy is an excellent fit here - on the way to his job at a forensics lab, stopping to order breakfast. But then he gets a call from Alfred - yes, you know the one - needing his help in an imminent disaster. Barry turns into his red-suited alter-ego but desperately needs calories for fuel, begging a bystander for her candy bar.

Soon, in a rescue scene that's audacious but also a little absurd, Barry is saving falling newborn babies from a collapsing hospital while desperately eating snacks. He also saves a maternity nurse -

then suggests she seek the help of a mental health professional to cope with the trauma, noting "the Justice League is not very good at that yet."

And now we must take a moment to consider the elephant in the room. Because it sure seems the movie wants us to.

If you've been reading about Miller lately, you know about the talented actor's offscreen troubles. They've apologized for past behavior and said they're undergoing mental health treatment.

So it hardly seems the line to the nurse is a coincidence, even if much of the trouble emerged during lengthy post-production. Could this be a subtle plea for empathy, so we can then appreciate what is, certainly, a compelling performance from Miller as not one, but two lead characters (why two? We're getting to that.)

Sequences

In any case, that line also sets a tone for many self-referential quips and sequences in a film that seems to thrive on, well, referring to itself and its roots. In this, the first standalone "Flash" film, the lineage of past Batmans, Supermans and associated characters is evoked early and often through surprise cameos. At one moment it feels like we're watching an Oscar memorial reel; it garnered reverential applause at the screening I attended.

But back to the plot: Barry needs food, but what really powers him is the tragic murder of his mother (Maribel Verdu) in their home when he was a boy. Even worse, his father (Ron Livingston) is imprisoned - unjustly - for the crime.

Barry, desperate to prove his father innocent, suddenly discovers a way to go back in time (technical details are sparse, but it partly involves running really fast) and comes up with a grander idea still. What if he could go back and prevent the whole sequence of events that led to his mother's death? His friend and current Batman (the Ben Af-

fleck version) tells him what a bad idea this is.

But Barry goes back anyway and makes a change, and what do you know - oops! - a younger Barry shows up (you may have seen them both in the trailer.) And now, for reasons too tough to explain within our word limit, Barry senior is potentially stuck in the wrong universe, with Barry junior.

What's more, villainous General Zod (Michael Shannon) has returned, threatening total destruction. The Barrys need help. That's how we find them with Michael Keaton's Bruce Wayne, analyzing a pack of spaghetti.

It's Keaton, having a fine time in his return as a graying, reluctant superhero, who explains the whole multiverse thing, showing with a deft manipulation of pasta strands how the past can't change without the future changing. It all ends up with a gaggle of crazy spaghetti drowning under a shower of tomato sauce: a hot mess.

And we haven't had time to mention Supergirl - newcomer Sasha Calle, who doesn't get much to do before the battling starts, but at least provides some minimal female presence. Kiersey Clemons' as a vague love interest has even less to do.

At one point in this 184-minute drama, I started wondering if I was seeing a bunch of disco balls trying to destroy each other. But maybe this was a moment of sensory overload.

Is a sequel in the offing, if the stars align offscreen as well? They'd have to come up with even more cameos, more surprises. Speaking of surprise: it's probably never a good idea to leave while the credits are still rolling.

But again, we already knew that. "The Flash," a Warner Bros. Pictures release, has been rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association of America "for sequences of violence and action, some strong language and partial nudity." Running time: 184 minutes. Two and a half stars out of four. (AP)

Features

ARABO TIMES

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 2023

NASHVILLE, Tenn: Country singer Jimmie Allen has been dropped by his record label as he faces a second sexual assault allegation.

Allen's skyrocketing career has come to a halt over two lawsuits, including one filed by his former day-to-day manager, who alleges Allen raped her and that his management team failed to protect her from his predatory behavior.

BBR Music Group said in a statement Monday that the Nashville-based label "has dissolved its relationship with Jimmie Allen, he is no longer an active artist on its roster."

The first lawsuit, filed in May and first reported by Variety, accused Allen of sexual trafficking, battery and assault. It also accused the artist management company, Wide Open Music and founder Ash Bowers, of gross negligence and intentional infliction of emotional distress. Both plaintiffs are identified as Jane Doe in the lawsuits.

The first accuser's suit said the management team knew that Allen was sexually harassing her while she was assigned to work with him and that when she complained and asked to be reassigned, she was terminated from her job.

As a result, Allen was dropped by his publicity company, Full Coverage Communications, and suspended by his previous management company, The Familie, and his booking agency, UTA.

A second lawsuit filed on Friday was filed by a woman who said she met Allen on a plane. She alleged that Allen sexually assaulted her on his phone during a sexual assault. After discovering the phone, she said she took it from the hotel room and reported the incident to police.

Neither Allen nor the management company have responded in court filings to the cases, which were filed in a federal court in Nashville. But Allen said in a statement to Variety that the relationship with his day-to-day manager was consensual. (AP)

DENVER: Comedian and actor Marlon Wayans was cited for disturbing the peace after a dispute he said he had with a United Airlines employee over carry-on luggage at the Denver airport last week, police said Monday. Wayans said on Instagram that

a gate agent told him he had too many bags and, despite consolidating his luggage, he was told he would have to gate check his bag rather than carry it on. Wayans, who said his treatment constituted harassment, said he took his ticket and began walking onto the plane. In response to questions about what had occurred, United issued



Allen



Wayans

a statement that did not refer to Wayans by name. "In Denver on Friday, a customer who had been told he would have to gate-check his bag instead pushed past a United employee at the jet bridge and attempted to board the aircraft. The customer did not fly on United to his destination," it said. Wayans said he booked a flight

instead on American Airlines to Kansas City, saying he would rather fly coach on another airline than fly first-class on United. He apologized to his fans in Kansas City for missing a performance. "Sorry KC I'm gonna miss tonight's shows due to a United gate agent who probably hated white chicks," Wayans said on Twitter, re-

ferring to his 2004 movie which also starred his brother Shawn Wayans. A spokesperson for Wayans, Leslie Sloane, said Wayans had a backpack, a small carry-on and garment bag with a suit jacket in it and put his backpack inside the garment bag but was still told he had to check his bag on a flight that was not full. (AP)

People & Places

Music

'Too much info'

Isbell 'opens' to fans to build strong bond

NEW YORK, June 13, (AP) — If **Jason Isbell** is keeping many more secrets, it's hard to imagine what they might be.

The singer-songwriter and his wife, fellow musician Amanda Shires, open their lives for public consumption in a manner unusual even to artists who mine their own world for material. Through interviews and a film out this spring, they have documented a rough patch in their marriage and how Isbell's drinking almost destroyed his career before recovery redeemed it.

The sharing gets so raw that when Shires reveals that she made Isbell take a test for sexually transmitted diseases before she slept with him, you're tempted to shout, "too much information!"

To Isbell, it's a necessary part of the job. "If I'm holding back part of myself from the audience, I'd be within my right to do that," he said. "But I don't think the connection would be as strong. For me, it's more important to connect with people on an honest level than it is for me to control my image."

Isbell, 44, has been one of rock's top songwriters since his first post-drinking album, "Southeastern," came out in 2013. His new disc out June 9, "Weathered," will only cement that status.

Shires, a formidable talent in her own right and founding member of The Highwomen, also plays violin in Isbell's band, the 400 Unit. Director Sam Jones' film, "Running With Our Eyes Closed," shows tension building in the marriage largely through Isbell unsuccessfully dealing with the pressure of making his 2020 disc, "Reunions." Shires briefly moved out of their home.

The storm gathers through furtive glances, eye rolls and the uncomfortable expressions of other musicians.

In one excruciating scene, Shires reads an email she sent to her husband about the possibility of marriage counseling, her lower lip trembling as she fights back tears.

Her 2022 song, "Fault Lines," deals bluntly with marital troubles. "You could say it's all my fault as you just couldn't get along," she sings. "And if anyone asks, I'll say what's true, and really, it's 'I don't know.'"

Honesty

Honesty is equally important to both of them, although societal pressures make going public with it tougher on Shires, Isbell said.

"We could sell millions of records and have all the fans in the world, but it wouldn't be enough if we didn't feel like we were telling people the truth, and that's not easy," he said. "That's why most people don't aim for that... That's the difference between art and entertainment, and I think it's very important to us to feel like we're making art and not just distracting people."

Filmmaker Jones said Isbell agreed to make the documentary with no pre-conditions - and held to it. They became part of the process through the pandemic, when the couple filmed scenes at home with their daughter themselves.

Jones is convinced that "the artists that we love the most are the ones that we feel like we know the most," something his experience making a documentary with Jeff Tweedy and Wilco taught him.

"I firmly believe that people want to see other people being human and vulnerable and weak and making mistakes, and it makes them feel more connected and bonded to the art," he said.

The film deals in some detail with Isbell being fired from the band Drive-By Truckers because of his drinking. Thanks to Isbell's manager, who had squirreled away footage in case her client had a relapse, it includes clips from Isbell's last, unhinged performance before going to rehab.

"It wasn't easy to watch," Isbell said. "But at the same time, I knew. I remembered. There was a reason why I quit. There was a reason why I can't sit down with my wife and have a wine over dinner. I would love to do that, but I can't."

Having such a document out in public, coupled with how he has dealt with the experience in song ("It gets easier but it never gets easy," he sang on the "Reunions" disc), adds layers of accountability.

"If I did ever go back to drinking right now I would feel I let a lot of people down," he said.

Consequence

Going back further, Jones shows how Isbell dealt with the unhappiness of a home life with fighting parents by retreating to his room and loudly playing guitar. The story also illuminates the lyrics to his song "Dreamsicle."

A consequence of the forthrightness is that one of the first things a listener wonders upon hearing his new song, "Death Wish," is whether he's writing about Shires. The song deals with loving someone who has mental illness. "Did you ever catch her climbing on the rooftop, higher than a kite, dead of winter in a tank top?" he sings.

Partly it is, he said. And it's also about other people he's known. He takes a songwriter's liberties to develop a character.

Several of the new songs deal with people fighting through adversity - a working man who becomes addicted to painkillers, the fear brought on by a school shooting, the scourge of loneliness and miscommunication with someone "raised to be a strong and silent Southern man." In the deeply personal "White Beretta," Isbell sings of accompanying a former girlfriend as she gets an abortion.

The album is not without hope, though. "There's hope in telling people, 'I have felt this way, too,' even if the way you feel is isolated or sad or afraid," he said. "If you're able to do it in a way that makes people think, 'I'm not alone in this feeling,' I think that in itself offers hope."

The process of songwriting isn't getting any easier for him. Isbell relates to the famous description of writing by late sportswriter Red Smith, who said, "all you have to do is sit down at the typewriter, cut open a vein, and bleed."

Isbell adds a songwriter's requirement: "your blood better rhyme."

"I think my standards have changed over time," he said. "The more I write and the more I listen, the more I try to avoid things I've heard before, and that takes me a little more time every time I sit down to do it."



Isbell



This image released by Apple TV shows Amanda Seyfried, (left), and Tom Holland in a scene from 'The Crowded Room.' (AP)

Television

Holland describes show as his 'most rewarding' job

'Crowded Room' full of twists and turns

LOS ANGELES, June 13, (AP) — The words "Tom Holland" and "spoilers" can immediately illicit snickering. There are compilation videos on YouTube of the "Spider-Man" star accidentally revealing too much about the Marvel Cinematic Universe. His slip-ups and near-giveaways have become a running joke among his co-stars and filmmakers. The actor found himself in familiar territory with his new twisty, surprise-laden series "The Crowded Room," now streaming on Apple TV+ — and says by comparison, keeping quiet about Marvel is a piece of cake.

"With Marvel... it's all about the villain, the costume, the locations, the end result. They're relatively easy to keep those things a secret," said Holland in a recent interview. "I know that sounds stupid coming from me because I spoil everything, but with 'The Crowded Room' there are so many twists and turns in this show that people won't be expecting. It really is a puzzle."

The limited-series takes place in 1970s New York with Holland as Danny, a young man arrested in connection with a crime. His accomplices are nowhere to be found and an investigator assigned to the case (played by Amanda Seyfried) conducts a series of interviews with Danny to piece together his involvement.

Holland and Seyfried filmed their scenes — out of order — "for almost three weeks straight" in an interrogation room.

"It sometimes was confusing. I needed to know exactly where I was in the process with Danny, how much we knew or how much the audience knew and how much (Seyfried's character) Rya knew," she

explained. "It was tricky."

Holland credits Seyfried for keeping him on track as they "did over 100 pages of dialogue at that one table in that one room."

"Amanda is so talented, she's so professional. She's able to keep it light when it's dark," he said. "There were certain times in that room where we were both just losing our minds, just scenes after scenes, after scenes after scenes. We were just a great team."

Holland describes his work on "The Crowded Room" as "the hardest job I've ever had, but equally probably the most rewarding."

Experience

"Danny is an exhausting character. Going to those places on a daily basis, having that haircut, shooting on the streets of New York, it was tough. It was not an easy show to make," but says watching the end result made him "happy that I dug my heels in and stuck with it."

"It was a really, really tough experience without a shadow of a doubt." He says halfway through filming he "was counting down the days that I could take ... off and have some time to myself."

He also served as a co-executive producer for the first time, which helped him to finally understand what the job entails.

"I spent the first 15 years of my career on set being like, 'What do all of these people do? They're all just sitting there.' But having been a producer now myself, it is one of the most stressful things I've ever done. You're shooting in a car and the car breaks down and all of a sudden you're trying to figure out how to get a new car or how to turn the scene

into a walking scene and all that sort of stuff."

Since beginning his performing career at 11 in "Billy Elliott the Musical," in London's West End, Holland says his formal education has been "somewhat non-existent" so he appreciates the learning opportunities he gets from working.

With "The Crowded Room" Holland says "I learned a lot about myself. I learned about my capabilities as an actor. I learned about things that I can put up with. I feel like I'm much more capable at dealing with adversities and fighting against things that are going wrong on set. I learned a lot about mental health. I learned a lot about the power of the human mind and the amazing things we can do to protect ourselves, to heal and to survive."

Also:

LOS ANGELES: When "Cruel Summer" debuted its first season in 2021 on Freeform, it was an immediate hit for the network. Season two features a new cast and new mystery but, like its predecessor, takes place over alternate timelines. **Lexi Underwood** of "Little Fires Everywhere" stars alongside **Sadie Stanley**, and **Griffin Gluck** with **Jessica Biel** as a co-executive producer. The story is set in the Pacific Northwest against the backdrop of the Y2K time period, when the tech world feared computers and government systems would malfunction over programming when the calendar flipped to the year 2000. Fans of the Shonda Rhimes series "Private Practice" may also be tickled to see **KaDee Strickland**, **Paul Adelstein** and **Gluck** reunite in "Cruel Summer" after working together on the former ABC series. (AP)



Jennifer Lopez, (left), and Ben Affleck arrive at the premiere of 'The Flash' on Monday, June 12, at Ovation Hollywood in Los Angeles. (AP)



Sajak



Williams

Variety

LOS ANGELES: Pat Sajak is taking one last spin on "Wheel of Fortune," announcing Monday that its upcoming season will be his last as host.

Sajak announced his retirement from the venerable game show in a tweet.

"Well, the time has come. I've decided that our 41st season, which begins in September, will be my last. It's been a wonderful ride, and I'll have more to say in the coming months. Many thanks to you all," the tweet said.

Sajak, 76, has presided over the game show, which features contestants guessing letters to try to fill out words and phrases to win money and prizes, since 1981. He took over duties from **Chuck Woolery**, who was the show's first host when it debuted in 1975.

Along with **Vanna White**, who joined the show in 1982, Sajak has been a television mainstay. The show soon shifted to a syndication and aired in the evening in many markets, becoming one of the most successful game shows in history. Sajak will continue to serve as a consultant on the show for three years after his retirement as host.

"As the host of Wheel of Fortune, Pat has entertained millions of viewers across America for 40 amazing years. We are incredibly grateful and proud to have had Pat as our host for all these years and we look forward to celebrating his outstanding career throughout the upcoming season," said **Suzanne Prete**, executive vice president of game shows for Sony Pictures Television.

In recent years, some of Sajak's banter and chiding of contestants have become fodder for social media. That prompted Sajak to remark in his retirement post about doing another season: "(If nothing else, it'll keep the clickbait sites busy!)" (AP)

DORSET, Vt.: Actor **Treat Williams**, whose nearly 50-year career included starring roles in the TV series "Everwood" and the movie "Hair," died Monday after a motorcycle crash in **Vermont**, state police said. He was 71.

Shortly before 5 pm, a Honda SUV was turning left into a parking lot when it collided with Williams' motorcycle in the town of Dorset, according to a statement from Vermont State Police.

"Williams was unable to avoid a collision and was thrown from his motorcycle. He suffered critical injuries and was airlifted to Albany Medical Center in **Albany, New York**, where he was pronounced dead," according to the statement. Williams was wearing a helmet, police

said. The SUV's driver received minor injuries and wasn't hospitalized. He had signaled the turn and wasn't immediately detained although the crash investigation continued, police said.

Williams, whose full name was **Richard Treat Williams**, lived in **Manchester Center** in southern Vermont, police said. His agent, **Barry McPherson**, also confirmed the actor's death.

"I'm just devastated. He was the nicest

guy. He was so talented," McPherson told People magazine.

"He was an actor's actor," McPherson said. "Filmmakers loved him. He's been the heart of the Hollywood since the late 1970s."

The Connecticut-born Williams made his movie debut in 1975 as a police officer in the movie "Deadly Hero" and went on to appear in more than 120 TV and film roles, including the movies "The Eagle Has Landed," "Prince of the City" and "Once

Upon a Time in America."

He was nominated for a Golden Globe Award for his role as hippie leader George Berger in the 1979 movie version of the hit musical "Hair."

He appeared in dozens of television shows but was perhaps best known for his starring role from 2002 to 2006 in "Everwood" as Dr. Andrew Brown, a widowed brain surgeon from Manhattan who moves with his two children to the Colorado mountain town of that name.

Williams also had a recurring role as Lenny Ross on the TV show "Blue Bloods." Williams' stage appearances included Broadway shows, including "Grease" and "Pirates of Penzance."

Colleagues and friends praised Williams as kind, generous and creative.

"Treat and I spent months in Rome filming "Once Upon a Time in America," actor **James Woods** tweeted. "It can be pretty lonely on the road during a long shoot, but his resilient good cheer and sense of humor was a Godsend. I really loved him and am devastated that he's gone."

"Working with Treat Williams in Marnet's "Speed the Plow" at Williamstown in '91 was the start of great friendship," tweeted writer, director and producer **Justin Williams**. "Damn it, damn it. Treat, you were the best. Love you."

"Treat Williams was a passionate, adventurous, creative man," actor **Wendell Pierce** tweeted. "In a short period of time, he quickly befriended me & his adventurous spirit was infectious. We worked on just 1 film together but occasionally connected over the years. Kind and generous with advice and support. RIP." (AP)



Andrew Barth Feldman, (from left), Jennifer Lawrence, and writer/director Gene Stupnitsky pose for photographers upon arrival at the premiere of the film 'No Hard Feelings' in London, Monday, June 12. (AP)

Climate

Activists convicted

Montana 'youth' take climate fight to court

HELENA, Mont., June 13. (AP): Youth plaintiffs said warming temperatures were harming their health and threatening their futures as a closely-watched climate trial kicked off Monday in Montana. But a lawyer for the fossil fuel-friendly state argued its emissions were "minuscule" on a global scale and that eliminating them would have little impact.

The case over state government obligations to protect people against worsening climate change is the first of dozens of similar lawsuits to reach trial. It's scheduled to last two weeks.

The 16 young plaintiffs - supported by a parade of leading climate experts - are trying to persuade state District Judge **Kathy Seeley** that the state's allegiance to fossil fuel development endangers their health and livelihoods and those of future generations.



Seeley

Plaintiffs attorney Roger Sullivan said in opening arguments that his clients and their families already were suffering health problems and economic losses as climate change dries up rivers and worsens wildfires. He said Montana has an obligation to protect to protect residents from climate change under its unusually protective state constitution.

"The state has approved numerous large fossil fuel related permits that are responsible for enormous quantities of greenhouse gas emissions," Sullivan said. "Every ton of CO2 we keep out of the air matters."

Montana Assistant Attorney General Michael Russell said in response that the state had little control over global emissions. He also said the harms alleged by the young plaintiffs could not be traced to specific actions by state officials.

"Montana's emissions are simply too minuscule to make any difference and climate change is a global issue that effectively relegates Montana's role to that of a spectator," Russell said.

Experts say the case in state court could set legal precedent but isn't likely to make immediate changes to policy in fossil fuel-friendly Montana.

Protect

Environmentalists have called the bench trial a turning point because similar suits in nearly every state have already been dismissed. A favorable decision could add to a handful of rulings globally that have declared governments have a duty to protect citizens from climate change.

One reason the case may have made it so far in Montana is the state's constitutional requirement that government "maintain and improve a clean and healthful environment." Only a few states, including Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and New York, have similar environmental protections in their constitutions.

The plaintiffs criticize state officials for their alleged failure to curb planet-warming emissions while Montana pursued oil, gas and coal development that provides jobs, tax revenue and helps meet the energy needs of people in Montana and elsewhere.

The plaintiffs cite smoke from worsening wildfires choking the air they breathe; drought drying rivers that sustain agriculture, fish, wildlife and recreation; along with reduced snowpack and shortened winter recreation seasons.

Experts for the state are expected to counter that climate extremes have existed for centuries.

Carbon dioxide, which is released when fossil fuels are burned, traps heat in the atmosphere and is largely responsible for the warming of the climate. Carbon dioxide levels in the air this spring reached the highest levels they've been in over 4 million years, the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration said earlier this month. Greenhouse gas emissions also reached a record last year, according to the International Energy Agency.

In the three years since the lawsuit was filed, the scope of the case has been narrowed to whether Montana's Environmental Policy Act - which requires state agencies to balance the health of the environment against resource development - is unconstitutional because it does not require officials to consider greenhouse gas emissions or their climate impacts.

Judge Seeley has said she could rule that the state's climate change exception in its environmental law is at odds with its constitution, but she can't tell the legislature what to do to remedy the violation.



A Vatican court convicted two environmental activists of aggravated damage Monday and ordered them to pay more than 28,000 euros (US\$30,000) in restitution after they glued their hands to the base of an ancient statue in the Vatican Museums in a protest to draw attention to climate change.

The two members of the Last Generation environmental activist group, **Guido Viero** and **Ester Goffi**, also received a nine-month suspended sentence and were fined 1,620 euros apiece. A third activist on trial with them, **Laura Zorzini**, was fined 120 euros.

The trial stemmed from an Aug. 18 protest in the Vatican Museums, during which Viero and Goffi glued their hands to the base of the Laocoon statue, one of the most important ancient works in the collection that is believed to date from the 1st century B.C. They hung up a banner reading "Last Generation: No gas and no carbon," as Zorzini filmed them.

Action

Their action was part of a wave of Last Generation and related activist protests around Europe that have targeted museums and other cultural institutions, tied up traffic for days and otherwise caused disruptions in a bid to draw attention to what the activists say is the failure of governments to take action to fight climate change.

In closing arguments, the lawyer for the Vatican City State accused the defendants of exploiting **Pope Francis'** known concern for the environmental cause by causing "inestimable" damage to a piece of the world's artistic and cultural patrimony.

Attorney **Floriana Gigli** said Viero and Goffi knew their protest would damage the artwork, citing their decision to glue their hands to the base, not the statue itself, and yet never expressed regret at the damage caused.

None of the defendants was in the Vatican criminal tribunal for the verdicts.

During the previous hearing May 24, Viero and Goffi told the court they never intended to damage the statue, but also strongly defended their cause. Viero told the court he felt an obligation as a father and grandfather to draw attention to Italy's failure to halt global warming. Goffi, for her part, recalled she had brought a glue solvent in her purse, but Vatican restorers used a different acetone-based substance to unglue their hands.

Vatican Prosecutor **Catia Summaria** had asked for convictions: she sought a sentence of two years and a fine of 3,000 euros apiece for Viero and Goffi and a sentence of one month for Zorzini. But she said if the court decided on suspended sentences, the defendants should be ordered to repay the full cost of the damage to the statue.

Gigli said the actual cost was impossible to estimate given the statue is a priceless artwork and is permanently damaged. She asked the court for an appraisal to come up with a figure, saying the restoration work alone had cost 3,148 euros.

In the end, the court quantified the restitution owed to the Vatican City State at 28,148 euros. There was no immediate word on an appeal.



Vietnam veteran Fred Kalfon, 81, right, works with personal trainer Trish Phan, (left), at the Grey Team veterans center, Wednesday, May 17, 2023, in Boca Raton, Fla. The center is helping veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder and other mental and physical ailments get back into the civilian world. (AP)

Health

Workouts, camaraderie improve physical, mental health

'Grey Team' tech helps vets beat PTSD

BOCA RATON, Fla., June 13. (AP): Before Fred Kalfon began exercising at the Grey Team veterans center a couple months ago, the 81-year-old rarely left his Florida home.

Parkinson's disease, an inner ear disorder and other neurological problems, all likely caused by the Vietnam vet's exposure to the infamous defoliant Agent Orange, made it difficult for him to move. His post-traumatic stress disorder, centering on the execution of a woman who helped his platoon, was at its worst.

Treatment through the federal Department of Veterans Affairs didn't work, he said.

"I felt stupid the way I walk around and stumble," said Kalfon, who led a medical aid unit as a first lieutenant in 1964-65. "I was depressed."

But after months in a veteran-specialized gym and recovery program, the retired pharmaceutical researcher and sales manager is socializing and has thrown aside his walker for a cane.

He's among the latest of 700 veterans of all ages working with the Grey Team, a 7-year-old organization combining personalized workouts, camaraderie, community outings and an array of machines in a 90-day program targeted at improving physical and mental health.

"It's the machines, sure. It's the therapy you are taking. It's the (staff's) encouragement - they are there all the time for you. They are caring. Caring makes a difference," Kalfon said.

The nonprofit center, located in a converted warehouse in Boca Raton, Florida, gets its name, in part, from the brain's nickname: "gray matter."

Many of the vets who apply and are accepted into the free program suffered head trauma in battle or have PTSD.

"What we have created here is really magical," said Grey Team co-founder Cary Reichbach, 62, a physical trainer and former Army police officer. The goal, he said, is to get the vets off medications for their mental and physical ailments when possible. Even after completing the program, participants can still workout, hang out and participate in outings.

With the government saying vets are 50% more likely to kill themselves

than non-veterans, Reichbach is proud the center helps combat that statistic.

"We want to tackle the suicidal ideation before it even starts," he said.

He concedes suicide prevention is easier because the center doesn't accept clients who are homeless or have uncontrolled addictions.

"I wish we had the funding to tackle" those issues, he said.

The Grey Team's program features an array of machines using infrared light, lasers and sound waves meant to relieve stress, heal mental and physical wounds and help the vets sleep without the use of pharmaceuticals. The program is run by a primary team of seven, including a medical director.

Drugs are overutilized in other veteran programs, such as those in VA hospitals, often because "they have a budget and they have to spend it," Reichbach said.

Effectiveness

Ohio State University psychologist Craig Bryan, a former executive director of the National Center for Veterans Studies, said the successes of the Grey Team program are not surprising given the selective participant pool.

"They are selecting from a subgroup with less severe problems," said Bryan, a former Air Force captain who now works with the VA.

His skepticism also extends to the effectiveness of the machines.

"To my knowledge, they've never been rigorously studied so it's hard to know if they have any benefit at all and/or if they have side effects or cause harms," Bryan said. "Exercise is a common feature of many therapies and treatments that have demonstrated efficacy for PTSD, depression and suicide risk."

University researchers are collecting data that Reichbach said he believes will show his program's treatments work.

Reichbach's 93-year-old father, Ed, offers hugs and back slaps to everyone entering the Grey Team lobby. Sometimes the Army vet and former university professor drops to give 10 rapid-fire pushups - a demonstration to give older vets a jolt on their first visit.

"We have to get them in here, that's

the difficult part," he said.

Upstairs in the center's "safe space" community area, Navy vet Bill Tolle discussed his service as a meteorologist and oceanographer from 1983 to 1990. As a petty officer second-class stationed in Puerto Rico, Hawaii and Antarctica, he never experienced combat.

But in 1988, Tolle witnessed a plane crash at his Antarctic base that killed two people. A year later, he sustained a back injury in a helicopter crash. The back-to-back traumas left him with PTSD. He worked as a firefighter and then a registered nurse in an inner-city emergency room. His PTSD led to alcoholism.

"I really wasn't familiar with what PTSD was. I always thought it was combat-related," Tolle said. "For years I went untreated and it got progressively worse."

He finally was diagnosed in 2016 but didn't get treatment until 2020 through a residential VA program. He then lived at the Salvation Army, which introduced him to the Grey Team.

Tolle is a believer in the center's machines.

"My thinking was foggy, at best. A lot of short-term memory stuff. I would forget. I can now think things through, resolve things," he said. "My whole cognitive function is sharper."

In the center's gym, Kalfon talked about walking through Vietnam jungles still wet with Agent Orange, the herbicide sprayed by the US. From planes to kill the brush where enemy soldiers hid. It has been linked to veterans' health problems.

His health began failing about seven years ago. First, a heart attack and quintuple bypass. Then the neurological problems. His health insurance agent told him about the Grey Team and he applied, seeing it as a last hope.

For about two months, Kalfon has been coming to the center three times weekly. He can now walk up stairs and has set a goal to jog 3 miles (5 kilometers).

"When I can do that," he said, "I think I will have accomplished everything I need."



A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket lifts off from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, Fla., Monday, June 12. The rocket, carrying 53 Starlink satellites, lifted off Monday. (AP)



Abbott



Bacolcol

Discovery

Mt records snowiest June: A New Hampshire mountain known for its extreme weather conditions has recorded its snowiest June in 91 years of record keeping.

Snowfall on Saturday atop Mount Washington brought the total amount to 8.4 inches (21.3 centimeters) for the month of June, according to the Mount Washington Observatory.

But with a return to warmer weather, nearly all of it had melted by early Monday.

The observatory posted on Facebook that statistically speaking, the last snowfall of the season typically occurs in early to mid-June most years.

A quasi-stationary low sat over the region, delivering snow early every day of the month.

"With another low and cold air approaching in the days ahead, we could see that total grow further," the observatory said in a statement.

The observatory is at the summit of the Northeast's highest mountain, at 6,288 feet (1,916.5 meters). (AP)

Dead fish wash up on beach: Tens of thousands of dead fish washed up on the Texas Gulf Coast over the weekend, covering the shoreline with rotting carcasses and leading local officials to warn visitors to keep away.

Waves from the Gulf of Mexico pushed in dead fish "by the thousands" in Brazoria County, which is over 40 miles (64 kilometers) south of Houston, Quintana Beach County Park officials said.

Low levels of dissolved oxygen in the water made it difficult for the fish to breathe, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officials said. The phenomenon - known as a "fish kill" - is common as temperatures rise in the summer, the state department said. Texas governor is **Greg Abbott**.

While no one has connected this specific incident to climate change, researchers have said such kills may become more prevalent as temperatures warm and oxygen levels in lakes across the United States and Europe drop.

Dissolved oxygen levels increase with photosynthesis, the process by which plants transform sunlight, water and carbon dioxide into oxygen. When there is less sunlight, photosynthesis slows and at night it stops. But plants and animals in the water continue to consume oxygen at the same rate, decreasing the concentration, Texas Park and Wildlife officials said.

Gulf menhaden, which fishermen commonly use for bait, was the species most affected in the kill, Texas Parks and Wildlife said.

By Sunday evening, Quintana Beach

was mostly cleared of the dead fish save for some that machinery couldn't remove, county officials said. (AP)

Philippine villagers flee ashfall: Truckloads of villagers on Tuesday fled Philippine communities close to the erupting Mayon volcano, traumatized by the sight of red-hot lava flowing down its crater and fearful of sporadic blasts of ash.

Nearly 15,000 people have left the mostly poor farming communities within a 6-kilometer (3.7-mile) radius of Mayon's crater in northeastern Albay province in forced evacuations since volcanic activity spiked last week. Albay's governor extended the danger zone by a kilometer (more than half a mile) on Monday and asked thousands of residents to be ready to move anytime.

But many opted to flee from the expanded danger zone even before the mandatory

evacuation order.

"There's lava and ashfall already," Fidela Banzuela, 61, said from a navy truck where she, her daughter, grandchildren and neighbors clambered up after leaving their home in San Fernando village close to Mayon. "If the volcano explodes, we won't see anything because it would be so dark."

Her daughter, Sarah Banzuela, fled with her two children, including a 2-year-old who has asthma, which she said could be triggered back by volcanic ash that rained down on their village over the weekend.

"There's ashfall already and, at night, there's red-hot lava from the volcano that seems to be moving closer to us," Sarah Banzuela, 22, told The Associated Press. She and her mother arrived at a grade school turned into an evacuation center teeming with other displaced villagers.

After days of showing signs of renewed restiveness, including a swarm of rockfalls and a bright-orange crater glow visible at night, Mayon began expelling lava Sunday night, which flowed slowly down two gulleys on its southeastern slope, government volcano experts said.

An ash plume that shot up to 328 feet (100 meters) at dawn on Tuesday drifted southeastward with the wind toward some villages, said **Teresito Bacolcol**, director of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology.

An AP video showed a boulder getting ripped from the side of a dome of lava in Mayon's crater then plunging and breaking into smaller red-hot pieces as it rolled down and smashed onto other stones on the volcano's steep slope. (AP)



Youth plaintiffs in the climate change lawsuit, Held vs. Montana, arrive at the Lewis and Clark County Courthouse in Helena, Mont., on Monday, June 12. (AP)

Everton announce departures of 3 directors, chairman Kenwright could be next

Bordeaux to remain in the second division after fan attacked player

PARIS, June 13, (AP) — French soccer powerhouse Bordeaux will remain in the second division next season after the league on Monday handed the six-time champions a loss for a game that was abandoned after a pitch invader attacked a player from Rodez.

The league's disciplinary committee ruled that the season finale, which Bordeaux had to win to keep its promotion hopes alive, will not be replayed. It also deducted a point from Bordeaux for next season and ordered the closure of the south stand at Bordeaux stadium for two games.

The June 2 match between Bordeaux and Rodez was stopped shortly after Lucas Buades gave Rodez a 1-0 lead on

the final day of the season. While Rodez players celebrated, a Bordeaux fan stepped onto the pitch and pushed Buades to the ground.

The match referee stopped proceedings and sent both teams back to the locker room.

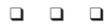
SOCCER

Buades was diagnosed with a concussion and the game did not resume.

Bordeaux was involved in a two-way battle with Metz for the

second promotion spot behind second-division champion Le Havre. Metz beat Bastia 3-2 on the final day and will be promoted unless Bordeaux manages to overturn the committee's decision.

Bordeaux said in a statement that the ruling was "as incomprehensible as it is disproportionate" and that it would refer the case to France's national Olympic committee.



Everton began overhauling its board following the team's latest scrape with relegation in the Premier League by announcing a trio of departures including chief executive Denise Barrett-Baxendale. Long-serving chairman Bill Ken-

wright could yet join them in the coming days.

Barrett-Baxendale, chief finance and strategy officer Grant Ingles and non-executive director Graeme Sharp, who is a former striker at the club, left their roles two weeks after Everton escaped relegation on the final day of the season.

Everton will announce their interim replacements this week and said a decision on the future of Kenwright will also be announced.

Along with Kenwright, the three directors had been prevented from attending matches at Goodison Park since mid-January because of fan opposition that entailed "threats to safety and security," according to the club.

Champs League players aim for another trophy at NL Final Four

Mancini calls up five Inter players

ROTTERDAM, Netherlands, June 13, (AP) — There is another international trophy to win in Europe this weekend and players from Manchester City and Inter Milan will be available at the four-team Nations League Finals in the Netherlands.

Netherlands defenders Nathan Aké and Denzel Dumfries are teammates again after facing each other down in Man City's 1-0 win over Inter on Saturday in the Champions League final.

The Nations League host team will play in the first semifinal match on Wednesday in Rotterdam against a Croatia team with Inter midfielder Marcelo Brozović.

Spain can call on midfielder Rodri, whose goal made Man City champions of Europe for the first time, for the second semifinal match against Italy on Thursday. That game will be played in Enschede.

The final will be played on Sunday in Rotterdam, with the third-place game in Enschede on the same day.

SOCCER

Italy coach Roberto Mancini has called up five Inter players, including the entire central defensive line - Francesco Acerbi, Alessandro Bastoni, Matteo Darmian - that kept striker Erling Haaland mostly in check last weekend.

This year's long European season was split in two by the World Cup in Qatar. Croatia finished third at that tournament, four years after reaching the final and losing to France.

"At the end of the season, there is the issue of fatigue," Croatia coach Zlatko Dalić said, "but we have a historic opportunity to win the first trophy."

That lure of a first international title appeared to persuade Luka Modrić to stay with the national team. Now 37, Modrić has played 164 times for his country since captaining Croatia to victory over Morocco in the third-place game in Qatar he wanted to "continue until at least the Nations League and after we will see."

It is the third Nations League Final Four tournament, which teams reach by winning a top-tier group. The promise of a 10.5 million euro (\$11.3 million) prize from UEFA adds to the attraction.

The Dutch are without two key players as they bid to win the country's first international title since the 1988 European Championship. Memphis Depay's latest injury issue - a calf problem sustained in May - keeps the Netherlands' most important forward out of the squad. Depay averages a goal every two games in his 88 internationals.

Matthijs de Ligt picked up a similar injury in training for the Croatia match. Daley Blind, a teammate at Bayern Munich, came in as a replacement.

The Netherlands were runners-up in the inaugural Final Four, losing to Portugal in the 2019 final after beating England in the semifinals.

The Nations League gives Modrić and his teammates another, if not last, chance to win a trophy. Thirty-four-year-old Ivan Perišić and the 30-year-old Brozović still feature in a consistently star-studded midfield.

Croatia qualified from a tough Nations League group that included World Cup finalist France and Denmark. Modrić's penalty kick at Stade de France last June lifted Croatia to its first victory over France at the 10th attempt.

Leipzig defender Joško Gvardiol is not available this week because of a stomach muscle injury. Augsburg forward Dion Drenja Beljo was added to the squad.

Inter players can quickly shake off their Champions League disappointment as the backbone of European champion Italy's squad. Nicolò Barella and Federico Dimarco also linked up with the squad on Monday.

This will be Italy's third semifinal match against Spain in two years. The Azzurri won on penalties after a 1-1 draw in the Euro 2020 semifinals in London. Spain then won 2-1 in Milan in the 2021 Nations League final four.

Spain coach Luis de la Fuente will be put to the test after a lackluster start. He replaced Luis En-



Germany's Niclas Füllkrug, Ukraine's Taras Stepanenko and Germany's Joshua Kimmich, (from left), challenge for the ball during a friendly soccer match between Germany and Ukraine in Bremen, Germany. (AP)

Havertz helps Germany salvage 3-3 draw with Ukraine

Kai Havertz helped Germany salvage a 3-3 draw with Ukraine in a charity friendly that left neither team happy from a sporting perspective.

Viktor Tsyhankov had scored twice for Ukraine to come from behind and lead 3-1 in Serhiy Rebrov's debut as coach, putting his team on course for the country's first ever win over Germany.

But Havertz pulled one back in the 83rd and was then fouled for a penalty that Joshua Kimmich converted in stoppage time for the equalizer.

The German soccer federation was donating the proceeds to victims of Russia's war in Ukraine. The match was also billed as the federation's 1,000th, but the team's performance will do little to restore battered German confidence a year

before the country hosts the European Championship.

The buildup was overshadowed by the war in Ukraine with both teams taking to the field accompanied by children who had fled their country to escape the invasion.

Every visiting player was draped in a Ukrainian flag. The teams posed for individual photos - with Ukraine's in front of another giant blue-and-yellow flag - before German and Ukrainian players posed for a mixed photo behind a banner with the word "peace."

The German players also had a peace symbol on the arms of their jerseys.

Niclas Füllkrug, playing in his home stadium, was gifted a huge chance by Mykhailo Mudryk in the second minute but the Werder Bremen forward missed with only

the goalkeeper to beat.

Füllkrug was credited with the opening goal in the sixth when he deflected Marius Wolf's shot past Anatoliy Trubin in the visitors' goal.

Germany missed further good chances against the disorganized visitors before Tsyhankov equalized on a counterattack in the 19th.

Mudryk forced an own goal from Antonio Rüdiger four minutes later to make it 2-1, delighting the visiting supporters. The Ukrainian ambassador to Germany, Oleksii Makeiev, celebrated with restraint beside German president Frank-Walter Steinmeier, who smiled and held out his hand to congratulate him.

Buoyed by the goals, Ukraine pushed for more before the home

team recovered.

But it was a typical display of late from Germany - seemingly in control, creating chances, yet still prone to costly mistakes.

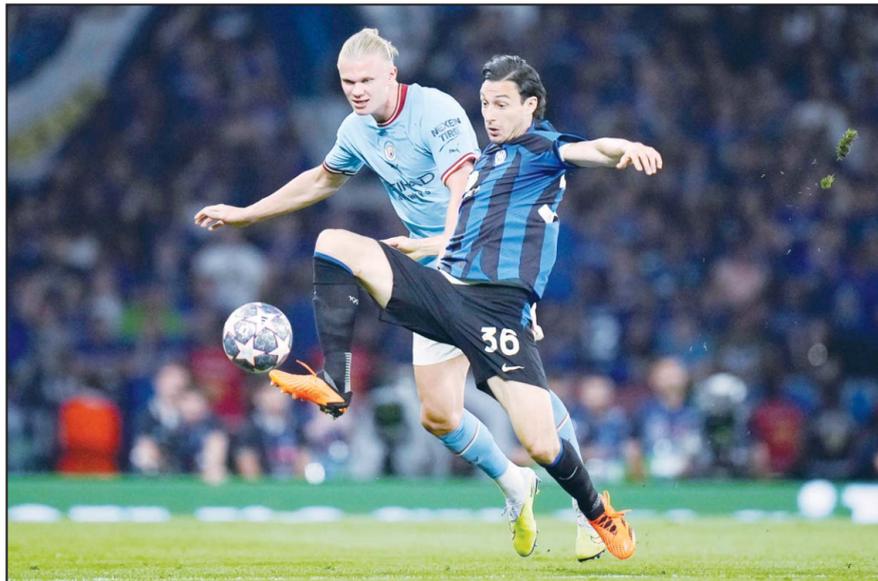
Coach Hansi Flick reacted by bringing on Havertz and Lukas Klostermann for the second half, but little changed.

Artem Dovbyk capitalized on another mistake to set up Tsyhankov for the third goal in the 56th.

Further German mistakes led to whistles from some in the crowd.

They were finally given reason to cheer when Rüdiger sent a long ball forward for Havertz to score.

Havertz was then fouled as he pushed for the equalizer and Kimmich, the Germany captain, made no mistake from the spot. (AP)



Manchester City's Erling Haaland vies for the ball with Inter Milan's Matteo Darmian (right), during the Champions League final soccer match between Manchester City and Inter Milan at the Ataturk Olympic Stadium in Istanbul, Turkey. (AP)

Little idea about most of Afghan players

B'desh not fazed by Afghanistan

MIRPUR, Bangladesh, June 13, (AP) — Bangladesh players have been urged to forget about the mystery Afghanistan side and focus on their strengths for their one-off test starting on Wednesday.

Coach Chandika Hathurusingha admits they have little idea about most of the Afghan players but that shouldn't be a problem if they stick

to their process.

"Normally we focus like 25% on the opposition strengths and weaknesses and 75% on what we do," Hathurusingha said. "But as it stands, we don't know much about them so we can't control that."

Afghanistan played its last test in 2021 against Zimbabwe and only four players have survived from that squad. Rested was celebrated leg-spinner Rashid Khan, who claimed 11 wickets in the win against Zimbabwe and 11 wickets in Afghanistan's only previous test against Bangladesh in 2019.

Bangladesh has its own fitness problems. Captain Shakib Al Hasan has been ruled out by a finger injury, opener Tamim Iqbal is complaining about a back issue, and fast bowler Taskin Ahmed is waiting to be cleared fit.

Hathurusingha was unfazed by those problems in the middle of monsoon season, saying they will aim to continue the attacking mindset they displayed against Ireland in their only other test this year in April. Bangladesh scored just above 4.5 runs per over and won by seven wickets in Mirpur.

CRICKET

Since this one-off test was not part of the new World Test Championship cycle, they will experiment, Hathurusingha added.

"Before that Ireland series, we wanted to play a certain brand of cricket, regardless of the result. So, yes, our endgame is to get results but we wanted to understand how our skillset lasts five days in different conditions, challenging us to play in a certain way."

"When we want to get some points in the test championship, we might tactically do different things, but this game is giving us the opportunity to play on a sporting wicket."

Stand-in captain Liton Das said their experience gives them the edge over the Afghans.

"We are better than them in one aspect, we have been playing test cricket for a long time," Liton said. "Our maturity level is also higher because we play a lot of test cricket now."

"Of course, we have less idea about their cricketers because they have played more ODIs and T20s. It is difficult to judge their test credentials. We have a plan up our sleeves, and if we execute it we will win."

Afghanistan has played only six tests in total (and won three) but coach Jonathon Trott didn't believe it was a big disadvantage.

"It doesn't mean tomorrow they will play better than us," Trott said. "We prepared really well. I feel the players have trained exceptionally well. They are excited to play a test in Bangladesh. Whatever has happened in the past, whoever is favorites or the conditions, it is all about what happens tomorrow and who plays the best."

Rusher vows to 'grow as a player'

Jaguars' Allen attends mandatory minicamp

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., June 13, (AP) — Jacksonville Jaguars edge rusher Josh Allen skipped voluntary workouts because he wanted to "prioritize" himself.

He's counting on it paying divi-

dends on and off the field. The veteran outside linebacker, entering the final year of his rookie contract, made his offseason debut at Jacksonville's three-day, mandatory minicamp Monday and said he's "ready to take those next steps individually."

"My individual growth last year wasn't good enough," he said. "Just the tape that I watched, you got to be real critical of yourself. I watched all the games, and I was real critical and I knew I needed to not put that out there no more."

"I wanted to prioritize that ... to grow as a player overall."

Allen was the only Jacksonville player under contract who skipped organized team activities. Tight end Evan Engram also was absent, but he hasn't signed his franchise tender as the sides negotiate a long-term deal.

FOOTBALL

The 25-year-old Allen, the seventh overall pick in the 2019 draft, has 185 tackles and 27½ sacks in four seasons. He finished with 57 tackles, seven sacks and four forced fumbles last season - his first in a 3-4 scheme.

But he went eight games in the middle of the season without a sack before coming on strong down the stretch and in the postseason.

Still, the Jaguars didn't see enough to offer him a long-term deal. Instead, they want him to play out his contract.

He's due to make \$10.9 million in 2023. Jacksonville could use its franchise tag on Allen next year, espe-

cially if general manager Trent Baalke decides he wants to use cap space to sign quarterback Trevor Lawrence and maybe receiver Calvin Ridley or others.

In the meantime, Allen just needs to be more consistent.

"We got the same staff as last year, so that's a plus," Allen said. "Obviously coming back in from last year, it's like, 'Oh, I know the majority of this.' So now it's just getting the rust off. ... Kind of slowed it down for me just to get back into the flow of things."

"I was definitely excited about that and just to get back out there working with them, just show my face."

Jaguars coach Doug Pederson dismissed most of his veterans for the mandatory camp, but he required Allen and anyone recovering from an injury to show to avoid fines that could total nearly \$100,000 for skipping all three days.

"I just want to see him run around," Pederson said. "I want to see the type of shape he's in. I want to see the communication (since) he's going to be with some young guys in his group, and I want to see that leadership this week and everything that he's shown last year and being a Jaguar now. I want to see that this week. I just want to see that enthusiasm and that excitement to be a part of this football team."

Pederson insisted Allen's participation in mandatory camp should not be viewed as punitive.

"I haven't seen him, so this is an opportunity to see him and really, really just embrace him and welcome him back," Pederson said.

SPORTS

Ohtani's 2nd homer of night lifts LA Angels to victory over Rangers



Seattle Mariners' Ty France hits a three-run home run off Miami Marlins starting pitcher Jesus Luzardo during the second inning of a baseball game in Seattle. (AP)

Mariners rout Marlins as Tigers halt Braves run

ARLINGTON, Texas, June 13, (AP): Shohei Ohtani homered on the first pitch of the 12th inning, going deep for the second time in the game as the Los Angeles Angels beat the AL West-leading Texas Rangers 9-6 on Monday night.

Los Angeles was down 5-1 after three innings, but Ohtani's solo homer in the seventh inning extended his hitting streak to nine games and tied it 5-5. The two-run shot in the 12th off Cole Ragans (2-3), the fifth Texas pitcher, was Ohtani's 20th homer of the season.

Chad Wallach also hit a two-run homer in the 12th off Ragans. The Angels have won six of their last seven games.

Ohtani finished with four RBIs, pushing his season total to 50. He also had a sacrifice fly in the Angels' three-run fifth, when the other runs came in on a throwing error and a wild pitch.

BASEBALL

Rookie right-hander Sam Bachman (1-0) worked two scoreless innings for his first big league victory. Aaron Loup worked the bottom of the 12th, allowing an unearned run.

Ezequiel Duran hit a three-run homer in the second inning for the Rangers (41-24), who have lost three of four.

Mariners 8, Marlins 1

In Seattle, rookie Bryce Miller and two relievers combined on a one-hitter, Ty France, Eugenio Suárez and Tom Murphy homered, and Seattle beat Miami.

Miller was superb, throwing six innings and allowing only Nick Fortes' solo home run with two outs in the fifth inning. Ty Adcock pitched two innings of relief in his major league debut, and Gabe Speier worked the ninth, finishing off the one-hitter.

Miller (4-3) relied mostly on spotting his fastball, but mixed in just enough sliders to keep the Marlins off balance. He struck out six and walked three.

Miami's Luis Arraez went hitless in four at-bats and his batting average dipped to .391. Arraez was hitless for the second time in his 17 games.

Miami starter Jesús Luzardo (5-5) allowed five earned runs, six hits and struck out three in four innings.

Giants 4, Cardinals 3

In St. Louis, Mitch Haniger drove in two runs and Brandon Crawford hit a tiebreaking RBI single in the eighth inning to lead San Francisco.

Wilmer Flores had three hits for the Giants, who have won five of seven.

Haniger's single to right field in

the seventh inning scored Flores and tied the game at 3-all. In the eighth, the Giants' Patrick Bailey doubled with one out off reliever Chris Stratton (1-1) and scored on a hit by Crawford, who pitched one inning of relief on Sunday in a 13-3 win over the Chicago Cubs.

Paul Goldschmidt and Paul DeJong homered for St. Louis, which has lost 10 of its last 13 games.

San Francisco's Logan Webb (5-6) gave up three runs and seven hits over seven innings, striking out six. Camilo Doval got the last four outs for his 17th save in 18th chances.

Tigers 6, Braves 5, 10 innings

In Detroit, Spencer Torkelson keyed a three-run, ninth-inning rally against Raisel Iglesias with a two-run homer and hit a game-ending single in the 10th, lifting Detroit over the Atlanta Braves 6-5 on Monday night to stop the Tigers' nine-game losing streak.

Andy Ibañez began the comeback from a 4-0 deficit with a seventh-inning homer and threw out Sam Hilliard at the plate from left field in the 10th as Detroit improved to 7-3 in extra-inning games this year.

Atlanta led 5-2 when Jonathan Schoop singled off Iglesias (2-3) leading off the ninth and Torkelson drove a sinker 440-feet to left-center for his sixth homer. Zach Short had a tying RBI single with two out.

Ibañez came up with the big throw when Eddie Rosario hit a 238-foot flyout off Alex Lange (4-2). Hilliard tried to get his right arm around catcher Jake Rogers' left leg on a headfirst slide but was called out by plate umpire Jordan Baker.

With Ibañez on second as the automatic runner in the bottom of the 10th, Rogers popped up a bunt against former-Tiger Joe Jiménez (0-2) that third baseman Austin couldn't field. One out later,



Los Angeles Angels' Shohei Ohtani runs the bases after hitting a two-run home run during the 12th inning of a baseball game against the Texas Rangers in Arlington, Texas. (AP)

Torkelson hit a 351-foot fly that fell behind the outfield for a winning single.

Rockies 4, Red Sox 3, 10 innings

In Boston, Nick Pivetta walked Randal Grichuk to force in the go-ahead run in the 10th inning, first baseman Triston Casas booted a potential inning-ending grounder and Colorado beat Boston in a matchup of last-place teams.

The game was rain delayed for 1 hour, 29 minutes after Colorado scored twice in the top of the 10th, giving the Rockies a similar victory to a day earlier. The Rockies have won two straight after a six-game losing streak.

Rockies right fielder Nolan Jones made a splendid running backhanded grab, lunging slightly just in front of Boston's bullpen to take a two-run homer away from Rafael Devers in the eighth.

Christian Arroyo had a solo homer for the Red Sox.

In the 10th, after Boston manager Alex Cora chose to intentionally walk a batter with two outs, Pivetta (3-4) walked the next two, forcing home the go-ahead run on Grichuk's walk. With heavy rain falling, Casas misplayed Coco Montes' grounder and slipped before trying to flip the ball to first, allowing a run to score that made it 4-2. The umpires then called for the tarp.

Daniel Bard (2-0) worked a scoreless inning for the victory and Matt Carasiti got the final three outs for his first big-league save despite allowing a run.

Reds 5, Royals 4, 10 innings

In Kansas City, T.J. Friedl scored the tiebreaking run in the 10th inning on Jonathan India's grounder, and Cincinnati handed Kansas City its seventh straight defeat.

Pinch-hitter Kevin Newman's sacrifice fly in the ninth gave the Reds a 4-3 lead, but Buck Farmer allowed a tying homer to Salvador Perez with two outs in the bottom half.

Cincinnati quickly recovered. Friedl, the automatic runner at second base, advanced to third on Matt McLain's groundout to first leading off the 10th. India then

hit a grounder to third and Friedl beat the throw to the plate. He was initially ruled out by plate umpire C.B. Bucknor, but the call was overturned following a replay review.

Farmer (2-3) got five outs for the win and Ricky Karchner pitched out of trouble in the 10th to earn the save in his major league debut.

Stuart Fairchild homered early for the Reds, who have won six of eight and are 3-3 in extra innings.

Carlos Hernandez (0-4) took the loss for the Royals, who have lost 10 of 11. They are 0-3 in extra innings.

Athletics 4, Rays 3

In Oakland, Shea Langeliers hit a three-run double in the fifth inning to break up a scoreless game, and Oakland won its season-high sixth straight.

Ryan Noda added an RBI single in the fifth for the big league-worst A's. James Kaprielian (2-6) pitched six solid innings, allowing three runs and five hits to win his second consecutive start.

A's rookie Ken Waldichuk worked out of a jam in the seventh and pitched the last three innings for his first career save.

Jose Siri hit a three-run shot in the sixth for Tampa Bay's 113th homer of the year to match the idle Dodgers for most in the majors.

Oakland loaded the bases with none out in the fifth against Zach Eflin (8-2) with two straight walks and Jace Peterson's single. One out later, Langeliers delivered.

Diamondbacks 9, Phillies 8

In Phoenix, Evan Longoria hit a three-run homer to finish with four RBIs and Arizona withstood Philadelphia's J.T. Realmuto hitting for the cycle.

Realmuto hit a solo homer in the first inning and a two-run triple in the third. He hit a double in the ninth inning to complete the cycle and scored on Bryson Stott's single to cut Arizona's lead to 9-8. Ketel Marte had three hits and scored three runs for the NL West-leading Diamondbacks.

Realmuto put the Phillies up 5-1 with his triple in the third inning, but the action picked up after the teams nearly came to blows in the bottom half when Philadelphia starter Matt Strahm hit Arizona's Corbin Carroll for the second time in three innings. Arizona manager Torey Lovullo and Diamondbacks reserve outfielder Josh Rojas were ejected in the aftermath.

Pavin Smith had a run-scoring single in the third inning and Emmanuel Rivera added one in the fourth inning for Arizona. Allowed to swing his third at-bat, Carroll lined a run-scoring triple into the right field corner to tie the score at 5-all. He reached base four times and scored twice. Rivera's sacrifice fly off Dylan Covey (1-2) in the sixth inning gave Arizona the lead and Longoria followed with a towering three-run shot over the wall in left-center.

Bryce Harper lined a run-scoring single off Drey Jameson (3-1) and Alec Bohm followed with another to pull Philadelphia within 9-7 in the seventh inning.

The 2032 edition is the likely target

Turkey turns to quest for hosting Euros after Champs League final

GENEVA, June 13, (AP) — Turkey's quest to host the men's European Championship is among the great unfulfilled goals in world soccer.

Having newly re-elected state President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan sit next to UEFA leader Aleksander Čeferin at the Champions League final in Istanbul on Saturday should only help before Turkey's next two tournament bids are put to votes on Oct. 10.

Turkey is up against the joint U.K.-Ireland bid to host Euro 2028 and is in a Euro 2032 duel with Italy. The 2032 edition is the likely target with a widespread belief 2028 is going to the British and Irish who switched from trying to be UEFA's preferred candidate in the 2030 World Cup race.

Voters for hosting the 24-team Euros tournaments will be members of the 20-strong UEFA executive committee who also sat with Erdoğan in the VIP section to see Manchester City beat Inter Milan on Saturday.

"We absolutely would like to win the bid because we see that our country is always capable of organizing such big-scale events successfully," Turkey Football Federation president Mehmet Büyükekçi told The Associated Press in Istanbul ahead of the final. That was before fans complained on social media about logistical problems getting to and from Atatürk Olympic Stadium.

Turkey has tried to persuade UEFA of its hosting potential for so long that Erdoğan was not yet in national office when in 2002 the first candidacy failed. That was a joint bid with Greece for Euro 2008.

SOCCER

After 20 years of Erdoğan as Turkish prime minister then president since 2014, including several photo opportunities of him kicking a soccer ball, the construction project he has overseen would be key to any vote win at UEFA's Swiss headquarters.

"We believe that Turkey's 85 million population, the stadiums built over the last years and the investments on infrastructure are essential," Büyükekçi said in translated comments.

Istanbul Airport opened in 2018 and is ranked top-10 globally on some metrics. Air travel would be needed for teams and fans when one host city, Trabzon, is more than 1,000 kilometers (650 miles) east of Istanbul.

The Atatürk Olympic Stadium that was renovated in recent years to hold close to 72,000 spectators is set for further upgrades. The homes of storied Istanbul clubs Galatasaray and Fenerbahçe are also in the bid plan of 10 mostly state-owned stadiums.

Turkey's rival bids have some stadiums "almost 50 years old or even 100. We already have them in a brand-new style," Büyükekçi said. "A European Championship in Turkey can add great value to us, and we can contribute to European football."

Turkey's place in Europe was a



In this Monday, March 20, 2017 file photo, released by the Turkish Presidency, Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan kicks a ball during a soccer summit in Istanbul. (AP)

factor in the campaign that led to its tightest and most frustrating loss from UEFA - the 7-6 vote won by France to host Euro 2016. Italy had been eliminated in an earlier round.

Both state presidents in 2010 came to that vote in Geneva, Abdullah Gül and Nicolas Sarkozy, who while in office strongly opposed the idea of Turkish applying to join the European Union. Before the voting ceremony, Sarkozy was personally introduced to voters by UEFA's then-leader, France soccer great Michel Platini.

"We lost the Euro 2016 bid by just one vote," said Büyükekçi, who was elected to lead the TFF last year. "That was kind of upsetting for us, but as we came so close to getting it we want to keep on trying."

Turkey seemed sure to get Euro 2020 with public support from Platini, who met with Erdoğan in 2012. The insistence from Turkey also to pursue at the same time a 2020 Olympics bid, which ultimately failed, pushed UEFA to opt for a multi-nation tournament hosted across Europe.

Turkey then turned down staging the Euro 2020 semifinals and final, which England took instead for a tournament first postponed then held during a pandemic with restricted crowds.

When Turkey tried for Euro 2024, Germany's bid was just too strong on soccer and financial grounds for UEFA to refuse. The vote five years ago was 12-4.

This run of losses, near-misses and sports politics missteps came after Turkey reached semifinals at Euro 2008 and the 2002 World Cup. As a soccer nation, it feels hosting a major tournament is due.

"We have reached a certain level but for some time we have not gone beyond that," Hamit Altıntop, a midfielder in the 2008 team now working for the federation, told the AP.

The former Bayern Munich and Real Madrid player suggested hosting will help a next generation of players to "increase their belief, faith and self-confidence. We know how passionate they are about football," Altıntop said of Turkey's players and fans, "and they deserve it."

Iwabuchi misses out

Almost half of Japan WC squad from abroad

TOKYO, June 13, (AP) — Almost half of the players Japan summoned for its 23-player Women's World Cup on Tuesday are displaying their skills in leagues abroad.

Players were selected from leagues outside Japan mainly in England, Sweden, Italy, and the United States in hope of rebounding after being knocked out in the round of 16 in 2019. The Japanese were runners-up in 2015 and won the title in 2011.

"We will fight for the top spot with great ambition," Japan coach Futoshi Ikeda said in Japanese. "But the level of (women's) football in the world is improving very rapidly."

Yui Hasegawa of Manchester City probably heads the list from overseas. Another accomplished midfielder is Fuka Nagano of Liverpool.

The youngest player is 19-year-old Maika Hamano, who plays on loan from Chelsea with Swedish club Hammarby.

The best known of the players based in the United States is forward Jun Endo at Angel City.

The major absence is Mana Iwabuchi, who played in three straight World Cups. She has been at Tottenham on loan from north London rival Arsenal.

Ikeda did not get into specifics about Iwabuchi's absence but said he appreciated her "passion" for the team.

"I have chosen (players) not for any one reason, but for their performance in the national team, their condition, their situation in the team and their

performance in various competitions," Ikeda said.

Japan plays its three Group C games in New Zealand, opening with Zambia in Hamilton on July 22. It faces Costa Rica on July 26 in Dunedin and closes group play against Spain on July 31 in Wellington.

The Women's World Cup is being co-hosted by Australia and New Zealand.

Squad
Goalkeepers: Ayaka Yamashita (INAC Kobe Leonessa), Chika Hirao (Albirex Niigata), Momoko Tanaka (Tokyo Verdy Belezza)

SOCCER

Defenders: Saki Kumagai (Roma), Risa Shimizu (West Ham), Rion Ishikawa (Urawa Reds), Moeka Minami (Roma), Shiori Miyake (INAC Kobe Leonessa), Kiko Seike (Urawa Reds), Miyabi Moriya (INAC Kobe Leonessa)

Midfielders: Yui Hasegawa (Manchester City), Jun Endo (Angel City), Fuka Nagano (Liverpool), Hinata Miyazawa (MyNavi Sendai), Hikaru Naomoto (Urawa Reds), Hina Sugita (Portland Thorns), Honoka Hayashi (West Ham), Aoba Fujino (Tokyo Verdy Belezza), Hana Takahashi (Urawa Reds)

Forwards: Maika Hamano (Hammarby), Riko Ueki (Tokyo Verdy Belezza), Mina Tanaka (INAC Kobe Leonessa), Remina Chiba (JEF United)

MLB Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, June 13, (AP) — Results and standings from the MLB games on Monday

Detroit	6	Atlanta 10 inn	5	Seattle	8	Miami	1
Colorado	4	Boston 10 inn	3	Oakland	4	Tampa Bay	3
Cincinnati	5	Kansas City 10 inn	4	San Francisco	4	St. Louis	3
LA Angels	9	Texas 12 inn	6	Arizona	9	Philadelphia	8

American League East Division				National League East Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB	
Tampa Bay	48	21	.696	—	Atlanta	40	26	.606
Baltimore	41	24	.631	5	Miami	37	30	.552
New York	38	29	.567	9	Philadelphia	32	34	.485
Toronto	37	30	.552	10	New York	31	35	.470
Boston	33	34	.493	14	Washington	28	38	.426
Central Division				Central Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB	
Minnesota	33	33	.500	—	Pittsburgh	34	30	.531
Cleveland	31	34	.477	1-1/2	Milwaukee	34	32	.515
Chicago	29	38	.433	4-1/2	Cincinnati	32	35	.478
Detroit	27	37	.422	5	Chicago	28	37	.431
Kansas City	18	48	.273	15	St. Louis	27	40	.403
West Division				West Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB	
Texas	41	24	.631	—	Arizona	41	25	.621
Houston	37	29	.561	4-1/2	Los Angeles	37	29	.561
Los Angeles	37	31	.544	5-1/2	San Francisco	34	32	.515
Seattle	32	33	.492	9	San Diego	31	34	.477
Oakland	18	50	.265	24-1/2	Colorado	28	40	.412



Manchester City supporters cheer during the Treble Parade, in Manchester, England. (AP)

Sports

Latest sports scores at — <http://sports.arabtimesonline.com>

Nuggets clinch first ever NBA title



Denver Nuggets players, coaches and owners pose with the Larry O'Brien NBA Championship Trophy after their victory over the Miami Heat in Game 5 of basketball's NBA Finals in Denver. (AP)

Jokic named MVP

DENVER, June 13, (AP): Confetti flying in Denver. The Nuggets passing around the NBA championship trophy.

Those scenes that, for decades, seemed impossible, then more recently started feeling inevitable, finally turned into reality Monday night.

The Nuggets outlasted the Miami Heat 94-89 in an ugly, frantic Game 5 that did nothing to derail Nikola Jokic, who bailed out his teammates with 28 points and 16 rebounds on a night when nothing else seemed to work.

Jokic won the Bill Russell trophy as the NBA Finals MVP - an award that certainly has more meaning to him than the two overall MVPs he won in 2021 and '22.

"We are not in it for ourselves, we are in it for the guy next to us," Jokic said. "And that's why this (means) even more."

Denver's clincher was a gruesome grind.

Unable to shake the tenacious Heat or the closing-night jitters, the Nuggets missed 20 of their first 22 3-pointers. They missed seven of their first 13 free throws. They led by seven late, before Miami's Jimmy Butler went off, scoring eight straight points to give the

BASKETBALL

Heat a one-point lead with 2:45 left.

Butler made two more free throws with 1:58 remaining to help Miami regain a one-point lead. Then, Bruce Brown got an offensive rebound and tip-in to give the Nuggets the lead for good.

Trailing by three with 15 seconds left, Butler jacked up a 3, but missed it. Brown and Kentavious Caldwell-Pope made two free throws each to put the game out of reach and clinch the title for Denver.

Butler finished with 21 points. Ugly as it was, the aftermath was something the Nuggets and their fans could all agree was beautiful. There were fireworks exploding outside Ball Arena at the final buzzer. Denver is the home of the Larry O'Brien Trophy for the first time in the franchise's 47 years in the league.

The Heat were, as coach Erik Spoelstra promised, a gritty, tenacious bunch. But their shooting wasn't great, either. Bam Adebayo had 20 for the Heat, but Miami shot 34% from the floor and 25% from 3. Until Butler went off, he was 2 for 13 for eight points.

The Heat, who survived a loss in the play-in tournament and became only the second No. 8 seed to make it to the finals, insisted they weren't into consolation prizes.

They played like they expected to win, and for a while during this game, which was settled as much by players diving onto the floor as sweet-looking jump shots, it looked like they would.

The Nuggets, who came in shooting 37.6% from 3 for the series, shot 18% in this one. They committed 14 turnovers. Even with the clutch shots from Brown and Caldwell-Pope, they only went 13 for 23 from the line.

The tone of the game was set with 2:51 left in the first quarter, when Jokic got his second foul and joined Aaron Gordon on the bench. Jeff Green and Jamal Murray, who finished with 14 points and eight assists on an off night, joined them there, too.

It made the Nuggets tentative on both sides of the court for the rest of the half. Somehow, after shooting 6.7% from 3 - the worst first half in the history of the finals (10-shot minimum) they only trailed by seven.

True to the Nuggets' personality, they kept pressing, came at their opponent in waves and figured out how to win a game that went against their type. Their beautiful game turned into a slugfest, but they figured it out nonetheless.

"That's why basketball is a fun sport," Jokic said. "It's a live thing. You cannot say, 'This is going to happen.' There are so many factors, I'm just happy that we won the game."

It felt almost perfect that an unheralded and once-chubby second-round draft pick from Serbia would be the one to lift Denver to the top of a league that, for decades, has been dominated by superstars, first-round draft picks and players who lead the world in sneaker and jersey sales.

Over their near five-decade stay in the league, the Nuggets have been the epitome of a lovable NBA backbencher - at times entertaining, adorned by rainbows on their uniforms and headlined by colorful characters on the floor and bench. But never quite good enough to break through against the biggest stars and better teams to the east, west and south of them.

Man U have the wealth to afford Frenchman

'Door' looks open for Madrid to finally sign Mbappé after Benzema departure

PARIS, June 13, (AP) - The door looks wide open for Real Madrid to try signing Kylian Mbappé, because Karim Benzema's sudden departure leaves the Spanish giant short of a star striker.

Madrid will hope it's third time lucky, after Paris Saint-Germain rejected an offer of 180 million euros (\$190 million) for Mbappé in 2021. Madrid missed out again last year when Mbappé - amid frenzied speculation that Madrid would get him to join - signed a new three-year deal with

SOCCER

PSG until 2025.

Now he's told the club he will not trigger a 12-month extension on his contract, which expires at the end of next season.

The France superstar confirmed his decision in a letter to PSG, a person with knowledge of the correspondence told The Associated Press on Monday. The person, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, also said PSG would not allow Mbappé to leave as a free agent.

This immediately raised the possibility of an immediate transfer bidding war by Madrid and other clubs this summer.

Mbappé posted on Twitter on Tuesday to dismiss a newspaper report saying he wants to join Madrid as from this summer.

He said at the French league's end-of-season awards two weeks ago that he will be a PSG player next season, while not saying if he would stay longer.

It means PSG face the prospect of him running down his contract and leaving for nothing to Madrid, or elsewhere.

The 24-year-old Mbappé has a long connection with Madrid. He visited the club when he was a youth before deciding instead to join Monaco, which then sold him to PSG in 2017.

He might be on another flight to Madrid before long. The Ballon d'Or winner Benzema bid his farewell to Madrid last week after 648 games, 25 trophies and 354 goals for the club. He joined Al-Itihad to become the Saudi league's latest star after Cristiano Ronaldo, who plays for Al-Nassr.

Given his stated ambition to win the Champions League and the Ballon d'Or, Mbappé seems unlikely to join

Kuwaitis given a 'warm' welcome ahead of Special Olympics Games

BERLIN, June 13, (KUNA) - Kuwaiti athletes participating in the Special Olympics World Games, a global gathering of people with intellectual disabilities, were warmly received on Tuesday less than a week before the Germany-hosted event begins.

The Kuwaiti contingent, comprised of some 60 athletes and officials, were given a tour of the surroundings by the mayor of the Berlin borough of Neuköln Martin Hikel, who underlined the Kuwaiti visit as an "important step" to bolster cultural and sports cooperation.

Discussing the importance of the visit ahead of the June 17-25 games, Kuwaiti Paralympics Committee chief Dr. Rehab Bore-

sly agreed that the initiative will be instrumental in promoting and enhancing "cultural exchange" between her country and Germany, saying she was appreciative of the hospitality of the German capital.

On the intricacies of the visit, she said the Kuwaiti delegation will get acquainted with some of the most prominent landmarks of Berlin, in addition to entertainment and education facilities that cater to people with disabilities.

Underlining the Kuwaiti government's unflinching support for athletes with disabilities, Kuwait's ambassador to Berlin Najib Al-Bader said his compatriots are assured of the embassy's backing as they participate in an event of such magnitude.

them for a while yet.

Newcastle

If anyone can easily afford Mbappé, it's the club with the richest owners in soccer.

Newcastle has yet to really make a signature transfer to headline its new era under Saudi ownership - so how about signing the 2022 World Cup's top scorer?

Whether Mbappé would want to join Newcastle is another thing entirely. The club has vast wealth, now it is controlled by Saudi Arabia's Pub-



England goalkeeper Jordan Pickford during a training session ahead of the Euro 2024 matches against Malta and North Macedonia, at St. George's Park, Burton-On-Trent, England. (AP)

lic Investment Fund, but not the lure of record 14-time Champions League winner Madrid.

Newcastle will play in the Champions League after a fourth-place finish but may not have enough top-quality players to tempt Mbappé.

Manchester United

United is the other team which probably has the wealth to afford Mbappé, and the status.

It is historically considered the biggest club in England along with Liverpool.

However, it's an awkward time for United to be putting together such an expensive transfer, given the club is up for sale and its owners - the Glazer family - are weighing up bids from Qatari banker Sheikh Jassim bin Hamad Al Thani and British billionaire Jim Ratcliffe. The Glazers might not even sell at all, and instead take up other funding options.

Stay at PSG?

If Mbappé changes his mind, then he has until July 31 to sign the one-year extension - or negotiate a longer deal.

But it looks like he's done all he can with the club, where he is the all-time leading scorer with 212 goals.

Although PSG won the French title as expected, it finished only one point ahead of Lens and was eliminated early again from the Champions League, and from the French Cup.



Denver Nuggets center Nikola Jokic (15) shoots next to Miami Heat forward Jimmy Butler (22) during the first half of Game 2 of basketball's NBA Finals in Denver. (AP)

Serb leaves debate to others

Nole has 23 Slams, so is he the GOAT?

PARIS, June 13, (AP) - The query was swift and direct. Novak Djokovic's reply was slow, thoughtful and revelatory, delivered in paragraphs.

"How does it feel," a reporter wanted to know, "to be the greatest male player in history?" First, a quick bit of background: Djokovic's championship at the 2023 French Open, earned via a 7-6 (1), 6-3, 7-5 victory over Casper Ruud on Sunday that included a so-so start and then a cascade of brilliance, provided his 23rd Grand Slam title.

No man has won as many. After spending his entire career trying to accumulate as much hardware as rivals Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal, Djokovic now stands alone atop the list. He had been tied at 22 with Nadal; Federer, who announced his retirement last year, has 20.

So, now, back to that question. For years, as that so-called Big Three dominated men's tennis, the debate has swirled over which should be considered the "GOAT" - "Greatest of All-Time."

Federer has his backers. So does Nadal. Djokovic, too.

There are those who want to make it purely about numbers, and Djokovic earns that crown: In addition to the majors count, he has

spent a record number of weeks at No. 1 in the rankings and has won each of the Masters 1000 events twice, while the other guys haven't won each once.

There are those who want to make it about style. There are those who want to look at other intangibles.

Then there are those who believe all three men deserve to be lauded and appreciated equally. No need to take a side.

And so, let's hear Djokovic's reply.

"I mean, I don't want to say that I am the greatest, because I feel - I've said it before - it's disrespectful towards all the great champions



Djokovic

TENNIS

in different eras of our sport that was played in a completely different way than it is played today," Djokovic said Sunday night, wearing a red jacket with '23' stitched on the front. "I feel like each great champion of his own generation has left a huge mark, a legacy, and paved the way for us to be able to play this sport in such a great stage worldwide."

He was just getting started. "So," the 36-year-old from Serbia continued, "I leave those kind of discussions of who is the greatest to someone else. I have, of course, huge faith and confidence and belief (in) myself and for everything that I am and who I am and what I am capable of doing. So this trophy obviously is another confirmation of the quality of tennis that I'm still able to produce, I feel."