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DEPUTY AMIR RECEIVES MINISTERS FOR OATH-TAKING Cabinet told to promote social justice

Crown Prince to open new parliament session



KUNA photo

His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and ministers for oath-taking.

Gulf relations improve

UAE, Qatar reopen embassies ending rift

Newswatch

WASHINGTON: The US said late Sunday it is "deeply troubled by the Israeli government's reported decision to advance planning for over 4,000 settlement units in the West Bank.

"We are similarly concerned by reports of changes to Israel's system of settlement administration that expedite the planning and approvals of settlements," State Spokesman Mathew enartment Miller said in a statement."

He added "as has been longstanding policy, the United States opposes such unilateral actions that make a two-state solution more difficult to achieve and are an obstacle to peace.'

'We call on the Government of Israel to fulfill the commitments it made in Aqaba, Jordan and Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt and return to dialogue aimed at de-escalation," he stressed. (KUNA)

WASHINGTON: The US welcomed late Sunday the launch of Hajj flights between Sana'a, Yemen and Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, for Yemeni pilgrims, thanking Saudi Arabia for "enabling the flights."

"This positive step is the latest in a series of efforts that have brought relief to Yemenis since the UN-sponsored truce began 15 months ago," State Department Spokesman Mathew Miller said in a statement.

He affirmed that the US is "committed to helping bring an end to the Yemeni conflict as soon as possible." (KUNA)

TUNIS: A police officer guarding

the Brazilian Embassy in Tunisia was fatally stabbed Monday in an unexplained attack, the Tunisian Interior Ministry said. The suspected assailant was arrested.

The suspect was shot in the leg by police during the arrest and was hospitalized, the ministry said in a statement. It said the officer, who was providing security outside the embassy, was stabbed after he asked the suspect why he was

The area, in a residential zone of the capital, Tunis, was cordoned off by police. (AP)

Day by Day

THIEVES will not escape punishment, no matter how long or short the time is. They are pursued by legal and divine penalties. There are multiple penalties for harming people or devouring their money whether imprisonment or diseases. This due to the pleas of the victims.

Watch what happens to the thieves, whether they are liars or enforcers. In the end, they experience imprisonment, madness and chronic diseas-

... Yet, tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

DUBAI, June 19, (Agencies): The United Arab Emirates and Qatar announced the reopening of their embassies on Monday following a yearslong rift.

The two countries issued statements saying the Qatari Embassy in Abu Dhabi and a Qatari Consulate in Dubai, as well as an Emirati Embassy in Qatar's capital, Doha, had resumed operations. The statements did not say if ambassadors were in place or if the missions were open to the public.

The two countries' foreign ministers spoke by phone to congratulate one another on the reopening of the diplomatic missions, Oatar said.

Meanwhile, Kuwait Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Monday welcomed the resumption of diplomatic representation between the UAE and Qatar based on Al-Ula agreement. The ministry affirmed the step shows deep brotherly relationship among GCC countries.

The UAE joined Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Egypt in

imposing a boycott and blockade of Qatar in 2017, in large part over its engagement with and support of Islamist groups across the Middle East that gained power immediately after the Arab Spring protests in 2011. The other Arab countries in the Arabian Gulf view such groups as terrorists - including Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood, which won free and fair elections but was ousted after a year's divisive rule.

Qatar, which like the other Arab countries is a close ally of the United States, has repeatedly denied supporting terror groups. It has also served as a key intermediary in U.S. negotiations with the Palestinian militant group Hamas and the Afghan Taliban.

The unprecedented diplomatic crisis among the nor-

mally friendly Gulf Arab countries initially sparked fears of armed conflict. But Qatar's gas riches, and close ties to Turkey and Iran, largely insulated it from the economic sanctions, and relations slowly thawed



Palestinians take cover during fighting between Israeli forces and Palestinian militants outside of a hospital in the West Bank city of Jenin, Monday, June 19, 2023. (AP)

Israelis raid Jenin

At least 5 Palestinians killed in clash

JENIN REFUGEE CAMP, West Bank, June 19, (Agencies): The Israeli military raided the West Bank city of Jenin on Monday, striking the refugee camp with helicopter gunships. The incursion triggered the most ferocious fighting in the occupied territory in years, killing five Palestinians, including a 15-year-old boy, and wounding more than 90 others, health officials said.

Seven Israeli soldiers were also wounded, the army said. During nearly 10 hours of fighting, Israeli security forces faced off against Palestinian militants with gunfire, armored bulldozers and missile fire from at least one Apache helicopter. Palestinians responded with explosive devices and heavy gunfire.

The Arab Parliament on Monday condemned the "bloody" Israeli aggression on the Palestinian West Bank city of Jenin and its refugee camp, which left three people dead, including a child, and multiple casualties. "What is happening in Jenin, including shelling by

aircraft and missiles, gunfire and teas-gas, is a military escalation that could spark a fresh circle of violence,' the parliament said in a press release.

It held the new far-right Israeli government fully responsible for the current happenings in the city of Jenin, according to the release.

The parliament, further, decried international acquiesce to what is going on in the occupied Palestinian territories since Benjamin Netanyahu's government came to power, denouncing Israeli officials' statements as spurring further crimes. The Palestinian Ministry of Health said earlier in the day

that three Palestinians, including a child, had been killed and 28 others wounded in an Israeli military raid on Jenin and its refugee camp in the West Bank early Monday. Elsewhere, the Turkish Foreign Ministry on Monday

condemned Israel's mounting illegal settlement activities and plans to build new settlements in the West Bank. In a press statement, the ministry said that such "unacceptable" Israeli steps cause serious harm to the prospects of a lasting peace and completely violate international law and UN conventions.

However, the ministry said that Turkiye would continue to support efforts for a two-state solution on the basis of the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

The Israeli government on Sunday announced new tenders to build some 4,500 settlement units in the West

Witnesses described the Israeli military opening fire indiscriminately at Palestinians just meters from the Ibn Sina Hospital in Jenin, wounding three people. The Israeli military didn't immediately respond to a request for comment on the fighting at the hospital gate.

"They were shooting at anything and everything that moved," hospital director Tawfik al-Shobaki said of the Israeli forces.

It was the first such use of a helicopter gunship in the occupied West Bank since the second Palestinian uprising around two decades ago, Israeli media reported. The Jenin refugee camp, long a militant stronghold, witnessed some of the biggest battles at the time. The Israeli military said the helicopters fired at Palestinian gunmen as security forces tried to extract damaged vehicles from the camp.

Palestinian militants targeted Israeli military vehicles with a powerful roadside bomb, disabling five armored vehicles, Israeli military spokesman Lt. Col. Richard Hecht said, adding that militants' use of such explosive devices was "very unusual and dramatic."

Israeli troops were trapped inside the mangled vehicles for hours, he said, until the army flooded the camp with troops and heavy vehicles in order to evacuate them.

A freelance journalist, Hazem Nasser, wearing a clearly marked press vest was shot in the abdomen and seriously wounded. He was shot while filming outside a building that came under fire, his colleagues said.

"Of course there was a lot of shooting and explosions, but everyone knew we were journalists covering it," fellow freelance journalist Alaa Badarneh said. "All of a sudden we were surrounded and the army started shoot-

Comprehensive development sought

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, June 19: His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah called Monday on the new government to address shortcomings, enforce state of law and achieve social justice amongst Kuwaiti people.

"As you seek to achieve comprehensive development for our beloved nation, you should enforce the state of law and institutions, promote justice and quality, and to place the interest of Kuwait at the forefront and above anything else," His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince told the new government after it took constitutional oath before him.

"Exert utmost efforts in a balanced and wise manner, commit to our national principles, focus on priorities and achieve aspirations at all levels, follow up execution of your government programs in line with timetables, achieve social justice amongst the Kuwaiti people," said His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince.

He told the cabinet to address shortcomings to ultimately "develop in a confident and comfortable" environment.

His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince urged the ministers to "feel problems of citizens and address them," and to explore every venue to develop public services and infrastructure "so everybody would feel the achievements," noting that this was the "least of (citizens') legitimate rights.'

Affirming his full support of the new government, His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince urged the ministers to select skilled leaders "who can contribute to development and prosperity of our nation.'

He also reaffirmed importance of cooperation among state institutions as the "proper way to tackle major issues that concern the nation and citizens.

For his part, His Highness the Prime Minister voiced extreme thanks and appreciation to His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince for trusting him and his cabinet colleagues, vowing to do their utmost to fulfill the dear nation's expectations and hopes for further prosperity and progress.

He affirmed that he and other ministers would live up to their due responsibilities and demonstrate utter loyalty to Kuwait and its people during this critical stage, being well aware of the number of outstanding issues and serious challenges that need to be addressed.

The prime minister also vowed that they would devote their experience and efforts to serving the nation, carrying out reforms and pushing forward comprehensive development in all fields, while sticking to the country's constitution and law and protecting the people's freedoms, interests and funds.

He, further, underlined that his government would have positive and constructive cooperation with the National Assembly (parliament) and all society organizations.

His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah will open the first ordinary session of the 17th term of the National Assembly at 10 am Tuesday.

The National Assembly will hold its inaugural session Tuesday; starting with the Amiri speech, followed by the oath taking of the new government and newly elected MPs.

The session will include the election of parliamentary leadership positions including the speaker. MP-elect and former Assembly Speaker Ahmed Al-Saadoun will most likely assume the position since none of his colleagues has announced their plan to compete with him. MPs-elect Marzouq Al-Hebeini and Muhammad Al-Mutair will vie for the deputy speaker post.

The three-member committee tasked to coordinate the election of parliamentary committees failed to carry out its task. Nevertheless, a number of MPs-elect have unveiled their plan to seek for membership of certain committees and the Assembly Office. Osama Al-Shaheen and Mubarak Al-Tasha will contest the election for secretary of the Assembly; Majed Al-Mutairi will run for membership of the Interior, Defense, Financial and Economic Affairs committees: Fahd Al-Masoud for the Education, Culture, Guidance, Health, Social and Labor Affairs committees; Hamad Al-Obaid for the Education, Culture, Guidance, Negative Phenomena and Housing Affairs committees; Fayez Al-Jomhour for the Housing, Education, Culture and Guidance Affairs committees; Dawoud Maarefi for the Education, Culture, Guidance, Financial and Economic Affairs committees; Adel Al-Damkhi, Muhannad Al-Sayer, Mubarakb Al-Tasha, Muhammad Hayef Al-Mutairi, Osama Al-Zaid, Soud Al-Asfour and Abdulkareem Al-Kandari for the Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee; Hamad Al-Medlej, Abdullah Al-Anhaie Shuaib Al-M Abdullah Fehad and Abdulwahab Al-Essa for the Financial and Economic Affairs Committee; Abdullah Al-Mudhaf, Abdulkareem Al-Kandari, Marzouq Al-Hebeini and Abdulaziz Al-Saqaabi for the Foreign Affairs Committee; Mehalhal Al-Mudhaf, Jenan Bu Shehri, Khalid Al-Otaibi, Hamad Al-Matar, Falah Dhahi and Muhammad Al-Hewaila for the Education, Culture and Guidance Affairs Committee; Shuaib Al-Muwaizri, Osama Al-Zaid, Adel Al-Damkhi, Muhammad Al-Hewaila, Fares Al-Otaibi, Hamdan Al-Azmi, Soud Al- Asfour and Hamad Al-Matar for the Budgets and Final Accounts Committee; Badr Sayyar Al-Shemmari, Khalid Al-Tamar, Shuaib Shaaban and Muhammad Al-Mahan for the Interior and Defense Affairs Committee; Hani Shams, Fares Al-Otaibi and Osama Al-Shaheen for the Health, Social and Labor Affairs Committee; and Mubarak Al-Hajraf, Hamad Al-Azmi, Falah Dhahi, Mubarak Al-Tasha and Hani Shams for the Complaints and Petitions Committee.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and his government for oath-taking.

During the reception, His Highness the Prime Minister introduced the new cabinet ministers to His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince:

■ First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior Talal Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah

■ Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Ahmad Fahad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah

■ Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs Essa Ahmad Al-

■ Deputy Prime Minister, Oil Minister, and Minister of State for Economic and Investment Affairs Dr. Saad Hamad Nasser Al-

■ Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Minister of State for Communications Affairs Fahad Ali Al-Shu'la

■ Minister of Information and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi

Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Abdelwahab Ahmad Al-Awadi

■ Minister of Public Works Dr. Amani Sulei-

man Abdulwahab Boqammaz

■ Minister of Education Dr. Hamad Abdul-

wahab Hamad Al-Adwani

■ Minister of Foreign Affairs Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

■ Minister of Commerce and Industry and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Moham-

mad Othman Al-Aiban ■ Minister of Finance Manaf Abdulaziz Al-

■ Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Dr. Jassem Mohammad Abdullah Al-Ostad

■ Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Housing Affairs Faleh Abdullah Eid Faleh

■ Minister of Social Affairs, Family Affairs and Childhood Feras Saud Al-Malek Al-SaExpected weather for the next

By Day: Hot with moderate to fresh northwesterly wind with speeds of 20-50 km/h causing ris-

By Night: Hot to rather hot with light to moderate northwesterly wind with speeds of 12-38 km/h. Station Max Exp Min Rec Kuwait Citv Kuwait Airport

Abdaly Salmiyah Ahmadi Nuwaisib

33 31 34 31

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

Profiles of new cabinet lineup, led by HH Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf

Mix of old and new in government

KUWAIT CITY, June 19, (KUNA): His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah signed a decree Sunday approving the new cabinet lineup, headed by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Following are synopses of the biographies of the lineup:

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-

Born in Kuwait in 1956, he is the son of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. He got a BA in commerce from Ku-

wait University, joined the military and promoted to the rank of General.

He served as Assistant Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior for Nationality and Passports Affairs and Assistant Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior for Education and Training

After retirement from the Ministry of Interior, His Highness Sheikh Ahmad was named as Governor of Hawalli.

In November 2020, an Amiri Decree appointed him as Vice President of the National Guard with the rank of a min-In March 2022, an Amiri Decree ap-

pointed him as First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior.

On July 24, 2022, an Amiri Decree designated him as Prime Minister for the On August 1, 2022, an Amiri Decree

bestowed on him the title of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

On October 16, 2022, he was re-appointed as Prime Minister under an Amiri

On April 9, 2023, a decree issued approving a new government led by him. First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior Sheikh Talal Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah:

He got a BBA (bachelor of business administration) from a British college and was named as Minister of Defense in

March 2022 under an Amiri Decree. On July 24, 2022, Sheikh Talal doubled as acting Minister of Interior.

On October 16, 2022, a decree was issued appointing him to the position of First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister

On December 19, 2022, Sheikh Talal Chaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah was doubled as Acting Defense Minister. On April 9, 2023, a decree was is-

sued appointing him to the positions of First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and Acting Minister of Defense in the government formed by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-

In March 2019, he served as Governor of Hawalli.

Since 1983, Sheikh Talal had served in the oil sector at Kuwait Oil Co. and then at Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) before being appointed as executive assistant to the managing director in 2001-

He served as KPC board member between 2002 and 2007, KPC Chairman and Managing Director between 2007 and 2013, and CEO and Board Chairman of Kuwait Oil Tankers Co. until

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Ahmad Fahad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah:

Born in 1963, Sheikh Ahmad Fahad holds a bachelor's degree in economics and political science.

He undertook numerous national and international sporting positions.

He was appointed Chairman and Director General of the Public Authority for Youth and Sports with the rank of Min-

On February 14, 2001, he was appointed Minister of Information, and he was appointed Acting Minister of Oil on February 10, 2003.

On July 14, 2003, he was named Minister of Energy.

On September 15, 2004, the OPEC Ministerial Conference decided to appoint him as President of the Organiza-

In April 2005, he was named Minister of Energy and Acting Minister of Health. In 2006, he was appointed head of the National Security Apparatus, with the

rank of minister.
On May 29, 2009, he was appointed Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs, Minister of State for Development Affairs and Minister of State for Housing

On May 8, 2011, he was named Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of State for Housing Affairs and Minister of State for

Development Affairs. Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs Essa Ahmad Al-Kandari:

He was born in 1963. He was graduated from the Commercial Institute, ma-

joring in banking. He was appointed Minister of Transportation and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs in 2013.

In December 2020, he was appointed Minister of Social Affairs and Minister of Endowments and Islamic Affairs and he kept his post in the government that was formed in March 2021.

On December 29, 2021, a decree was issued naming him Minister of Endowments and Islamic Affairs.

He was a member of the Board of Directors of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training, and before that he worked at the Kuwait Airways Corporation as a development and research expert.

He won membership in the National Assembly in 2013, 2016, 2020, 2022 and 2023 elections.

He held the position of Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly in 2016. He is a member of the Kuwait Journalists Association, the Arab Journalists Association, the Human Rights Association, and a board member of the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and

Deputy Prime Minister, Oil Minister, and Minister of State for Economic and Investment Affairs Dr. Saad Hamad Nasser Al-Barrak:

He holds a BSc in Electrical Engineering, an MSc in Systems Engineering from Ohio University, and a PhD in Information Systems and Technology Management from the University of London.

He has been the Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Fund for Small and Medium Enterprises Development since October 2018 and a member of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development since 2019, as well as the Vice-Chairman of the Office of Social Development which is affiliated to the Amiri Diwan.

He served as CEO and Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of Zain Group between 2002 and 2010 and held the same positions in a number of companies.

In 2005, he received the Middle East's 'CEO of the Year' award in the Information Communication Technology sector, and in 2003 he received the 'E-businessman of the Year' award in the region.

Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Minister of State for Communications Affairs Fahad Ali Al-Shu'la:

Born in 1965, he got a BA in geography and a diploma in geodesy from the College of Technological Studies, the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET).

In April 2023, he was appointed Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Minister of State for Communications

He was appointed as Minister of Endowments and Islamic Affairs and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs

He served as undersecretary at the Municipal Council's secretariat in 2011.

Minister of Information and Minister of Endowments and Islamic Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi:

He holds a BA in psychology from Kuwait University. He served as Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs in the cabinets of December 2020, March 2021 and April 2023.

In 2016, Al-Mutairi was appointed as Director General of the Public Authority for Youth, after serving as assistant undersecretary of the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs between

2014 and 2015. He also served as director of the technical office of the Minister of Information in 2012 and attache at Kuwait information office in Rabat between 2004 and

Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Abdelwahab Ahmad Al-Awadi:

He holds a PhD in Pediatrics (Kuwait Board) from the Kuwait Institute for Medical Specialization, a PhD in medicine (MD) from the Arabian Gulf University in the Kingdom of Bahrain, and a BA in basic sciences from the same

He served as Minister of Health in the cabinets formed on October 16, 2022 and April 9, 2023.

He worked previously as a pediatric consultant and director of Wara Hospital, head of the Kuwait Cancer Control Center in Al-Sabah Specialized Medical District.

He also worked as Director of the Palliative Care Center in the same area and Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital.

He served as Acting Director of Jahra Health District and Director of Jahra Hospital.

Minister of Public Works Dr. Amani Suleiman Abdelwahab Bouqammaz.

She holds a Bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Kuwait University, a Master's degree in civil engineering from the Middle East Technical University in Ankara - Turkiye, and a PhD in civil engineering from Columbus Ohio Univer-

On October 16, 2022, she was designated as Minister of Public Works and Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy.

On April 9, 2023, she was appointed Minister of Public Works.

She served previously as an assistant professor at Kuwait University and a member of the Board of Directors of the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement



Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf



Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled



Dr Ahmad Al-Awadhi





Essa Al-Kandari



Sheikh Salem



Fahad Ali Al-Shu'la

Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi



Mohammad Al-Aiban



Manaf Al-Hajeri





Suspension cases hit 246

Secondary school exam results by Sunday

Kuwait stays on Tier 2 watch list: report

KUWAIT CITY, June 19: The annual US State Department Trafficking in Persons Report stated that Kuwait remains on Tier 2 Watch List this year; along with Algeria, Ethiopia, Mauritania, Djibouti and other countries, reports

According to the report, "the Kuwaiti government has not fully met the minimum standards for eliminating human trafficking despite the tremendous efforts exerted by Kuwait to combat this crime.

for domestic workers to file grievances rather than filing a complaint in person, and continuing to hold fraudulent recruitment agencies to civil liability. However, the government has not shown increased efforts overall compared to the previous reporting period,

workers in government shelter, launching an online platform

even taking into account the impact, if any, of the Covid-19 pandemic on its ability to combat human trafficking."
The report also pointed that "Kuwait has not taken any new

steps to reform the visa-sponsorship system, which continues to make migrant workers more vulnerable to exploitation, specifically human trafficking. Therefore, it remained on the Tier 2 Watch List for the second year in a row.'

Dead female in car: A female citizen was found dead inside a car that was parked near a commercial complex in Salmiya, reports Al-Qabas daily quoting a source from the security sec-

The source disclosed that the Operations Unit in the Ministry of Interior received a report about the discovery of the woman's body. Security officers were immediately dispatched to the area. Results of the initial examination of the body indicate suspicion of foul play.

The officers immediately started a thorough investigation and they found out that the woman was reported missing a

The body was referred to the Forensic Medicine Department in order to determine the cause and time of death, while investigations are continuing to establish the circumstances leading to the incident.

losophy exam, and those of the Scientific section sat for Physics exam. Thus the exams have entered the countdown, as the scientific section will conclude its exams this Wednesday with the Chemistry exam, and for the humanities, they will conclude with the statistics exam this Thursday, reports Al-Anba daily. In this context, informed educational sources explained that the marking process in the examination control center is happening in full swing. Teachers are

KUWAIT CITY, June 19: The wheel of high school

exams is turning again after the weekend. On Sunday

the students of the Humanities section sat for their phi-

exerting great efforts to scrutinize the test papers and give everyone his rights. The results of the general secondary school exams in both the scientific and humanities sections will be ready next Saturday, confirming that it is "reassuring." According to the exam statistics in its first week, there

them in geography with 1,799 cases, and the least in mathematics with 992 cases. The number of suspension With regard to the process of marking the English lan-

guage exam that was held last Thursday for the students of the scientific and humanity sections, the Acting General Technical Instructor of the English language Hoda Al-Ammar said, "The number of marking committees in the scientific section is 41, including 24 male teachers and 17 female teachers. Each committee includes 12 male and female teachers who mark, revise and recheck. The English language exam was at the level of the student and took into account the individual differences among

The exam questions were clear and direct and within the academic curriculum. No questions were asked about them, and that the preliminary results are prom-

Al-Ammar expressed her best wishes to the students for success.

In addition, the technical instructor for Sharia sciences in religious education Mishaal Al-Jatili indicated that the number of students who took the Hadith exam was 1,038 male and female students, and the cases of absence were

She stressed that the exam was clear and at the level

Al-Jatili wishes success for the students during exam

at the Public Authority for Applied Education

He held the position of Director of the Computer Department at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training and Deputy Director General of the Authority's Academic

He also held the position of Acting Deputy Director General for Planning and Development and a member of the Board of Directors of the National Bureau for Academic Accreditation and Education Quality Assur-

Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Housing Affairs Faleh Abdullah Eid Faleh Al-Roquba:

ministration from the University of Massachusetts, USA, in addition to a bachelor's degree in commerce, economics and political science

He held several posts at the Kuwait Stock Exchange. He also worked in the Kuwait Clearing Company and was the Deputy General Manager of the company for Financial and Administrative Affairs.

He served as a member of several boards of directors in financial and investment companies, the most important of which are the Kuwait Clearing Company and the Kuwait Investment Company.

Childhood Feras Saud Al-Malek Al-Sabah:

He served as Assistant Undersecretary of the Ministry of State for National Assembly Af-

400 graduates KUWAIT CITY, June 19: Acting Director General of the General Administration of Customs Abdullah Al Shar-

han stated that appointment decisions have been issued for the graduates of the customs inspection course, adding that the graduates will receive these decisions in the theater of the General Administration of Customs on Tuesday, reports Aljarida daily.

Feras Al-Malek Al-Sabah

Jobs ready for

Al-Sharhan explained that the decisions will be handed over in batches - the first at 8:30 am, the second at 10:30 am, and the last at 11:30 am to the female inspectors. The attendees must be in official clothes.

The number of graduates is large, exceeding 400 male and female inspectors. They will be distributed to the documentation departments according to the needs of the latter.

The reason for the delay in issuing appointment decisions was to ensure equality among all graduates to be appointed as a customs inspector. All decisions were issued in one day, so that they would be equal in seniority to fill the position. He said he hopes 'Allah will help them, and guide them to serve our dear

and Training.

Support Services.

He holds a master's degree in business adfrom the Kuwait University.

Minister of Social Affairs, Family Affairs and

of Sciences.

She further served as a civil engineer, a liaison engineer to respond to the notes of the State Audit Bureau of the Implementation Department, and a planning and project engineer. Minister of Education Dr. Hamad Abdul-

wahab Hamad Al-Adwani. He holds a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from the Kuwait University and a PhD degree in chemical engineering from the

University of Texas. On October 16, 2022 he was named as Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research. He kept his position in the cabinet formed on April 9, 2023.

He served previously as Director General of the National Bureau for Academic Accreditation and Education Quality Assurance (NBAQ), an Assistant Professor in the Department of Chemical Engineering, Acting Dean of Admission and Registration, Assistant Dean for Admission and Registration, Director of the Master's Program in the Department of Chemical Engineering at Kuwait University and the Cultural Attaché at the Embassy of the State of Kuwait in Washington.

Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. He holds Bachelor and Master's degrees

from the American University of Beirut. He was named as Foreign Minister in the cabinets formed on October 16, 2022 and on April 9, 2023.

He served previously as Kuwait Ambassador to the United States of America until

were approximately 10,000 cases of absence, most of

the students.

of the students.

He was a member of the Kuwaiti permanent delegation to the United Nations, as Minister Plenipotentiary.

Affairs and a diplomatic attache at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Minister of Commerce and Industry and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Moham-

He served as Kuwait's Ambassador to the

Republic of Korea from 1998 to 2001, and in

the Office of the Minister of State for Foreign

mad Othman Al-Aiban: He holds a bachelor degree in administrative science. He was named Minister of Commerce and Industry in the government formed on April 9, 2023.

He served as deputy CEO of the Kuwait Finance and Investment Company (KFIC) in Minister of Finance and Minister of State for

Economic and Investment Affairs Manaf Abdulaziz Al-Hajeri. He got a bachelor degree in civil engineering from Kuwait University in 1986 and a Master's degree in 1990.

On April 9, 2023, he was appointed as Min-

ister of Finance and Minister of State for Economic and Investment Affairs He served as a Board member of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC), the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) and the National Bureau for Academic Ac-

Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Dr. Jassem Muhammad Abdullah Al-Ostad: A lecturer at the College of Basic Education

Education.

creditation and Education Quality Assurance of

country Kuwait."

diwaniya وانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'Strategy, vision vital in bid to reform education and its outputs'

"BEFORE reducing the decision to stop scholarships for those studying medical specializations in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Arab Republic of Egypt into the term 'supporter' or 'detractor', it is necessary to look into the justifications for the suspension that was based on the recommendation of the Committee for Setting Standards and Determining Higher Education Institutions in specializations and medical programs outside the State of Kuwait, and

on the report of the delegations entrusted with evaluating the concerned universities in Egypt and Jordan," columnist Dr Faisal Al-Sharefi wrote for Al-Jarida daily.

"I am surprised by the magnitude of social media reactions to the decision, as if it was the only decision that could improve the quality of education. While reviewing what I wrote about education, my eyes fell on an article entitled: 'Education in Egypt', which was published in Al-Jarida daily on Aug 2, 2022. I consider it an appropriate reference for expressing my opinion on the issue.

"Before proceeding with this article, it must be noted that the number of higher education students under the scholarship programs of the Civil Service Commission (CSC) and Higher Education Ministry and those shoul-

dering their own education expenses has reached 50,000 while the lists of accredited universities, colleges and courses change annually due to a change in their classification by accredited international classification institutions.

"It is normal for the ministry to stop sending students to certain universities if the number of students has exceeded the limit. Regulating the admission of students is the direct responsibility of the cultural offices abroad. It is unacceptable to issue a decision on the suspension of admission at the end of the academic year, as if they had just discovered that the number of students exceeded the limit.

"These procedures could have been remedied if the ministry followed a policy announced on its main website within sufficient time, so it would not be misconstrued that the university is not academically recognized and for some students not to feel it is unfair if their admission application is rejected while that of their classmates was approved.

"Also, please note that another point is under discussion. It revolves around how some students have been shouldering their education expenses over the past years, how some students got accepted to medical colleges despite their low percentage in secondary education, how the ministry has been satisfied with such percentage throughout the years, and how the recent decision is considered a way of improving the quality of education!

"Whoever wants to reform education and its outputs must adopt a strategy, vision and implementation objectives, not individual judgments, even if they are well-studied. He must not turn a blind eye to the deterioration of public education, the weakness of its outputs, its failure to keep up with scientific and professional developments, external scholarship policy, and number of certificates approved by the ministry. The discussion here has been going on for a long time.

"In addition, he should not turn a blind eye to those who were appointed to leadership positions despite testimonies raising many suspicions on their activities. Some of them should be ashamed, considering that the number of students on scholarship and those who shoulder their own education expenses may exceed the capacity of the cultural offices. Students should be given the freedom to choose the place of study while name of the university where a student graduated should be mentioned, not the title of his thesis.'

Also:

"The government assigned the Public Authority for Roads and Transportation (PART) to manage and implement the railway project. However, after stopping the work of PART, all works related to the railway project stopped as well. The project is supposed to include three main tracks -- first is the link with Mubarak Port, second is the link with the northern region and third is the Gulf railway link," columnist Fawaz Ahmad Al-Hamad wrote for Al-Qabas daily.

"The railway is supposed to be 565 kilometers long, but since the study on the project has been suspended more than once, it seems it has completely stopped now. The proposal was to establish the Kuwait Railways Authority, but it did not see the light due to the disruption of political life in Kuwait, dissolution and annulment of the National Assembly, resignation of the government more than once and political instability.

"The other proposal is to establish a Kuwaiti public shareholding company to undertake the construction and management of the railway project, with the participation of the private sector through Kuwait Authority for Partnership Projects (KAPP). This will be done by offering shares of the company for public subscription to citizens.

"The plan was to divide the railway project into three or four stages. The first stage is the Gulf railway link -- 111 kilometers long -- with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the rest will be completed in subsequent stages

"This is a vital and major project related to the development of the transportation and communication infrastructure in the State of Kuwait. Many international companies avoid investing in Kuwait for many reasons, including the lack of an advanced and modern rapid transportation network. This project will move Kuwait forward and it is considered one of the support projects in the

development plan for Kuwait 2035.

"The private sector is thirsty for projects after a long hiatus due to the Corona pandemic and the accompanying recession for three years. Most of the vital and large projects in the country have been suspended. The railway project is a great opportunity for the private sector to enter into the construction, management and operation of the project, in cooperation with KAPP.

"Kuwait needs sustainable development projects, in which the private sector, owners of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and citizens participate by contributing to the capital of the proposed Kuwait Railways Company. In this manner, there is an effective participation of all groups and segments, which will contribute to the success of the railway project. This is in addition to the need to ensure and emphasize security and safety procedures for the project, as well as the quality and efficiency of entities and companies participating in the project to avoid accidents and disasters that may occur as a result of negligence.

'Kuwait is capable of implementing major development projects, such as the railway, but we need a speedy decision-making process."

"After the 'popular uprising' of Kuwaitis in the polling stations to choose their representatives in the National Assembly, the people's attention is directed to the inaugural session of the Assembly, which is scheduled for Tuesday. Everyone is waiting for the return of greetings from the representatives through their hard work and tangible steps in resolving perennial issues that the citizens have been suffering for years," columnist Khalid Al-Arafah wrote for Al-Anba daily.

"After announcing their arrival at the Assembly, the representatives have had two meetings -- first in the office of MP-elect Muhammad Hayef and the other in the legislative building. Through these meetings, they agreed on laying down the so-called 'legislative map', which will be the beginning of cooperation with the government. The map is divided into political laws, development and living conditions of citizens.

"The map is considered the commitment of the representatives in front of the people. It requires the two authorities to cooperate in addressing perennial issues based on this unprecedented consensus.

"The meeting brought about a coordinating committee entrusted with specifying priorities and scheduling successive sessions to discuss these priorities and convert them into draft laws that will be approved in Abdullah Al-Salem Hall to ensure the achievement of the desired reform goal.

— Compiled by Mai Elsoukary

Other Voices

Poor university, rueful college

By Ahmad Al Sarraf

A mong the academic institutions Kuwait University (KU) has been receiving the most criticisms, suspicions and defamation. The latest catastrophe was spending KD12 billion for the establishment of new buildings. This amount is a number of times higher than the original cost. The reason is the destructive administration of the government rather than the mismanagement of

the university. The governusually ment feels paralyzed, especially when it deals with educational, medical and scientific issues. Without a doubt, the backward administration of the government is in the



interest of some parties. Recently, a committee known for its partiality was tasked to conduct a study on the merging or shutting down of the College of Public Health under the pretext that it is useless. If you look into the biography of the committee members, you will see that none of them specialized in public health or is a representative of the Ministry of Health. Most of them are subordinates of the chairman of the committee.

The committee met with representatives of the College of Public Health who voiced their objection to its closure. They submitted a letter, stating their vision and the rationale behind their stand on the issue. It has been said that the committee ignored the context of the letter when it presented its report.

One of the reasons behind the decision to close the College of Public Health is that the cost per student is among the highest, after the College of Medicine and College of Dentistry. Since the academic figures at the College of Public Health do not trust the committee, they double checked the data only to find out that the cost per student was high due to the inclusion of expenses for the construction of the new building. Acting University President Fahd Al-Debeis confirmed this infor-

Those who support the closure of the College of Public Health based their opinion on the dwindling number of students applying for admission to the college. Nevertheless, this is due to the failure of the university to promote the College of Public Health and disprove rumors about it. Furthermore, no wise student will apply to a college on the verge of shutting down. The manpower shortage at the Col-

lege of Public Health is due to the policy of the University to suspend the appointment of new staff since the Covid-19 pandemic, in addition to the termination of a number of expatriate lecturers. This negatively affected the college, especially since it is new, small and cannot operate without the appropriate number of staff.

The issue of shutting down the College of Public Health is still suspended. However, it has negatively affected the reputation of the university, especially with the incessant reshuffling, retirement referral and appointment of new senior officials.

In a relevant development, the American University in the Middle East (AUM) recently announced that it will open the College of Health Sciences, which contrasts the tendency of KU. AUM is aware of the importance of such a college. Congratulations to AUM and condolences to the students of the College of Public Health at KU.

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Confusion in 'flexible' work hours

'Midday sun ban covers delivery workers'

KUWAIT CITY, June 19: The implementation of the flexible working hours in government institutions at the beginning of this month led to confusion regarding the administrative procedures related to the attendance, vacation and tardiness of employees; which could later affect their job performance evaluation, reports Al-Qabas

Under the flexible working hours system, these institutions have been given the go signal to choose any time between 7:00 am to 9:15 am as the start of official working hours; while tardiness is calculated after this time-frame and the total number of working hours per day should be seven.

The institutions took into consideration the possibility that the new system could lead to errors; such that one of them clarified in its email to the employees that no automated system is free of errors at the beginning of activation, asking the employees to find errors and inform the institution in order to address them. It quickly sent another email to the employees, asking them to review their attendance records in the first five months of the year to ensure all the entry and exit data, permissions, official missions and leave days are available; and to ensure they are accurate according to the new system. Everyone must bear in mind that the accuracy of employees' attendance records from January to December plays a major role in their annual job performance evaluation.

The confusion did not stop at this point, as the institution quickly admitted to the employees in a new email that the leave balances in the new system are inaccurate so far; asking them to ignore the balances in the system while stressing that they must submit leave applications manually and have them approved by the concerned officials.

Ban covers delivery boys: Judicial officers at the Center for Occupational Safety in the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) continue to inspect government and private project sites to ensure strict compliance with the ban on working under the direct heat of the sun within the specified hours during summer, reports Al-Qabas daily quoting

The source confirmed that the percentage of compliance this year is higher than the previous years, stating that the judicial officers conduct daily inspection in private housing construction projects in Mutlaa, South Abdullah Al-Mubarak, West Abdullah Al-Mubarak and South Khaitan; in addition to the residential complex construction sites in other parts of the country. The source added that the judicial officers also receive reports about violations committed by contractors and workers, if any.

According to the source, the performance report of the inspection teams will be released monthly by the Public Relations and Media Department at PAM. He also clarified that the delivery workers are covered by the ban; indicating these workers should also comply with the specified clothing for driving motorcycles including the need to wear a helmet. He said it is not advisable for delivery workers to go out during the specified period due to the scorching heat

Asked about the workers in fuel filling stations, the source pointed out that working under the shade is not covered by the ban as umbrellas can be provided for the workers.

Rationalizing Net use: The plan of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, which was announced in the official gazette "Kuwait Al-Youm", revealed the ministry's intention to supply, install and operate a system for "rationalizing the use of the Internet" within the ministry, reports Aljarida

The ministry explained that the detailed objective of that tender is to monitor and analyze data traffic in the network, follow up events related to protection, web contents and e-mail, and set settings and policies to monitor suspicious movements on the ministry's network, in addition to developing accurate analytical reports on what happens during

The plan included the purchase of fingerprint devices for recording attendance and departure in all work sites in the ministry and replacing the old fingerprint devices with newer ones that are compatible with the updates of the system for managing fingerprint devices and with the Civil Service Commission system and linking them to the integrated sys-



Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah while chairing a meeting of the Council of the Diplomatic and Consular Corps.

Sheikh Jarrah chairs CDCC meeting

Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah chaired today, Monday, a meeting of the Council of the Diplomatic and Consular Corps (CDCC) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' General Court, with the participation of the assistant foreign minister and the members of the Coun-

During the meeting, the issues on the agenda were discussed. (KUNA)

Kuwait delegation in Makkah

Team preparing to greet pilgrims

KUWAIT CITY, June 19: Deputy head of the Kuwait Hajj Expedition Muhammad Nasser Al-Mutairi affirmed the arrival of the mission's delegations at its headquarters in Makkah, reports Al-Rai daily.

He revealed the arrival of the majority of the members of the delegation of the Ministry of Awgaf and Islamic Affairs, which represents the largest part of the committees and teams participating in the expedition that includes representatives of the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Kuwait Consulate in Jeddah, the Kuwait Fire Service Directorate, the Kuwait Red Crescent Society, the Public Authority for Food, and the Public Authority of Youth.

Al-Mutairi explained that those committees and delegations are working full swing. They began work immediately upon their arrival on Monday to facilitate and prepare all the necessary arrangements to serve the pilgrims of the State of Kuwait who will flock to the holy land before the start of the Hajj rituals for the lunar year 1444. The organizational structure of the mission defined the terms of reference and tasks for all of those committees and teams.

News in Brief

Kuwait role lauded: The Iranian Chargé d'Affaires in Kuwait, Ibrahim Norouzi, said Kuwait also has played a role in helping with Saudi Arabia and the Islamic Republic of Iran to restore diplomatic relations and praised

Kuwait's efforts in strengthening regional and international relations, reports Al-Qabas daily.



its regional and international implications, as they are com-

pletely clear to everyone, and accordingly, and in light of seven years of stagnation in relations between the two countries, many regional and international efforts were made within the framework of mediation initiatives," stressing that "Kuwait was among the active countries in this regard to help resume ties between Saudi Arabia and Iran."

He stressed that "Saudi Arabia and Iran decided in the end to pass this stage, and our friends and brothers welcomed this agreement and greeted it warmly."

He added, "The imminent visit of Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan to the Islamic Republic of Iran comes within the framework of exchanging delegations in order to discuss the development and strengthening of bilateral relations between the two countries.

"The mutual reopening of embassies, political and consular missions of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, is an important step towards implementing the Beijing agreement," said the Iranian Chargé d'Affaires.

Norouzi said the new ambassador of Iran to Kuwait Muhammad Tutonji is expected to arrive in Kuwait next July.

Designing shelter contest: The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), College of Architecture at Kuwait University, Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) and Arab Engineering Consultants Bureau recently organized the first competition for young architectural students to design a refugee shelter in Bangladesh, reports Al-Rai daily.

The winning students were honored at a ceremony held in the United Nations House in Mishref. More than 20 students in and outside

Kuwait University participated in the competition. They presented innovative architectural designs according to the rules and regulations of the competition. They took into consideration the concepts of innovation, while providing economic and sustainable architectural solutions. Dima Al-Otaibi from Kuwait University and two graduates -- Hessa Muhammad and Reham Alwan, were declared as the winners.



UAE ranks second in world and tops among Gulf states

Kuwait ranks 4th in Arab world in index of safest countries

KUWAIT CITY, June 19: Kuwait ranked 18th out of 134 countries, and fourth in the Arab world, in the index of safest countries in the world for the current year: while the United Arab Emirates (UAE) ranked second in the world and topped the Gulf, and Qatar ranked third globally, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Global Finance's ranking of the

safest countries in the world are based on three basic factors: war, peace and terrorism as measured by the Global Peace Index, personal security in terms of low crime rates and the risk of natural disasters, which includes the possibility of a new pandemic.

Globally, Iceland is the safest country, followed by the UAE, Qatar, Singapore, Finland, Mongolia, Norway, Denmark, Canada and New Zealand.

In the Arab world, Saudi Arabia ranked 19th, Morocco ranked 24th, Oman in 25th place, Jordan ranked 52nd, Algeria ranked 61st, Egypt ranked 65th and Tunisia ranked 93rd. Lebanon was among the countries that ranked low at 110th, while

Yemen ranked 126th

Countries at the bottom of the list include the Philippines that ranked last at 134th, preceded by Colombia at 133rd, Guatemala at 132nd, Nigeria at 131st, Bosnia and Herzegovina at 130th, Brazil at 129th, Mexico at 128th, Peru at 127th and North Mac-

MPW okays launch of 30 projects within dev plan for current fiscal

Govt printing press earns KD 140K revenues in Q1 of '23/'24

KUWAIT CITY, June as well as dealing with floods 19: The Ministry of Public Works has approved the launching of about 30 projects within its development plan for the current fiscal year --2023/2024 -- in various sectors like sanitary engineering, planning and major projects sectors, and the Government **Center for Examinations** and Quality Control; while it is in the process of approving projects in the rest of the sectors, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The daily obtained a copy of the document detailing the projects, a number of which are vital; such as the study and preliminary design of the deep tunnel system, which aims to solve environmental problems resulting from directing sewage water into the sea in emergency cases,

and protecting communities since road users are at risk during torrential rains. The plan is to close the

Al-Subaie

age network and rainwater sewers that pour water into the sea, and then divert sewage water to a treatment plant that will be established

current sew-

for this purpose.

Another project is the development, construction and operation of a treated water system in the southern part of the country to enhance food security by building the third treated water line from the Control Center to Wafra farms. This is in addition to studying and developing the existing Wafra station, as well as the irrigation network in Wafra farms.

There is also a plan to study the development, construction, completion and maintenance of the treated water system in the northern region to increase agricultural production, strengthen food security and support the strategic stock of treated water to reduce imports.

In the Major Projects Sector, the plan includes the launching of the fourth stage of the new Kuwait airport project, which is related to government buildings at Kuwait International Airport, along with linking automated and cybersecurity systems with the Airport Command Building.

The project consists of the construction of civil aviation buildings as follows: the Command and Control Center, Eastern Data Center, Western Data Center, Communications Center, and buildings of the Health and Interior ministries.

Following are the most important projects:

1. Study and design of the deep tunnel system, 2. Operation and maintenance of

pumping stations in Abdally farms, 3. Maintenance and operation of the Governmental Center for Testing and Quality Control,

4. Establishment and operation of a network of treated water tanks throughout the country,

5. Fourth stage of the Kuwait International Airport project. Meanwhile, Assistant Undersecretary for the Press, Publishing and Publications Sector at the Ministry of Information Lafi Al-Subaie said the government printing press earned unprecedented revenues in the first quarter of fiscal 2023/2024 -- more than KD140,000; since it resumed the printing of reference books used in schools after stopping it in 1975, reports Al-Anba

In a press statement, Al-Subaie revealed it is expected that the revenues of the printing press will reach about KD1 million this year; compared to less than KD100,000 in previous years. He attributed this achievement to the ministry's strategy in strengthening partnership with various institutions like the Ministry of Education. He affirmed that the sector is working hard to maximize revenues in order to achieve the ministry's vision in diversifying services and increasing the operational capacity of the sectors.



Part of the assistance for the beneficiaries and people with special needs.

Al-Rahma charity delivers medical tools to special cases in Gaza Strip

Al-Rahma International Charity has supplied medical devices and equipment to Palestinians of special needs in Gaza

with grants from Kuwaiti Al-Awqaf Secretariat General.

Adib Shuwaiki, the charity deputy

The medical tools have been secured

chief, said in remarks to KUNA on Thursday that the society personnel distributed the tools for cases of special needs in the Palestinian community.

Beneficiaries received the equipment after a news conference held at the headquarters of the social development affairs department. (KUNA)

KU panel to announce vacant post

Residence Affairs receives 1,000 sports-related 'visa' applications

KUWAIT CITY, June 19: According to informed sources, the Residence Affairs Department received about 1,000 applications from a number of sports clubs and related associations during the initial days of announcing the introduction of a new type of visa to enter Kuwait for sports, cultural or social activities, reports Al-Rai

They explained that the decision of the First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and Acting Minister of Defense Sheikh Talal Al-Khalid specified the residency period for the visa holder to be three months, renewable for a period not exceeding one year from the date of entry.

So far, about 250 visas that have met all the conditions were issued.

The website of the Ministry of Interior offers the possibility to apply for visas electronically. In the event of approval, an appointment is set for the applicant to visit the residency affairs departments and submit the required official documents.

The sources explained that the entity requesting the visa is obligated to submit a pledge to assume full responsibility of the visitor during his stay in Kuwait and to bear his expenses. However, in the event of a violation, a block is placed on the entity, preventing it from requesting the issuance of new visas, except after the departure of the violating visitor, in order to limit the presence of violators of the residency law in

Vacant positions: The Kuwait University Director Selection Committee is expected to announce the position vacant not later than Wednesday, reports Al-Qabas daily quoting sources. Sources disclosed the announcement will

include the dates for applying for the position and the conditions, and then the committee will set the dates for interviewing the

Sources clarified that the recent court ruling to cancel the appointment of former university director Dr Youssef Al-Roumi and oblige the university to appoint Dr Yaqoub Al-Kandari will not affect the work of the committee, since no executive order regarding the ruling has been issued so far. Therefore, the procedures for the selection of the director are still ongoing, sources

Al-Wazzan wedding hall said ready

MoSA closes about 35 wedding halls

KUWAIT CITY, June 19: According to informed sources, about 35 wedding halls currently managed by the Ministry of Social Affairs have been closed due to the absence of maintenance and service contracts, reports Al-Qabas daily.

They explained that one of the reasons for the ministry's desire to return the management of the halls to cooperative societies and their owners is to lift the financial burden on the shoulders of the ministry, espeden on the shoulders of the ministry, especially with the 20 percent reduction in the budgets allocated to government agencies, and the cancellation of tenders for the maintenance of halls nationwide by the Central Agency for Public Tenders.

The Minister of Social Affairs Mai Al-Baghli sent a letter to the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers, in which she referred to the two decisions of

which she referred to the two decisions of the Council of Ministers related to approving the ministry's request to manage and maintain wedding halls, and to set regulations for their establishment, in coordination with Kuwait Municipality and the Ministry of Finance, and regarding the approval of the conversion of the halls from private state properties to public state properties that are affiliated to the ministry.

Al-Baghli said the ministry has prepared its plan to withdraw the 70 halls, which were established by donors or cooperative

She revealed that the ministry had maintained, restored and furnished 20 halls that were withdrawn from its budget, in implementation of the decisions of the Council of

Highlighted

The minister highlighted the previous Cabinet decision to reduce the budgets of government agencies by 20 percent due to the COVID-19 pandemic, due to which the issuance of tenders for maintenance of the halls was canceled. This led to a review of the ministry's plan to withdraw the halls due to the high cost of contracts for their restoration, maintenance, furnishing and supervision, in addition to the closure of 35 halls run by the ministry due to the lack of maintenance and service contracts. This prompted the ministry to consider a request by some cooperative societies and donors to return the halls to them for maintenance and management and to remove the financial burden from the shoulders of the ministry.

She revealed that the Union of Consumer Cooperative Societies expressed its desire for the cooperative societies to take over the management of the halls that were withdrawn, as this has a direct impact on serving shareholders and addressing the negative effects resulting from the management of the halls by the ministry, as well as the management of wedding halls provided by some donors who do not have the ability to man-

Al-Baghli called for returning the halls to donors and cooperative societies in accordance with three controls, which she hopes will be approved. These controls are:

1. Returning the halls to the cooperative societies that established them. In the event that they do not wish to accept them, they shall be presented to other cooperative soci-

2. Returning the halls to the donors who established them. In the event that they do not wish to accept them, they will be presented to cooperative societies for manage-

3. Complying with the controls and conditions decided by the Ministry of Social Affairs regarding its tight control and supervision of those halls.

Donation

Meanwhile, acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs Abdulaziz Sari, revealed that the Ministry of Electricity and Water has finished delivering electricity to the Al-Wazzan wedding hall located in Salmiya area. Through a donation from the Al-Wazzan family, this hall was established on an area of 1,000 square meters to serve the people and residents of Hawally Governorate and the neighboring areas, reports Aljarida daily.

Sari said, "The ministry is currently preparing to supervise the entire process of furnishing the hall, which will be carried out by the donor, after which necessary steps will be taken for the delivery of fresh water, and ensure its readiness. It will be launched later on the automated reservation application called the "House of Events" to join the chain of halls. The list is currently distributed in all areas of the country, and will be available to citizens soon to use for their various social occasions.'

He highlighted that the hall is considered a beautiful construction landmark, because it was built according to the latest architectural styles but preserving the authentic Kuwaiti heritage.

Sari said, "Based on ministerial resolution No. 77/A/2014 regarding the conditions and controls for establishing wedding halls, the ministry will take over the hall upon the completion of construction and furnishing, and manage it, as well as undertake any maintenance operations for it so that it is always ready to receive various events."

Meanwhile, the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Affairs had issued administrative decision No. 1863/2023 for mandating the assignment of the Director of Supplies and Warehouses Department in the ministry Munira Al-Kandari with the competencies entrusted to the Assistant Undersecretary for Financial and Administrative Affairs until Monday when the assistant undersecretary returns from leave.



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
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Editor-in-Chief intends on producing significant impact as it publishes noteworthy articles

Kuwait magazine steps towards modernization, promotes cultural message

KUWAIT CITY, June 19, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait has always taken a special interest in the cultural scene, especially as it believes culture and literature to be integral to the development of a nation, and this belief is manifested in the Information Ministry's Kuwait Magazine.

The monthly magazine, chaired by Editor-in-Chief Aisha Al-Asousi, is quite intent on producing significant impact as it publishes noteworthy articles by local and Arab writers, creates space for the flow of ideas, highlights prevalent topics, and helps young writers demonstrate their skills.

Alongside its cultural agenda, the magazine takes it upon itself to celebrate the Kuwaiti national identity and heritage via publishing pieces written by historians.

Kuwait Magazine's administration is very keen on connecting with the audience and presenting them with publications that are riveting in both content and appearance.

In an effort to become more accessible, particularly as the world of publications is undergoing rapid changes, the magazine released a web version.

This also comes as confirmation to ministry's efforts in achieving new Kuwait 2035 vision of digitalization, and the ministry's 2021-2026 strategy.

Despite the web form being more widespread, the magazine did not neglect its traditional version but rather it adapted it to become more in sync with modern day requirements, as it released issues with a barcode that readers can scan to access audiovisual version, listen to poetry readings and



Editor-in-Chief Aisha Al-Asousi signs a media cooperation protocol.

watch documentaries related to subject matters. Furthermore, Kuwait Magazine aims to keep up with developments via publishing special issues on vital topics, observing cultural artistic movements, examining and analyzing them and providing researchers with valu-

Demand to extend contract

KPC awaits decision from CSC to disburse front-line rewards

KUWAIT CITY, June 19: According to reliable oil sources, the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) has completed all procedures required to disburse bonuses for front-line workers in the oil sector during the CO-VID-19 pandemic. However, the disbursement process is subject to a decision by the Civil Service Commission (CSC), reports Al-Anba daily.

The sources explained that KPC and its subsidiaries, during the last period, provided CSC with all the necessary documents required for the employees and the grievances committee that was formed, in addition to updating the employees' phone numbers and signing the declaration and undertaking for some.

The oil sector is fully ready to start the exchange operations, as it will be taking funds from the account of the Ministry of Finance, provided that the institution undertakes the disbursement and deposit of bonuses in the employees' accounts.

It also sets out to acquaint readers with prominent Kuwaiti figures, local anecdotes as well as highlight local attractions



The magazine's recent publication marking Kuwait's national celebra-

friendship

◎ • • • • •

To mark the International Day

of Yoga, Sadaaqa, the show

that documents and celebrates

Kuwait-India relationship by

focusing on individual experi-

ences, presents Shaikha A. J.

Al-Sabah, a yogi and founder of

Daratma, a yoga and wellness

studio in Kuwait. Established in

2014, Daratma teaches yoga

education to anyone seeking

harmony, balance and awareness in day to day life.

is a celebration and synergiza-

tion of two ancient cultures. Dar

in Arabic means home, and

Atma in Sanskrit means soul.

The ancient practice of yoga

denotes the union of the body

and the consciousness. Its es-

The name Daratma by itself

Chaitali B Roy

Author / Broadcaster / Journalis

June 26th 2023



KUNA photos

Shaikha A. J. Al-Sabah

yoga and wellness studio in Kuwait

sence is balance - not just

balance within the body or be-

tween the mind and the body,

but also balance in the human

The soft-spoken yogi, Shai-

kha A. J. Al-Sabah has the wis-

dom and patience of a sage.

She is on a journey to master

and learn the ancient practice

in Kuwait and in the yoga re-

treats of India. She believes that yoga unites the physical,

mental, and emotional energies

and helps alleviate pain and

suffering and spreads love and

peace. On June 26th, Sadaaqa

will celebrate her commitment

and that of Daratma to spread-

ing the benefits of this ancient

practice

relationship with the world.

ounder of Darātma,

Sadaaqa

Sadaaqa poster

Sadaaga presents Shaikha A. J. Al-Sabah

Kuwait Magazine's publications.

KUWAIT CITY, June 19: As the contract for the operation and maintenance of the Terminal 4 (T4) at the **Kuwait International Air**port approaches its official end on August 14, demands have increased for the extension of the contract before its expiry date in order to keep pace with the increasing travel momentum in the summer, and work to protect the rights of national cadres working in the company operating the building, reports Al-Qabas daily. A number of citizens working

on this contract said, "The company operating Terminal 4 (T4) has issued an administrative circular stating that their work will be terminated.'

They explained that the company demanded in its circular for the return of all documents, assets, keys, cash and everything that is its property by August 14, 2023.

company assured it would continue to employ them in the event of an extension of the

New tender

On the other hand, informed sources indicated that the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) intends to extend the contract of the current operator in the T4 passenger terminal for a year, starting from August 15, until a new tender is issued

to operate the building.

The sources said, "We are committed to preserving the rights of Kuwaiti employees. We will not accept the arbitrary dismissal of any citizen. In the event that the current employer's contract ends, they will be transferred to the new company."

They revealed that the company has started terminating the contracts of a specific number of employees, especially those who hold leadership

for operation of Kuwait's T4 DGCA forms cmte to study financial offer



Secretary General of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf and High Representative for the Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union during their meeting. EU committed to deepen relations with GCC'

BRUSSELS, June 19, (KUNA): The European Union Monday lauded the meeting between GCC Secretary General Jassem Al-Budaiwi, with EU High Representative Iosen Borrell in Brussels last Friday as

ment to deepen relations between the two regional blocs. "This meeting is to be seen in the context of EU's commitment to develop and deepen the already good relations between the EU and the GCC exactly in line with the strategic cooperation with the Gulf, and GCC as an organisation," EU lead spokesperson for foreign affairs and se-

curity policy, Peter Stano, told a news conference today. "The meeting was really about how to take the strategy forward, the next step, what we can do together more in terms of concrete implementation," he said in reply to a

question by KUNA.

"So this was a very good meeting between the Secretary General and the High Representative, proving the commitment and attachment of both sides to deliver on this jointly defined ambition of deepening our relationship," he stressed. There will be more meetings of course,

On his part, Al-Budaiwi told KUNA in an exclusive Borrell was very important and comprehensive. "We discussed issues that are related to GCC and EU and other issues related to regional files.

"Mr. Borrell is a great friend to the region and we expressed our appreciation to the efforts that the EU has been taking towards the GCC region," said chief of the GCC, which includes Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, UAE, Oman and

Al-Budaiwi expressed appreciation for the adoption by the EU in May 2022 of the 'Communication on Strategic Partnership with the Gulf,' as well the recent appointment of EU special representative for the Gulf, former Italian foreign minister Luigi de Maio.

Al-Budaiwi participated in the 7th Brussels conference on Syria held last Thursday.

positions, with the aim of rationalizing expenses, adding that Kuwaiti employees are at a loss without any serious solutions that can guarantee their future career.

The sources said DGCA formed a committee to study the financial offer submitted by the company to extend the contract, adding that the renewal of the contract will be linked to the company's commitment for the continuity of Kuwaiti employees without dismissing any

When asked by the sources if the company wanted to continue, they answered that the Operations Department of DGCA is able to manage the T4 passenger terminal according to a pre-established plan for that pur-

Al-Asousi affirms Kuwait's keenness to hold meetings actively

Kuwait takes over presidency of 15th session of Water Resources Committee of UNESCWA

BEIRUT, June 19, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait assumed on Monday the chairmanship of the Water Resources Committee of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA). Acting Undersecretary of the Kuwaiti Ministry of Electricity and Water, Eng. Maha Al-Asousi, chaired the Water Resources Committee in its 15th session, succeeding the State of Palestine, the 14th session chair.

In a statement to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) on the sidelines of the conference, Al-Asousi affirmed Kuwait's great keenness to hold meetings, actively attend and activate the work of the committees to serve the goals of sustainable development and achieve advanced goals in water issues in the Arab region.

She pointed out the importance of UNESC-WA meetings reaching recommendations that reflect the positive side to solve any problem that our countries may face in water issues and the transfer of expertise and technical support during meetings and discussions.

Al-Asousi said that UNESCWA discussed issues of water security in the Arab region, im-

KUNA photo Acting Undersecretary of the Kuwaiti Ministry of Electricity and Water Maha Al-Asousi during her chairmanship of the Water Resources Committee in (ESCWA).

proving groundwater management, financing the water sector and the progress made in implementing the sustainable development goals related to water in the Arab countries.

She added that she also discussed the activities related to water resources undertaken by UNESCWA within the framework of its program of work and the advancement of climate change issues in the water and energy sectors.

For his part, UNESCWA Secretary Karim Khalil said in a statement to KUNA that the State of Kuwait's presidency of the Water Resources Committee gives it a greater role in supporting the implementation of the committee's recommendations, indicating that the water issue is central to the State of Kuwait and is a threat facing all countries in the Arab region.

Khalil stressed that the UNESCWA Water Resources Committee represents the regional hub for decision-makers and discusses water challenges facing Arab countries and how to formulate mechanisms to deal with these challenges

He stressed the importance of cooperation and coordination between Arab countries in water issues, because water challenges have a regional and cross-border dimension, as 65 percent of the water resources in the Arab region come from outside the Arab borders.

The Director of the Chemical Works Department and the Acting Director of the Water Facilities Department, Eng. Sarah Al-Mutairi, participated in the representation of Kuwait, in addition to representatives of UNESCWA member states and some international and regional organizations and institutions and relevant civil society organizations.

Deal will be in effect 90 days after its entry into force

Kuwait, Japan trade notes for visa waiver for diplomatic & official passport holders

TOKYO, June 19, (KUNA): Kuwait and Japan have exchanged notes about the waiver of diplomatic and official visa requirements for diplomatic and official passport holders between the two countries, the Kuwaiti Embassy in Tokyo said Monday.

citizen.

The notes were exchanged by Kuwaiti Ambassador to Japan Sami Al-Zamanan and Assistant Foreign Minister and Director-General for the Middle Eastern and African Bureau of

the Japanese Foreign Ministry Kansuke Nagaoka, the embassy said in a statement to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA).

The agreement will be in effect 90 days after its entry into force, it said. The agreement is a major achievement for both countries, as it constitutes the first step towards working on the waiver of visa requirements for ordinary passport holders in the near future, the embassy



Kuwaiti Ambassador to Japan Sami Al-Zamanan and Assistant Foreign Minister and Director-General for the Middle Eastern and African Bureau of the Japanese Foreign Ministry Kansuke Nagaoka.



The Conversation

'Are you part robot?'

Humans are like ChatGPT – both recycle language: expert

By Brendan H. O'Connor Arizona State University

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

ChatGPT is a hot topic at my university, where faculty members are deeply concerned about academic integrity, while administrators urge us to "embrace the benefits" of this "new frontier." It's a classic example of what my colleague Punya Mishra calls the "doom-hype cycle" around new technologies. Likewise, media coverage of human-AI interaction – whether paranoid or starry-eyed – tends to emphasize its newness.

In one sense, it is undeniably new. Interactions with ChatGPT can feel unprecedented, as when a tech journalist couldn't get a chatbot to stop declaring its love for him. In my view, however, the boundary between humans and machines, in terms of the way we interact with one another, is fuzzier than most people would care to admit, and this fuzziness accounts for a good deal of the discourse swirling around ChatGPT.

When I'm asked to check a box to confirm I'm not a robot, I don't give it a second thought – of course I'm not a robot. On the other hand, when my email client suggests a word or phrase to complete my sentence, or when my phone guesses the next word I'm about to text, I start to doubt myself. Is that what I meant to say? Would it have occurred to me if the application hadn't suggested it? Am I part robot? These large language models have been trained on massive amounts of "natural" human language. Does this make the robots part human?

AI chatbots are new, but public debates over language change are not. As a linguistic anthropologist, I find human reactions to ChatGPT the most interesting thing about it. Looking carefully at such reactions reveals the beliefs about language underlying people's ambivalent, uneasy, still-evolving relationship with AI interlocutors.

ChatGPT and the like hold up a mirror to human language. Humans are both highly original and unoriginal when it comes to language. Chatbots

reflect this, revealing tendencies and patterns that are already present in interactions with other humans.

Recently, famed linguist Noam Chomsky and his colleagues argued that chatbots are "stuck in a prehuman or nonhuman phase of cognitive evolution" because they can only describe and predict, not explain. Rather than drawing on an infinite capacity to generate new phrases, they compensate with huge amounts of input, which allows them to make predictions about which words to use with a high degree of accuracy.

This is in line with Chomsky's historic recognition that human language could not be produced merely through children's imitation of adult speakers. The human language faculty had to be generative, since children do not receive enough input to account for all the forms they produce, many of which they could not have heard before. That is the only way to explain why humans – unlike other animals with sophisticated systems of communication – have a theoretically infinite capacity to generate new phrases.

Argument

There's a problem with that argument, though. Even though humans are endlessly capable of generating new strings of language, people usually don't. Humans are constantly recycling bits of language they've encountered before and shaping their speech in ways that respond – consciously or unconsciously – to the speech of others, present or absent.

As Mikhail Bakhtin – a Chomsky-like figure for linguistic anthropologists – put it, "our thought itself," along with our language, "is born and shaped in the process of interaction and struggle with others' thought." Our words "taste" of the contexts where we and others have encountered them before, so we're constantly wrestling to make them our own.

Even plagiarism is less straightforward than it appears. The concept of stealing someone else's words assumes that communication always takes place between people who independently come up with their own original ideas and phrases. People may like to think of themselves that way, but the

reality shows otherwise in nearly every interaction – when I parrot a saying of my dad's to my daughter; when the president gives a speech that someone else crafted, expressing the views of an outside interest group; or when a therapist interacts with her client according to principles that her teachers taught her to heed.

In any given interaction, the framework for production – speaking or writing – and reception – listening or reading and understanding – varies in terms of what is said, how it is said, who says it and who is responsible in each case.

What AI reveals about humans

The popular conception of human language views communication primarily as something that takes place between people who invent new phrases from scratch. However, that assumption breaks down when Woebot, an AI therapy app, is trained to interact with human clients by human therapists, using conversations from human-to-human therapy sessions. It breaks down when one of my favorite songwriters, Colin Meloy of The Decemberists, tells ChatGPT to write lyrics and chords in his own style. Meloy found the resulting song "remarkably mediocre" and lacking in intuition, but also uncannily in the zone of a Decemberists song.

As Meloy notes, however, the chord progressions, themes and rhymes in human-written pop songs also tend to mirror other pop songs, just as politicians' speeches draw freely from past generations of politicians and activists, which were already replete with phrases from the Bible. Pop songs and political speeches are especially vivid illustrations of a more general phenomenon. When anyone speaks or writes, how much is newly generated à la Chomsky? How much is recycled à la Bakhtin? Are we part robot? Are the robots part human?

People like Chomsky who say that chatbots are unlike human speakers are right. However, so are those like Bakhtin who point out that we're never really in control of our words – at least, not as much as we'd imagine ourselves to be. In that sense, ChatGPT forces us to consider an age-old question anew: How much of our language is really ours? (AP)

The Conversation

Social media influence giving

Ice bucket & MrBeast: stunt philanthropy is here to stay

By Monica Lea

University of Nebraska Omaha

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

Ttunt philanthropy is

Stunt philanthropy is what happens when influencers, other celebrities and people who aren't famous at all use entertaining videos to encourage support for a charitable cause.

When their stunts go viral, it can lead to massive public engagement that raises lots of money and draws new attention to previously less visible causes.

Why stunt philanthropy matters

The biggest early success with stunt philanthropy online was the ALS ice bucket challenge.

People taking the challenge uploaded short videos in which someone dropped a bucket of icy water on their head. They then posted these clips on their social media accounts, tagging others to do the same and to donate to the ALS Association. Participants ranged from high school students to Bill Gates and Mark Zuckerberg. Even Donald Trump took the challenge, before his presidency.

The campaign raised an estimated US\$115 million in 2014 for research tied to amyotrophic lateral sclerosis – a fatal neurological condition for which there is no cure.

More recently, stunt philanthropy has become associated with a single infuencer: Jimmy Donaldson. By late 2022, when he was 24 years old, the entrepreneur who calls himself "MrBeast" had more followers on YouTube than anyone else,

Donaldson calls himself "YouTube's biggest philanthropist." He has gained more than 150 million YouTube subscribers through his entertaining stunt videos, such as recreating a game show version of the popular Korean Netflix series "Squid Game" and giving the winner \$456,000.

He relies on corporate partners like Honey, TikTok and Quidd to pull off the stunts that have made him a celebrity.

Donaldson's stunt videos have helped him earn lots of money for himself through advertising and the sale of socks, water bottles and other merchandise. He has created his own candy company, Feastables, which he celebrated with a stunt video that featured his own replica of Willy Wonka's

chocolate factory.

He now runs a global burger chain that partners with local

restaurants and reportedly made \$54 million in 2021 alone.

Building on his formula for creating viral content, Donaldson also creates stunt videos that raise awareness and money and amass needed goods for Ukrainian refugees, African orphans and a wide array of other

In addition to partnering with companies, Donaldson also teams up with nonprofits for his philanthropy-themed stunts.

Beast Philanthropy

In May 2023, Donaldson worked with Hearing the Call to provide hearing aids to 1,000 people across the US, Mexico, Guatemala, Brazil, South Africa, Malwai and Indonesia and donated \$100,000 to organizations that promote education in sign language. The video his team made publicizing this campaign showcased the delighted looks on many of the faces of people getting the hearing aids.

Alongside posting these videos on his main YouTube channel, Donaldson has created a separate Beast Philanthropy channel. Among the videos posted is one that celebrates giving supplies to underfunded schools, sponsored by Sun-Maid, a raisin producer, and another that showed homes being rebuilt in Kentucky following tornado devastation, sponsored by Nord VPN, a tech company.

Some people have questioned Donaldson's motives for his eye-catching charitable acts, while others have raised ethical concerns about the way he uses footage of people in need for online entertainment.

It's much easier for public displays of charitable giving to go viral today because of social media, but there are precedents from pre-internet days.

From 1966 to 2010, the entertainer Jerry Lewis raised millions of dollars for the Muscular Dystrophy Association and spread awareness about the disease with help from his famous friends during annual 24-hour

And Lionel Richie and Michael Jackson convened a celebrity supergroup to perform the charity relief song "We are the World" in 1985 to raise money for African famine relief – following an example set by British musicians a year earlier.

It's hard to predict what the future holds for stunt philanthropy, but it seems to me that it's probably here to stay. That is why I will continue to keep studying how social media can influence charitable giving. (AP)



AmCham Kuwait's Women in Business Focus Group members and guests pose during its third Diwaniya on laws and company policies

AMCK event sheds light on laws and company policies

AmCham hosts diversity & inclusion Diwaniya

KUWAIT CITY, June 19: The ABCK - Am-Cham Kuwait's Women in Business Focus Group in its ongoing commitment to promoting diversity and inclusivity in the workplace, successfully hosted its third Diwaniya on laws and company policies that affect women in the workforce; sponsored and hosted by the Four Seasons Hotel. The event started with opening remarks by ABCK-AmCham Kuwait's Women in Business Focus Group's Chair - Dr. Arezou Harraf, who welcomed male and female key decision makers and participants, as she gave a warm welcome to the key speakers who delved into the laws and policies within companies, shedding light on their impact on women and the challenges they face in various aspects of their professional journey.

The Diwaniya served as a platform for thought-provoking discussions and insightful conversations aimed at fostering an understanding of the current challenges faced by women in the workforce, particularly in terms of retention, promotion, and capacity building. Key speakers shared their expertise, highlighting both the positive and negative effects of existing laws and company policies on women's career progression.

"AmCham Kuwait is dedicated to empowering women professionals and creating an inclusive business environment that harnesses their talents and potential," said Dr. Harraf, Vice-Chair of AmCham Kuwait. "Through our Diwaniyah series, we aim to encourage

open dialogues, share best practices, and inspire organizations to go above and beyond in supporting and fostering women in the workplace."

Prominent

The event featured prominent speakers from various industries, including legal experts, HR professionals, and successful women leaders, who provided valuable insights and practical advice on how to adapt company policies and practices to promote gender equality, enhance workplace diversity, and create a culture of support and inclusivity. Some of the suggestions included: Implementing and executing gender-sensitive policies; in order to retain women in the workforce, companies must address policies that may hinder the needs of women in the workplace.

Some of these include parental leave for both parents and supportive childcare solutions such as having a day-care and childcare room, along with flexible work hours, and career development policies, such as having a certain number of hours of training provided by the company to each employee.

The success of the third Diwaniyah on Laws & Company Policies highlights Am-Cham Kuwait's commitment to driving positive change and empowering women in the workforce. By facilitating meaningful conversations and sharing best practices, Am-Cham Kuwait continues to promote gender equality and inclusivity within the business community.

AmCham Kuwait encourages entities to revisit their company policies in order to make them more inclusive. Inclusion and retaining women in the workforce yield significant returns for companies. Some potential benefits include Increased employee productivity, innovation, engagement, reduced turnover, as well as better decision-making.

ABCK-AmCham Kuwait: Is a non-profit organization operating since 1985 and is composed of Fortune 500 corporations, small and medium-sized companies, and prominent business leaders and entrepreneurs, both American and Kuwaiti. ABCK-AmCham Kuwait has functioned as an advocate for American interests in the state of Kuwait. For More Information, please visit our website at www.amchamkuwait.org or follow us on the social media channel @ abck1985



A combo photo from the event.

Pak-Donors ranks 5th in Kuwait's Blood Bank list

By M. Irfan Shafiq

In a significant accomplishment, Pak-Donors has achieved the 5th rank in Kuwait's 2023 Blood Bank list. This milestone underlines the tremendous commitment of our Pakistani community in Kuwait, particularly our heroic blood donors who selflessly serve humanity through their generous contributions.

Pak-Donors extends a heartfelt thank you to all community members, sponsors, media partners, and our tireless blood donors, who are indeed the true heroes of this achievement. We

also extend a special note of appreciation to the Pakistan Embassy in Kuwait for their unwavering and continuous support to our noble cause.

The Pakistani community and the media in Kuwait have shown commendable dedication, playing a pivotal role in raising awareness and championing this noble initiative.

As we celebrate this success, Pak-Donors remains dedicated to our mission of ensuring safe and readily available blood for all those in need. We are confident that with your continued support, we can scale even greater heights.

Lebanon's central bank boss crisis looms ahead amid meltdown

Lebanese central bank governor Riad Salameh's term of office ends in late July amid government failure to pick a successor while the country is embroiled in a serious state of economic and financial turmoil.

The problem is mainly due to the fact that Lebanon has been left with no president for a long period of time as the parliament has recently ended its 12th session without naming a new President for

This has been the 12th session since

former president Michel Aoun left office in December 2022.

In addition, the current caretaker government cannot name persons in leading posts as per the country's law, and, unfortunately, there is no definite legal mechanism to fill the long-lasting vacuum. Lebanon has been suffering from an unprecedented financial crisis amid a shortage of foreign reserves, with the Lebanese national currency losing as much as 98 percent in value since late 2019

Lebanese financial experts are concerned that the national currency of lira could record further collapses in the coming period amid the country's political, economic and financial crises.

In this context, former minister of economy Alain Hakim opined that the significance of the post of the central bank's governor unequivocally stems from the bank's role in running monetary and financial affairs, and overseeing the implementation of monetary policies. (KUNA)



In this Nov. 11, 2019 file photo, Riad Salameh, Lebanon's Central Bank governor, smiles during a press conference in Beirut. (AP)

Market Movements 19-06-2023

Change Closing pts UAE -0.05 3,787.07 JAPAN Nikkei -1.00 33.370.42 **PAKISTAN** KSE 100 40,650.45 **PHILIPPINES** PSEi 6,450.34 -0.83 11.421.70 SAUDI Tadawul EGX 30 17,988.95

Change Closing pts

Business

Russ Porter among esteemed speakers

Influential CFOs discuss Vision 2030 at the Future CFO Roadshow in Riyadh

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia, June 19, (PR Newswire): Illuminating the transformative role of financial leaders in modern business, the Future CFO Roadshow, held at the Crowne Plaza Riyadh RDC Hotel & Convention, welcomed Russ Porter, CFO and senior vice president, strategy, technology, and analytics at IMA, among its esteemed speakers. The high-profile event hosted around 200 attendees comprising of elite industry professionals, providing a stage for in-

Kicking off the proceedings, Dr. Tamer Elsayed, director of finance at FII Institute, encapsulated the audience with his keynote address, foregrounding the strategic path to financial sustainability in today's rapidly evolving business landscape.

The first panel discussion was moderated by Dr. Nouf Binhadab, program director and assistant professor at Princess Nourah Bint Abdulrahman University, and featured Dr. Nujoud Srdar, assistant professor at King AbdulAziz University, Anwar Hadidi, senior executive director at Deloitte Middle East, and Adam Clarke, VP, finance at BAE Systems KSA. The session, titled, 'CFOs Leading Recovery, Growth, And Sustainability To Meet Vision 2030,' spotlighted the evolving role of CFOs in the era of recovery and sustainable

In an engaging fireside chat, Porter and Ahmad Dawood, CFO at PepsiCo Middle East Foods, shared their insights on 'How to Get a Seat at the Leadership Table.' Extending the conversation, Porter moderated the following panel session, with Noura Alkahtani, director at the Ministry of National Guard - Health Affairs, Yousef A. Alyousef, CFO at Mukamalah Aviation Company, and Hasan Bahes, CEO at IMA Chapter President Riyadh, discussing the intricate liaison between CFOs and organizational value chains.

Enthusiasm

Dawood expressed his enthusiasm for the event, stating, "The Future CFO Roadshow provided a unique platform for financial leaders to exchange insights and ideas, fostering a culture of collaboration and innovation. It was an honor to be part of this esteemed gathering and contribute to the discussions on securing a seat at the leadership table. The event truly highlighted the evolving role of CFOs in driving recovery, growth, and sustainability in line with Vision 2030."

Gleim, Hock International, SOCPA, BAE systems, Saudi Aramco, Morgan International, PwC's Academy, and IMA's Riyadh, Eastern Province, and

Western Province Chapters sponsored the event. Acknowledging their significant impact on the industry, Saudi Aramco and PepsiCo were celebrated with the Platinum Corporate Partner Award.

The Future CFO Roadshow delivered a confluence of wisdom and perspective, enriching its attendees, and setting the tone for the future of financial leadership in alignment with Vision 2030.

About IMA® (Institute of Management Accountants)

IMA is one of the largest and most respected associations focused exclusively on advancing the management accounting profession. Globally, IMA supports the profession through research, the CMA® (Certified Management Accountant) and CSCA® (Certified in Strategy and Competitive Analysis) programs, continuing education, networking, and advocacy of the highest ethical business practices. Twice named Professional Body of the Year by The Accountant/International Accounting Bulletin, IMA has a global network of about 140,000 members in 150 countries and 350 professional and student chapters. Headquartered in Montvale, N.J., USA, IMA provides localized services through its four global regions: The Americas, Asia/Pacific, Europe and Middle East/India. For more information about IMA, please

Amazon, Marriott, other cos 'vow' to hire thousands of refugees in Europe

LONDON, June 19, (AP): Multinational companies including Amazon, Marriott and Hilton pledged Monday to hire more than 13,000 refugees, including Ukrainian women who have fled the war with Russia, over the next three years in Europe.

Just ahead of World Refugee Day on Tuesday, more than 40 corporations say they will hire, connect to work or train a total of 250,000 refugees, with 13,680 of them getting jobs directly in those companies.

"Every number is a story of an individual family who left everything, seeking safety, seeking protection and wanting to be able to rebuild as quickly as possible," said Kelly Clements, U.N. deputy high commissioner for refugees. "So the commitments that businesses are going to make on Monday are absolutely essential."

She says 110 million people have been displaced worldwide, with an estimated 12 million from Ukraine, nearly half of whom are living in Europe after the continent's largest movement of refugees since World War II.

The hiring push in Europe was organized by the Tent Partnership for Refugees, a nonprofit founded by Chobani CEO Hamdi Ulukaya that connects businesses and refugees, and is being unveiled at a gathering in Paris. The group's first summit in the U.S. last year led to commitments to hire 22,725 refugees.

In the new round, Amazon leads the pack, vowing to hire at least 5,000 refugees over the next three years in Europe, followed by Marriott and Hilton with 1,500 each, Starbucks and ISS with 1,000 each, and smaller commitments from brands like Adidas, Starbucks, L'Oreal, PepsiCo and Hyatt.

"This is good for us as a company because the opportunity to add diversity to our workforce will continue to make us a stronger company," said Ofori Agboka, Amazon vice president overseeing human resources. "With diversity brings innovation, creativity, different insights."

He said the vast majority of jobs will be hourly roles at fulfillment and storage centers and in transport and delivery.

Amazon announced 27,000 job cuts earlier this year, part of a wave of layoffs after tech companies ramped up hiring during the COV-ID-19 pandemic. Those layoffs primarily affected salaried office jobs, Agboka said.

Daria Sedihi-Volchenko fled Kyiv last year and now works in Warsaw, Poland, as a senior program manager for an Amazon Web Services program providing free tech training for Ukrainians. She says about 40%

of those in the program have no tech background.

"I went through the same way as many of our learners ... are going through," she said. "I had to learn, and I took a commitment on my interview. I said that 'OK, if we can agree and I can start working for you, I promise to learn Polish and I promise to learn technical skills.""

More than a year ago, Sedihi-Volchenko woke up to explosions from Russia's invasion.

"I was terrified. I was so scared for Ukraine, for the nation, for the future, for my own life," she said. "But also that was a shocking moment when I understood that everything in my life is changing."

She began living in basements but left as Russian forces approached Kyiv. She drove 40 hours to reach Moldova, thankful that she "didn't drive on a single land mine and nobody shot into my car."

She went to Poland to find work, embarking on an IT path after working as a project manager for government ministries and as an economist in Ukraine.

Companies are hoping refugees can fill staffing needs after the economy bounced back from the pandemic. In Europe, unemployment is at its lowest since the euro currency was introduced in 1999.

"We're seeing record levels of demand for our properties across many markets here in Europe," Marriott International CEO Anthony Capuano said. "And so we are hiring aggressively to make sure we can accommodate our guests as demand ramps up."

Marriott's jobs will largely be hourly positions like housekeepers, kitchen staff and front desk attendants.

European nations have welcomed Ukrainians, and while Clements applauded opening schools, workplaces and other opportunities to them, she said the same should be offered to others fleeing conflict and crises in places like Syria, Sudan and Afghanistan.

Sedihi-Volchenko knows the challenges ahead for refugees, even as some companies offer help with language skills, counseling and training. Job listings can be difficult to decipher, and like her, they may have difficulty securing a stable internet connection or work clothes.

"It's important to give a refugee just time to learn the language, but the person can start working because if you bring experience with IT systems or finance or project management or any other area, naturally, you understand, it's not so much about the language. You understand the flow of work," she said.



In this March 18, 2022 file photo, Amazon company logo is seen on the facade of a company's building in Schoenefeld near Berlin, Germany. (AP)

World follows WS lower as China leader Xi meets top US diplomat



A screen, (top), shows the Korea Composite Stock Price Index (KOSPI) at the foreign exchange dealing room of the KEB Hana Bank headquarters in Seoul, South Korea. (AP)

Nikkei 225 tumbles 1%

BEIJING, June 19, (AP): Global stock markets followed Wall Street lower Monday after the top U.S. diplomat met China's leader but the two sides gave no sign of progress on an array of conflicts.

London and Paris opened lower. Shanghai, Tokyo and Hong Kong retreated. U.S. markets are closed Monday for a holiday. Oil prices fell.

Wall Street's benchmark S&P 500 index lost 0.4% on Friday after the Federal Reserve held its benchmark lending rate steady but warned it might be raised later if needed to cool inflation.

Xi Jinping met Secretary of State Antony Blinken after what the Chinese government said were "candid and in-depth" talks with foreign affairs officials at a time when relations are at their lowest point in decades. They indicated willingness to cooperate on major issues

"Whether that will lead to any actual positive outcomes still awaits to be seen," said Yeap Jun Rong of IG in a report. "Any inaction on that front could still see any optimism fizzle out eventually."

In early trading, the FTSE 100 in London lost 0.4% to 7,608.25. The DAX in Frankfurt retreated



U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken meets with Chinese President > Jinping in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China. (AP)

0.6% to 16,268.19 and the CAC 40 in Paris declined 0.5% to 7,345.33.

On Wall Street, futures for the S&P 500 and Dow Jones Industrial Average were off less than 0.1%.

On Friday, the Dow slipped 0.3% and the Nasdaq composite fell 0.7%.

The S&P 500 is near a 14-month high, having risen 15% this year.
In Asia, the Shanghai Composite Index lost 0.5% to 3,255.80 af-

ter Xi and Blinken met.

Xi said in a statement that the two sides "agreed to follow

through the common understandings" he and President Joe Biden agreed to at a December meeting

in Indonesia.

It gave no indication of progress on disputes about Taiwan, human rights, technology and security that have chilled relations and disrupted trade in semiconductors and some other goods.

and some other goods.

The Nikkei 225 in Tokyo tumbled 1% to 33,370.42 and the Hang Seng in Hong Kong fell 0.6% to 19,912.89.

The Kospi in Seoul retreated 0.6% to 2,609.50 while Sydney's S&P-ASX 200 gained 0.6% to

7 204 00

India's Sensex shed 0.3% to 63,224.32. New Zealand and Southeast Asian markets declined.

Last week, the Fed held its benchmark lending rate steady, the first time in 10 straight monthly meetings it hasn't announced an increase.

The Fed warned, however, that it could raise rates as often as two more times this year. Wall Street is betting on a rate hike at its next meeting on July 25-26.

A survey Friday suggested U.S. consumers are paring back expectations for upcoming inflation. The preliminary reading from the University of Michigan survey also suggested consumer sentiment is strengthening more than expected.

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In energy markets, benchmark U.S. crude lost 16 cents to \$71.77 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose \$1.16 on Friday to \$71.78. Brent crude, the price basis for international oil trading, declined 17 cents to \$76.44 per barrel in London. It gained 94 cents in the previous session to \$76.61.

S76.61. Currencies

The dollar rose to 141.89 yen from Friday's 141.80 yen. The euro fell to \$1.0921 from \$1.0943.

Riyadh Air launches



Riyadh Air - New national carrier from Arabia arrives in Paris

A new chapter in travel has arrived on the global stage with the world class, digitally-led airline Riyadh Air, making its international debut at the 54th bi-annual Paris Air Show. The Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner adorned with Riyadh Air's unique livery touched down after a stunning fly-over the city of Riyadh for its first official reveal on Monday 12th June

The disruptive new airline from Saudi Arabia will fly to more than 100 destinations, and reach 100 million visitors, by 2030 making Riyadh City a hub for global travel and encouraging visits to the Kingdom for business

and leisure. The airline will bring a new level of attention to detail to guest experience and has technology that will raise the bar for the industry. The brand identity captures the heritage of the Kingdom whilst being modern and forward thinking with the tagline 'The Future

The aircraft is on display at the show, allowing visitors to view the unique indigo aircraft livery up close. Its lavender colour is symbolic of the welcoming and hospitable nature of the people in the Kingdom, as well as being a natural plant that carpets Saudi Arabia during

spring and the tail design captures the move-

ment of canopy tents in the desert.

Riyadh City is rapidly becoming a major player in global business and the rapid Saudi economic growth, which is targeted to be in the top 15 globally by 2030, is outperforming other major economies. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has many developing tourist sites, such as Al Ula, Diryah, and Qiddiyah, and the national airline will make the Kingdom more accessible whilst positioning Riyadh City as a global leader in aviation excellence. (PR Newswire)

The Conversation

Soros hands control over his family's philanthropy to son Alex, after giving away blns and enduring years of antisemitic attacks

By Armin Langer

University of Florida

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

Billionaire investor and philanthropist George Soros is handing control of his US\$25 billion holdings, including his Open Society Foundations, to one of his sons, Alexander Soros.

As a sociologist who researches immigrants and minorities in Europe and conspiracy theories about them, I study how Soros became a scapegoat and bogeyman for nationalists and populists and a target of people who harbor and spread antisemitic beliefs.

Baseless conspiracy theories have at times clouded his legacy as one of the world's biggest donors to causes like higher education, human rights and the democratization of Europe's formerly communist countries.

Born in 1930 to a Hungarian Jewish family, Soros survived the Nazi occupation and the Holocaust. After World War II, he moved from Budapest to the United Kingdom, where he studied at the London School of Economics while working part time in low-wage jobs. He immigrated to the United States in 1956 and became a U.S. citizen five years later.

In the 1970s, Soros became a successful investor and hedge fund manager. By the 1990s he had amassed a fortune and established himself as one of the world's most important financiers.

But his dedication to philanthropy and his support for political freedom are what brought him the most attention. In the 1980s, Soros began to contribute to several Eastern European political and social movements that sought to replace communist states with democratic societies. Recognizing the importance of grassroots movements and the power of individuals to bring about change, his sup-

port enabled many activists to challenge oppression and

advocate for human rights.

He also donated heavily to support education.

Soros' first philanthropic foray was in 1979, when he funded scholarships for Black students in apartheid South Africa. In the 1980s, he helped promote the exchange of ideas in Communist Hungary by funding visits of Hungarian liberal intellectuals to Western universities.

When he gave \$250 million in 2001 to the Central European University in Budapest, it represented, at that time, the continent's largest higher education endowment.

Soros founded what's now called the Open Society Foundations in 1993. The name of this international grantmaking network was inspired by Karl Popper's 1945 book 'The Open Society and Its Enemies." Popper argued that individuals thrive in open societies, because they can freely express themselves and test their ideas, while closed societies lead to stagnation.

The broad goal of much of Soros' philanthropy is to support tolerant societies with governments that are accountable and allow everyone to campaign, protest, donate to candidates they like or even run for office themselves.

Soros' foundations today support human rights organizations in more than 100 countries. Its initiatives take aim at a wide range of global problems, such as public health emergencies to low economic growth rates in low-income

Soros remains on Bloomberg's list of the 500 wealthiest people, with a personal net worth in excess of \$7 billion as of 2023. But his fortune would have been far larger had he not given some \$32 billion to the Open Society Foundations since 1984.

The Open Society Foundations' support for progressive initiatives such as America Votes and Demand Justice have angered many conservatives who don't agree with the goals of those causes.

Soros' wealth and influence have also made him a target of numerous conspiracy theories. He's been demonized as a shadowy puppet master manipulating world events for his own gain. Such baseless accusations often target his Jewish heritage, invoking hatemongering and centuriesold antisemitic tropes.

During the 2015 influx of Syrian refugees in Europe, for example, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán accused Soros of a vicious plan of facilitating a supposedly "Islamic takeover of Europe" with the Syrian immigrants.

Former Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico blamed Soros for being behind press freedom protests in his country after the murder of the investigative journalist Ján Kuciak and his fiancée in 2018.

In 2015, the far-right party All-Polish Youth burned an effigy of Soros dressed as a Hasidic Jew holding an EU flag, even though the philanthropist was raised by a family that was not religious, has never dressed in the style of the ultra-Orthodox Hasidic sect and has not been a major sup-

porter of Jewish causes.

As I explained in a book chapter about nationalism and populism, U.S. conspiracy theories have hounded Soros for years as well. Rep. Kevin McCarthy, a California politician who is now speaker of the House, accused Soros of trying to buy the 2018 midterm elections. National Rifle Association leader Wayne LaPierre accused Soros of planning a socialist takeover of the U.S. in 2018, evoking antisemitic myths from the early 20th century about a Jewish-Bolshevik plot.

That same year, then-President Donald Trump falsely tweeted that Soros was financing the demonstrations against Brett Kavanaugh's appointment as a Supreme Court justice.

These baseless theories have also inspired extremists to act on them: In 2010, a far-right extremist plotted to attack the progressive San Francisco-based Tides Foundation. His plot failed and ended in a shootout with police officers, and the man was sentenced to 401 years in prison. The extremist falsely believed that Soros used Tides "for

all kinds of nefarious activities."

In 2018, another extremist sent a pipe bomb to Soros' home in a New York City suburb. Nobody was hurt, but the person responsible was sentenced to 20 years in prison.

Many other far-right extremists have tried to justify their attacks on Jews and other minorities with anti-Soros conspiracy theories - including the man who murdered 10 Black Americans at a supermarket in 2022.

Not all criticism of Soros is antisemitic

While I do believe that Soros' support for freedom and his commitment to empowering marginalized communities are praiseworthy, I also think it's reasonable to question the sources of his wealth and the methods he employed to accumulate it.

As is true for all billionaires, the Soros family fortune helps perpetuate a system of income inequality and concentrated political influence in the hands of the world's wealthiest people. I believe that this outsize clout interferes with true democracy.

George Soros has certainly funded work through charitable donations that has fostered democratic values. But his financial support in the political realm, which includes gifts for major Democratic political causes and candidates, such as former U.S. President Barack Obama, former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and President Joe Biden, have to a degree made him a polarizing figure.

When megadonors of any political preference make big donations to a candidate or party, their gifts can shape the agenda and distort democratic processes.

In his first interview as the new chair of Open Society Foundations, 37-year-old Alex Soros told The Wall Street Journal that he is "more political" than his father and that he's likely to make political donations that advance voting rights and abortion rights.

It's still not clear how Soros' son aims to put a stop to the demonization of the family's philanthropic work. (AP)

Available in its network of branches and ATMs

Warba Bank launches 'Ayadi' service in

multiple denominations for Eid al-Adha

Wages are finally on the rise in Japan, as inflation 'eats away' at consumer gains

Real wages fell 3% from a year earlier in April

TOKYO, June 19, (AP): wages are rising in Japan more than they have in decades, at least for some workers. But so are prices, leaving many people feeling they must scrimp more than ever.

In May, the consumer price index was up 3.2% from a year earlier, well above the central bank's target of about 2%. That's great news for policymakers trying to get the world's third largest economy out of the doldrums by keeping credit super cheap to spur demand and push prices higher.

But a government survey of companies with five or more employees found real wages, taking into account higher prices, fell 3% from a year earlier in April, marking the 13th straight month of declines.

Although all the major companies have raised wages this year, with large labor union members landing a 4% hike, the highest in 30 years, a quarter of small and medium-size businesses employers of more than two-thirds of all workers - gave no pay raises, according to the think tank Tokyo Shoko

"My wages haven't gone up at all," said Kyoko Sano, a salesclerk at a Tokyo department store.

Sano feels a bit of a jolt when a cashier rings up her purchases and angst when she checks out prices of her favorite cookies, potato chips, rice crackers and drinks. Prices have all jumped, and the usual discount offerings have disappeared. Her electricity bill keeps climbing.

"There's no point in buying things like body lotion in advance before their prices rise. Pretty soon you run out, and you end up having to go buy them, anyway. There's an expiration date on cosmetics," she sighed.

Japanese workers make less across the board than their counterparts in the U.S. and Europe. A graph comparing wages for the last several years shows the line for Japan going straight across from left to right. In other nations, including the U.S., they climb gradually higher.

Average pay in Japan is about threefourths of the OECD average of about \$51,000. Hourly rates for workers in many Tokyo service jobs average about 1,300 yen (\$9.30) an hour, up from the previous 1,000 yen (\$7.10) an hour. They're lower in most of the

So while a barista in New York makes about \$22,500 a year, according to Intuit, one in Tokyo makes 2.19 million yen (\$15,700), Economic Research Institute data show.

In theory, a vibrant economy is sup-



The Gulf Bank team that partcipated in the Innovation Challenge

Program organized by KFAS

GBK honors employees who took part in the Innovation Challenge Program

KUWAIT CITY, June 19: A program organized by the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) in cooperation with London **Business School**

The Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) honored Gulf Bank employees participating in the seventh edition of the Innovation Challenge Program (2022-

Organized by KFAS, and in cooperation with the London Business School, the program aims to stimulate innovation and enhance the creative skills in private sector companies - to support economic growth and contribute towards transforming Kuwait's economy into a knowledge-based

The seventh edition of the Innovation Challenge Program witnessed the

posed to lead to higher prices and wag-

es. But purchasing power has to keep

up to sustain consumer demand. It's

unclear that today's inflationary pres-

sures, set off by the rising costs for oil

and other commodities, will spur the

sort of positive growth cycle Japan's

So far, the Bank of Japan has re-

mained cautious, keeping the key in-

terest rate that helps determine rates

been trying to achieve for years.

participation of several talented emplovees from Gulf Bank, and focused on the interests of the selected companies, to stimulate the financial sector in Kuwait and become more innovative with its various businesses and activi-

Throughout the four-month program, the teams worked together to find solutions and learn more about the experiences of business leaders who have succeeded in developing their projects. This experience helped enhance the participants' sense of innovation and creativity, providing them with the right tools to become successful business leaders.

The Innovation Challenge Program is a multi-stage program, that provides academic knowledge in business administration, through using practical tools that have been adopted and ap-

on mortgages and car loans at minus

0.1%, where it's stayed for the past

Wages have languished since Ja-

pan's financial bubble burst in the

1990s, and the economy has stagnated.

Employers held back on wage increas-

es and risky investments but largely

avoided mass layoffs, notes Hideo

Hayakawa, a senior fellow at The To-

kyo Foundation for Policy Research,

decade.

plied by international companies when facing challenges or developing new products or services that have been introduced to the market.

The program encouraged the participants to work together to find solutions and learn more about the experiences of business leaders who succeeded in developing their projects - providing them with all the appropriate tools to become innovative and creative busi-

Gulf Bank plays an active role in the field of innovation amongst Kuwait's private and banking sector institutions and in nurturing national talents – starting with the recruitment process that deals with selecting young Kuwaiti talents and continuing their development following their employment through a series training and development programs.

an independent think tank. The rigid structure of Japanese

workplaces also tends to crimp efficiency and productivity, a factor driving improved incomes and profits, he

"The economy is gradually starting to move, but we don't know yet if things will work out so wage increases can continue into next year," Hayaka-

Bank branches, popular shopping cen-

Bank has announced the availability of the "Ayadi" service offering dinars in denominations of 5, 10, and 20. This service will be available at all Warba ters, and ATMs across Kuwait. The initiative reflects the bank's commitment to enhancing customer experiences during holidays and community events. Customers can now enjoy a convenient and unique banking experience while accessing their preferred denominations for Eid al-Adha celebrations.

KUWAIT CITY, June 19: Warba

In light of this occasion, Mr. Abdullah Nasser Al-Shoail, Senior Director of Branches in the Retail Banking Group at Warba Bank, expressed, "As we approach the blessed Eid al-Adha, we are pleased to offer our customers the convenience of obtaining various." the convenience of obtaining various denominations of banknotes at our branches across Kuwait during regular banking hours. This initiative reflects our commitment to celebrating holidays together with our customers and maintaining continuous communication through various channels, en-

suring we are always there for them.' Al-Shoail further mentioned that this service has received positive feedback from the public, as it elimi-

nates the hassle of acquiring different



Abdullah Al-Shoail

banknote denominations, particularly the smaller ones that are often not

available in other ATMs. The bank has also made the service available through ATMs located in commercial complexes, designated areas within these complexes, cooperative societies, and selected branches. This is in anticipation of the increased demand for cash withdrawals during the Eid period. The bank has ensured that these ATMs are equipped with the latest banking technology and adhere to the highest

Consumption 'soft' even amid deep discounts during major China shopping festival: analysts

security standards.

HONG KONG, June 19, (AP): Chinese consumers snapped up billions worth of items in China's first major online shopping festival after emerging from the pandemic as merchants slashed prices, but analysts say that consumer confidence still remains weak.

Chinese merchants offered customers steep discounts during the 618 shopping festival, which ran on China's major shopping platforms from the end of May until June 18, in the hopes of shoring up sales amid a weaker-than-expected recovery in

Major shopping festivals, like ecommerce retailer JD.com's 618 and Alibaba's Singles' Day, are typically barometers of consumption in China, and Chinese e-commerce platforms often participate by offering discounts and incentives to consumers.

Analysts say that consumption remains soft this year as China emerges from the pandemic, even as platforms including JD.com, Tmall, Taobao and Pinduoduo offered billions in subsidies.

"Chinese consumer confidence remains weak due to a mix of geopolitics, continued weakness from COV-ID-19 and domestic Chinese politics," said Shaun Rein, founder and managing director of the China Market Re-

search Group in Shanghai. Rein said that consumers were less likely to spend more during 618 as merchants had already been discounting heavily for years because of the pandemic, and deals were not that much better compared to previous

billion yuan subsidies" program to compete with rival Pinduoduo, which is known for its low-priced goods. The CEO of Alibaba's e-commerce business unit, Trudy Dai, also previously pledged to make "huge, historic" investments to attract users to its plat-

"For months, Chinese consumers have been price-conscious, looking for deals and trading down across most product categories," Rein said.

This year, for the first time, JD.com did not reveal its total sales numbers for the 618 event, despite saying in a blog post that the 2023 shopping extravaganza had "exceeded expectations, setting a new record.'

Last year, neither Alibaba nor JD.com unveiled final numbers for Singles' Day in November, amid muted festivities during COVID-19 and an expected slowdown in growth.

JD.com said in a blog post that during the 618 shopping festival, consumers snapped up 10 times the number of products that were eligible under its "10 billion yuan subsidies" program, compared to March.

Despite overall soft consumption, categories like cosmetics and luxury goods saw a bigger uptick in sales compared to the previous quarter, according to Jacob Cooke, CEO of ecommerce consultancy WPIC.

For this year's 618 event, more luxury brands took part as they sought to boost sales in China after the sector in 2022 declined for the first time in five years amid China's strict "zero-COVID" policies and lockdowns that hammered retail spending.

In March, JD.com launched a "10

ASICS launches limited edition GEL-RESOLUTION™ 9

ASICS, one of the brands represented by Ali Abdulwahab Al Mutawa Commercial Co (AAW), is excited to announce the launch of a limited edition GEL-RESOLUTION™ 9 tennis shoe, the first collaboration with BOSS, designed for Matteo Berrettini. In collaboration with BOSS, this special version of the GEL-RESOLUTION™ 9 combines ASICS' advanced technology for baseline players with a fresh design inspired by the renowned fashion brand. The shoe will be retailed at ASICS branches in Kuwait, including The Avenues

Designed specifically for baseline tennis players, this special edition of the GEL-RESOLUTION™ 9 features ASICS' signature technologies for high performance on the court. The tennis shoe incorporates the DYNAWALL™ system, offering extra lateral support. Additionally, the DYNAWRAP™ technology enhances fit, providing athletes with superior stability and comfort on court.

What sets this exclusive release apart is the fresh design, merging the worlds of sports and high fashion, this limited-release tennis shoe showcases a sleek and modern aesthetic, incorporating BOSS's timeless design elements. The collaboration between ASICS and BOSS captures the essence of Matteo Berrettini's sophisticated and dynamic style, reflecting his

passion for both tennis and fashion.

"The GEL-RESOLUTION™ 9 is an excellent tennis shoe for me, combining the stability and comfort I need", said Matteo Berrettini. "I'm thrilled that ASICS and BOSS have partnered to elevate the shoe even more with a slick new design, I hope it will bring a lot of success to my game when I step on the court wearing this special design.



Customers can sign up for a free 30-day trial to access app's features

stc launches new lifestyle app 'Xplore with the Entertainer'

KUWAIT CITY, June 19: Kuwait Telecommunications Company stc, a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers, enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, launched a new App called "Xplore with the Entertainer" in partnership with the Entertainer, the world's leading buy-one-get-one-free lifestyle App. stc's partnership with the Entertainer through the new App aims to enhance the Company's ongoing commitment to enhance the lifestyles of its valued customers through a diverse array of offerings and solutions.

The partnership between stc and the Entertainer builds on the various initiatives launched by the



telecom pioneer to enhance the customer experience and provide offerings beyond traditional telecom services. The 'Xplore with the Entertainer' App offers stc customers unbeatable deals and exclusive

discounts on dining, leisure, beauty, travel experiences and more. stc customers can sign up for a free 30day trial to access the App's features and redeem amazing offers at some of the most popular venues in

Experience

Designed to enhance the customer experience and provide unbeatable value, the Xplore with the Entertainer App allows customers to enjoy the best entertainment experiences in Kuwait while saving money. The App features a user-friendly interface that allows customers to browse and redeem offers quickly and easily. 'Xplore with the Entertainer' is currently

available for download on the App Store and Google Play Store.

In a statement released by stc, Company highlighted that it is thrilled to now offer this innovative service to its new and existing customers. The App will include a variety of deals customers leverage

based on their requirements. Commenting on the launch of the App, Chief Consumer Officer (ĈĈO) of stc, engineer Amer Atoui, said: "stc's partnership with the Entertainer falls in line with the Company's strategic direction towards enabling digital transformation in Kuwait. In order to provide an exceptional and worldclass experience for our customers, stc has vastly grown its network by partnering with leading entities throughout the region and the world, such as the Entertainer. Moving forward, we will continue to form similar fruitful partnerships that support the Company's vision of offering an array of services that cater to the diverse needs of our growing customer base.'

Vaibhav Goel, Chief Revenue Officer at the Entertainer business said "We are excited to partner with stc and provide their valued customers with unbeatable deals and exclusive discounts through our 'Xplore with theEntertainer' App. This partnership is a testament to stc's commitment to enhancing the lifestyles of their customers and enabling digital transformation in Kuwait. We look forward to continuing to provide exceptional experiences while helping customers save money through our App".

To find out more about stc's events, promotions, and sponsorships, follow ste's official social media platforms, visit one of stc's branches, download Mystc mobile application, visit www.stc.com. kw or contact the customer service center by dialing 102 for around the clock assistance.

Session focuses on open banking

Zain Kuwait presents insightful talk with Gartner at innovation campus



A photo from the event.

Bank continuous excellence

KIB's Basil Al-Suwaidan receives Cyber Sentinels CISO Award '23

KUWAIT CITY, June 19: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced that Basil Al-Suwaidan, General Manager of the Information Security, Privacy and Anti-Fraud Department, recently received the Cyber Sentinels CISO Award 2023 during the 7th GCC Security Symposium, held in partnership with the UAE Cyber Security Council. He was recognized for his active role and continuous efforts toward implementing the Bank's information security strategy, which aims to keep abreast of the latest progress and developments in the security applications field to protect customer data and information at the highest

Al-Suwaidan was presented with this distinguished award on behalf of KIB during a big ceremony attended by several notable figures and representatives of regional institutions in Dubai.

On this occasion, Al-Suwaidan expressed his pride and delight at receiving this prestigious award, saying: "This award exemplifies KIB's continuous excellence in regularly adopting and developing banking security policies since its very beginning and adhering to international standards of information security, as well as exerting relentless efforts to continue applying the best security measures across all our transactions through a comprehensive approach that guarantees absolute privacy of banking information." He added that the accolade is a testament to the forefront position of the Information Security Department at KIB and reaffirms the Bank's success in elevating the experience of its customers and meeting their aspirations for a secure and confidential banking service. It serves to note that KIB recently received the ISO 27001:2013 Information Security Management System certification for the 9th year consecutively, which determines the level of efficiency of the security systems adopted by the Bank in all its services and sectors and the level of awareness among employees about the importance of ensuring confidentiality and privacy of administrative and customer data for a fully secure banking experience.

Kuwait International Bank (KIB) is a bank that operates according to the Islamic Shari'ah, based in the State of Kuwait. Incorporated in 1973, and originally known as Kuwait Real Estate Bank, KIB made the transition to its current Islamic operating model in 2007. In 2018, KIB embarked on a new phase of its journey full of innovation and development. As part of its new strategic direction, the Bank focuses on offering a next-level customer experience under the slogan:

"Bank for Life". Through a network of branches spread across the State of Kuwait, KIB offers a broad range of banking products and services, as well as innovative digital banking solutions in line with international best standards. As part of its duty towards the community, the Bank also encompasses a leading social responsibility program that aims at positively impacting all members of the community through a wide range of impactful initiatives and

Today, KIB has taken concrete steps in implementing its new strategic objectives. The Bank has cemented its role as a key player in the local banking industry and has continued to maintain its strong financial performance; enabling it to be globally recognized for its strong credit rating and financial with Gartner, the global research and consulting firm, to discuss the future of open banking and the role of technology and digital transformation applications in developing the banking sector. During the session, Zain executives explored the company's most recent efforts in empowering banks and financial institutions to embrace digitalization in order to keep up with the accelerating changes in today's markets. The session was held at the Zain Innovation Campus (ZINC) in the company's headquarters in Shuwaikh and

wait recently hosted an insightful talk

was attended by Zain Kuwait CEO, Eaman Al Roudhan and the company's executive team. The talk was joined by Zain Group's Chief Investment and Digital Transformation Officer, Malek Hammoud and Gartner VP Analyst, Vittorio D'Orazio and was also attended by many Kuwaiti entrepreneurs and startup owners whom Zain invited exclusively to the event.

The session covered a number of stra tegic topics related to the future of banking, such as banking-as-a-service, open banking, the recent accelerating growth of digital banks, and the role played by new technologies in developing the banking sector. Technologies such as 5G, managed cloud services, cloud computing, datacenters, digital applications, and more are offered by Zain to empower financial institutions and startups to keep up with the huge changes in local and regional markets.

Content

The Kuwaiti entrepreneurs and owners of e-commerce and Fintech startups that attended the session benefited from the event's rich content and close-up insights. Among the attendees were alumni of the award-winning Zain Great Idea (ZGI) tech startup accelerator program, one of Zain's most successful initiatives to support entrepreneurship and innovation in Kuwait and the region. The occasion also witnessed discussions around the latest projects and strategic plans of Zain Ventures, Zain Group's investments arm that aims to complement its existing investment portfolio and open the door to future investment opportunities in the venture capital, Fintech, and tech world, with a focus on digital innovations in the fast-growing electronic services and startups ecosystem.

Zain recognizes the importance of data technologies in driving digital transformation in the banking sector, and it has partnered with renowned global providers in cloud computing, datacenter solutions, and IT services to bring the best-in-class solutions to its business customers. Today, Zain hosts a number of major local banks in its globally certified datacenter.

Investing in the world of venture capital provides Zain with a vast range of opportunities to diversify and expand its reach in the surrounding ecosystem. Over the years, Zain has expanded its relationship with regional



Win cash prizes with summer promotion

ABK launches 'Sun, Spend, Win' campaign

KUWAIT CITY, June 19: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) has just announced the launch of its highly-anticipated summer campaign offering ABK customers a unique and exciting opportunity to participate in a draw where 21 lucky winners will each receive a cash prize of KD 1,000. The promotion begins on 15 June 2023 and runs until 15 September 2023, giving customers ample time to participate.

To enter the draw, which will take place on 1 October 2023, ABK customers need only use their ABK credit cards to make e-commerce or pointof-sale (POS) transactions and easily accumulate points. To be eligible for the prize, customers must meet a minimum spend of KD 750 per card type, both locally or internationally during the specified campaign transaction pe-

For every KD 1 spent locally, customers will earn 4 draw points while they can earn 10 draw points for every KD 1 spent internationally, excluding cash transactions. The more draw points accumulated, the higher the chances of winning one of the 21 cash prizes of KD 1,000 which will be credited to the winner's card, providing them with immediate access to their winnings.

Johair Marafi, Acting General Manager of Retail Banking at ABK,

and international venture capital funds

to support the respective portfolio

tive engagement in direct strategic invest-

ments in a variety of promising startups

Zain Group has also continued its ac-

companies whenever appropriate.

expressed her enthusiasm for the campaign's launch. In her statement, she said, "This summer campaign reflects ABK's tireless commitment to customers. It serves as a reminder of the Bank's dedication to meeting the ever-evolving needs of customers. As we continue to strive for excellence in customer satisfac-

She continued, "With the potential to win cash prizes, customers

tion, our summer

campaign stands

out as a worth-

while approach to

building stronger

relationships with

our customers."

can look forward an exciting summer with ABK." Marafi concluded by emphasizing ABK's unwavering commitment to delivering exceptional banking experiences where the summer campaign provides an excellent opportunity for customers to win cash prizes while continuing to experience

top-notch banking services from ABK. As a testament to its engagement with customers, ABK seeks to generate excitement and foster excellent customer relationships. The new summer campaign represents a vital and

Recently, the Kuwaiti market wit-

nessed an accelerated wave of digital

transformation within private sector

companies, SMEs and startups, and

government institutions. However, at

base for expansion opportunities.

innovative approach in achieving these goals. ABK anticipates a very successful campaign, providing customers with not only excellent banking services but also the opportunity to win significant cash prizes.

Marafi concluded with an invitation to follow the Bank's social media accounts to remain up to date with the latest marketing initiatives and to benefit from the current promotional campaigns and offers throughout the year.

Since its establishment in 1967, ABK has progressed to become one of the leading Kuwaiti banks in the region that is today known for offering a simpler banking experience. The Bank offers personal, corporate, and private banking of which includes a wide array of products and services. ABK also provides a broad range of local, regional, and global investment solutions and services through its subsidiary, ABK Capital. Enjoying equal stability and strength, the Bank also offers the convenience of banking across the region, servicing other markets in Egypt and the UAE.

For more information about ABK, please follow the Bank's Instagram account @abk_kuwait, visit eahli.com, contact Ahlan Ahli 1 899 899 or visit one of the Bank's branches across Ku-

data and protecting the digital infra-

structures of companies from security

breaches. To overcome such security

challenges, Zain has proactively un-

dertaken the responsibility to offer an

all-inclusive and integrated portfolio

of cloud services and digital solutions from the region, offering them support the same time, many new challenges on multiple fronts, including a wide geosurfaced along with this wave, emphabuilt on the latest world-class technolgraphical reach and progressive customer sizing the importance of preserving ogies and cybersecurity solutions.

AUB participates in 'Eidity' initiative, to provide 'Eidia' to all customers

Bank ensures ease of service and security

KUWAIT CITY, June 19: Ahli United Bank is pleased to announce its readiness to provide "Eidia" (monetary gifts) ahead of the blessed Eid Al-Adha, within all its branches located through Kuwait, or through some ATMs that allow the withdrawal of Kuwaiti Dinar banknotes in all denominations of 5, 10, and 20. This initiative comes as part of the bank participation in the "Eidity" campaign aimed at providing new banknotes to all society members on the

occasion of Eid Al-Adha. This initiative is launched in cooperation with the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) and Kuwait Banking Association (KBA)

On this occasion, Mr. Mohammed Al-Najjar; Manager at Retail Banking at Ahli United Bank, extended his congratulations to everyone on the blessed occasion of Eid Al-Adha. He emphasized that AUB is fully ready to provide "Eidia" to all customers and citizens within AUB branches

located throughout Kuwait during the designated work-



"Eidia"

ing hours. Furthermore, he announced that the bank has taken all necessary measures to ensure the this period of increased demand.

during

ease of receiving Al-Najjar high-

lighted that AUB participation in the Eidity initiative received a significant response during the past Eid Al-Fitr. It played a distinctive role in distributing "Eidia" to children, which is one of the prominent traditions of Eid celebration.

"Ahli United Bank also provides Eidia through some of the ATMs spread across various regions in Kuwait and they are: (Al Kout Mall, 360 Mall, Avenues, Head office branch, Al Jahra, Al Yarmouk, Sabah Al-Salem, Al Shamiya, Al Riqqa, Al

Qadsiyah, Ferdous and Mishref) to meet customers' needs of Eidia during the Eid holiday and to cater for the increased ATM withdrawals before and during the Eid. All this will be delivered using the latest banking technologies, with utmost ease and security, which enhances the banking experience that the bank strives to deliver to its customers.", Al-Najjar

Al-Najjar accentuated that Ahli United Bank always strives to sup-

port all initiatives launched by the Central Bank of Kuwait and the Kuwait Banking Association to serve the customers of the banking sector. In particular, he highlighted the "Eidity" initiative, which has received a warm welcome and great response by customers over many years. He also emphasized the bank's commitment to maintaining constant communication with its customers and sharing the joy of the holidays with them.

Seres, Nestlé present late-breaking data at ASM

Vowst helps increase microbiome diversity in CDI patients

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., June 19: Seres Therapeutics, Inc. (Nasdaq: MCRB) and Nestlé Health Science have announced the presentation of a post-hoc analysis from the Phase 3 development program for VOWST™ (fecal microbiota spores, live-brpk), the first and only US Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved orally administered microbiota-based therapeutic to prevent recurrence of C. difficile infection (CDI) in adults following antibacterial treatment for recurrent CDI (rCDI). The analysis was featured as a late-breaker Emerging Science presentation at American Society of Microbiology (ASM) Microbe 2023 being held in Houston, TX (June 15-19).

The presentation highlighted post-hoc gastrointestinal microbiome analyses of recurrent C. diff patients enrolled in the ECOSPOR III and ECOSPOR IV Phase 3 studies, including those with a first recurrence and multiple recurrences. Results showed that at baseline (pre-treatment), individuals experiencing a first recurrence or multiple recurrences exhibited a similarly low degree of gut microbiome diversity. Following treatment with VOWST, both first recurrence and multiple recurrence patient groups had a significant increase in microbiome diversity as well as increased levels of secondary bile acids, a metabolites shown to inhibit growth of C. difficile bacteria.

"Results from this post-hoc analysis of the ECOSPOR III and ECOSPOR IV Phase 3 studies show that whether recurrent C. difficile infection patients have experienced either a first recurrence or multiple recurrences, patients exhibit a similar level of loss of microbiome diversity," said Lisa von Moltke, M.D., Chief Medical Officer at Seres. "Following treatment with VOWST, we observed an early robust increase in microbiome diversity in both patient groups within one week."

Recurrent CDI represents significant unmet need and is a leading cause of hospital-acquired infection that can result in severe illness and death.2 Based on data from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the companies estimate 156,000 episodes in the US in 2023.

Transmitted

Transmissible infectious agents: Because VOWST is manufactured from human fecal matter, it may carry a risk of transmitting infectious agents. Report any infection that is suspected to have been transmitted by VOWST to Aimmune Therapeutics, Inc. at 1-833-246-2566.

Potential presence of food allergens: VOWST may contain food allergens. The potential to cause adverse reactions due to food allergens is unknown.

Recurrent C. difficile infection is a gastrointestinal infection caused by C. difficile bacteria. rCDI is linked to dysbiosis of the gastrointestinal microbiome and is associated with increased morbidity and mortality. CDI has been characterized as an Urgent Health Threat by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). rCDI results in a substantial burden on the healthcare system3 with the average rCDI-related annual costs per patient at approximately \$43K.

Seres Therapeutics, Inc. (Nasdaq: MCRB) is a commercial-stage company developing novel microbiome therapeutics for serious diseases. Seres' lead program, VOWSTTM obtained US FDA approval in April 2023 as the first orally administered microbiotabased therapeutic to prevent recurrence of C. difficile infection (CDI) in adults followg antibacterial treatment for recurrent CDI and is being commercialized in collaboration with Nestlé Health Science. Seres is evaluating SER-155 in a Phase 1b study in patients receiving allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplantation. The Company is also conducting research to inform further development of microbiome therapeutics for ulcerative colitis.

Nestlé Health Science, a leader in the science of nutrition, is a globally managed business unit of Nestlé. We are committed to redefining the management of health, offering an extensive portfolio of science-based consumer health, medical nutrition, pharmaceutical therapies, and vitamin and supplement brands. Our extensive research network provides the foundation for products that empower healthier lives through nutrition. Headquartered in Switzerland, we have more than 12,000 employees around the world, with products available in more than 140 countries.

To study safety and efficacy of lenalidomide

Starton gets FDA approval for phase 1b clinical trial of multiple myeloma drug

PARAMUS, N. J., June 19: Starton Therapeutics Inc ("Starton" or "the Company"), a clinical stage biotechnology company focused on transforming standard-of-care therapies with proprietary continuous delivery technology, has provided updates on its Phase 1b STAR-LLD clinical trial of its investigational continuous delivery lenalidomide in multiple myeloma.

The US Food and Drug Administration ("FDA") notified the Company that it may proceed with the US-based program in second-line transplant-ineligible patients using the combination of STAR-LLD, Velcade, and dexamethasone. This treatment paradigm will replace oral Revlimid with STAR-LLD. The planned study that follows this development will evaluate six patients for tolerability, immune biomarkers, and signals of efficacy of continuously delivered lenalidomide at the highest planned daily dose. The study is expected to accrue six patients in the United States in three to four centers over a period of 10 months and will provide readouts in the tolerability of the regimen, the impact of continuous delivery on immune function by measuring biomarkers of T-cell, NK-cell, and B-cell upregulation, and cytokine production induced by lenalidomide. It will also provide signals of efficacy in assessing response rates, duration of response, progression free survival, and changes in minimal residual disease.

Pedro Lichtinger, chairman and CEO of Starton Therapeutics commented, "Today's announcement marks a significant development for Starton and patients in need of approved drugs and improved quality of life, and we are excited to begin this critical program in transplant-ineligible patients with multiple myeloma. This study will provide initial evidence of the impact of continuous delivery of lenalidomide both in terms of safety and efficacy, as well as provide clarity for signals of improvement in patients outcomes."

As part of the development plans, the FDA agreed to have a meeting to review the initial data on safety and activity from the study as an interim analysis, while patients continue treatment for efficacy endpoints. This interim review is aimed at helping develop the plans for the approval path forward with Phase 2 studies for multiple myeloma, as well as other malignancies where lenalidomide has shown activity but is not approved for the new indications planned for study.

Protocol

Dr. Jamie Oliver, Starton's chief medical officer noted, "We are very happy with the agreed protocol, which allows a quick read for the key safety and efficacy data which we will review with the FDA. The upcoming Phase 1b clinical study in multiple myeloma is on track to begin enrollment in Q4 2023. Treatment of second-line patients at our proposed optimal dose of continuous lenalidomide in combination with the proteasome inhibitor Velcade and dexamethasone allows us to demonstrate activity in an established standard of care regimen by replacing Revlimid with STAR-LLD."

Starton has signed an agreement for a business combination with Healthwell Acquisition Corp. I (Nasdaq: HWEL) ("Healthwell"). Please see "Additional Information and Where to Find It" below for additional information related to the proposed business combination.

STAR-LLD is a continuous delivery lenalidomide in development to expand and

Innovative and differentiated therapies

Exelixis, Catalent enter into license agreement for three 'antibody-drug' conjugate programs

ALAMEDA, Calif., June 19: Exelixis, Inc. (Nasdaq: EXEL) and Catalent, Inc. (NYSE: CTLT) have announced a new license agreement under which Catalent's Redwood Bioscience subsidiary will grant Exelixis an exclusive license to three target programs with lead antibody and/or ADC candidates.

The ADC candidates have been developed using Catalent's proprietary SMARTag® technology, and each of the licensed antibodies has potential for development as an ADC or other biologic therapy using a variety of technologies to which Exelixis has access through its partner network. In September 2020, Exelixis and Catalent entered into a separate agreement under which Catalent is applying its SMARTag bioconjugation platform to build ADCs using monoclonal antibodies from Exelixis' growing preclinical pipeline

Under the terms of the new agreement, Exelixis will make an upfront payment to Catalent of \$30 million in exchange for rights to the three biologics programs. Exelixis will fund the development work conducted by Catalent until development candidate selection is complete, after which Exelixis will assume responsibility for conducting preclinical, clinical, and commercial activities. Catalent will be eligible for development and sales milestone payments, as well as sales-based royalties.

"Exelixis is committed to building a robust biologics pipeline, and this agreement expands our portfolio to include three highly promising targets with broad potential in multiple solid tumor indications, including bladder, breast, lung, ovarian, pancreatic, and other cancers," said Peter Lamb, Ph.D., Executive Vice President, Scientific Strategy and Chief Scientific Officer, Exelixis. "We believe that the antibodies, ADCs and data Catalent has generated to date will enable rapid advancement of these programs, enabling an acceleration of our in-house biotherapeutics pipeline.

We are excited for this new opportunity to continue our work together to advance additional programs that have the potential to provide patients with new therapeutic options."

"Catalent Biologics is a leader in applying precision protein engineering and novel chemistries to develop optimized therapeutics," said Mike Riley, President, Division Head for BioProduct Delivery, Catalent Biologics. "Our versatile SMARTag platform and growing portfolio of preclinical ADCs against promising targets create multiple opportunities for Catalent to partner with leading biopharmaceutical companies, such as Exelixis. We expect the new license agreement with Exelixis will yield innovative and differentiated therapies with the potential to improve care and outcomes for cancer patients"

Platform

The SMARTag technology platform was developed by Redwood Bioscience based on discoveries in the lab of Carolyn Bertozzi, recent winner of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry and Chair of Redwood's scientific advisory board. The platform provides optimized site-specific protein-modification, as well as linker and payload technologies for ADCs and other bioconjugates. The SMARTag platform overcomes the limitations associated with traditional protein chemistries that produce heterogeneous products with variable conjugate potency, toxicity, and stability, and enables the development of ADCs with a wider therapeutic window and improved manufacturabil-

For nearly three decades, Catalent Biologics has built capabilities and expertise in development, manufacturing, and analytical services, now spanning new biological entities, biosimilars, plasmid DNA, cell and gene therapies, vaccines, sterile injectables, mRNA, and antibody-drug conjugates. It has developed 600+ antibodies and 80+ recombinant proteins, with 120+ active clinical trials and 16 marketed biotherapeutics use GPEx® cell line engineering technology. An additional 45+ commercially approved products have employed Catalent Biologics' manufacturing and packaging capabilities.

Catalent Cell & Gene Therapy is an industry-leading technology, development, and manufacturing partner for advanced therapeutics. With a comprehensive cell therapy portfolio and deep expertise in viral vector development, scale-up and manufacturing, Catalent is a full-service partner for plasmid DNA, adeno-associated viral (AAV) and other viral vectors, viral vaccines, iPSCs and autologous and allogeneic cell therapies.

Using advanced technologies and tailored

solutions from clinical to commercial supply, Catalent brings better biologic and advanced treatments to patients, faster.

Catalent is the global leader in enabling pharma, biotech, and consumer health partners to optimize product development, launch, and full life-cycle supply for patients around the world. With broad and deep scale and expertise in development sciences, delivery technologies, and multi-modality manufacturing, Catalent is a preferred industry partner for personalized medicines, consumer health brand extensions, and blockbuster drugs.

Catalent helps accelerate over 1,000 partner programs and launch over 150 new products every year. Its flexible manufacturing platforms at over 50 global sites supply around 80 billion doses of nearly 8,000 products annually. Catalent's expert workforce of over 18,000 includes more than 3,000 scientists and technicians.

Founded in 1994, Exelixis, Inc. (Nasdaq: EXEL) is a commercially successful, oncology-focused biotechnology company that strives to accelerate the discovery, development and commercialization of new medicines for difficult-to-treat cancers. Following early work in model system genetics, we established a broad drug discovery and development platform that has served as the foundation for our continued efforts to bring new cancer therapies to patients in need. Our discovery efforts have resulted in four commercially available products, CABOMETYX® (cabozantinib), CO-METRIQ® (cabozantinib), COTELLIC® (cobimetinib) and MINNEBRO® (esaxerenone), and we have entered into partnerships with leading pharmaceutical companies to bring these important medicines to patients worldwide.

Supported by revenues from our marketed products and collaborations, we are committed to prudently reinvesting in our business to maximize the potential of our pipeline. We are supplementing our existing therapeutic assets with targeted business development activities and internal drug discovery — all to deliver the next generation of Exelixis medicines and help patients recover stronger and live longer. Exelixis is a member of the Standard & Poor's (S&P) MidCap 400 index, which measures the performance of profitable mid-sized companies.

replace the standard of care for the most common blood cancers, multiple myeloma and chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL). A preclinical proof-of-concept study for STAR-LLD demonstrated that MM tumors caused by human myeloma cells grew 25-fold if untreated, five-fold when treated with daily lenalidomide and shrank by 80% with STAR-LLD. The study also showed 100% efficacy (overall response rate ORR) at 144 mcg/day continuous LLD and 20% tumor elimination vs. 0% ORR with active control with daily pulsatile once daily dos-

ing. In addition, a Phase 1 bioavailability study in healthy men comparing STAR-LLD to Revlimid demonstrated the drug is well tolerated and is >93% bioavailable by the subcutaneous route. It was also observed that the Cmax is 90% lower than oral Revlimid. These data support the safety of the planned Phase 1 dose of 400 mcg/hr (9.6 mg a day) versus a standard 25 mg a day dose for Revlimid.

A clinical-stage biotechnology platform company focused on transforming standard of care therapies with proprietary continuous

delivery technology, so people with cancer can receive continuous treatment to live better, longer. Starton's proprietary transdermal technology is intended to increase efficacy of approved drugs, to make them more tolerable and expand their potential use.

Healthwell is a blank check company, also commonly referred to as a special purpose acquisition company, or SPAC, formed for the purpose of effecting a merger, share exchange, asset acquisition, share purchase, reorganization or similar business combination with one or more businesses or entities.





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LOS ANGELES: DC and Warner Bros' long-in-the-works superhero movie "The Flash" opened to \$55

million in its first three days in North American theaters, according to studio estimates on Sunday. Though a fair amount of money

by normal standards, a sizable

jump from DC's last release, the

a first place start, it's also muted

\$100 million debut weekends are

It was a crowded weekend at

the multiplex overall. In addition to

"The Flash" there was the new Pixar

family film "Elemental" and the hor-

ror-comedy "The Blackening." The

only big win was Wes Anderson's starry "Asteroid City" which earned

\$720,000 from just six theaters and

the distinction of having the highest

per-theater average (\$132,211) since

"The Flash" faced more compli-

cations than marketplace conditions.

It has been in the headlines often

of the movie itself but because of

its star Ezra Miller's off-screen

troubles, including arrests, erratic

behavior and accusations of mis-

conduct. Miller has apologized and

said they are seeking mental health

treatment. They also bowed out of

circuit, except for the premiere.

The studio's leadership

remained bullish on releasing

their \$200 million movie, how-

ever, confident in its quality and

importance to future DC Studios

storylines. The movie introduces

the multiverse, which allowed for

the return of Michael Keaton's

Batman in a movie that also had

Going into the weekend ana-

lysts expected "The Flash" to earn

at least \$70 million in its first three

days, playing in 4,234 locations

domestically. Now, it's projected

to net out with \$64 million in its first four, including Monday's Juneteenth holiday. Internationally, it made \$75 million, giving it

"I think Warners did a fantastic

job of dealing with the situation they

had," said Paul Dergarabedian, the

senior media analyst for Comscore.

"It's a very interesting case study

of what can happen when the title

character of a huge movie has these

very public controversies. But it's

hard to reverse engineer it to know

a \$139 million global start.

Ben Affleck's Batman.

participating in the normal publicity

over the past year, not because

the start of the pandemic.

by superhero standards where

almost commonplace.

"Shazam!" sequel, and enough for

'The Full Monty' returns 25 years on, with its politics laid bare

LONDON, June 19, (AP): The Sheffield strippers of "The Full Monty" return 25 years on, in a new TV series that wears its politics on its sleeve. In the much-loved original movie, a group of unemployed men from

the north of England decide to form a striptease act in a desperate attempt to raise money after the local steelworks closed down.

A new comedy-drama TV series from the same writer, Simon Beaufoy, and producer, Uberto Pasolini, returns to those characters more than two decades later in a compelling portrait of contemporary Britain. After the dismantling of heavy industry, the area has been subjected to an erosion of public services and the welfare safety net.
"The politics are in there," actor Steve Huison told The Associated

Press recently. "You don't have to be slammed in the face with them but hopefully people will see it and realize, 'Oh, you know, that's where I'm at at the moment."

The original movie was a surprise international hit, earning nearly \$260 million and even spawning a musical in 2000 and a play in 2013. Robert Carlyle, who plays grifter Gary "Gaz" Schofield, attributes that success to its universal themes.

"One of the principal reasons why it did have such an appeal worldwide, particularly in Europe, was that places like Sheffield exist all over Europe, and all over the US, if you think of it, you know, probably Detroit or something like that. The death of the car industry there is similar to the death of the steel industry in Sheffield," Carlyle said.

The 1997 movie was nominated for four Academy Awards, including best picture, and won one for Anne Dudley's score.

The men of "The Full Monty" - older but not necessarily wiser - do

not strip in the TV series, but are struggling to keep up with developments in modern society and, in some cases, to survive. It co-stars original castmembers Tom Wilkinson, Mark Addy, Wim Snape, Paul Clayton and Paul Barber.

Original star Hugo Speer, who once taught King Charles III a dance routine from the movie at the then-prince's 50th birthday party, was sacked from the show after allegations of inappropriate conduct, but does make a brief appearance in the series.

Beaufoy co-wrote the series with frequent collaborator Alice Nutter, the Chumbawamba singer who's also written for "Trust" and "The White Princess." Unlike the movie, the new TV series doesn't just focus on the plight of working class men; women are front and center in the story, no longer just sidelined as wives.

"You know, from the original to the series, I felt that Simon had been incredibly generous," said Lesley Sharp, who returns as Jean. "He and Alice have invested really beautifully in other female characters."

The series has a new character, Destiny, a tearaway teen played by Talitha Wing who has inherited her father Gaz's tendency to get her friends into trouble, but has a steely determination to get on in life. "There's really, really strong women," said Wing ("Alex Rider,

'Wolfe"). "It's fantastic to see and to play as well." The eight-part original series from FX is now available on Hulu in the US and Disney+ in the UK.

Also:

LOS ANGELES: Netflix gave audiences first looks at some planned

and upcoming projects including "Avatar: The Last Airbender," "One Piece" and the third season of "Bridgerton" at a fan event on Saturday. The event, called "Tudum," was live-streamed from São Paulo, Brazil with the participation of talent like Kevin Hart, Chris Hemsworth,

Arnold Schwarzenegger, John Boyega and Gal Gadot. The streamer announced the addition of Linda Hamilton to the "Stranger Things" season 5 cast, a third "Extraction" movie and more of the cast for "Squid Game" season two, including Yim Si-wan, Kang

Ha-neul, Park Sung-hoon and Yang Dong-guen. They will join returning cast Lee Jung-jae, Lee Byung-Hun, Wi Ha-jun and Gong Yoo. Lily Collins also teased some details about the fourth season of

"Emily in Paris," which she said will bring her ex-pat to **Rome**. The live-action "Avatar: The Last Airbender" is one of the most eagerly anticipated series in the bunch. It stars Gordon Cormier as

Aang, Kiawentiio as Katara, Ian Ousley as Sokka, and Dallas Liu as Zuko, who were seen in their character costumes for the first time. Another series that had people talking was "One Piece," a live-action pirate adventure based on the popular manga, which is wrapped and due for its premiere on Aug. 31.

But specific release dates for many are still to be determined as the Hollywood Writers' Strike continues and uncertainty looms about whether actors will be joining the picket lines after their SAG-AFTRA contract expires on June 30. Netflix is one of the studios represented by the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers (or AMPTP), the bargaining arm negotiating with the major guilds over issues such as residuals, minimum pay and the use of artificial intelligence.

Variety



This image released by A24 shows Michelle Yeoh in a scene from 'Everything Everywhere All at Once.' (AP)

mains a family.

Pop Culture

What if things could turn out differently?

How multiverse got into our heads

By Ted Anthony

et's do things differently this time.

Those are the first words you hear in this month's "Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse," an otherworldly meditation on multiple realities. The message is clear from the get-go: We have choices. You are you, sure. But wait - you might also be you and you and you.

The world is a stressful, sometimes lonely place. But what if things could turn out another way? What if, somewhere, they had? Enter the realm of the multiverse and alternate realities, one of the most glorified pop culture canvases - and a repository for the ache and longing of living in an era of uncertainty.

"The cultural assumption used to be that the world we live in is the way it is, and that's the only way it could be," says Douglas Wolk, who read 27,000 Marvel comics for his book, "All of the Marvels."

"What has happened in culture," Wolk says, "is that people are saying, 'Well, no. This consensus reality is not how things have to be."

The notion of exploring life's twists and turns through alternate timelines has been around for a while, albeit in varying guises. "It's a Wonderful Life" sent George Bailey tum-

bling into a timeline where he'd never been born to reveal his true impact. In the decades since, that notion has accelerated - a rise in stories that consider events both fictional and real, extrapolating different choices What if the South had won the Civil War ("CSA:

The Confederate States of America")? What if Germany and Japan had won World War II ("The Man in the High Castle")? What if John F. Kennedy hadn't been assassinated ("11/22/63")?

Fictional worlds are more malleable. Imaginary characters - particularly beloved ones with established stories - are toyed with in books, TV shows and movies that airlift them out of one life and into another. It's a canvas that cuts across genres, from rom-com (1998's "Sliding Doors") to near-musical (2019's Beatles jukebox "Yesterday").

You have the reality where Spider-Man never married M.J. (Marvel Comics' "Brand New Day"); the universe where a Ben Affleck Batman never existed but the Michael Keaton Batman stuck around and got old ("The Flash"); and the "mirror universe" of "Star Trek" that reveals the baser instincts of beloved characters.

"It's a way to explore a problem that's never actually happened in the main story," sums up Nic Lemire, a California teenager who co-hosts the occasional "Marvel Mondays" podcast with his mother (a former Associated Press film critic).

One crowning example of multiverse success: The Oscar-sweeping "Everything Everywhere All at Once," which showed all the different lives Michelle Yeoh's main character might have lived - with the point being that across the multiverse, her family re-

Theme

These works are united by one theme: There are always possibilities, for better and for worse, and exploring them is entertaining, enlightening and escapist. That's no small thing in a post-COVID world where convulsive change can seem the only

"We're bombarded with things that seem arbitrary, random," says Hannah Kim, an assistant professor of philosophy at Macalester College. "The number of difficult developments the past few years - the pandemic, political upheaval, effects of climate change, etc. - leave the anxiety-riddled person with the nagging feeling that this all could have been otherwise."

Exploring the question of "what if" continues to be lucrative - there's even an entire Marvel show called "What If ...?" While multiple universes may start to feel spread thin as a plot device, the trope isn't going away.

After all, if you can remix popular characters

while retaining the potential for a reset in a "prime universe," what is there to lose? Well, there's this: If everything is reversible, how high can the stakes really be?

"It narratively lets you have your cake and eat it too - you can kill off the character, have an emotional death scene and then bring the character back from another universe," says Matt Ruff, whose 9/11 novel, "The Mirage," posits an alternate universe that flips aggressors, victims and prejudices.

"If everything's possible, the choices are less interesting. The consequences don't matter all that much," Ruff says. "Part of engaging in the real world is engaging with the fact that there's no magical so-

That, though, may be precisely why the notion resonates. Humans have always wanted to try on other outfits, other outcomes, other lives. Technology has enabled people to obtain most anything from the world's bounty within 48 hours. So why not thousands of stories with thousands of possible endings? What does that do to our relationship with

our stories? "You are looking at a piece of a bigger cultural picture that provides a constant barrage of cultural images that reinforce this idea that we can be better versions of ourselves," says Colgate University sociologist David Newman, who has written a book on second chances. "People want to believe that when we have a problem, the problem is fixable.'

There's one Marvel Comics offshoot, "Marvel 1602," in which Earth's mightiest superheroes exist at the beginning of the 17th century.

"I posit we are in a universe which favors stories," Fantastic Four leader Reed Richards says. "A universe in which no story can ever truly end; in which

there can only be continuances.' However it might play out, that's a universe full of possibilities. And judging from the past two decades, it's good business as well to keep on asking: What if? (AP)

what effect it may have had." of the main promotional outlets late night talk shows - are still shut down as the Writers Strike continues. Also, with the knowledge that DC is undergoing a major reset, fans might have decided to move

on and wait for that Critics were mixed but more



Noveck wrote in her review that despite some "breezily clever and entertaining" moments, "the final act bogs down in what feels like an endless, generic CGI battle and a kitchen-sink resolution."

positive than not, with a 67% on

Rotten Tomatoes. AP's Jocelyn

Audiences polled for CinemaScore only gave the film a B, which has not historically been great news for word-of-mouth potential and longevity.

But there is a bit of a gap in the schedule before the next major blockbuster comes in "Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny,' which opens on June 30. Next week's biggest offering is the Rrated Jennifer Lawrence comedy

"No Hard Feelings" and the nationwide expansion of "Asteroid City."

Second place went to "Elemental" with an estimated \$29.5 million from 4,035 locations in North America - a new low for Pixar's three-day openings. Before, that title belonged to "The Good Dinosaur" and "Onward," which both debuted to \$39 million. " (AP)

Another obstacle was that some

People & Places





Jeffrey Loverboy

Liberate, not constrict

Prada explores the menswear fluidity

MILAN, June 19, (AP): The architecture at Prada's showroom shifts with every season, but never so fluidly as for Spring-Summer 2024 menswear.

The collection was viewed through a wall of clear falling slime - a form of fluid architecture - that gathered on the metallic grate runway in piles of green foam. The moving architecture was a metaphor for a collection that was mean

to express the fluidity of menswear. Some highlights from the third day of Milan Fashion Week of mostly menswear runway shows for next spring and summer: Prada explores the fluidity of menswear, through a 1940s

workwear tailored silhouette that is at the same time liberating. Co-creative directors Miuccia Prada and Raf Simons said they were experimenting with the idea of a fluid architecture

that animates the male form, never constricting. The collection's building blocks are the white shirt, midthigh shorts, black socks and thick-soled shiny loafers. Clothes for real men, the collection also includes jeans, blazers and raincoats. The look can be layered with a reporter's

vest. Leather bags are soft, with decorative pockets. The textiles are super-light, allowing button-down shirts or jackets to be tucked neatly into shorts, which are gathered at the waist, emphasizing an idealized male form: wide shoul-

ders, narrow waist. "We were very interested to see how we could liberate that, in the sense you had a lot of freedom to move," Simons said.

Hawaiian-inspired prints of sci-fi dragons were curtained with a long fringe, creating motion. Pockets on a reporter's vest were more decorative than utilitarian, the designers said. Looks were finished with molded eyewear and headbands, conveying a kinetic energy.

Loverboy

British designer Charles Jeffrey proposed a joyful Loverboy collection for a new Carolean era in Britain driven by the people and inspired by the tumultuous season when

King Charles III ascended the throne amid political turmoil. "I wanted to reclaim that space. I decided to do my own counterculture," Jeffrey said backstage. "I looked at the previous Carolean era of the 17th century: the reformation of the monarchy, the opening of theaters, arts and culture, new Romanticism.'

Like the new Romantics, Jeffrey used costume "to depict euphoria, to depict a better life."

The designer used Loverboy's design codes of tartan, tailoring and knitwear and combined them with what he called "joyful slapstick accessories." They included a fanciful shield and sword decorated with classical figures, and tricorn hats adorned with scenes from Carolean theater created with paper dolls.

Look included fluorescent yellow bloomers, a maiden's bustled dress with an AI-created floral pattern, a knight's armor transposed on to athletic running gear, and a barrel dress created from fabric strips belted together. The brand's leather claw shoes finished many looks.

"They are a depiction of what the Carolean era should be: Free education, gay rights, women's rights free borders,' Jeffrey said backstage.

The upcycled, hand-crafted artisanal brand Simon Cracker presented an irreverent and even chaotic collection dubbed "Theoretically," for that so-called moment when everything

Variety

ANCHORAGE, Alaska: Bush pilot Jim Tweto, known for his starring role in the Discovery Channel's "Flying Wild Alaska" series, was killed along with a hunting and fishing guide from Idaho when their small plane crashed shortly after takeoff, Alaska State

Troopers said.

Tweto's family-run rural aviation business in Unalakleet was featured in three seasons of the television series a decade ago. He and passenger Shane Reynolds of Orofino, Idaho, died Friday near the coastal village of Shaktoolik, roughly 125 miles (200 kilometers) east of Nome, the state-

Jeffrey

Loverboy

Prada

The plane "was witnessed taking off but not climbing and then crashing," their report said. Troopers were notified of an SOS activation around 11:48 amFriday, followed by a report that a Cessna 180 had crashed 35 miles northeast of Shaktoolik.

Prada

Troopers responding from Nome recovered both bodies. The National Transportation Safety Board said it is investigating.

The Anchorage Daily News reported that Tweto was a co-owner of Hageland Aviation Services and then Era Alaska, which would later become Ravn Air Group; Reynolds operated Northwest Fishing Expeditions, guiding clients in Alaska and across the Pacific Northwest for years.

Jeffrey

Loverboy

Tweto, 68, died doing what he loved, his daughter Ariel posted on Instagram. She called Reynolds, 45, "a wonderful hunting guide and friend of our family

Born in Kansas and raised in Minnesota, Tweto came to Alaska to play

hockey at the University of Alaska Anchorage, and settled in Unalakleet, where he met his wife Ferno. The couple and their three daughters were featured in the Discovery series, which aired in 2011-2012. (AP)

SEOUL, South Korea: A British man was detained after climbing more than half way up the world's fifth-tallest

other personnel were dispatched to the 123-story, 555-meter (1,820-foot) -tall Lotte World Tower, after the man was spotted scaling the building on Monday morning, the Seoul fire agency

The man, in his 20s, reached the



72nd floor, which is about 310 meters (1,020 feet) high, before officials took him to a gondola lift and moved him inside the building, the statement said.

Prada

Above and below: Model wear

creations as part of the Prada, Simon

Cracker and Jeffrey Loverboy men's

Spring Summer 2024 collections

presented in Milan, Italy, Sunday, June 18. (AP)

South Korean media identified the man as free climber George King-**Thompson**. The reports said he was carrying a parachute and told police that he wanted to BASE-jump from the

top of the building.

Fire and police authorities didn't immediately confirm the man's name

or his motive. King-Thompson was arrested in 2019 after scaling the Shard in **London** — the **UK**'s tallest skyscraper at 310 meters (1,017 feet) — after the owners of the building pressed charges against him for trespassing. He was sentenced to six months in prison and

served three. In 2021, he climbed the 36-story Stratosphere Tower, a residential block in east London's Stratford neighborhood and reached the top in less than half an hour. He said he picked the building because he was shocked by the flash floods that recently hit the area and wanted to raise awareness to the seriousness of climate change

In 2018, French climber **Alain Robert**, known as "Spiderman" for his daring stunt, was also detained after climbing the 75th floor of the Lotte World Tower. Lotte officials said they heard he was eventually released and left South Korea after they told police they didn't want to press charges for obstruction or trespassing. (AP)

HAHNVILLE, La: A 28-year-old woman who enrolled at a Louisiana high school and posed as a 17-year-old student to learn English has been arrested along

with her mother, authorities said.

Martha Jessenia Gutierrez Serrano and her mother, Marta Elizabeth Serrano Alvarado, 46, both of Boutte, were arrested Tuesday, the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office said in a news release. Each are charged with a one count of injuring public records. Serrano Alvarado used a fake

passport and birth certificate from Honduras to register and enroll her daughter at Hahnville High School for the 2022-2023 school year, the sheriff's office said.

Sheriff **Greg Champagne**, at a news conference said Gutierrez Serrano told investigators she enrolled in school to learn the English language.

"She wanted to learn English. She wanted to become proficient in the English language," Champagne said.

"There was no nefarious reason behind this," he said, adding that the falsifying of government documents to do this was just "bad judgment." (AP)



Prada

skyscraper in Seoul with only his bare hands, authorities said.

More than 90 emergency, police and

said in a statement

Climate

'Net zero climate bill'

Death toll rises in India sweltering 'heat wave'

BALLIA, India, June 19, (AP): Nearly 170 people have died in two of India's most populous states in recent days amid a sweltering heat wave, officials said Monday, as hospitals are overwhelmed with patients and routine power outages add to the challenges.

In the northern state of Uttar Pradesh, 119 people have died from heat-related illnesses over the last several days while in neighboring Bihar state 47 people have died, according to local news reports and health officials.

The largest hospital in Ballia district in Uttar Pradesh is unable to accommodate more patients, officials said, and its morgue was overwhelmed after 54 people died due to the heat. Some families were asked to take the bodies of their relatives home.



toll began to increase.

While northern regions of India are known for sweltering heat during the summer months, temperatures have been consistently above normal, according to the Indian Meteorological Department, with highs in recent days reaching 43.5 degrees Celsius (110 degrees Fahrenheit). A heat wave is declared in India if temperatures are at least 4.5 degrees Celsius above normal or if the temperature is above 45 degrees Celsius (113 degrees Fahrenheit).

"We have been issuing heat wave warnings for the past few days," said Atul Kumar Singh, a scientist at the IMD. Despite the warnings, government officials did not ask people to brace for the heat until Sunday, when the death

Adding to the heat stress are consistent power outages across the region, leaving people with no running water, fans or air conditioners.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said the government was taking measures to ensure an uninterrupted power supply in the state. He urged citizens to cooperate with the government and use electricity judiciously.

"Every village and every city should receive adequate power supply during this scorching heat. If any faults occur, they should be promptly addressed," he said Friday night in a statement.

Inside Ballia district hospital, the chaotic scenes were reminiscent of the coronavirus pandemic, with families and doctors scrambling even as many patients required urgent medical attention. The corridors smelled of urine, garbage and medical waste, and hospital walls were stained with betel leaf spit.

"All our staff has been here for three days straight and are completely overworked," said Dr. Aditya Singh, an emergency medical officer.

The wards in the hospital had no functioning air conditioners, and cooling units that were installed were not working properly due to power fluctuations. Attendants were fanning patients with books and wiping their sweat in an attempt to keep them cool.

Officials in the district hospital say more severe cases are now being shifted to hospitals in bigger cities nearby such as Varanasi and more doctors and medical resources are being sent to the district hospital to deal with the heatinduced crisis.

Outside, Ballia residents told the AP they were scared of going outside after midmorning.

"So many people are dying from the heat that we are not getting a minute's time to rest. On Sunday, I carried 26 dead bodies," Jitendra Kumar Yadav, a hearse driver in Deoria town, 110 kilometers (68 miles) from Ballia, told the AP.

Climate experts say that heat waves will continue and India needs to prepare better to deal with their consequences. A study by World Weather Attribution, an academic group that examines the source of extreme heat, found that a searing heat wave in April that struck parts of South Asia was made at least 30 times more likely by

climate change. "Plans for dealing with heatwaves are essential for minimizing their effects and preserving lives. These plans include all-inclusive approaches to dealing with high heat occurrences, such as public awareness campaigns, the provision of cooling centers, and healthcare assistance,' said Aditya Valiathan Pillai, an associate fellow at a New Delhi-based think-tank, Centre for Policy Research.

A majority of Swiss citizens on Sunday voted in favor of a bill aimed at introducing new climate measures to sharply curb the rich Alpine nation's greenhouse gas

Final results released by public broadcaster SRF showed that 59.1% of voters were in favor of the bill, while 40.9% voted against.

The referendum was sparked by a campaign by scientists and environmentalists to save Switzerland's iconic glaciers, which are melting away at an alarming rate.

Campaigners initially proposed even more ambitious measures but later backed a government plan that requires Switzerland to achieve "net zero" emissions by 2050. It also sets aside more than 3 billion Swiss francs (\$3.357 billion) to help wean companies and homeowners off fossil fuels.

The nationalist Swiss People's Party, which demanded the popular vote, had claimed that the proposed measures would cause electricity prices to rise.

Backers of the plan argued that Switzerland will be hard-hit by global warming and is already seeing the effects of rising temperatures on its famous glaciers.

"The supporters have reason to rejoice," Urs Bieri of the GFS Bern Institute told SRF. "But by no means everyone is in favor of the law. The argument with the costs has brought many 'no' votes.'

Greenpeace Switzerland welcomed the result of the referendum.

"This victory means that at last the goal of achieving net zero emissions will be anchored in law. That gives better security for planning ahead and allows our country to take the path toward an exit from fossil fuels," said Georg Klingler, an expert on climate and energy at Greenpeace Switzerland.

"The result of the vote shows that the citizens of our country are committed to the aim of limiting global warming to 1.5 Celsius in order to preserve as much as possible our glaciers, our water reserves, our agriculture and our prosperity. I am very relieved to see that the lies disseminated by the opposite camp during the campaign did not sow the seed of doubt in people," he added.

Swiss glaciers experienced record melting last year, losing more than 6% of their volume and alarming scientists who say a loss of 2% would once have been considered extreme.

Experts such as Matthias Huss, a glaciologist at the Swiss Institute for Technology in Zurich, have taken to posting dramatic snapshots of retreating glaciers and rockslides from melting permafrost on social media to highlight the changes taking place in the Alps.

"Let's act as long as we can still prevent the worst," he recently wrote on Twitter.



Samantha Richards speaks about her experience with Medicaid, Friday, June 9, in Bloomington, Ind. Richards has been on Medicaid her whole life and currently works two part-time jobs as a custodian. (AP)



A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket lifts off from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, Fla., Sunday, June 18. The rocket is carrying a Satria-1 communications satellite for Indonesian-based PSN.



Discovery

Voters back heritage status bid: Voters in the municipality where Neuschwanstein Castle is located have voted to approve a bid for UNESCO World Heritage status for the 19th century palaces built by King Ludwig II of Bavaria, some of which are among Germany's most popular tourist attractions.

In a referendum on Sunday, some 56% of voters who turned out in the Schwangau municipality gave their approval to the bid, German news agency dpa reported. Officials plan to submit the bid officially to UNESCO early next year, with the UN body's World Heritage Committee expected to make a decision in mid-2025.

German officials hope to win World Heritage status for four of Ludwig's creations dotted across southern Bavaria. They are Linderhof Palace; Herrenchiemsee Palace, modeled on France's Versailles and located on an island in a lake; Neuschwanstein Castle, a monument to medieval culture with inspiration from Richard Wagner; and the King's House on Schachen, by far the leastknown of the quartet.

Neuschwanstein and Herrenchiemsee weren't completed by the time Ludwig, who had accumulated massive debts, died in 1886.

The local council in Schwangau opted to hold a referendum amid concern locally that World Heritage status could attract even more visitors to Neuschwanstein, already a tourist magnet, and lead to new restrictions on building in the area. (AP)

Iconic African lion dies: Kamau, the African lion who was a star attraction at California's Sacramento Zoo, has died at age 16, officials said. The zoo said Kamau was euthanized Saturday, a day after the big cat was pulled off an exhibit because of declining health due to his advanced age.

The lion was considered elderly with worsening gastrointestinal problems, the difficult decision to proceed with humane euthanasia was made when medical treatment options failed to provide sufficient relief from his condition," the zoo said in a statement. The statement called Kamau one of the

zoo's "most charismatic and iconic animals." He came to Sacramento from the San Diego Zoo in 2008 and in the years since attracted crowds who hoped to hear his impressive roar. Governor of California is **Gavin Newsom**. In 2014, the lion sired a litter of cubs. A

few years later, his habitat doubled in size, and a glass viewing wall allowed guests to get "nose-to-nose" with both Kamau and his mate, Cleo, the zoo said.

Cleo, now 18, is in good health. African lions typically live 10 to 15 years, the zoo said, but they can live up to 25 years in captivity. (AP)

Crew saves litter of raccoons: An

abandoned litter of raccoons discovered at

Health

US states start post-pandemic purge of rolls

More than 1mn dropped from Medicaid

NEW YORK, June 19, (AP): More than 1 million people have been dropped from Medicaid in the past couple months as some states moved swiftly to halt health care coverage following the end of the coronavirus pandemic.

Most got dropped for not filling out

paperwork.

Though the eligibility review is required by the federal government, President's Joe Biden's administration isn't too pleased at how efficiently some other states are accomplishing the task.

"Pushing through things and rushing it will lead to eligible people - kids and families - losing coverage for some period of time," Daniel Tsai, a top federal Medicaid official recently told reporters.

Already, about 1.5 million people have been removed from Medicaid in more than two dozen states that started the process in April or May, according to publicly available reports and data obtained by The Associated Press.

Florida has dropped several hundred thousand people, by far the most among states. The drop rate also has been particularly high in other states. For people whose cases were decided in May, around half or more got dropped in Arkansas, Idaho, Kansas, Nevada, New Hampshire, Oklahoma,

South Dakota, Utah and West Virginia. By its own count, Arkansas has dropped more than 140,000 people from Medicaid.

The eligibility redeterminations have created headaches for Jennifer Mojica, 28, who was told in April that she no longer qualified for Medicaid because Arkansas had incorrectly determined her income was above the limit.

She got that resolved, but was then told her 5-year-old son was being dropped from Medicaid because she had requested his cancellation - something that never happened, she said. Her son's coverage has been restored, but now Mojica says she's been told her husband no longer qualifies. The uncertainty has been frustrating, she said.

"It was like fixing one thing and then another problem came up, and they fixed it and then something else came up," Mojica said.

Arkansas officials said they have tried to renew coverage automatically for as many people as possible and placed a special emphasis on reaching families with children. But a 2021 state law requires the post-pandemic

eligibility redeterminations to be completed in six months, and the state will continue "to swiftly disenroll individuals who are no longer eligible," the Department of Human Services said in statement.

Arkansas Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders has dismissed criticism of the state's process.

"Those who do not qualify for Medicaid are taking resources from those who need them," Sanders said on Twitter last month. "But the pandemic is over - and we are leading the way back to normalcy.

More than 93 million people nation-wide were enrolled in Medicaid as of the most recent available data in February - up nearly one-third from the pre-pandemic total in January 2020. The rolls swelled because federal law prohibited states from removing people from Medicaid during the health emergency in exchange for providing states with increased funding.

Eligibility

Now that eligibility reviews have resumed, states have begun plowing through a backlog of cases to determine whether people's income or life circumstances have changed. States have a year to complete the process. But tracking down responses from everyone has proved difficult, because some people have moved, changed contact information or disregarded mailings about the renewal process.

Before dropping people from Medicaid, the Florida Department of Children and Families said it makes between five and 13 contact attempts, including texts, emails and phone calls. Yet the department said 152,600 people have been non-responsive.

Their coverage could be restored retroactively, if people submit information showing their eligibility up to 90 days after their deadline.

Unlike some states, Idaho continued to evaluate people's Medicaid eligibility during the pandemic even though it didn't remove anyone. When the enrollment freeze ended in April, Idaho started processing those cases - dropping nearly 67,000 of the 92,000 people whose cases have been decided so far.

"I think there's still a lot of confusion among families on what's happening," said Hillarie Hagen, a health policy associate at the nonprofit Idaho Voices for Children.

She added, "We're likely to see people showing up at a doctor's office in the coming months not knowing they've lost Medicaid." Advocates fear that many house-

holds losing coverage may include children who are actually still eligible, because Medicaid covers children at higher income levels than their parents or guardians. A report last year by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services forecast that children would be disproportionately impacted, with more than half of those disenrolled still actually eligible.

That's difficult to confirm, however, because the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services doesn't require states to report a demographic breakdown of those dropped. In fact, CMS has yet to release any stateby-state data. The AP obtained data directly from states and from other groups that have been collecting it.

Medicaid recipients in numerous states have described the eligibility redetermination process as frustrating.

Julie Talamo, of Port Richey, Florida, said she called state officials every day for weeks, spending hours on hold, when she was trying to ensure her 19-year-old special-needs son, Thomas, was going to stay on Medicaid.

She knew her own coverage would end but was shocked to hear Thomas' coverage would be whittled down to a different program that could force her family to pay \$2,000 per month. Eventually, an activist put Talamo in contact with a senior state healthcare official who confirmed her son would stay on Medicaid.

"This system was designed to fail people," Talamo said of the haphazard process.

Some states haven't been able to complete all the eligibility determinations that are due each month. Pennsylvania reported more than 100,000 incomplete cases in both April and May. Tens of thousands of cases also remained incomplete in April or May in Arizona, Arkansas, Indiana, Iowa, New Mexico and Ohio.

"If states are already behind in processing renewals, that's going to snowball over time," said Tricia Brooks, a research professor at the Georgetown University Center for Children and Families. "Once they get piles of stuff that haven't been processed, I don't see how they catch up easily.

a construction site in northern Utah found new homes earlier this week after a construction crew uncovered the animals below the remnants of a demolished home.

"A big-hearted foreman for the demolition

crew working on Morgan Valley Drive came to the fire station asking for help," the Morgan County Fire Department said in a statement. 'After his crew knocked down an abandoned home, they heard chirping in the rubble."



A father tries to pacify his daughter suffering from heat related ailment as she is brought to the government district hospital in Ballia, Uttar Pradesh state, India, Monday, June 19, 2023. Several people have died in two of India's most populous states in recent days amid a searing heat wave, as hospitals find themselves overwhelmed with patients. More than hundred people in the Uttar Pradesh state, and dozens in neighboring Bihar state have died due to heatrelated illness. (AP)

The eight baby raccoons appeared to have no mother. Firefighters cared for them until someone with permits to raise raccoons offered to adopt them.

Utah requires permits to home non-native species like raccoons or coyotes, which frequently roam wild. Utah Governor is Spencer **J. Cox** (AP)

Red notice for Lotfi: Interpol has issued an international warrant for a Lebanese man suspected of trafficking stolen antiquities, weeks after he was questioned in Lebanon, judicial officials said.

The Red Notice was unsealed 10 months after a criminal court in New York issued an arrest warrant for Georges Lotfi, 82, charging him with criminal possession of stolen property as well as possessing looted artifacts.

The officials did not give further details about the Interpol warrant, which is a nonbinding request to law enforcement agencies worldwide that they locate and provisionally arrest a fugitive. The notice is not an arrest warrant and does not require Lebanon to arrest Lotfi.

anonymity in line with regulations, said the American judiciary sent the case related to Lotfi to Lebanon and asked authorities in the Mediterranean nation to follow up on him. When Lotfi was summoned for question-

The officials, who spoke on condition of

ing by Lebanese authorities earlier this year, the officials said he denied charges that he had stolen antiquities, saying instead he had bought them from archeologists and sold them to a museum in the US. (AP)

Alex wins at Road America

Palou continues hot streak, extends IndyCar points lead



Salwa Al Sabah Sports Club Board of Directors.

(AP): Alex Palou started the weekend at Road America with a car-damaging crash and rallied to end it with his third victory in the last four IndyCar races.

That's how well things have been going for the Spaniard in his remarkable first half to the IndyCar season.

Palou built on his commanding lead in the points standings with a decisive victory Sunday. The Chip Ganassi Racing driver won by 4.5610 seconds over Indianapolis 500 winner Josef Newgarden, Team Penske's winner at Road

America last year. "It was an amazing day for us," Palou said.

Palou's victory was the 250th overall team win for Chip Ganassi Racing It's been amazing month, really.

Palou's title follows victories on May 13 at the Indianapolis road course and June 4 at Detroit. The only race he hasn't won out of the last four was the Indy 500, where he finished fourth but had the pole position and dominated for much of the race until he was spun on pit road during routine stops.

He has a 74-point lead in the points standings over Ganassi teammate Marcus Ericsson. The last time anyone had this big of a lead eight races into the season was in 2020, when eventual 117-point edge.

"I think we all need to be better if we want to catch the 10 car," Newgarden said of Palou. "That's just the reality

Pato O'Ward of Arrow McLaren was third, and Dixon of Ganassi was fourth. Colton Herta started from the pole and dominated but Andretti Autosport blew the strategy and Herta finished fifth.

Palou's victory didn't come easily.

He spun in a Saturday morning practice, hitting the tire barrier with the right side of his Honda. But after his team worked to rebuild his car later that day,

CAR RACING

Palou finished third in qualifying to put himself in position for another victory.

"We almost had no time to rebuild the car," said Palou, who also won here in 2021. "They did. They not only got the car back on track, but it was fast.

Palou is seeking his second IndyCar series title in three years after winning the crown in 2021. Will Power is the defending series champion.

Although Herta dominated, a late pit decision caused him to fade down the

pit road on the 40th lap, one lap before the rest of the lead group. Herta remained ahead of the competitors who pitted a lap later but had a much more precarious fuel situation.

That enabled Palou to gradually close the gap before finally overtaking

him on the 49th of 55 laps on the 4.014-

mile, 14-turn course. Herta continued to fall back in the pack the rest of the way before settling for fifth place. He hasn't won a race since May 2022 at the Indianapolis

road course. "It's frustrating," Herta said. "We had the best car.

Dixon's fourth-place finish was remarkable considering what had happened a day earlier.

The six-time IndyCar Series champion was at fault in a crash with Power during a Saturday morning practice that severely damaged both their cars. An angry Power got out of his car, exchanged words with Dixon and shoved him in the chest.

Dixon's car was damaged badly enough that he used an entirely different vehicle for qualifying later Saturday. He qualified 23rd in the 27-car field but worked his way up near the front of the pack.

Financial, administrative reports approved

General Assembly of 'Salwa' renews confidence in the Board of Directors

KUWAIT CITY, June 19: The General Assembly of Salwa Al Sabah Sports Club approved on Sunday the financial and administrative reports for fiscal year ending 2022-2023 during the assembly's meeting at the club's premises in the presence of a large number of general assembly members.

The meeting was chaired by the Chairwoman of Salwa Al -Sabah club, Sheikha Naima Al- Ahmed, and in the presence of Deputy Chairwoman Nayla Al Ali, secretary Engineer Rasha Al Sayegh, treasurer Suad Sadek, in addition to Assistant Secretary Khuloud Baqer and Assistant Treasurer Jehan

The General Assembly meeting of "Salwa" witnessed the presentation of the most important and most prominent achievements of the club's teams by Sheikha Naima Al-Ahmad, who pointed out that the season was full of local and foreign participations, and witnessed many achievements by the players with the major support of the club's Board of Directors.

She also thanked them for renewing confidence in the board of directors, which draws its strength from the General Assembly, in order to continue the March of success and excellence of Salwa Al Sabah club, and that ambitions are great to make more achieve-

She said "Last season witnessed many achievements for the club, including the winning the volleyball league's championship for the third

Baltimore

LA Angels

Cincinnati Texas

Philadelphia 3 Oakland

American League

Boston 37 Central Division

East Division

Tampa Bay

Baltimore New York

Minnesota

Cleveland

Chicago Kansas City West Division

Los Angeles Houston

Detroit

Texas

Seattle Oakland

Toronto

Boston

Detroit

Seattle

MLB Results/Standings

6 Chicago Cubs 6 NY Yankees G 1

5 Kansas City

9 Houston 10 inn

Chicago W. Sox

.680 .620 .542 .534 .514

Pct .500 .465 .429 .425 .268

Pct .620 .554 .542 .500 .257

5 10-1/2

12-1/2

GB

2-1/2

5-1/2 16-1/2

4-1/2 5-1/2 8-1/2 26-1/2

6 Minnesota

Toronto

W

WASHINGTON, June 19, (AP): Results and standings from the MLB games on

San Diego

Cleveland

Atlanta Milwaukee

National League

East Division

Miami Philadelphia

Cincinnati

Pittsburgh

West Division

West Division
W
Arizona 43
San Francisco 39
Los Angeles 39
San Diego 35
Colorado 29

Chicago

St Louis

Philadelphia New York 33 Washington 27 Central Division

St Louis

Atlanta

Boston

Miami

consecutive time that in addition to the

Super and cup championships.
As for the U-18 volleyball team, it also achieved the league championship for the second consecutive season, in addition, the table tennis players won a large number of medals with the national team, and at the local level achieved titles of all competitions in various age groups.

"The athletics team also achieved first place in the refresher tournament in its first and second editions, and first place in the first preliminary tournament," Al-Ahmad added.

At the level of the national teams, Salwa Al-Sabah club player Dana Al-Azmi won the gold medal of the West Asian Championship in discus throw. The player Madawi Al-Shammari won the silver medal of the sports and Cultural Olympiad - Iran.

She thanked the Public Authority for sport for supporting the women's sports movement, especially Salwa Al-Sabah club.

In turn, the members of the General Assembly of Salwa AlSabah club praised the Board of Directors efforts and gave it unlimited support ectors headed by Sheikha Naima Al-Ahmad, and their confidence in the continued development of women's sports and all club teams to win more championships next season, especially after the great and wonderful work done by the board last season, and place the club in the ranks of advanced clubs in women's

Tampa Bay

Washington

Colorado Pittsburgh

NY Mets

.639 .569 .528 .465

Pct

.521 .514 .486 .465 .403

Pct .597 .549 .542 .493 .392

NY Yankees G 2

GB

8 12-1/2

GB

-1/2 2-1/2

4 8-1/2

GB

3-1/2

7-1/2 15

Arizona

12

San Francisco7 LA Dodgers

Marlins sweep Nationals

Guardians rout Diamondbacks



runs, helping Los Angeles defeat

Kansas City in the finale of a three-

28th overall, that Ohtani and Trout

have homered in the same game. Jared

Walsh led off the ninth with a solo

two runs on six hits in five innings to

earn the win. Carlos Estevez notched

Orioles 6, Cubs 3

Mateo each had an RBI single in

Baltimore's three-run sixth inning in a

Baltimore, and Ramón Urías drove in

two runs. Austin Hays had three of the

The Orioles, winners of six of seven

when they arrived in Chicago, dropped

the first two of the weekend series by

Braves 14, Rockies 6

twice and drove in six runs, and NL

East-leading Atlanta beat slumping

Colorado to complete a four-game

sweep and run its winning streak to six

Michael Harris II went 5 for 5 and

scored three times for Atlanta, which

erased a 5-0 deficit. Harris and Ozzie

Albies each hit a three-run drive, help-

ing the Braves increasing their major

league-leading total to 126 homers.

Matt Olson and Orlando Arcia each

with three earned runs and five hits in

Red Sox 6, Yankees 2, 1st game

Red Sox 4, Yankees 1, 2nd game

a catcher's interference to break a

fourth-inning tie and then scored again

in the fifth after reaching on a dropped

pop and Boston completed a double-

neader and series sweep of New York.

the Green Monster to lead the Red Sox

to a win in the day game, a makeup of

swept the Yankees in a doubleheader

since Sept. 17, 2006, and the first time

they did at Fenway Park since since

career-high eight batters in the night-

cap, allowing one run and four hits and

three walks in seven innings. Kenley

Jansen pitched the ninth to earn his

Luis Severino (0-2) gave up four

runs - three earned - and seven hits

with three walks while striking out six.

The Yankees were without slugger

Brayan Bello (4-4) struck out a

Verdugo also had an RBI double off

It's the first time the Red Sox have

In Boston, Alex Verdugo scored on

Charlie Morton (6-6) was charged

had two of the team's 18 hits.

five innings in the win.

Saturday's rainout.

July 31, 1976.

15th save.

In Atlanta, Eddie Rosario homered

a combined score of 13-5.

In Chicago, Adam Frazier and Jorge

Anthony Santander homered for

his 19th save in 19 tries.

win over Chicago.

team's 14 hits.

Tyler Anderson (4-1) surrendered

It's the sixth time this season, and

Cleveland Guardians pitcher Daniel Norris throws against the Arizona Diamondbacks during the ninth inning of a baseball game in Phoenix. (AP)

19, (AP): Jesús Luzardo earned his first victory in three career starts at Nationals Park and the Miami Marlins beat Washington 4-2 Sunday to complete a three-game sweep and move 10 games over .500 for the first time in 12 years.

WASHINGTON,

The Marlins improved to 41-31 and are off to the second-best start in franchise history through 72 games, behind the 1997 team that was 43-29 and went on to win the World Series. Miami, 10 games over .500 for the first time since May 28, 2011, has swept the Nationals in three of its four trips to Washington since the start of last season.

Lane Thomas homered and Patrick Corbin (4-8) took the loss for Washington, which has lost three in a row and 11 of 13. The Nationals are an NL-worst 27-43 and are a season-high 16 games under .500.

BASEBALL

Luzardo (6-5), who was drafted by Washington in 2016, allowed five hits and two runs over six innings while striking out five. Andrew Nardi picked up his second save

Padres 5, Rays 4

In San Diego, Manny Machado drove in two runs, Joe Musgrove worked six solid innings and Fernando Tatis Jr. and catcher Austin Nola teamed up to punch out a potential tying run at home plate as San Diego beat MLB-leading Tampa Bay to take the three-game series.

The Padres were ahead 5-4 in the top of the eighth inning when Tatis threw a near-strike to Nola at the plate to get Manuel Margot, who was trying to tie the game by scoring from second base on a single to right field by Christian Bethancourt.

Musgrove (5-2) lasted six innings, allowing two runs and six hits with one strikeout. Josh Hader worked a

scoreless ninth for his 18th save. Machado drove in solo runs in the third and fifth innings on a sacrifice fly and a single.

Rays starter Yonny Chirinos (3-2) went 4-2/3 innings, giving up five runs, three earned, and six hits. Randy Arozarena had three hits in the loss.

Guardians 12, Diamondbacks 3 In Phoenix, Josh Naylor had four hits and three RBIs, and Cleveland pounded out 16 hits and avoided a

three-game sweep. The Guardians cruised through the series finale, scoring two runs in the first, three in the second and six more in the fourth for an 11-1 lead. Righthander Tanner Bibee (3-2) gave up three runs and seven hits in five innings, striking out six and walking

Steven Kwan scored four times and drove in three runs. Myles Straw, Will Brennan, Amed Rosario and Tyler Freeman all had two hits.

Reds 9, Astros 7 In Houston, Rookie Elly De La

Cruz and Jake Fraley drove in runs in a three-run 10th inning as Cincinnati extended the longest active winning streak in the majors to eight games. It's Cincinnati's longest string of

wins since winning 10 straight in July

Nick Senzel started the 10th as the automatic runner and moved to third on a sacrifice bunt. The Reds took the lead when Senzel scored on an error. Seth Martinez (1-3) plunked Jonathan India before an RBI single by De La Cruz made it 8-6. Fraley grounded out to score another run and pad the lead. Alex Bregman cut the lead to 9-7

with a two-out RBI single in the bottom of the inning. But Alex Young retired Kyle Tucker for his first save. Angels 5, Royals 2 In Kansas City, Shohei Ohtani and

Aaron Judge for the 11th straight game because of a sprained right toe. In the first game, Connor Wong and Verdugo hit consecutive RBI doubles with two outs in a three-run sixth inning. Mike Trout hit back-to-back home

Adam Duvall and Justin Turner each added an RBI single for the Red Sox. Gleyber Torres hit two-run homer in

the first inning for New York. Cardinals 8, Mets 7

In New York, Nolan Arenado's second homer of the game was a tiebreaking shot in the ninth inning that lifted St. Louis past New York for a rare series win.

Arenado hit a two-run homer in the first inning for the Cardinals, who blew an early 5-1 lead before the third baseman homered off Adam Ottavino (0-3) with one out in the ninth. Paul DeJong and Jordan Walker also homered while Paul Goldschmidt had a two-run double and Brendan Donovan added an RBI single among his three hits for St. Louis.

Drew VerHagen (4-0), the Cardinals' fourth pitcher, retired all five batters he faced. Jordan Hicks earned his second save in as many days.

Tigers 6, Twins 4

In Minneapolis, Spencer Torkelson and Kerry Carpenter hit back-to-back homers in a five-run fifth inning, powering Detroit past AL Central-leading Minnesota.

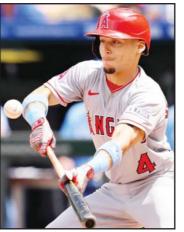
Carpenter and Andy Ibáñez each had three hits for the Tigers, who won three of four in the series after beginning June by losing 11 of 12.

Brendan White (1-0) tossed two scoreless innings for his first career

Brewers 5, Pirates 2

In Milwaukee, William Contreras hit a game-tying RBI single, Raimel Tapia followed with a sacrifice fly that plated the go-ahead run and Luis Urias added insurance runs with a two-RBI single - all in the eighth inning - as NL Central-leading Milwaukee completed a three-game sweep and sent Pittsburgh to its sixth straight loss.

Trevor Megill (1-0) pitched a scoreless eighth to notch the win. Devin Williams pitched a perfect ninth to



Los Angeles Angels' Andrew Velazquez bunts during the sixth inning of a baseball game against the Kansas City Royals in Kansas City, Mo. (AP)

record his 12th save in 13 attempts. Bryan Reynolds hit his eighth homer of the season, a two-run shot in

the third inning for Pittsburgh's first

runs since the seventh inning of Friday

night's 5-4 loss. Reliever Dauri Moreta (3-2) took the loss. Rangers 11, Blue Jays 7

In Arlington, Corey Seager and Ezequiel Duran each had four hits, and Texas pounded out 15 hits in a win over Toronto.

Seager drove in three runs and Duran scored three times as Texas erased a 6-0 deficit on its way to the win in the rubber game of the weekend set. Leody Taveras added three hits and three RBIs, including a tiebreaking single in the fifth inning and a

two-run homer in the seventh. Whit Merrifield and Bo Bichette each had two RBIs for Toronto in its sixth loss in nine games. George Springer had two hits and scored two

Giants 7, Dodgers 3

In Los Angeles, LaMonte Wade Jr. and Luis Matos each had two RBIs and San Francisco completed a rare rivalry series sweep on the road against Los Angeles.

It was the sixth time San Francisco swept Los Angeles in a three-game series at Dodger Stadium since the teams moved to California in 1958. It's the first road sweep for the Giants in LA since Aug. 20-22, 2012.

Logan Webb (6-6) allowed two runs in seven innings, and the Giants won their seventh straight game.

Phillies 3, Athletics 2

In Oakland, Kyle Schwarber opened the game with his 20th home run and

added an RBI single as Philadelphia completed the series sweep with its sixth straight victory. The A's lost their fifth in a row after

a six-game win streak and were swept in a series for the 10th time this year. Former Athletic Cristian Pache dou-

bled twice and scored two runs for the Phillies. Aledmys Diaz homered for the A's against reliever Matt Strahm. Oakland scored another run in the eighth off Jose Alvarado before Yunior Marte struck out the side in the ninth and recorded his first save.

Mariners 5, White Sox 1

In Seattle, Julio Rodríguez hit a two-run double, rookie Bryce Miller pitched seven crisp innings and Seattle overcame a dominant performance by Lance Lynn in beating Chicago.

Lynn (4-7) matched a franchise record with 16 strikeouts in seven-plus innings, but Miller was terrific and Seattle got clutch hits from Rodríguez and Jarred Kelenic.

Rodríguez's third-inning double put the Mariners up 2-0. The 22-year-old Rodríguez got his 15th steal of the season in the sixth, joining Fernando Tatis Jr. as the only players in major league history to hit 40 homers and steal 40 bases in their first 200 games.

Tiafoe beats Struff for 1st grass title

STUTTGART, Germany, June 19, (AP): There will be two American men's tennis players ranked in the top 10 for the first time in more than a decade after Frances Tiafoe beat Jan-Lennard Struff on Sunday to win the Stuttgart Open for his first grass-court

Tiafoe won 4-6, 7-6 (1), 7-6 (8) after saving a match point in the deciding tiebreaker and will move up to a career-high ranking of 10th on Monday, up from 12th.

Along with Taylor Fritz in eighth, the U.S. has two men in the top 10 for the first time since Mardy Fish and John Isner were ninth and 10th in May 2012, the ATP tour said.

TENNIS

Tiafoe failed to convert his first match point at 6-5 in the decisive tiebreaker when he hit into the net after the longest rally of the match. Struff then had a match point of his own at 7-6, which Tiafoe saved with a back-

second match point before a hectic finish on his third when he hit a smash only for Struff to somehow return it, before Tiafoe finished off the win with an instinctive volley at the net.

A miscued return cost Tiafoe his

"I got super lucky there on match point. I still don't know how I hauled it over the net but I'll take it," Tiafoe

having a single break of serve against Struff, who hit 28 aces.

Tiafoe moves to 3-4 in career finals with his second tournament win of the year after beating Tomás Martín Etcheverry for the Houston title on clay in

Ekaterina Alexandrova defended her Libema Open title against fellow Russian and top seed Veronika Kudermetova after coming back to win 4-6, 6-4, 7-6 (3) in a near three-hour

It was the first time in the tournament that either player dropped a set and the fourth title for Alexandrova on the WTA tour. She also beat Kudermetova in the semifinals here last year en route to the title.

slumped to her knees when Kudermetova sent the last shot of the game into the net after a match that lasted 2 hours, 52 minutes - not counting two rain delays. The start of the match was also

Tiafoe won the final despite not

Tiafoe's tournament has been packed with tiebreakers - six of the 10 sets he played in Stuttgart finished that way - and he saved six set points in another tiebreaker in his semifinal win over Marton Fucsovics.

match that also had several rain delays.

The No. 4-seeded Alexandrova delayed by an hour because of rain.

United States players celebrate after defeating Canada in a CONCACAF Nations League final match in Las Vegas. (AP)

Americans clinch 2nd 'straight' CONCACAF Nations League title

Canada beaten

LAS VEGAS, June 19, (AP): Having scored his first goal for the United States and won his first medal, Folarin Balogun looked to a future that includes a 2026 World Cup co-hosted by America.

"I've only here a short amount of time, but already I feel a part of it and I feel a part of something bigger," he said.

Balogun and Chris Richards scored their first international goals, both off assists from Gio Reyna, and the U.S. beat Canada 2-0 on Sunday night for the Americans' second straight CON-CACAF Nations League title.

SOCCER

"It's another step in the right direction," U.S. captain Christian Pulisic said. "It's just going to be about these knockout games. Come those big tournaments, Copa América, World Cup, it's time to get tough. We got to step up and score the goals when it counts and keep them out of

our goal." Richards scored in the 12th minute from Reyna's corner kick, bouncing a header from 7 yards to the left of goalkeeper Milan Borjan for his first goal in 10 international appearances.

Balogun, who debuted in Thursday's 3-0 win over Mexico after choosing to play for the U.S. over England, doubled the lead in the 34th when he took a feed from Reyna and held off Scott Kennedy with his right arm to slot past Borjan.

"We're looking beyond to the 2026 World Cup, and we need to perform in high-intensity knockout games," interim coach B.J. Callaghan said. "That's something that we learned from the World Cup.'

Callaghan took over May 30 and also will run the team in the CONCA-CAF Gold Cup starting next weekend. Gregg Berhalter, brought back as coach Friday 5 1/2 months after his contract was allowed to expire, won't return to the sidelines until September exhibitions

Before a crowd of just 35,000 at Allegiant Stadium, the U.S. extended its home unbeaten streak against Canada to 22 games dating to 1957. Canada remained without a title since the 2000 Gold Cup.

Reyna sparked both goals from a central midfield role rather than the wing Berhalter used him on, then left at halftime with a calf injury and was replaced by Luca de a Torre. Reyna's lack of hustle in training at the World Cup and his family's angry response created the controversy that let to Berhalter's January

"It shows his quality that's on the field, his ball security, his ability to take on two or three players



Ismael Diaz, of Panama, (left), attempts to shoot around Israel Reyes of Mexico during the first half of a CONCA-CAF Nations League soccer match for third place in Las Vegas. (AP)

Tanzania's ball boys ejected

Nigeria qualify for Afcon

JOHANNESBURG, June 19, (AP): Nigeria qualified for next year's Afri-can Cup of Nations by beating Sierra Leone 3-2 thanks to a winning goal in the fifth minute of added time by Kelechi Iheanacho, while Tanzania held on for a crucial home victory over Niger despite a bizarre late incident when the referee ejected Tanzanian ball boys for

interfering with play.
In Tanzania, the ball boys threw numerous balls onto the field on at least two occasions, apparently to force the referee to stop play as Niger launched late attacks in search of an equalizing

field at one point as Niger put together one of its attacks, leading Egyptian referee Mohamed Al Sayd to lose his patience and march over to the ball boys on the sidelines and behind one goal and order them away from the playing area.

Tanzania still held on for a 1-0 win through Saimon Msuva's 69th-minute goal, putting it in pole position to qualify from Group F behind Algeria, which has already booked its place at the Cup of Nations in Ivory Coast.

Tanzania needs a point away at Algeria in the last round of qualifiers in September to take the group's second qualifying place ahead of East African rival Uganda. Algeria beat Uganda 2-1 later Sun-

day with a double by winger Mohamed El Amine Amoura.

Nigeria appeared on course for a

fairly straightforward victory over Sierra Leone after two goals from Victor Osimhen put it 2-0 ahead after 32 minutes and put the Napoli striker level with Sadio Mane as the leading scorers in the qualifiers with five.

Sierra Leone pulled one back before halftime and equalized in the 84th minute through Augustus Kargbo.

There were about 55 seconds left to play when Nigeria left back Zaidu Sanusi cut through the defense and provided a cross for Leicester's Iheanacho to tap in to take the Super Eagles to the African Cup. Guinea-Bissau also qualified from Group A alongside Nigeria

SOCCER

Mane's Senegal, World Cup semifinalist Morocco, Egypt and Algeria have all qualified, with Egypt securing its place last week by coming from behind to beat Guinea 2-1. Morocco surprisingly lost 2-1 in South Africa on Saturday, although both had already qualified.

Five-time African champion Cameroon and four-time champion Ghana are the biggest teams still to seal their places in Ivory Coast and both face nervous final qualifiers.

Cameroon's fate will be decided in a home game against Burundi in September, by which time the Cameroonians could have slipped down to third in their group.

row next to Verstappen for the start.

But Hamilton, starting alongside

Mercedes teammate George Russell

on the second row, got a surprise jump

on Alonso and snagged second place at

the start. Verstappen still easily pulled

away from both, and on the first dry

day of the weekend in Montreal, rolled

chasing Verstappen was that his mar-

gin of victory over Alonso was only 9.5 seconds.

The one bright spot for everyone

to another easy win.

Only?

Hamilton on podium again

Max ties Senna in wins as Red Bull earn 100th victory



Red Bull Racing's Max Verstappen, of the Netherlands, celebrates his win on the podium following the Formula One Canadian Grand Prix auto race in Montreal. (AP)

and connect passes," Callaghan said. "We've challenged Gio to do more work off the ball on the defensive side, and he's absolutely risen to the

Before Richards' goal, the Americans had not scored from a corner kick since Jordan Morris' goal at El Salvador on June 14 last year.

"I definitely know I didn't play that much this year, but I know what I can bring," said Richards, who had just four Premier League starts and nine appearances for Crystal Palace.

Callaghan made three changes from Thursday, inserting central defender Walker Zimmerman for Miles RobinMONTREAL, June 19, (AP): Max Verstappen tied the late Ayrton Senna for career victories and Red Bull won its 100th Formula One race as the Dutchman extended his season-long dominance on Sunday at the Canadian

Verstappen won for the sixth time this season - the fourth in a row - and Red Bull remained a perfect 8 for 8 on the year. The victory for the two-time reigning world champion was the 41st of his career, which ties the 25-yearold with Senna for fifth overall. "I hate to compare different gen-

erations," Verstappen said, deflecting. "From my side, the only thing I can say is when I was a little kid driving and karting, I was dreaming about being a Formula One driver. I never imagined to win 41.

"And of course I'm proud of that. But of course I hope it's not stopping

son and midfielder Brenden Aaronson and right back Joe Scally for Weston McKennie and Sergiño Dest, both suspended after getting red cards against

Canada coach John Herdman said the 6-foot-3 Zimmerman and 6-foot-2 Richards were difficult to defend

Mexico beat Panama 1-0 in the third-place match on Jesús Gallardo's fourth-minute goal. Aníbal Godoy's apparent equalizer on a 55th-minute bicycle kick was disallowed in a video review for offside, and 76th-minute penalty kick awarded to Mexico by Jamaican referee Daneon Parchment also was reversed in a video review.

here. I hope that we can keep on win-

ning races. Lewis Hamilton holds the all-time record with 103 wins, but the seventime champion said in Canada he expected Verstappen to surpass the mark eventually. Verstappen was quick to note that as Red Bull celebrated its 100th win, he alone was responsible for 41 victories.

MOTOR RACING

"We'll talk about maybe a new contract because of that," Verstappen said with a laugh

Red Bull principal Christian Horner radioed his gratitude when Verstappen crossed the finish line.

"A century for the team," Horner told Verstappen. "Fantastic. And thank you for producing that race victory."

Hamilton and the rest of the field had hoped to give Verstappen a challenge at Circuit Gilles Villeneuve, where rain throughout the weekend scrambled the competition and created optimism that Red Bull legitimately would be challenged.

Fernando Alonso thought he had a shot, and it was improved when Nico Hulkenberg was given a qualifying penalty that moved Alonso to the front

Yes. It was the closest race of the season because Verstappen has been so dominant that he typically wins by 20-plus seconds a race. In fact, Alonso himself noted following Saturday qualifying that the only way to even pressure Verstappen was to be "two seconds behind them. Not 20 seconds behind them." "Probably not our best race, but still to win by nine seconds, I think shows that we have a great car," Verstappen said of the margin of victory. It wasn't an overwhelming Red Bull rout; Sergio Perez, who had hoped to "reset" his season in Canada, was a distant sixth. Perez has been so underwhelming of late that Alonso answered a simple

"yes" when asked if he can pass Perez in the championship standings. Perez is second in the standings with just a nine-point lead over Alonso. Verstappen leads Red Bull teammate

Perez by 69 points. Hamilton finished third for his second consecutive podium and was followed by Ferrari teammates Charles Leclerc and Carlos Sainz Jr.



Aston Martin driver Fernando Alonso, of Spain, drives during the Formula One Canadian Grand Prix auto race in Montreal. (AP)



Spain goalkeeper Unai Simon stops a penalty shot from Croatia's Bruno Petkovic during a penalty shootout. (AP)

Sports

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Spain win NL, end 11-yr trophy drought



Spain players celebrate with the trophy after winning the Nations League final soccer match between Croatia and Spain at De Kuip stadium in Rotterdam, Netherlands. (AP)

Simon saves 2 Croatia penalties in SO

ROTTERDAM, erlands, June 19, (AP): Spain's 11-year trophy drought is over. Croatia and its veteran captain Luka Modric are still waiting for their first international title.

Goalkeeper Unai Simon saved two shots as Spain beat Croatia in a penalty shootout after their tense Nations League final had finished 0 - 0.

The Bilbao goalkeeper used his feet to save a penalty by Lovro Majer when the shootout was level at 3-3 and then dived full-length to tip Bruno

Dani Carvajal converted his penalty - with a "Panenka" chip - to seal the victory. Spain coach Luis De La Fuente said Carvajal had taken penalties well in practice ahead of the final.

Spain's other previous titles came in the 2010 World Cup and the European Championships in 1964, 2008

Midfielder Rodri, who punched the air after scoring his penalty, has four titles this season after also winning a historic treble with his club, Manchester City. He was named the player of the Nations League tournament to cap his memorable year.

Spain did not manage a shot on target until the 84th minute of the match and when substitute Ansu Fati finally looked like breaking the stalemate, Ivan Perišić was on the goal line to block his effort.

SOCCER

It was Spain's only goal-bound attempt, compared to five by Croatia.

In the first period of extra time, Majer broke through and fell in the penalty area under a challenge by Nacho, but German referee Felix Zwayer ruled that the Spain defender had played the ball and waved off Croatia's appeals for a penalty.

Croatia's fans - many wearing shirts with Modric's name and No. 10 on the back - far outnumbered their Spanish counterparts at De Kuip stadium in

But they were forced to leave disappointed as their nation and the 37-yearold Modric continued their wait for a first international title.

Croatia finished second at the World Cup in 2018 and third in Qatar last year. Modric, meanwhile, has won the Champions League five times with Real Madrid and was named FIFA's world player of the year in 2018, breaking the decade-long dominance of Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo on the title. But he has not been able to cap his glittering career with international honors. Whether he will have another try at next year's European

Championships remains to be seen. "I'd love Luka to stay," Croatia coach Zlatko Dalic said. "He's a very important player for us.

De La Fuente agreed. "I hope he carries on because we never want great players to leave the game," he said.



Netherlands' Cody Gakpo, (left), challenges for the ball with Italy's Rafael Toloi during the Nations League third place soccer match between the Netherlands and Italy at De Grolsch Veste stadium in Enschede, Netherlands. (AP)

Spain went a step better than the last Nations League final in 2021, when it lost to France. Not bad for a team with a coach, Luis De La Fuente, who only took charge after the World Cup in Qatar and came in for criticism when his team lost 2-0 to Scotland in European Championship qualifying.

Federico Dimarco scored in the sixth minute and Davide Frattesi poked home a rebound to double the lead in the 20th to put Italy on course to beating the Netherlands 3-2 to secure third place in the Nations League for the second time in two attempts.

Steven Bergwijn put the Netherlands back in contention in the 68th minute only for Federico Chiesa to restore the Azzurri's two-goal lead four minutes later. Substitute Georginio Wijnaldum completed the scoring with one minute of regulation time to go as

Clark plays big and becomes major champ at US Open

LOS ANGELES, June 19, (AP): In the city of stars, Wyndham Clark had his own script in mind in the U.S. Open.

In front of him was Rory McIlroy, one of golf's biggest talents who looked ready to end his perplexing nine-year drought in the majors. Next to him in the final group Sunday was Rickie Fowler, a Southern California native who returned from a three-year slump and was poised to finally win his first major.

Clark carried a message from his late mother - "Play big," she always told him - and the belief he could compete with anyone on any stage.

No stage was bigger than Open on the edge of Beverly Hills. That's where Clark delivered clutch saves, a signature shot that gave him control and the steady nerves to hold off McIlroy and become a major cham-

"I feel like I belong on this stage," Clark said after closing with an evenpar 70 for a one-shot victory over McIlroy. "Even two, three years ago when people didn't know who I was, I felt like I could still play and compete against the best players in the world."

He won in only his seventh start in a major - his previous best was a tie for 75th - and it came six weeks after he captured his first PGA Tour title at Quail Hollow.

"It's gone faster than I thought as far as just starting to do some stuff mentally that I've never done before, but I feel like I'm one of the best players in the world," Clark said "Obviously this just shows what I believe can happen.'

The final act was two putts from 60 feet on the 18th hole at Los Angeles Country Club, and the 29-year-old Clark pumped his fist when it settled a foot away. He tapped that in for a par, maybe the easiest shot he had all day. Left in his wake was a collection of

Scottie Scheffler, the No. 1 player in the world, couldn't catch him. Neither could British Open champion Cameron Smith. Fowler was playing in the final group of a major for the third time. Clark was playing in the final round of a major for the third time, and the previous two occasions he was done in

> time for lunch. Clark let loose his emotions at the end, looking to the blue sky in tears and covering his face with his cap as he sobbed on the green.

> He thought about quitting golf a decade ago when he struggled with the loss of his mother, Lise, to breast cancer. She was who kept him steady

GOLF

in good times and bad. He was thinking about her all week for all kinds of

"My mom lived in LA for a few years and I've had some people come up to me and show pictures of my mom when they knew her back in her 20s and early 30s when she was living here," said Clark, who was born in Denver. "So it was kind of a special vibe all week being here in LA. My parents got married at Riviera Country Club. I have some roots a little bit in

this area.
"All I really wish is that my mom could be here and I could just hug her and we could celebrate together. But I know she's proud of me.

For McIlroy, it was more disappointment in his quest to end nine years without a major.

He opened with a birdie and didn't make another the rest of the way. McIlroy played a final round that typi-



American holds off McIlroy

Rory McIlroy chips to the green on the 14th hole during the final round of the U.S. Open golf tournament at Los Angeles Country Club in Los Angeles. (AP)

cally wins a U.S. Open - 16 pars, one bogey. Just not this one. Even as Clark showed signs of cracking during the rugged closing stretch, McIlroy missed fairways and didn't give himself any reasonable birdie chances.

It was similar to St. Andrews last summer at the British Open, when he hit every green and couldn't buy a putt. Instead, he'll face more questions about when he'll win another major.

"When I do finally win this next major, it's going to be really, really sweet," McIlroy said. "I would go through 100 Sundays like this to get my hands on another major champion-

Scheffler missed too many putts early on the back nine and needed help from Clark and McIlroy that never arrived. He also closed with a 70 to finish third, a month after a runner-up finish in the PGA Championship.

Fowler set a U.S. Open record with 23 birdies, but just like so many other majors when he had a chance, he was in reverse before he ever got going three bogeys in the opening seven holes. He never made up the ground and shot 75.

This day belonged to Clark, who showed remarkable poise and selfbelief, not to mention an extraordinary short game and a fairway metal he won't soon forget.

Already with a two-shot lead, he was a yard away from an easy birdie on the par-5 eighth when his approach hit a steep bank of the barranca to the left. Barely able to see his golf ball, Clark took a whack and the ball advanced a few inches deeper into thick grass.

He hammered it again, this time over the green, 70 feet away down a firm and scary putting surface. He chipped that to 3 feet to escape with

bogey.
"That up-and-down was the key to

More such shots followed. On the par-3 ninth, he was on the bank of a bunker and chipped away from the flag, using the slope expertly to get it to within 7 feet for another big save. And then he clipped a pitch from a tight lie left of the 11th green to 4 feet for par.

The signature shot was his fairway metal from 282 yards on the par-5 14th to 20 feet that set up a two-putt birdie, giving Clark a three-shot lead with

Belgium keeper Courtois to 'miss' Euro qualifier amid reports of captaincy row

BRUSSELS, June 19, (AP): Thibaut Courtois has left Belgium's training camp ahead of a qualifying match for next year's European championships, amid reports in local media that the Real Madrid goalkeeper was frustrated not to be handed the captain's armband in the previous game.

The Belgian federation confirmed to The Associated Press that Courtois had left the camp and would miss Tuesday's match in Estonia, but did not give a reason for his departure.

Belgian media reported on Monday that Courtois, who played in Belgium's 1-1 draw against Austria on Saturday, was disappointed with coach Domenico Tedesco's handling of the

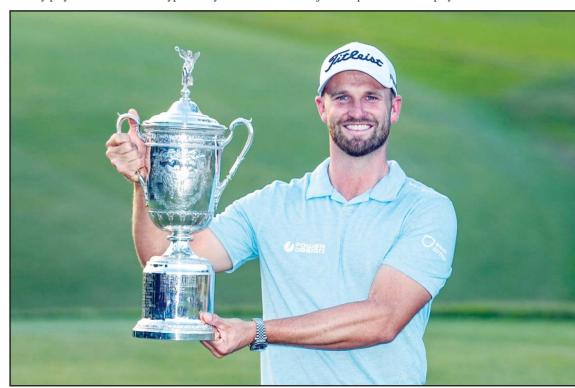
In the absence of Manchester City midfielder Kevin De Bruyne, who missed the match against Austria after picking up an injury in the Champions League final, Tedesco had given the captaincy duties to striker Romelu Lukaku, who responded by scoring Belgium's equalizer.

The Het Nieuwsblad newspaper reported that Courtois - who has played 102 matches for the Red Devils was vexed by the decision and did not show up when players gathered

SOCCER

back at the team's hotel to prepare for the Estonia game.

Tedesco had announced Saturday that it would be Courtois' turn to wear the armband against Estonia. Strasbourg goalkeeper Matz Sels is now expected to replace Courtois in goal. Austria has a three-point lead over Belgium, which has one match in hand in Group F. While Belgium travels to Estonia, Austria hosts Sweden.



Wyndham Clark holds the trophy after winning after the U.S. Open golf tournament at Los Angeles Country Club in Los Angeles. (AP)

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