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TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2023 / SHAWWAL 12, 1444 AH

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16 PAGES

150 FILS

# Turkey claims forces kill IS chief in Syria



KUNA photo  
Kuwait Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives Jagun Chapagan, Secretary General and Executive Chairman of the International Federation of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), currently on a visit along with a delegation to the country on Monday. The talks dealt with the humanitarian conditions in Sudan, means of alleviating the Sudanese people's hardships, boosting international action in response to humanitarian catastrophes regionally and internationally.

## Joint forces to protect waters

KUWAIT CITY, May 1: The Kuwaiti Naval Force and the General Administration of the Coast Guard are forming a joint security force to protect the Kuwaiti economic waters, after repeated incidents of piracy and looting against Kuwaiti fishing vessels, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and Acting Minister of Defense Sheikh Talal Al-Khalid discussed, during his meeting last week at the Mohammed Al-Ahmad Naval Base in the presence of senior Navy and Coast Guard officials spoke of the special needs to put in place the joint task force.

In coordination with the Fishermen's Union, he pointed out that emergency numbers have been distributed to the federation to report any incidents of marine piracy and explained that the joint force consists of patrol boats and ships, in addition to civil patrols affiliated with the Maritime Security Department, and others affiliated with the Maritime Force Intelligence.

## Militant blew himself up

ANKARA, May 1. (AP): Turkish forces have killed the leader of the Islamic State group during an operation in Syria, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said late Sunday.

Recep Tayyip Erdogan told TRT Turk television in an interview that the IS leader, code-named Abu Hussein al-Qurayshi, was killed in a strike conducted on Saturday.

Erdogan said the Turkish intelligence agency, MIT, had been following him "for a long time."

"We will continue our struggle against terrorist organizations without discriminating against any of them," Erdogan said in the interview.

A member of the Turkish-backed Syrian opposition forces' military police told The Associated Press that the MIT clashed with IS militants on a farm in the village of Miska in Aleppo province late Friday night. As the fighting intensified, Al-Qurayshi, who was hiding in a building on the farm, blew himself up. Investigators were searching the hideout for evidence and other information.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-

based opposition war monitor added that Turkish drones flew over the area, as Turkish-backed Syrian opposition groups closed off roads leading to the area where the clashes took place after Ankara put them on high alert.

There was no immediate confirmation from the IS group.

Turkey has conducted numerous operations against IS and Kurdish groups along the Syrian border, capturing or killing suspected militants. The country controls large swaths of territory in northern Syria following a series of land incursions to drive Kurdish groups away from the Turkish-Syrian border.

Abu Hussein al-Qurayshi was named leader of the militant group after its previous chief was killed in October, with an IS spokesman calling him "one of the veteran warriors and one of the loyal sons of the Islamic State."

He took over leadership of IS at a time when the extremist group has lost control of the territory it once held in Iraq and Syria. However, he had been trying to rise again, with sleeper cells carrying out deadly attacks in both countries.

# Nod to dissolution

## Crown Prince issues decree

KUWAIT CITY, May 1, (KUNA): His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Monday issued a decree dissolving the National Assembly, citing respect for the Constitution and the Kuwaiti people's will.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal noted in the proclaimed decree that he took the move to safeguard Kuwait's higher interests and its independence amid regional and international economic developments and for sake of attaining prosperity and progress for the citizens.

The decision has been taken, he indicated in the decree, because of the need to refer to the nation, the source of powers, so they (the Kuwaiti people) may decide to choose their representatives for administering State affairs and attaining the aspired objectives.

He affirmed dissolution of the National Assembly on the basis of a presentation by the prime minister after the cabinet approval.

The prime minister, ministers and other concerned party must implement this decree, effective as off the time of its issuance, he stated. It is to be published in the official Gazette.

The declaration by His Highness the Crown Prince came shortly after the cabinet blessed the parliament dissolution and referred the decree in this respect to His Highness the Crown Prince for endorsement.

Earlier on Monday, the Cabinet held a meeting during



PM Diwan photo  
His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah chairs the Cabinet meeting held at Bayan Palace on Monday.

which the ministers approved a decree dissolving the National Assembly and referred it to His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

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## Opinion

# Sheikh Ahmad Al-Nawaf ... Closing State's financial taps is devastating for the country

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

ONCE upon a time, a guest visited his friend who is known for his stinginess. The friend called his son and said, "We have a dear guest whom I would like to honor. So go to the butcher and bring us half a kilogram of the best meat."

When the son returned later, he said, "I went to the butcher and told him to give me the best meat in the shop, and the butcher said, "I will give you meat that looks like butter". I then thought to myself, "If that is the case, why don't I buy butter instead of meat?"

So I went to the grocer and told him to give me the best butter he has. The grocer said, "I will give you butter that is like honey. So I thought to myself that if he was giving me butter that is like honey, why not buy honey?"

So I went to the honey seller and told him to give me the best honey he has. He said to me that he would give me honey that was like pure water. I then ended up returning without buying anything."

His father said, "What a clever boy you are! However, you missed the fact that you wore out your shoes by running from one shop to another."

The boy said, "No, father, I put on the guest's shoes."

The moral of this story is that the miser lost the trust of the guest who ended up not eating anything, and whose shoes also ended up being worn out.

There is no doubt that this applies to countries that are stingy in spending on their projects, even though they have wealth that qualifies them to be at the forefront of developed countries. Such miserliness and mismanagement affect the country's political situation because it is the pillar of stability and prosperity. The more active the development, the lower the rate of chaos and crime.

Prosperity can only prevail through an engine that has competent people, who enjoy honesty and good management, and have the ability to make the right decision at the right time.

There are models in the region and in the world that were based on desire and ambition, but changed their paths, making them the focus of the world's attention. Among these countries are the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Qatar.

In the past, Kuwaitis used to make jokes about these countries, especially when the people of those countries used to come to Kuwait to learn from it and to acquire the best modern innovations.

However, when those countries realized their potential and worked to invest sovereign money in the right way, they became a destination for Kuwaitis who lament about what happened to their country, and at the heights those countries have reached. They even found themselves being paper tigers while others became lions of opportunities, strength, grit and will.

The issue is not in the illusions that some officials live with and useless rhetoric, which states that their country is different from other countries. Rather, it is the ability to make the right decision.

Whenever scarcity prevails, the state will lag behind. When canned justification becomes ready, the will turns into a point of view, and the state plunges into chaos.

Sovereign funds existed to serve society. Therefore, investing them at home, through infrastructure projects, revitalizing the industrial sector, providing food security, and opening doors to investors from all over the world, increases the country's prosperity and stability.

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## Eid Al-Adha on June 28

KUWAIT CITY, May 1: Astronomical calculations prepared by the National Institute for Astronomical Research in Egypt revealed that the standing on the Arafat for the year 1444 AH will be on Tuesday, June 27, and Eid Al-Adha will be on Wednesday, June 28, reports Al-Rai daily quoting Al-Arabiya.net.

According to the institute's calculations, the crescent of Dhu al-Hijjah will be born at exactly at 6:38 Makkah and Cairo time, on Sunday, the 29th of Dhu al-Qi'dah 1444 AH, corresponding to June 18, 2023 AD.

The new crescent will remain in the sky of Makkah Al-Mukarramah for 29 minutes, and in Cairo for 36 minutes after sunset on that day (the day of sighting).

As for Arab and Islamic capitals and cities, the new crescent will remain after sunset on that day for periods ranging between 7 and 44 minutes, and accordingly, it will be the beginning of the month of Dhul-Hijjah 1444 AH astronomically on Monday, June 19, 2023.



Smoke rises in Khartoum, Sudan, Saturday, April 29, 2023, as gunfire and heavy artillery fire continued despite the extension of a cease-fire between the country's two top generals. The battle for power between the country's army and its rival paramilitary has killed hundreds and sent thousands fleeing for their lives. (AP)

## Medical supplies flown in

# Sudan warring sides agree to negotiate

CAIRO, May 1, (AP): Sudan's warring generals have agreed to send representatives for negotiations, potentially in Saudi Arabia, the United Nations' top official in the country told The Associated Press on Monday, even as the two sides clashed in the capital despite another three-day extension of a fragile cease-fire.

If the talks come together, they would initially focus on establishing a "stable and reliable" cease-fire monitored by national and international observers. Volker Perthes said, but he warned there were still challenges in holding the negotiations. A string of temporary truces over the past week has eased fighting only in some areas, but in others fierce battles have continued to drive civilians from their homes and push the country into disaster.

Humanitarian groups have been trying to restore the flow of help to a country where nearly a third of the population of 46 million relied on international aid even before the explosion of violence. The U.N. food agency on Monday said it was ending the temporary suspension of its operations in Sudan, put in place after three of its team members were killed in the war-wrecked Darfur region early in the fighting.

The World Food Program will resume food distribution in four provinces - al-Qadaref, Gezira, Kassala and White Nile - working in areas where security permits, said Executive Director Cindy McCain said in a statement. The numbers of those in need of help will "grow significantly as fighting

continues," she said. "To best protect our necessary humanitarian workers and the people of Sudan, the fighting must stop."

A day earlier, the International Committee of the Red Cross flew in a plane load of medical supplies to bring some relief to hospitals overwhelmed by the mayhem.

The United States, conducted its first evacuation of American civilians from Sudan. Watched over by U.S. military drones, a group of Americans made the perilous journey by road from the capital, Khartoum, to the Red Sea city of Port Sudan. On Monday, a U.S. Navy fast transport ship took 308 evacuees from Port Sudan to the Saudi port of Jeddah, according to Saudi officials.

Direct talks, if they take place, would be the first major sign of progress since fighting erupted on April 15 between the army and a rival paramilitary group called the Rapid Support Forces. For much of the conflict, army chief Gen. Abdel Fattah Burhan and RSF commander Gen. Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo have appeared determined to fight to the end.

Their struggle for power has put millions of Sudanese in the middle of gun battles, artillery bombardments and airstrikes. Around 530 people, including civilians and combatants, have been killed in the conflict, with another 4,500 wounded, the Sudanese Health Ministry said. Tens of thousands have fled Khartoum and other cities, and more than two-thirds of hospitals in areas with active fighting

are out of service, with fighters looting the dwindling supplies.

Explosions and gunfire echoed in parts of Khartoum and its neighboring city, Omdurman, on Monday, residents said, hours after the two sides committed to the 72-hour cease-fire extension.

Atiya Abdalla Atiya, Secretary of the Doctors' Syndicate, said the fighting has raged early Monday in different areas in the capital, including the military's headquarters, the Republican Palace, and the international airport. There were also clashes in the upscale neighborhood of Kafouri, he said.

Many hospitals in the capital remained out of service or inaccessible because of the fighting, while others have been occupied by the warring factions, particularly the RSF, he said.

The United States and Saudi Arabia have led an international push to get the generals to stop fighting, then engage in deeper negotiations to resolve the crisis.

Speaking from Port Sudan, the U.N. envoy Perthes said they still face daunting challenges in getting the two sides to abide by a real halt in fighting where violations are prevented. One possibility was to establish a monitoring mechanism that includes Sudanese and foreign observers, "but that has to be negotiated," he said.

Talks on entrenching the cease-fire could take place in either Saudi Arabia or South Sudan, he said, adding that the former may be easier logistically since it has close ties to both sides.

## NewsWatch

KUWAIT CITY: The Amiri Diwan on Monday mourned demise of Sheikh Fawaz Salman bin Abdullah Al-Ali Al-Malek Al-Sabah who passed away at the age of 69. He will be laid to rest at 4 p.m. today. (KUNA)

KUWAIT CITY: The Central Bank of Kuwait announced on Monday the allocation of issuance of bonds and tawarruq valued at 200 million Kuwaiti dinars (about USD 660 million).

In a statement carried by Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), the bank said that the issuance period is three months, with a return rate of 4.250 percent.

On April 17, the Central Bank of Kuwait announced the allocation of issuing bonds and securitization of 240 million Kuwaiti Dinars (about USD 792 million) for six months term, with the same return. (KUNA)

KINSHASA, Congo: At least 60 bodies were discovered in several villages in eastern Congo's North Kivu province, authorities said Wednesday.

Residents from Kshali and Kazaroho villages in Rutshuru territory were killed over several days by rebels from the M23 group, said Isaac Kibira, a deputy to the governor of the Bwito area.

"We are sorry to see how the population is being massacred by M23 ... more than 60 bodies (were found) tied up with mosquito nets. Others were tied with bags," Kibira told local media.

The M23 rebel group, largely made up of Congolese ethnic Tutsis, rose to prominence 10 years ago when its fighters seized Goma, eastern Congo's largest city on the border with Rwanda. (AP)

DUBAI: The satellite news network Al Jazeera said Monday that a correspondent for one of its channels held in Egypt since 2019 has been released from pre-trial detention.

The Qatar-funded network in Doha said that Hisham Abdel Aziz, a producer with its Al Jazeera Mubasher channel, had been freed. Authorities in Egypt did not acknowledge his release. The Egyptian Foreign Ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

He was freed on Sunday, said Khaled El-Balshy, head of Egypt's Journalists' Union. Abdel Aziz's wife posted an image Sunday of Abdel Aziz online, thanking God for him. (AP)

## Prayer Timings

Fajr ..... 03:41 Asr ..... 15:21  
Sunrise .. 05:07 Maghrib .. 18:24  
Zohr ..... 11:45 Isha ..... 19:46

# Local

**Expected weather for the next 24 hours:**  
**By Day:** Rather hot with light to moderate freshening at times northwesterly wind with speeds of 12-50 km/h with a chance for rising dust.

## Weather

**By Night:** Mild with light to moderate freshening over coastal areas northwesterly wind with speeds of 12-40 km/h.

**Station** Max Exp Min Rec  
Kuwait City 37 25

Kuwait Airport 36 25  
Abdaly 39 23  
Jahra 39 25  
Salmiyah 29 26  
Ahmadi 29 25  
Nuwaisib 31 21  
Wafra 36 20

**CIVIL ID STATUS INQUIRY:** <https://e.gov.kw/sites/kgenglish/Pages/eServices/PACI/CivilIDStatus.aspx>

## Hard of hearing ... Doukhi and Co. find ways to communicate

# Silent adulation ... 12 years of intermediary interpretation, life struggles

By Mohammad Abu Bakr

KUWAIT CITY, May 1, (KUNA): A strange scene it might be when a sixty-year-old person, casually dressed, arrives at a famous coffee shop and met by silent adulation.

Yes, you have read that right, silent adulation might be an adequate term to describe 12 years of intermediary interpretation by one Bader Doukhi and his company of individuals with hearing loss.

This curious sight had brought KUNA into the picture to see what was happening exactly and the findings were plentiful.

Doukhi had been teaching the group sign language since they were his students at the Amal school, which he retired from years ago.

However, this did not mean that the bond between teacher and students ended, they remained close to this day, meeting on a regular basis for chitchat and brainstorming means to resolve issues facing the deaf in Kuwait.

One of Doukhi's company is Abdulmohsen Al-Shimmari, a high-school stu-

dent, which owed a lot to his mentor.

He said that Doukhi was one of the motivators for him to seek education in the US in the future, revealing that he was eager to become a director in television and film to relate the struggles of the deaf community in Kuwait.

Another student is Jaber Al-Kanderi who became deaf at the age of two after a car hit him.

This led to a malfunction in the auditory nerves and led him to become deaf. "There is an increasing need for intermediary interpreters and they should be included in every government facility," conveyed Al-Kanderi in sign language.

Companies providing sign language services were also appreciated in cooperation with the state if possible, said Al-Kanderi.

He indicated that the lack of intermediary interpreters might lead to grave consequences on all levels of life especially in case of accidents or medical emergencies when communicating with a deaf person was crucial.

While there is struggle for those with hear-

ing loss, Doukhi interpreted the story of one Abdullah Al-Rushaid who was tingled by artistic tendencies since he was young.

Al-Rushaid hoped that his talent would turn heads and bring attention to the vast talents of the deaf community.

Al-Rushaid became a member of the Kuwait arts association in 2006 and managed to open an exhibition in none other than Spain in 2007.

Back to Doukhi, the intermediary interpreters indicated that sign language evolved like any other language, noting that the language saw some rapid advances during the COVID-19 pandemic.

He reiterated that interpreters in Kuwait must be updated on the newest terms sign language-wise to serve the estimated 5,000 hearing challenged individuals according to statistics by Public Authority for Disability Affairs (PADA).

Doukhi and co might be a prime example of a band of brothers that are meeting life challenges head first, reflecting a strong desire to "keep on keeping on" no matter what occurs.



Hand movements and facial expressions are essential elements of sign language. KUNA photo

# 1.150m expats 'iqama' revoked

'Labor market sees huge increase after pandemic'

## Parliament

### Ex-minister opts out of polls

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh

Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 1: The Council of Ministers approved Monday the decree on the dissolution of the National Assembly, and then referred it to HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for final approval.

Meanwhile, MP Obaid Al-Wasmi urged his colleagues to bear their responsibilities.

He also asked Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanim to hold the session scheduled for Tuesday once quorum is achieved.

In addition, MP and former Minister of Information and Culture Hamad Rouhaddeen said he will not run for the upcoming parliamentary election.

He pointed out the problem does not lie in the 2020 and 2022 parliaments,



Dr. Rouhaddeen

indicating he expects the current crisis to continue after the election.

He confirmed signing the proposal to dismiss Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanim, along with 20 other MPs. He then revealed that he voted for MP Bader Al-Humaidi as Speaker and MP Hassan Jawhar as Deputy Speaker.

He regards MP Obaid Al-Wasmi and Jawhar as the heroes of national dialogue, because they encouraged their colleagues to set aside their differences and join the dialogue.

On his ministerial stint, he disclosed that he accepted the position with the approval of the 16 MPs Bloc, in which he is a member.

He went on to say that he took several unprecedented decisions during his ministerial tenure; such as the dismissal of a large number of erring senior officials, reforming middle supervisory positions, appointment of hundreds of new employees without the use of 'wasta' (influence), and referral of almost 300 individuals to the Public Prosecution for involvement in cyber crimes which targeted innocent individuals and destroyed families.

**KUWAIT CITY, May 1: According to official government data, the residencies of 1.150 million expatriates were revoked in the last three years, including 67,000 who left the country between January 2022 and April 2023. "Administrative deportation" decisions were issued against 11,000 of them in the first quarter of this year, while last year witnessed the cancellation of 56,279 expatriate residences, reports Al-Qabas daily.**

According to informed sources, the revocation of the aforementioned residencies is due to many reasons, on top of which is the desire of the residency owner to leave, and the issuance of deportation decisions for violating the work and residency laws.

Meanwhile, as the world celebrates the International Workers' Day, which falls on May 1 every year, the local labor market has witnessed the entry of large numbers of labor force recently, despite the closure that the market witnessed coinciding with the COVID-19 pandemic and its repercussions on many sectors.

An official data revealed that the year 2022 recorded a remarkable recovery in the labor market, represented by the entry of 67,000 workers into the country for the first time, 64 percent of who are domestic workers as the highest attracting sectors for labor, while the remaining number is distributed among the rest of the sectors.

Based on official data, about 227,000 expatriates left the country in 2021, most of whom are working in the private and family sectors as "domestic workers". About 160,000 expatriates left the country and were not compensated.

With the exception of the family sector, the new employment targeted seven main activities in the private sector. The construction sector witnessed a boom in the number of registrants during the past year, rising to 218,000 workers from only 100 thousand in 2021.

In the "wholesale trade" sector, the volume of new registered employment increased by a total of 6,000 to reach 64,000 workers in the field, along with 146,000 in "manufacturing industries", which witnessed an increase of 23,000 over 2021.

## Complaints

Despite the complaints of the fishing and agricultural sector about the lack of employment, the government reports revealed an increase of approximately 11,000 workers between 2021 and 2022. The total employees in this field was approximately 74,000.

It was noticeable that employment decreased in two other activities, namely "accommodation and restaurants". The number of registrants reached 686,000 as of the end of last year, which is a decrease of 59,000 in 2021. The same applies to professional, scientific and technical activities, which witnessed a decrease of 7,000 workers.

The labor market reports highlighted a significant decrease in the total number of Kuwaitis registered to work in the private sector during the year 2022. It reduced to 71,883 at a rate of 389 citizens, compared to 2021. The total number of their counterparts in the government sector agencies reached 370,814 until the end of last year, which is an increase of 13,000 over the number registered in 2021.

According to data issued by the Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI), only three communities residing in Kuwait recorded a decrease in their total numbers, which are the Ethiopian, Afghani and Iranian communities.

The data revealed an increase in the numbers of 17 other communities as of the end of last year. The Indian community continues to occupy the first place of the total expat population in Kuwait.

The seven communities that top the demographics are -  
India - 965,774  
Egypt - 655,234  
Philippines - 274,777  
Bangladesh - 256,849  
Syria - 162,310  
Saudi Arabia - 135,950  
Sri lankans - 120,147

In this regard, the Director-General of the International Labor Organization Gilbert Hougbo, called for "prioritizing social justice for employment around the world".

In a statement issued on the occasion of International Labor Day, he said, "Our policies and procedures should center around people to achieve their material well-being and spiritual development in conditions of freedom, dignity, economic security and equal opportunity."

## Other Voices

### Illusion of loyalty as per our learned friend Sayer

By Ahmad alsarraf

The title of the article and its idea are inspired by a videotape that the distinguished colleague Salah Al-Sayer broadcast a short while ago, and includes an indirect response to what academics and history professors claimed of their belonging to this land simply because their ancestors had previously fought -- often with each other -- on its land, and what later became its oil fields.



alsarraf

And how did these people consider this temporary and transient presence, which was not originally documented, as evidence that they are from the "Kuwait Desert", and therefore they have the right to hold its nationality.

My relationship with the residents of coastal areas far from the capital, and with the Bedouins who used to visit the markets there, either to sell their products such as leather, wool, ghee, and dried dairy products, or to buy their needs from the city of fabrics, food, etc., goes back to more than seventy years.

Some people coming from the desert chose to keep their money in the iron box (Tijori) in a reliable exchange shop, for fear of loss or theft, especially while they were sleeping at night in the open, often in the "Safat" square.

This is in contrast to our continuous mixing with the residents of coastal cities and others far from the capital, whether to spend holidays in their green oases, compared to the barren squares of the capital, devoid of trees. Or to complete my father and grandfather's commercial transactions with the residents of those areas, especially in foodstuffs. The people of those coastal villages in the south and Jahra in the north were honest and gentle in their commercial dealings with us, and in their obligation to pay what they owed.

Professor Al-Sayer says that there is a misunderstanding related to the issue of the "Kuwait Desert", and many claim that they lived in the desert, and that this gives them the right -- according to them -- to hold the nationality of the state, and he indicated in his recording that this statement or claim is incorrect, for a fundamental reason, as Kuwait does not originally have a desert in the usual sense, and specifically over the past hundred years.

What is meant by the desert among the Arabs is the vast area of land that has pasture and water and is devoid of urbanization. This definition does not apply to the Kuwaiti lands, whose total area does not exceed a little over 17,000 square kilometers, compared to the Badia of Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and Syria, for example, whose desert area is 90 thousand square kilometers, and therefore the narrow area of Kuwait does not allow the existence of a desert.

Al-Sayer said the nomadic people are defined as those who lived in temporary tents and moved from one place to the other compared to the city people who live in permanent houses built of clay, bricks and other stuff of construction materials.

He went on to say talking about the desert of Kuwait requires us to talk about the modern Kuwait starting from the era of Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and not in the era of his grandfather Sheikh Mubarak Al-Sabah where Kuwait had desert.

The period between Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Sheikh Mubarak Al-Sabah witnessed major changes including the World War I, World War II and the collapse of the Ottoman Empire in addition to the finding out of oil and the shrunk Kuwait area as per the famous Uqai Treaty signed in 1922 which reduced the space of Kuwait from almost 45,000 square kilometers to 17,000 square kilometers.

The remaining small area did not allow Kuwait to have desert or wilderness and so it is illogical to have some people claiming that they are the desert inhabitants who deserve to hold the Kuwaiti nationality. That desert was cut off 100 years ago, furthermore, the existing of some people on a specific land for a period of time or conducting some fights on it do not necessarily mean they belonged to it or became part of its people.

Footnote: The entire information circulated about brother Muhammad Al-Shaya and Al-Shaya commercial group is not correct at all. The claims that Al-Shaya is not satisfied with the commercial and business conditions in Kuwait is not correct.

Al-Shaya group is among the biggest investors in Kuwait and they have the right to look forward to extending their businesses abroad. However, this does not mean the commercial and business conditions in Kuwait are 100 percent perfect.

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May 7 - June 15: Japan embassy

## Scholarship grant for Kuwaitis

KUWAIT CITY, May 1: The Embassy of Japan has confirmed the availability of a scholarship grant for Kuwaitis who want to enroll in bachelors, masters and doctorate research programs in Japanese universities, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The embassy said the submission of applications for the scholarship will be from May 7 to June 15, 2023.

For undergraduate studies, the applicants must have completed 12 academic years; appropriate academic background; and the date of birth should be April 2, 1999 or later. The study period is five years -- from April 2024 to March 2029 -- in the fields of natural, social and human sciences. The duration of the scholarship is five years, including one year for studying the Japanese language.

For masters and doctorate research studies; the applicants must have completed 16 academic years and born on or after April 2, 1989. The study period is from April or September 2024 to March 2026, and the fields of study should be similar or related to the undergraduate specialization.

Applications must be hand-delivered to the embassy.

The embassy also clarified that the study period could be longer depending on the field of specialization.

The Japanese government has been offering the scholarship since 1954 in order to widen the scope of mutual understanding between the people of Japan and that of other countries, in addition to making an international contribution to the intellectual field.

## Call to exempt few expat teachers

KUWAIT CITY, May 1: Some departments and technical offices have called on the Public Education Sector to exclude non-Kuwaiti teachers working in their departments from the replacement (Kuwaitization) plan due to the severe deficit these departments suffer from in some disciplines, especially in schools in far and remote areas, reports Al-Qabas daily.

According to informed sources, the Director General for Technical Education Hessa Al-Mutawa addressed the Assistant Undersecretary for Public Education Osama Al-Sultan regarding the male and female expatriate teachers covered in the replacement plan.

She demanded the exclusion of teachers in the subject of art and craft education affiliated with the Ahmadi Educational District, specifically those working in the schools of Sabah Al-Ahmad City and Wafra area, from the replacement plan due to the urgent need for them.

Meanwhile, the Department of Special Education alerted the deficit in the educational staff in some disciplines in some schools.

In a letter sent to the Coordination Department, it requested the exemption of teachers of Sabah Al-Ahmad City schools affiliated with the department as well as those in the boys school in Erada and Tahaddi Girls School, from the lists of Kuwaitization due to the severe deficit in them, and in the interest of work.

In addition, the Director of the Fahheel Intermediate School for Boys Suleiman Al-Harbi said, "I am almost certain that a disaster will occur next year in the event that the services of 68 male and female teachers from the best affiliates of religious institutes are terminated. They have been officially informed about the termination of their services for the next year's plan.

Religious institutes teach rich subjects, such as the Qur'an, intonation,

## Citizens debts

### '7,693 to benefit'

KUWAIT CITY, May 1: Minister of Social Affairs and Community Development and Minister of State for Women and Childhood Affairs Mai Al-Baghli has announced that the number of beneficiaries of the campaign to pay the debts of citizens totaled 7,693; reports Al-Qabas daily.

Al-Baghli disclosed that the first category of beneficiaries consists of 1,713 citizens whose debts are registered as expenses from Jan 1, 2013 to May 15, 2022 at a total cost of KD2.630 million.

She said the second category consists of individual debts - 920 citizens, followed by personal debts - 4,171 citizens; at a total cost of KD5.4 million.

She added the fourth category consists of unpaid rents - 889 citizens at a total cost of KD1.6 million, including those who got debts from companies.

interpretation, hadith, biography, jurisprudence, the term hadith, prosody, grammar, rhetoric, literature, logic, and Islamic culture.

There are also many new schools that will open next year, and certainly there will be a severe shortage in the event of the dismissal of this huge number of teachers. We therefore hope that the decision-maker will look at this matter with an eye of justice and wisdom, reconsider his decision, and take the opinion of the people in the field, including principals and inspectors, so that there is no breach in the educational process."

# diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

## 'Let's create a new capital, populate desert to do away with traffic jams'

"LIFE in Kuwait has changed, and fulfilling your interests or going to your work has become a tiring and arduous process that drains time and burns nerves, and your arrival on time to your work or dropping your children to their schools on time has become impossible in light of the suffocating congestion and damaged streets," columnist **Adel Nayef Al-Mizal** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

"I challenge anyone to try to travel any distance, whether to his home, work, or children's schools, at an appropriate time, because the traffic crisis is multiplying and the number of cars is increasing at a terrible speed, and our streets are as they have been for a long time.

"Therefore the citizen arrives exhausted and loses his temper for most insignificant reasons, and when he sees a visitor who comes to complete his transaction, he is satisfied with expediting the dismissal of the visitor under flimsy pretexts, all because of the journey of torment that he lived through from his home to his place of work has sapped all his energy.

"He who thinks that the traffic network is only an accumulation of cars in the streets and congestion, is mistaken.

"It is a harsh life system that we suffer every hour and every day, which is reflected in one's behavior and makes him discontented and complaining all the time in light of this crisis, so that everyone turns into tools for demolition and the psychologists have unanimously agreed.

"However, the psychological state of a person is reflected in his deeds, words, and his ability to work and achieve, so do not expect achievement in light of what the citizen and the resident suffer from because of the traffic crisis. So what is the solution?!"

"Do we remain prisoners of this crisis, or are we looking for serious solutions to it that the state's capabilities failed to solve the traffic problem in Kuwait?!"

"Let us create a new capital for Kuwait, populate the desert, and transfer to it most government interests instead of piling them up in the capital. Let us prevent the issuance of driving licenses to those who constitute a great burden on our streets.

"Let us not forget the mobile taxi drivers who filled our streets and do not pay any attention to anyone on the street less than those who have this means.

"If you want a sign and a witness to chaos, confusion, lack of planning and improvisation, then go down to the streets of Kuwait to see for yourself the enormity of confusion in which we live and the extent of indifference to the problems of Kuwait and its overcrowding until it became overwhelmed with its inhabitants and spread diseases from air pollution due to the exhaust of cars suffocating all neighborhoods. Why should we bear it, even the asphalt of the streets is groaning."

**Also:**

"The sign 'Kuwait deserves' in the streets caught my eye and I really liked it, as it was put there by the Kuwait Municipality, and I dedicate it to every honorable citizen and expatriate in this country," **Abdul Rahman Al-Houti** wrote for **Al-Jarida** daily.

"During Eid holidays everyone enjoys watching movies in cinemas, especially on holidays and various occasions, but when the movie ends and the audience leave the cinema hall, you find that the scene after the show is different from what was before it.

"Unfortunately, it is a tragic scene in all the meaning of the word. Popcorn scattered all over the place. It is the disgusting, why? I don't think we do that at home. The phenomenon of throwing rubbish and indifference has begun to increase, whether in the cinema hall or in public parks, and this is uncivilized behavior.

"In fact, I insist on the role of the Ministry of Information to begin awareness campaigns urging the cleanliness of any place in the event of its use, as I insist on punishing everyone who throws leftovers in a place other than the place designated for it.

"I also urge the concerned authority to place billboards on every nook and corner so that we create a conscious generation whether at home, school or otherwise, and the state is not the only one responsible for cleanliness, but the citizen and the expatriate have a big role to play.

"Why aren't there places to throw leftovers? Although I saw paintings like this, including a sign placed next to Ahmed Al-Bishr High School, but it was removed and the situation unfortunately returned to the way it was, so I and many others hope that we will not see these negatives and that we all cooperate to eliminate them and replace them with positive ones, such as finding alternatives to placing food for animals and birds in designated places."



"The implementation of the flexible working hours system aims to make it easy for the employees in various government agencies to reach their workplaces at different times and to ensure the smooth flow of traffic," columnist **Khalid Al-Arrafa** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

"The first flexible working hours experiment was conducted during Ramadan, which failed on the first day of application due to lack of coordination between ministries and improper distribution of employees for the three work periods (shifts).

"The CSC re-implemented the flexible working hours mechanism at the beginning of this week. This time, it set the official working hours in four shifts, which will continue for several months until

the completion of the study on the flexible working hours system being carried out by the CSC in coordination with other concerned authorities.

"The CSC specified periods throughout the official working days - from Sunday to Thursday, indicating the working hours for each employee is seven hours, starting at 7:00 am and ending at 3:30 pm.

"Some ministries copied and distributed the circular to the departments and sections hours before the official implementation, without obligating employees to observe the official working hours, especially those occupying certain jobs. They made the choice open for employees to specify their own working hours.

"Finally, we wish that officials in various government agencies will explain the flexible working hours mechanism to the employees in order to achieve the desired goal."



"I was not surprised by the honorable societal and public enthusiasm over the national campaign launched by Minister of Social Affairs and Minister of State for Women and Childhood Affairs Eng Mai Jassim Al-Baghli to help needy citizens pay their debts under the slogan, 'Your enthusiasm is their joy,'" columnist **Tariq Al-Debras** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

"The aim of this campaign was to consolidate the principle of social solidarity. More than 59,000 donors from the Kuwaiti society contributed to express solidarity and cooperation in helping the needy debtors. The campaign ended with donations amounting to KD11 million.

"This campaign was distinctive as people from various sects competed to donate in order to help those in debt. It was under the auspices of three governmental entities - ministries of Social Affairs, Information and Justice.

"The Ministry of Social Affairs utilized the unified government application for electronic services 'Sahel' as one of the means for participation in the campaign. We must urge other government agencies to take the same step to benefit from the application in providing services to more than one million users.

"I suggest to the Ministry of Social Affairs that after the successful campaign, it should cooperate with the Zakat House as a government agency or the Society for Social Solidarity as one of the civil society institutions concerned with debtors in order to exchange experiences in the interest of the public."



"The fierce war waged by the Sudanese Army and Rapid Support Forces is a regrettable matter, as most of the victims are the Sudanese who have nothing to do with the ongoing power struggle," columnist **Abdulmohsen Al-Husseini** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

"If we follow these events, we will find that they are considered among the bad conditions in our Arab world. They also bring Arab people to shame and grief, considering the casualties. There are Sudanese armies on both sides and they got angry when they were sure about the struggle for power.

"Since the coup that overthrew the Al-Bashir regime, Sudan has been going through battles between the Sudanese brothers. It is also unfortunate that the other party - the Rapid Support Forces - is from an Islamic party related to former President Omar Al-Bashir, which means it is an attempt to return the Al-Bashir regime to power.

"If we follow the unfortunate events in our Arab countries, we will find power struggles between parties. Most Arabs have been displaced, because of conflicts in various Arab countries.

"We want to ask about the role of the Arab League, and the African and international organizations. These organizations are supposed to prevent such conflicts that have caused the destruction of Arab and African territories. Will these conflicts, which have led to the displacement of Arabs and poverty, continue?"

"What is the role of the Arab League and international and regional organizations in preventing hate organizations from sowing discord and spreading chaos and poverty? Why these organizations and the League do not expose the terrorist and hate organizations that are trying to interfere in the affairs of Arab countries through parties cooperating with those having external ambitions in exchange for supporting those holding the necks of the oppressed?!"



"For those concerned with internal roads and streets, please pay attention to the suffering of the people over the course of hours, as these streets are increasingly eroded and worn out despite the efforts to repair them with limited means," columnist **Moham Al-Saqr** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

"A European friend who visited Kuwait during the month of Ramadan conveyed it to us, summarizing his observations that our country does not deserve, as he likened it to a country in Africa and Asia.

"Unfortunately, the process of maintaining and treating our worn-out roads is not based on scientific foundations, as the case in developed countries and standards of scientific progress, considering the extensive snow and rains in those countries throughout the year! If we look at the condition of some roads in the middle of our oil regions, we will notice that these roads have been intact since the 1940s - those in and around Ahmedi!

"So why such a decision and effort not repeated by everyone involved with maintaining the bitumen and adjusting its mixture, as it seems the rest is up to you to specialize in it?"

— Compiled by **Ahmed Al-Shazli**



Deputy Foreign Minister, Ambassador Al-Otaibi during the meeting with the Swiss Confederation's Special Envoy for the Middle East and North Africa.

### Kuwait's Deputy FM receives Swiss envoy to Mideast

Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi received Monday Ambassador Wolfgang Amadeus Bruehlhart, Swiss envoy to the Middle East and North Africa. Both sides discussed bilateral relations and ways to bolster them as well as the latest regional and international developments. (KUNA)

## Mol eyes new security plans to 'combat' increasing crime rate

Number of residency law violators seen decreasing

**KUWAIT CITY, May 1:** In an effort to reduce the rate of heinous murders that have recently increased, security sources said the First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and Acting Minister of Defense **Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled** has directed the leaders of the Ministry of Interior to develop new security plans and an unconventional strategy to confront the phenomenon of violence and criminal behavior by relying on advanced and modern scientific methods to reduce the occurrence of crime and its rates, quickly arrest the perpetrators, and tighten control, reports **Al-Qabas** daily.

The sources stressed that the minister also called for urgent action to address the disturbing violent crimes with the required seriousness, speed and accuracy in implementation, and to submit a detailed periodic report on the results.

**Horrific**

The sources rang alarm bells by revealing about 255 horrific murders that occurred from the beginning of 2012 until mid-April 2023, that is, during an estimated period of 11 years and 3 months. This means that two murders occurred per month in the country. This confirms the fact that blood is shed for the most insignificant reasons. The great change in the structure of society is becoming more apparent.

The security services identified several main factors related to the motives behind the murders that occurred in society during the recent period. Drug addiction topped the list, in addition to revenge as a result of personal disputes, quarrels, marital problems, financial greed and attempts to seize the money of others, family disputes, and others.

The factors also include the absence of oversight, family disintegration, the spread and ease of obtaining knives and firearms, the negative impact of social networking sites, the absence of a legal deterrent, and the recklessness of some young people, in addition to



Sheikh Talal



Al-Barjas

the use of "wasta" to suppress some cases and prevent punishment in other cases, the negative influence of the media and the means of communication that are now transmitting daily various forms of violence to young people.

**Measures**

The most prominent measures currently taken to confront violent crimes are the intensification of security points, especially in areas that record an increase in crimes, as well as the intensification of the security presence of the police force elements, the expansion of the search and suspicion circle, the conduct of fixed and mobile security patrols, the monitoring of the elements that have left newly imprisoned, securing events and celebrations, raising the level of readiness to face emergency crises, raising awareness of the seriousness of crime and ways to report it, strengthening the role of community police to confront wrong behaviors, and holding seminars in universities and schools to spread awareness among young people.

The sources stressed the need for all concerned authorities to work on investigating the causes of these crimes, put an end to them, and address their motives.

They affirmed that the increase in crime rates in Kuwait has become a matter of surprise, especially as they are foreign and alien crimes to society, and show a significant and clear change in connection with them and their types and methods of committing them.

The sources said the competent security services will spare no effort in taking all necessary measures to combat all types of crimes, maintain security, order and public morals, and enhance stability in the country, in an effort to achieve societal security, protect citizens, and preserve public and private properties.

In a related context, a recent statistics by the Ministry of Justice revealed that 976 cases of murder and self-assault were pending before the courts during the past 16 months.

The statistics showed that 819 cases were registered from January 1 to December 31, 2022, and 157 cases were registered during the first quarter of this year 2023.

**Number of illegals down:** According to informed security sources, the number of expatriates in violation of the residency law has decreased by about 40,000 from 160,000 to about 120,000 within one year, due to the intensive security campaigns carried out by various sectors of the Ministry of Interior, reports **Al-Rai** daily.

The sources explained that this comes within the framework of the continuous efforts to implement the plan to amend the demographics and prosecute violators of the residency and marginal employment law. Based on instructions from the First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and Acting Minister of Defense **Sheikh Talal Al-Khalid**, and the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior Lieutenant General **Anwar Al-Barjas**, campaigns in various governorates of the country were intensified to preserve security, enhance monitoring and contain all violators.

The instructions from the minister emphasized the need to continue with the intensive security campaigns, and not to be complacent in taking necessary action for dealing with the violators.

**Investigations**

Special teams have been formed to work around the clock in four shifts. They include police officers from the residency and manpower investigations, with the support of the other security sectors to launch continuous campaigns.

The continuous campaigns resulted in the deportation of about 40,000 violators of the residency law, bringing the numbers down from 160,000 to 120,000 within a year. This is considered a real achievement that reflects the serious and resolute approach to monitor suspicious places where violating workers are present.

The first quarter of this year (from January 1, 2023 to April 28, 2023) witnessed the deportation of about 11,000 violators of the residency law - men and women of different nationalities.

The sources indicated that the campaigns in the next few days will include desert areas, livestock pens, farms and chalets, affirming that violators will be seized and deported according to the legal procedures followed.

They stressed that the Ministry of Interior will continue to pursue violators and prevent marginal workers from working, as well as conduct investigations about those who shelter violators and refer them to the competent authorities.

### Singles housing follow-up panel resumes work

## Team registers 26 violations in four governorates

**KUWAIT CITY, May 1:** The Deputy Head of the Judicial Enforcement Team, **Ahmed Al-Shammari**, announced during April, the team registered 26 violations in the Governorates of Jahra, Farwaniya, Al-Ahmadi, and the Capital, reports **Al-Rai** daily.

Al-Shammari said two days ago, the team issued a violation report for the owner of a property in the Jahra Governorate, indicating that "after he submitted a request for increasing the voltage for his plot, he hid the feeding cable and the ministry's equipment under the staircase during the demolition of his structure."

He explained that the owner intended to circumvent Law No. 48/2005 and Ministerial Resolution 121 of 2017, and he made a camouflage work in order to avoid the inspection teams of the Kuwait Municipality, pointing out that the seizure team was able, after observing it for a long time, to record the violation, as he intended to divide the plot into between 35 and 40 apartments and studios.

He stated that the team issued a violation report and contacted the Municipal officials to inform them of the violation in order to take action.

On the other hand, the Singles Housing Follow-up Committee in the private and model housing areas resumed its work the day before yesterday after stopping for two months and cut off the power supply to 5 houses in the Al-Faiha and Al-Dasma areas in the Capital Governorate, due to the real estate owners' violation of Kuwait Municipality Law No. 125 of 1992.

Al-Shammari said, in his capacity as a member of the committee, that "the committee is preparing to organize a campaign in Farwaniya Governorate during the next few days."

### 'Approve TEC's request to hike land allocation'

**KUWAIT CITY, May 1:** The State Property Department in the Ministry of Finance has called on Kuwait Municipality to approve the request of Tourism Enterprises Company (TEC) to increase the land allocated for the television transmission station in the Failaka Island entertainment project by 140,000 square meters, reports **Al-Qabas** quoting a reliable source.

The source revealed that Assistant Undersecretary for State Property and Legal Affairs **Abdul Rahman Al-Khamis** sent a letter to the Municipality regarding the tourism and development vision of the State, which includes the development of islands to support the tourism sector. It has been reported that the initial structural plan for the project started in cooperation with the advisory team formed by the Ministry of Finance.



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# MoE pays out KD 15mn as vacation allowance for its 3,715 employees

Decision to stop enrollment of Kuwaiti students in US varsity

**KUWAIT CITY, May 1: The Ministry of Education has disbursed approximately 15 million dinars as vacation allowances for its Kuwaiti and other employees, reports Al-Anba daily.**

Informed educational sources told the daily that the Ministry of Education allocated 25 million dinars for cash payments for transactions that were issued from April 1, 2022 until the end of March of 2023. The sources added the beneficiaries include 3,715 Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti employees.

Meanwhile, school students of different educational stages attended the first integrated school day after extending the Eid holiday, and the attendance rate was 98%. In this context, informed educational sources revealed to Al-Anba that school administrations have provided lessons as usual, indicating that they are racing against time to finish the curricula according to the study plan set by the Technical Directives.

**Semester**

On the other hand, the Ministry of Education specified in a letter that it circulated to the educational areas, of which the daily received a copy, one semester from each school accompanied by two teachers will visit the Islamic Book Fair, which is organized by the Social Reform Society at the International Fairgrounds in the Mishref region, after obtaining approval from parents of students, calling for pre-registration before attending the exhibition through the barcode designated for the exhibition to facilitate the visit.

In the meantime, the Kuwaiti

## 'Kuwaiti investments not affected by events unfolding in Khartoum'

**By Shawqi Mahmoud Al-Seyassah Staff**

KUWAIT CITY, May 1: Sudan's Ambassador to Kuwait, Awad al-Karim al-Raih Bella, said "Kuwaiti investments in Khartoum were not affected by the events taking place in his country," pointing out at the same time that "the armed forces are protecting the Kuwaiti embassy in the Sudanese capital after an attempt to attack the ambassador's residence by rebel forces."

Bella during an interview with Al-Seyassah daily praised Kuwait's speed in evacuating its nationals from Sudan, stressing that this "reflects its interest in its citizens," while expressing his country's great appreciation for the statements of the Kuwaiti Cabinet and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs supporting the return of stability in his country.

Regarding the difficulties that the community may face with regard to residency or passports, he stressed that "there is good communication with the Kuwaiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and it understands greatly the conditions our country is going through," adding, "We are very confident that we will find help and support from all parties in the State of Kuwait."

National Commission for Education, Science and Culture held a workshop entitled "Education for Global Citizenship" under the auspices of Secretary-General-designate Ali Hussein Ali, and aims to enable

With regard to the events unfolding in his country, the Sudanese envoy stressed security and peace will prevail throughout Sudan soon after the armed forces were able to absorb what he called 'the first shock', noting that "90 percent of the Rapid Support Forces have vanished and that the army has begun to deal with the remaining pockets of the rebellion that Dagalo led with the help of some regional and international parties."

While pointing out that the political path in Sudan is absolutely certain after eliminating the rebellion and bringing its leaders to justice, Ambassador Bella pointed out that his country "currently needs urgent assistance of medicines and medical supplies," and after the situation stabilizes, the focus will be on reconstruction.

He stressed that the tour of the presidential envoy, Ambassador Daiffallah Al-Haj Ali, in the region aims to "explain the size and dimensions of the treacherous coup led by the rebel Muhammad Hamdan Dagalo, commander of the Rapid Support militia, with some power-hungry agents, with the support of regional and international parties, with the aim of kidnapping the Sudanese state by armed force."

learners to contribute to building a more just, peaceful, tolerant and sustainable world.

Associate Professor at Sultan Qaboos University and a visiting professor at the University of

Toronto, Canada, Dr. Khalaf Al-Abri, confirmed that this workshop came in coordination with the UNESCO office in Doha and the Kuwaiti National Committee for Education, Science and Culture in Kuwait, which focuses on the goal of the fourth goal, which is the seventh goal in order to create a global citizen from during school education, he wished all participants in the workshop success and facilitation.

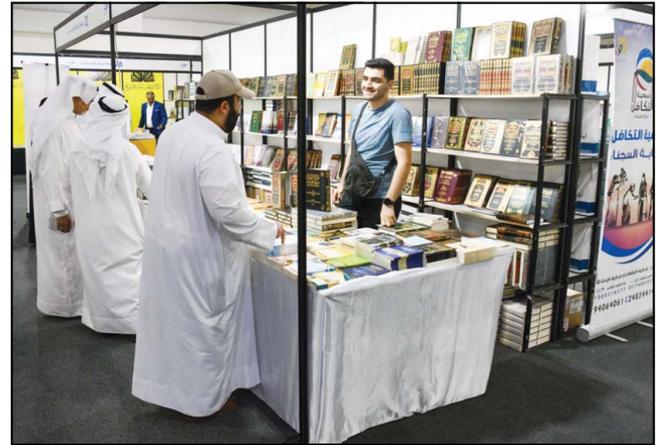
For her part, Dr. Farida Abudan, a specialist in education programs at the UNESCO Office for the Gulf States and Yemen, said that the workshop entitled "Education for Global Citizenship" in cooperation with the Kuwaiti National Committee for Education, Science and Culture in Kuwait and the UNESCO Office for the Gulf States and Yemen targets 30 school coordinators for a period of 3 training days in applying education for global citizenship according to the framework of UNESCO and teaching it in schools.

**Decision**

In another development, Minister of Education, Higher Education and Scientific Research Dr Hamad Al-Adwani recently issued a decision to stop the enrollment of Kuwaiti students in all undergraduate and postgraduate programs at Purdue University - Calumet and Purdue University - North Central in the United States of America, reports Al-Anba daily.

The daily obtained a copy of the decision, which does not apply to those enrolled at the abovementioned institutions before the issuance of this decision, as well as those admitted for the second semester of academic year 2022/2023.

The decision took effect from the date of issuance. Any existing directive or resolution that contradicts the decision shall be repealed.



KUNA photos

Top: Chairman of Board of Directors of Society for Social Reform Dr Al-Madhkoor during the opening of the exhibition. Above: Some of those interested in various Islamic books

## 45th Islamic Book Fair opens

# 12 govt agencies, 49 publishing houses participate in exhibition

KUWAIT CITY, May 1, (KUNA): The activities of the 45th edition of the Islamic Book Fair, organized by the Society for Social Reform, kicked off on Sunday with the participation of 12 government agencies and 49 publishing houses from inside and outside the State of Kuwait.

The activities of the session, which will continue until May 6 at the exhibition grounds in Mishref, come under the slogan 'Reading is life'.

On the sidelines of the opening of the exhibition, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Society for Social Reform Dr. Khaled Al-Madhkoor told KUNA the importance of culture, especially for the youth, as it contributes to the development of thought and the consolidation of diverse values.

The aforementioned added that the association has sought, since its inception, to develop reading methods and work on diversifying its sources by inviting many parties from different countries and in various fields with the aim of spreading Islamic culture, indicating that it is concerned with several aspects, most notably women, children, the law and other important issues.

He expressed his thanks to the Ministry of Information for harnessing all its cadres to serve and support the Islamic Book Fair and the joint work of interest in spreading Islamic culture, in addition to the Ministry of Interior in overcoming the difficulties facing external participation in the exhibition and all other participating parties.

For his part, Saad Al-Otaibi, CEO of

the Namaa Charitable Foundation, confirmed in a similar statement to KUNA that participation in the exhibition comes from the belief in the importance of the cultural role in building and developing societies, especially as it targets human thought and behavior.

Al-Otaibi added that Namaa Charitable Foundation was keen to display and produce a set of books dedicated to this occasion, including the book Ruqaya and the Museum directed to children and a knowledge publication that shows the importance of performing eye operations for those suffering from cataract and measuring the extent of the impact through pictures and cases.

For his part, the representative of the Children's Skills Foundation from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Muhammad Al-Bagish, told KUNA that participation in the exhibition opens the door for the exchange of experiences and cultures, indicating that the publications of the Foundation are concerned with developing children's mental and motor abilities through innovative interactive games.

For his part, the participant from the Dar Najibawih Knowledge Foundation from the Kingdom of Morocco, Firas Najib, told KUNA that the State of Kuwait is a platform for spreading culture and knowledge, as this exhibition translates its efforts to work hard in this direction.

Najib expressed his hope that his country will continue to participate in such cultural exhibitions that serve and develop societies.

## Nod to

Continued from Page 1

Reading a statement following the session, held at Bayan Palace under chairmanship of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Dr. Khaled Ali Mohammad Al-Fadhel said the council of ministers approved a decree to dissolve the National Assembly on the basis of the constitutional provision 107 and referred it to His Highness the Crown Prince.

The ministers were briefed about a letter addresses from Chairperson of the Arab Parliament Adel Asoumi with regard of granting His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah the Arab Parliament medal (The Leader Medal) in appreciation for his services for his State and the Arab nation.

The ministers discussed issues on the Arab and international arenas, namely conditions in Sudan and decided to dispatch relief and medical aid to the stricken sisterly nation, upon which, it assigned the foreign ministry, in coordination with the ministries of defense and health and the Kuwait Red Crescent Society, to secure the needed aid supplies and send them to Sudan as soon as possible.

In related news, the State of Kuwait Ambassador to Egypt and the Permanent Representative at the Arab League Ghanem Al-Ghanem on Monday affirmed necessity of exerting collaborative efforts for ceasing the fighting immediately in Sudan.

"The State of Kuwait has followed up with deep concern the recent developments in Sudan that led to spread of violence and strifes among various parties thus threatening Sudan's stability and security," said Ambassador Al-Ghanem during an extraordinary session of the Arab League Council, held at the level of permanent delegates, addressing the issue of Sudan.

Al-Ghanem underscored necessity of holding national dialogue among the Sudanese parties with regional and international support to pave the way for holding credible elections.

Military action will not achieve any progress for restoring Sudan's stability, he

stressed.

He lauded the Arab states for rapid response to the developments in Sudan and keeping session of the delegates' meeting open.

## Sheikh Ahmad

Continued from Page 1

It is like giving citizens fishing rods and teaching them how to fish. This happens when the leadership realizes the importance of building an active economy, and not making people live in poverty for fear of poverty.

When the taps of the state's funds are closed, and it is dominated by the doctrine of investing its sovereign money abroad because corrupt profiteering is facilitated there, there is no doubt that people's groaning will rise. There is no escape from hunger and poverty except by a painful surgical operation, but it is the salvation to restore health to the state.

The first step to prosperity lies in changing the mentality, and looking at the many benefits that society and the state are losing due to the lack of know-how and economic sophistication.

What would be the harm, for example, to open up the country, and not be a victim of human traffickers who bring people in exchange for sums of money and then leave them on the streets. The state can benefit from this matter, just as the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar, the Sultanate of Oman, and some Asian countries did. They opened their doors to everyone. Instead of human traffickers getting rich at its expense, it cut them off by turning it into the sponsor.

There is no doubt that the country will remain underdeveloped as long as the will to develop it does not exist. This will only be achieved by changing the mentality, the method of decision-making, and replacing people who obstruct the path, either for the sake of reconciliation, or for lack of awareness of the importance of combining prosperity and stability, and not encouraging them to increase state injustice.

Your Highness, the country's sovereign money is borrowed by others for the development of their country while Kuwait lives on deficit.

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Kuwait's Permanent Representative to UN values ties with IFRC

# IFRC chief praises Kuwait's humanitarian and relief role

KUWAIT CITY, May 1, (KUNA): Secretary-General of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Jagan Chapagain, praised on Monday the role of the State of Kuwait in the field of humanitarian and relief work, dealing with crises and disasters, and community participation.

Chapagain told Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) following his meeting with the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS), Dr. Hilal Al-Sayer, that the KRCS has a long history of honorable work in supporting the state's efforts in relief work and facing crises and disasters, in addition to its participation in supporting the efforts of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

He added that the KRCS is one of the most active members of the Federation, whether in the countries of the region or in areas where crises are widespread and in which the International Federation is active and is considered an example to follow and reflects the excellence and leadership of Kuwaiti humanitarian work.

**Supportive**

He mentioned that the Kuwaiti Red Crescent Society is one of the active and supportive national societies for the directives of the International Movement of the Red Crescent and the Red Cross to achieve its goals and principles, including providing support and assistance to the needy and those affected by humanitarian crises and natural disasters.

He pointed out that he follows up with appreciation the KRCS field activities in the Yemeni, Sudanese and Syrian arenas, keeping pace with the humanitarian situation and dealing with it with responsibility and high efficiency.

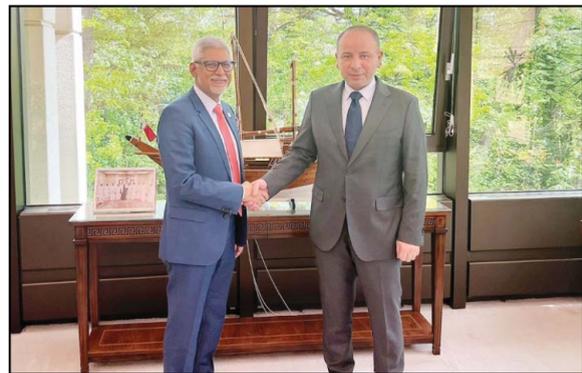
Chapagain said that his meeting with Dr. Al-Sayer dealt with ways to enhance cooperation and joint coordination in many humanitarian issues and crises, especially the



Secretary General of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Jagan Chapagain, during his meeting with the Board of Directors of the Kuwait Red Crescent Society.



Secretary General of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Jagan Chapagain, during his tour of the Kuwait Red Crescent Society.



Ambassador Nasser Al-Hayen receives the Secretary General of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Jagan Chapagain.

issues of refugees and displaced persons, and the efforts exerted by both sides to alleviate their suffer-

ing and improve their lives.

He pointed out that he also presented the role of the International

Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in confronting crises, disasters and wars, in addition

to exchanging the experiences and capabilities of the Federation's national societies in various coun-

tries of the world.

For his part, Al-Sayer stressed that the Society pays great attention to the areas of cooperation and coordination with international humanitarian organizations, especially the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, for the benefit of humanity, praising the role of the Federation in terms of international humanitarian aid and its development projects in countries that are subject to crises.

Al-Sayer said that the Kuwait Red Crescent Society is looking forward to strengthening its partnership with the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent and working together to improve the conditions of those affected by humanitarian crises.

He reviewed the humanitarian and development efforts of the Society on many issues and countries, including its efforts to help Syrian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, the Rohingya, Yemen and Turkey.

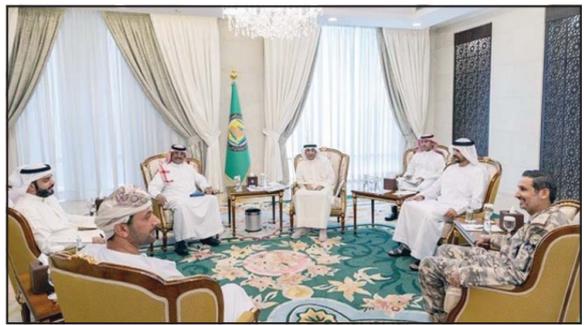
**Also:**

**GENEVA:** Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the UN Office in Geneva Ambassador Nasser Al-Hayen said on Monday that the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) values the distinguished relations with Kuwait.

This was in a statement by Al-Hayen to KUNA after his meeting with the Secretary General of IFRC Jagan Chapagain at the headquarters of the UN office in Geneva.

The meeting dealt with the humanitarian situation in areas of crises and disasters, the programs offered by IFRC to alleviate the suffering of the victims, cooperation with IFRC in the concerned areas, and ways of joint cooperation, Al-Hayen added.

Kuwait is keen on cooperating with various international humanitarian organizations considering that humanitarian work is of utmost importance, especially with the high occurrence of disasters, he explained.



GCC Secretary-General Jasem Al-Budaiwi meets with general secretariats representatives.

## Secretariat plays major role in shaping up policies: Al-Budaiwi

RIYADH, May 1, (KUNA): GCC Secretary-General Jasem Al-Budaiwi affirmed Sunday on the general secretariat's important role in shaping the general policies of the organization and the importance of following up and executing such policies.

A statement by the GCC the remarks by Al-Budaiwi came during a meeting with the general secretariats and their representatives.

Al-Budaiwi added that such task would ensure complete coordination

and harmony among all divisions in the organization, which would in turn bolster the mission effectiveness and work.

The GCC chief noted that the meeting comes within the framework of the directives of GCC leaders and their keenness to follow up, implement the decisions, and advance the joint Gulf action.

The secretariat stated that during the meeting, the topics on the agenda and the proposals submitted by the members of the General Secretariat Council were discussed also.

**KD 2.8 million setback**

## Ministry gets nod from authorities for extension of operation & tender

KUWAIT CITY, May 1: The Ministry of Health has obtained the approval of the regulatory authorities for the first extension of the comprehensive operation and maintenance tender, for the building and stores of the Medical Warehouses Department of the Medicines Sector, for a period of 15 months, from April 1 to June 30, 2024, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Health sources told the daily that the cost of the extension is 2.8 million dinars, pending the completion of the new tender.

The sources explained that the extension guarantees the continuation of receiving shipments and storing them in warehouses in the suburb of Sabhan easily and smoothly, and then distributing them later to all facilities in hospitals and health centers according to requests, noting that they are subject to a number of control procedures such as auditing and reviewing, with the aim of the arrival of medicines and medical equipment without delay sans obstacles and safety to be disbursed to patients in all health facilities, calling the role of stores vital in maintaining the strategic drug stock for long periods, in anticipation of any emergency situations.

The sources indicated that "the medical warehouses are among the vital departments in the ministry, and they played an important role during the Corona crisis.

On the other hand, the sources stated that the ministry obtained the approval of the regulatory authorities, regarding direct contracting with one of the parties to supply medicines intended for the treatment of epilepsy in health centers and hospitals, at a cost of approximately 185,000 dinars, pointing out its keenness to provide all medicines and medical supplies periodically in its facilities.

The Ministry of Health has also obtained the approval of the regulatory authorities to extend the tender contract for the provision of supportive medical services (lab technician, X-ray technician, pharmacy technician) for centers and hospitals in the Farwaniya and Jahra health regions for a period of one year, from May 5, 2023 to May 4, 2024.

Sources told the daily that the cost of the extension is about 4 million dinars, until the completion of the new procedures, stressing the keenness of officials to regularly provide medical care to patients and visitors in all facilities without hindrance.

Meanwhile, the regulatory authorities approved the Ministry of Health's request regarding the first extension of a tender contract related to the maintenance of a data transmission and exchange system between technical teams in ambulances and public hospitals, using the TETRA digital communications network.

# Banking regulatory understanding to stop project to establish new payments system

## Banking vision aims at achieving twinning in KNET business model

KUWAIT CITY, May 1: The banking regulatory understanding to stop the project to establish a new payments company was accompanied by a banking vision aimed at achieving twinning in the KNET business model with the eight sub-projects that the Central Bank of Kuwait seeking to launch in two phases within the Kuwait National Payments System, reports Al-Rai daily.

Following this it is believed there is a banking and regulatory understanding that has emerged recently, prompting the abandonment of the project to establish a new payments company similar to the Joint Automated Banking Services Company (KNET), provided that the banker continues to search for the best solutions to develop payment services ensuring that it is not interrupted locally even in the worst case scenario.

The regulatory target payments system includes a group of integrated electronic payment systems that are compatible with international foundations and standards related to payment and settlement operations between the various participating entities.

Its eight projects include automated clearing, wage protection, nation-

al clearing of payments through smart devices, in addition to the real-time system for total settlements, retail payments, electronic bill display and payment, financial claims management, digital currency, as well as quality control and oversight.

The sources indicated that the understanding between bank officials and the CBK in this regard was supported by more than one consideration, perhaps the most prominent of which are:

1. The business model of the current and prospective companies is similar to the extent of congruence, given that the KNET business model is broader and more comprehensive than just implementing financial payments.

**Activities**

The sources indicated that if the company that was to be established goes ahead, it will be like copying the work of part of the activities of "KNET 1" in another under the name "KNET 2", which weakens the relevance of the banking or even the regulatory need to establish a new financial payments company.

2. The Banking Committee concerned with the establishment of a new company similar to "KNET" had previously chosen the international company "KPMG" as a consultant to prepare an advanced concept that regulates payments operations locally, and that is able to meet the requirements of comprehensive development targeted by the regulator and banks, It

provides broader operational purposes for the company, which is expected to be a rival to KNET.

After expanding the legal executive discussion in which bank officials participated, everyone concluded, according to the sources, that the objectives to be applied will be the same for the two companies.

As long as KNET's strategy includes moving to develop payments activities, and adding new activities that are not currently available in its business model and that are specified within the requirements of the payment system, it is not feasible to establish KNET 2.

3. The list of owners of the two companies is identical, as it consists of the same banks that contribute to "KNET 1", which reinforces the conviction that the establishment of a new payments company increases the operating cost of banks without an urgent need, especially since the development plan of "KNET" is in line with the regulatory directives to enhance its ability to keep pace with the digital payment changes that have occurred globally, and takes into account the real challenges facing the banking industry.

4. The Central Bank succeeded during the last period in expanding the operation of financial technology companies with payment systems and others, as part of its strategy to expand the circle and scope of players in this field, which contributes to the diversification and development of payment services, noting that there are about

13 local companies that carry out the work of payment operators and others. This expands the field of competition in facilitating and operating payment services, and reduces KNET's monopoly on these services.

5. KNET is the first company established in the Gulf to address issues of payments and settlements for banking services between banks, and several Gulf countries still rely on Visa and MasterCard to settle their payments, which makes this company operational privacy and broader hopes in developing its business model in line with the payments revolution.

**Owners**

6. The possibility of establishing a company with the same owners to oppose the requirements of the Competition Protection Authority Law.

The sources noted that KNET will continue to develop the application of its business model, which is currently limited to "points of sale" and "ATM" as a gateway for payments to bank customers and settlements between banks, and will work to keep pace with the radical developments taking place in the world and represent a real challenge to the current banking and financial system related to "Fintech" in all its forms, especially in light of the entry of major technology companies into the line of providing cross-border banking and financial services that are not restricted by traditional regulatory systems.

## 57 projects in implementation stage

# 470 mln dinars spent on govt projects since '23

KUWAIT CITY, May 1: The percentage of government spending on development projects increased in the last months of the fiscal 2022/2023 to 35.8 percent, after the total spending on projects reached about 470 million dinars out of the total 1.3 billion dinars allocated by the general budget for spending on projects, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The statistics issued by the concerned authorities indicated that the projects that are in the delivery stage increased from 10 to 12, while there are about 57 projects in the implementation stage and approximately the same number in the preparation stage, should these projects be included in the current fiscal 2023/2024.

The Ministry of Finance, in its latest circular, called on all concerned regulatory authorities to give priority to the

projects which are on the annual development plan and to quickly complete their procedures, stressing the need for government agencies to start taking necessary measures to implement development projects included in the new fiscal year, according to what is planned, as of the beginning of the fiscal year.

The Finance Ministry has authorized government agencies to take appropriate steps procedures to float tenders and special practices contained in the draft budget submitted to the National Assembly, provided that awarding and contracting procedures are not completed except after the approval of the estimates by the parliament or the issuance of the law linking the budget for the fiscal year.

Official figures showed the inclusion of about 239 development pro-

jects planned for implementation during the fiscal 2023-2024, at a total cost estimated at 955.4 million dinars, with about 41 different entities participating in their implementation, which includes developmental, construction and strategic projects. The Council of Ministers has completed the formation of five ministerial committees, so that each committee begins its work.

In a step that reflects the government's interest in the completion of development projects and follow-up on the steps of their implementation, the new government initiated its first meeting by approving the formation of a ministerial committee to follow up the implementation of major development projects.

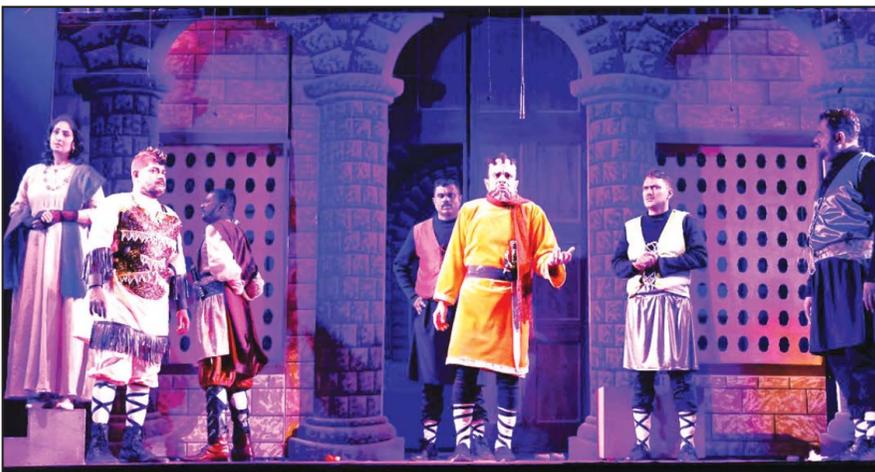
Relevant sources confirmed that the financial and executive capacity alone

are not sufficient to advance the implementation of new projects, as the implementation process needs about 37 pieces of legislation between a number of new laws or amending existing laws, which pushes towards the need for cooperation between the two executive authorities for the completion of major projects.

The sources indicated that development projects in Kuwait are also facing difficulty in terms of completion, due to the delay in approving the new draft budget, which is a major reason for delaying the progress of government projects within the development plan, and thus falling behind the stipulated dates, which also negatively affects project completion rates. itself, and increases wasted time, thus wasting a lot of opportunities.



A scene from the play.



Photos from the event.

## Shakespearean drama presented in unique way

# Thanima's 'Macbeth' wows audiences

KUWAIT CITY, May 1: With innovative technology, with the presence of real animals and birds, the Shakespearean drama directed by Babuji Bathery wowed the audience for two days.

Director Babuji Bathery informed that the completion of this dream made possible only with three months of hard training, coordination and sincerity by around 40 artists and 40 technicians, making all the limitations of the diaspora a myth.

First day play was inaugurated by Kutnadan MLA Thomas K Thomas by lighting the lamp in the presence of KG Abraham (NBTC Partner & Managing Director), Father Davis Chiramel, KS Varghese (MD Gulf Advance Technology), Souvenir Convener Johnny Kunnel, Natakthanima Convener Jacob Varghese, Director Babuji Bathery and Artist Sujathan Master.

2nd day performance was inaugurated by Mathew Varghese (Thanima Advisory Committee member & BEC Exchange CEO) in presence of SA Labba (AK Modern GM), PNJ Kumar (CEO Caesars Travels), Dr. Ameer Ahmed (IDF ex-president), Johnny Kunnil (souvenir convener), Jacob Varghese (drama convener), Director BabujiBathery

and Artist Sujathan Master, Thanima.

Spectators watched in awe as the character galloped past the audience on a real horse accompanied by a horse.

The train that roared through the clouds of smoke, the pet dogs that became the characters, the bird that sat in the arms of the character in the song, and the real sweet lemons and strawberries in the garden all kept their uniqueness in the play.

The cast includes Thanima's General Convener Babuji Bathery (screenplay, lyrics, direction), Artist Sujathan (scenography), Mustafa Ambadi (music), PournamiSangeet (dance choreography), Udayan Anchal (background music), Manoj Mavelikkara (music composition), Jayesh Kumar Varkala (Lighting), Rana Varghese (Lighting Coordination), Baptiste Ambrose (set properties design), Salim T.P. (stage set-up), Sangeet Somnath (costume design), Jison Joseph (background music control), Mubarak Kambrath and Rahul Raji (media & publicity), Varghese Paul (sound coordination), Sibi AER Event (lights coordination) Jinu K Abraham and VijeshVelayudhan (co-directors), Jacob Varghese (drama convener), Raghunathan Nair, Jacob Mathew

(Production Controllers), Alex Varghese and Isaac Varghese (PRO), Dominic Antony (Advertising), ReeyaRana, SwapnaJoi and Shinu Gino (dance team coordination), Jacob Thomas, Ashraf Churot, Habib Mutichur, Jojimon Thomas, LijoKakkanad, Raji John, Shamsuddin Kuku, Vinod Thomas, Tommy Jose handled the venue control.

Characters- Kumar Trithala (Macbeth), Tina Teresa Anthony (Lady Macbeth), Shaji Pallipuram (Banquo), PournamiSangeet (Lady Banco), Binu Kulangara (King Duncan), Gino Mailapra (Malcolm), JioThodupuzha (Donalbain) AjiParavoor (Macduff), and gave life to the main characters.

DilipVayalar, Shamon Katammanitta, Benoy Carmela, Jacob Varghese, Baptist Ambrose, UshaDileep, Freddy Parokaran, Shaji Varghese, Jomon Natakam, Sonny V Paravoor, RuhailKodieryi, DheerajDileep and Jinu K Abraham are various actors appeared as characters.

Kuttithanima members Alina Gino, AlonaJoi, Amaya Jaji, AdonaRana, Diya Sangeet, Divyasree Vijayakumar, Linda Marie Santhosh, MalavikaVijesh and Nidhi Maria Alex appeared as dancers in the song scenes.





Under the Patronage of  
Secretary General of the National Council of Culture, Art and Letters

*Shaikha/Altaf Salem Al Ali AlSabah*  
ALSadu Society Founder & Patron  
*Shaikha/BiBi Duaij AlSabah*  
ALSadu Society Chairperson

**Kuwait Textile Art Association**  
Cordially invites you to the Opening Ceremony for

**22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Kuwait Textile Art Association Exhibition**  
*Al Funon Hall in Dahiyat Abdulla Alsaalem*

**Opening**  
**May 2, 2023 - 7 pm**

Exhibition hours  
3-4 May 2023  
9 AM - 1 PM / 4-9 PM

Information  
99855875

A flyer of the event.



Photos from the event.

## Indian Engineers Forum organizes Ramadan Food Kit distribution campaign

By Suresh Rao Neramballi

Indian Engineers Forum Kuwait (IEF) conducted Iftar Grocery Kits distribution at labor camps of cleaning staffs in Mahboula on 18th April 2023 under Social Responsibility Initiative of IEF.

Around 100 plus Grocery Kits were being distributed in two buildings which covered more than 550 labourers.

The Grocery Kits distribution was led by Mr. Vaikunth R Shenoy (Founder and Ex-President of IEF), Evans George (President of IEF - 2023), Bency K Baby (General Secretary of IEF), Sreeraj Rajan (Secretary of IEF), com-

mittee members: Anoop, Sajo, Hashif and volunteers, Sukumar Reddy, Najas and Suresh.

Further, the second Blood Donation Camp shall be arranged shortly by IEF in May 2023 as a another part of its social responsibility initiative (Save Human Lives).

## Al Muzaini's \$10,000 Eideyah winner announced

Al Muzaini Exchange Company, the number one Exchange company in Kuwait announced the winner of their \$10,000 Eideyah Prize in an event held at Al Muzaini branch, Jahra on Thursday, 20th April, 2023.

The winner, Mr. Meshal Awwad Alfadhli was extremely happy upon receiving the prize and expressed his joy towards Al Muzaini for rewarding their customers by conducting campaigns all throughout the year.

Mr. Meshal has been using Al Muzaini for several years for the purpose of performing fast, safe and secure money transfers and

obtaining foreign currency for his travels at extremely competitive rates. The winner said, "I trust Al Muzaini for my money transfers and foreign exchange, they are really great and the staff is extremely helpful. I recommend Al Muzaini to every customer that needs to send money quickly and reliably. I have used their branches to perform my transfers and have recently tried the app and found it to be convenient and efficient. Thank you, Al Muzaini, for this wonderful prize."

Al Muzaini is eager to provide the highest levels of quality financial services such

as money transfers and foreign currency exchange, comfortably and safely at the best prices throughout. Al Muzaini General Manager Mr. Hugh Fernandes congratulated the winner of the \$10,000 Eideyah prize and stated, "We are pleased to conduct our Mega Promotion Campaign 2023 and offer our customers the chance to win incredible prizes. We are also always looking forward to presenting the best offers and conducting more promotional campaigns in the future to thank our valued customers for their loyalty and the trust that they place in us."



The winner Meshal Awwad Alfadhli being congratulated.

## Market Movements

01-05-2023

	Change	Closing pts		Change	Closing pts
JAPAN - Nikkei	+0.92	29,123.18	UAE - DFM	-0.19	3,538.05
PAKISTAN - KSE 100	+0.28	41,580.85	SAUDI - Tadawul	-0.32	11,271.19
PHILIPPINES - PSEI	+0.63	6,625.08	EGYPT - EGX 30	-2.02	17,310.83

# Business

## Our A+ Student account reflects our attention to our youth, especially students: Johair Marafi

# ABK announces the A+ Student account draw winner of Fiat 500 Car

KUWAIT CITY, May 1: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) recently announced Fatemah Abdullah Mohammed Al Mousawi as the winner of the Fiat 500 grand prize draw of the A+ Student account campaign. The draw took place at ABK's head office under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Expressing her delight, Johair Marafi, Acting General Manager of ABK's Retail Banking Division, said, "On behalf of ABK, I would like to congratulate our winner. It brings me great happiness to see the success of the Bank's product and service offers as it ensures we are on the right track in terms of achieving customer satisfaction."

The A+ Student account is specifically designed for customers aged 16 to 25, offering them an array of worthwhile benefits. These include an instant KD 50 cash prize upon transfer of student allowance, a free prepaid card offering secure and convenient online shopping in addition to a special array of discounts from restaurants and stores in Kuwait.

Marafi continued, "It is of great importance to offer what customers deem as worthwhile. Ensuring the provision of valuable prizes would, in turn, result in an increase in customer satisfaction and overall trust in ABK's products and services, thus encouraging a wider segment to begin their banking journey with ABK."

Specifically commenting on the Bank's youth account, Marafi said, "The A+ Student account is a reflection of the significant amount of attention that ABK pays to its younger audience. We would like to attract their attention by offering discounts and promotions through several partners and brands to encourage them to transfer their student allowance and enjoy our exclusive banking experience."

ABK aspires to continue developing offers that meet the Bank's



Haneen Al Rumaihi handing over the keys to the winner of the Fiat 500.

objectives of providing banking and financial products and services that cater to all segments of Kuwait's society. Furthermore, the Bank takes every opportunity to promote a culture of saving across all target audiences.

Marafi concluded by encouraging students to open an A+ Student account to avail the exciting benefits. She also invited everyone to follow



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

the Bank's social media accounts to remain up to date with the latest marketing initiatives and benefit from the running 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's products and services, 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 Kuwait.

## Afternoon Tea at Al Soor relaunches on Charles III's Coronation Day

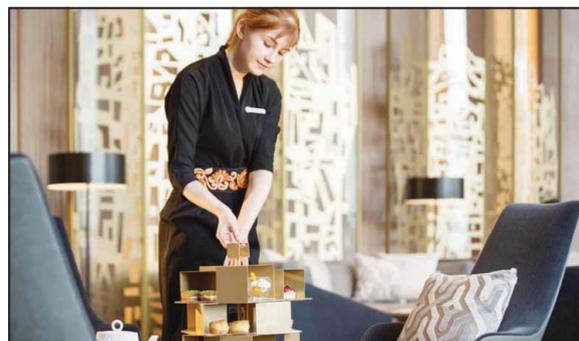
KUWAIT CITY, May 1: Afternoon Tea is an iconic British tradition, so it makes perfect sense that Four Seasons Hotel Kuwait at Burj Alshaya should relaunch its own elegant version at Al Soor Lounge on May 6 – the Coronation Day for Britain's King Charles III. On launch day delectable, light bites will be served for a quintessentially British experience. Available every day thereafter from 2 pm to 6 pm in the sumptuous surroundings of Kuwait's 'place to see and be seen', the Al Soor Afternoon Tea is a perfect excuse for a girls' tête-à-tête in refined style.

The new Afternoon Tea menu - crafted by Executive Chef Thierry Papillier and his culinary team - features both savoury and sweet delicacies; classics updated with thoughtful modern twists. Smoked salmon tartar is served with fresh waffle and sour cream, dill, onion and capers; creamy chicken with fresh truffle comes in a soft-as-a-cloud brioche bun, while an egg mimosa sandwich is flecked with chopped chives.

Sweet treats include strawberry tartlet, double chocolate choux, and date and saffron mousse cake. Traditional British favourite, scones, are straight-from-the-oven and served with clotted cream, strawberry jam and lemon curd.

Enjoy with fragrant tea or coffee, served just so - King Charles is said to enjoy Darjeeling with organic honey and milk, with the honey placed in the cup before the tea is poured over. Queen Elizabeth II, on the other hand, was a fan of Earl Grey, served boiling hot with a splash of milk and no sugar.

The mouth-watering treats are presented in an artful étagère for Instagram-worthy moments shared with friends. The whole experience is elevated by the striking design of Al



Afternoon Tea at Al Soor lounge.



Al Soor lounge.

Soor with its dramatic soaring ceilings, bold gold-leaf glass screens, and contemporary style. Also known as the La Chocolaterie of Kuwait, Al Soor's dazzling French chocolaterie counter offers 15 different hand-made truffles and pralines for an extra je ne sais quoi - making it the perfect place to pick up a prettily packaged treat for someone special.

The British institution of taking tea in the afternoon is said to have been

invented by the Duchess of Bedford around 1840 when industrialisation and gas lighting meant a later dinner, leaving a stomach-growing gap after lunch. The Duchess, a lady-in-waiting to Queen Victoria, asked for tea, bread and butter, and cake to be sent to her room in the late afternoon. The rest, as they say, is history - with Afternoon Tea becoming a fashion that spread across Britain and eventually much of the globe.

## Burgan Bank's Al-Rateb Salary Account now 'available' for online opening in 45 seconds

KUWAIT CITY, May 1: Burgan Bank announced that all customers may now easily open Burgan Bank's Al-Rateb Salary Account in just 45 seconds, using the Burgan Bank Mobile Application. The seamless service comes as part of Burgan's comprehensive digital transformation efforts, which aims to ensure ease, speed, and efficiency at every step of the customers' digital banking experience.

Designed with customers' lifestyles and unique needs in mind, Al-Rateb Account was launched in September 2022, offering many special benefits, such as allowing customers to get a cash gift up to KD 2,000 upon transferring their salary to Al-Rateb Account. Whether you're a seasoned professional or just starting your career, your journey starts with Al Rateb Salary Account.

In light of this latest feature, Mr. Deniz Devrim Cengiz, Group Chief Digital Banking Officer at Burgan Bank, said: "We live in a fast-paced world, where every minute counts. That's why it is of utmost importance that we present newly digitized services and products that enable our customers to remain up to date in the ever-evolving world of digital banking."

On his part, Mr. Naser Al Qaisi, Chief Retail Banking Officer at Burgan Bank, commented: "With newly arising market challenges, as well as customer needs and aspirations, it is crucial for any institution that aspires for success to maintain its relevance by offering products and services that address and fulfill modern needs. At Burgan Bank, we are constantly innovating products and services, such as Al-Rateb Account, to fulfill our customers' needs, bearing in mind their diversity."

In addition to ensuring simplicity and efficiency across the banking experience, Burgan's digital transformation journey also comes as part of the Bank's commitment to ESG practices. By enabling customers to fulfill their banking needs remotely via the mobile app or the online portal without the need to commute to a physical branch, Burgan Bank seeks to promote sustainability and environmental awareness.

Acting upon its role as a leading national institution and a pioneer in the banking and financial sector, Burgan Bank continues to innovate



Naser Mohammed Al Qaisi, Chief Retail Banking Officer at Burgan Bank.



Deniz Devrim Cengiz, Group Chief Digital Banking Officer at Burgan Bank.

products and services that ensure all customers' banking needs are met with ease and comfort. Some of its products include Al-Rateb Salary Account and Kanz Account, which allows customers to grow their banking portfolio with Burgan Bank. Furthermore, the bank spares no effort to create a balanced banking ecosystem for its customers by improving the bank's digital features, such as Personal Finance Management (PFM) which aims for Financial Literacy, by helping customers to manage their spending in a proper way, and plan for a solid financial future.

# Markets steady after latest bank failure; First Republic seized, sold

Tokyo gains, most world markets closed

NEW YORK, May 1, (AP): The latest historic U.S. banking failure is making few waves in markets, and stocks were drifting Monday as Wall Street braces for what it hopes will be the last hike to interest rates for a long time.

The S&P 500 was 0.1% higher after regulators seized First Republic Bank and sold off most of it in hopes of preventing more turmoil in the industry. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 53 points, or 0.2% at 34,151, as of 12:07 p.m. Eastern time, while the Nasdaq composite fell 0.2%.

First Republic has been in the spotlight for nearly two months on worries it could be next to topple following March's failures of Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank. The worry was that runs on smaller- and mid-sized banks could take down the economy, like the financial industry's woes during the 2008 crisis did.

But analysts and economists have said they see big differences between then and now, including how the biggest U.S. banks are feeling less pressure this time around. Plus, several banks that have been under scrutiny for weakness recently have said their deposit levels have strengthened since late March.

Analysts said the difference between the stock market's reactions to them and First Republic Bank, which plunged 75% last week, indicates investors may see it as an isolated event rather than a problem with the deeper system.

Shares of JPMorgan Chase, which is buying much of First Republic's assets, rose 2.6%. It's becoming even bigger following the deal.

Still, many other questions continue to hang over Wall Street that could shake things up. They include worries about corporate profits and the U.S. government's latest squabble over the country's debt limit.

Above all is what the Federal Reserve will do with interest rates. At its next meeting, which concludes Wednesday, most traders expect the

## Warba announces weekly Sunbula winners

KUWAIT CITY, May 1: Warba Bank - the best bank in banking services for the corporate sector and banking services for the investment sector in Kuwait - announced the winners of the weekly Sunbula draw. The Bank will continue to make weekly draws for 10 winners for the Sunbula account in the presence of a representative of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Warba Bank employees.

As for the lucky customers for the weekly Sunbula draw, 10 winners were chosen from Warba Bank's customers, each of whom received 1,000 Kuwaiti dinars. The Winners are: Mrs. Badiya Abdulrasul Abdulnabi, Mr. Abdullah Munif Nayef Al-Anzi, Ms. Lolwa Ibrahim Mufarrej Al-Mufarrej, Mrs. Suhair Fawzi Mohammad Idris, Mr. Abdullah Saud Al-Rashidi, Ms. Tahani Hazmi Zain Al-Azmi, Mr. Khaled Saleh Ibrahim Al-Shaaban, Mr. Habib Bashit Hussain Ali, Mrs. Bashayer Rikan Mohammad Al-Hosheh, and Mr. Saud Abdulaziz Bu Himed.

The Sunbula account is the perfect choice for all those who wish to save money and achieve great financial returns on their balances at the same time; in addition to multiple opportunities to win cash prizes throughout the year.

Fed to raise short-term rate by another quarter of a percentage point, up to a range of 5 to 5.25% from virtually zero early last year.

The hope is that may be the final increase for a while, which would give the economy and financial markets more breathing room.

Shares advanced Monday in Tokyo and Sydney while most world markets were closed for May 1 holidays.

Traditional Labor Day holidays around the globe limited initial global market reactions to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.'s announcement that regulators had seized troubled First Republic Bank and will sell its assets to JPMorgan Chase Bank.



Abdulaziz Al Bekheet

With regards to the conditions for winning the Sunbula, Mr. Abdulaziz Soud Al-Bekheet - Area Manager of Retail Banking Group states: "Only 100 KD is required to enter the weekly Sunbula draws and other major draws, whereby the customer still gets one chance per every 10 KD in the account, and the chances are calculated according to the lowest balance in the account during a month. Therefore, a full month must have passed in the account to qualify for the weekly draw, and two full months for the major draws to calculate the opportunities.

There are no restrictions or limits for withdrawal and deposit, the higher the deposited amount, the greater the customer's chances of winning.

Notably, Warba Bank launched its latest Customer Onboarding banking solution in accordance with the terms of its ambitious five-year strategy, this will enable non-Warba Bank customers to apply for opening an account in an easy digital way through the bank's website without the need to visit any of the bank's branches, and within only five minutes - through the new and unique automated system used to enable this service - new customers will be able to complete the request to open an account at any time and any place.

It is also worth mentioning that after a short period of its establishment, Warba Bank has succeeded in establishing its position in the banking sector; it occupies a leading position in the field of Islamic digital banking services for individuals and is considered to have the highest number of shareholder base between local banks. Thus, establishing Warba's place to customers by providing the best banking services. Warba Bank has managed to meet the aspirations of the Kuwaiti society and deservedly, earned their trust in a short period.

29,123.18 and the S&P/ASX 200 in Sydney advanced 0.5% to 7,344.20. Other markets in the region were closed.

## Oil

In other trading Monday, U.S. benchmark crude oil gave up 94 cents to \$75.84 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It gained \$2.02 on Friday.

Brent crude, the standard for pricing for international trading, shed 88 cents to \$79.45 per barrel.

## Currencies

The U.S. dollar rose to 136.76 Japanese yen from 136.24 yen. The euro weakened to \$1.0999 from \$1.0023.

## INVESTMENT STRATEGY &amp; RESEARCH

## KAMCO INVEST

## GCC Markets Monthly Report ..... April 2023

## GCC Markets Monthly Report April-2023

GCC index sees biggest monthly gain in 9 months backed by Saudi & Dubai... GCC markets closed April-2023 at the highest level since the last week of January-2023 mainly led by consistent gains during the last week of the month. Saudi Arabia was the best performing market during the month with a gain of 6.8% followed by UAE markets with monthly gains of 4.1% and 3.8% for Dubai and Abu Dhabi, respectively. The gains during the month pushed Saudi Arabia's TASI benchmark above the 11,000 mark to the highest level since November-2022 led by consistent gains since mid-March-2023. On the other hand, Oman's MSM 30 topped the decliner's list for the month with a drop of 3.0% followed by a marginal decline of 0.3% for the Qatari market during April-2023.

The sector performance chart for the month showed gains across the board with the Diversified Financials index topping the monthly list with a gain of 12.8% followed by Telecom and F&B sector indices with gains of 10.2% and 9.4%, respectively. Large-cap sectors like Energy was next with a gain of 9.3% while the Banking gauge saw a relatively smaller gain of 3.8%.

Global equity markets were mixed but closed the month in the green. The MSCI World Index was up by 1.6% during April-2023 reflecting 1.5% gain in the S&P 500 index and almost 2% gain in the European benchmark. These gains were partially offset by a 1.3% decline in the Emerging Market index mainly reflecting weak Asian markets with the aggregate benchmark down 1.1% during the month. Taiwan was the biggest decliner in the EM universe with a monthly drop of 1.8%, although the TAIEX continued to be one of the best performing global benchmarks since the start of the year with a YTD-2023 return of 10.2% vs. 9.0% gains for the MSCI World index.

## Boursa Kuwait

Boursa Kuwait returned to growth with all the four benchmark indices witnessing gains during the April-2023. The gains were mainly seen in mid-caps and small-cap stocks, while strong quarterly earnings for Q1-2023, especially from Kuwaiti banks, further added to the investor optimism during the month. The Main Market Index outperformed the other indices on the exchange with a gain of 1.9% to close at 5,606.4 points. The Premier Market Index witnessed a slightly smaller monthly growth of 1.2% while the Main 50 index was up 0.9%. The All Share Market Index reported a monthly growth of 1.3% and closed at 7,142.5 points. In terms of YTD-2023 returns, the Premier Market Index showed a loss of 2.5% followed by 2.1% decline for the All-Share Market Index. The Main 50 Index dropped 1.3%, whereas Main Market Index was marginally up by 0.2%.

The monthly sector performance chart favored gainers. Insurance sector once again topped the monthly sectors during April-2023 with a double-digit gain of 10.7% followed by Real Estate and Basic Materials indices with returns of 5.9% and 4.1%, respectively. On the decliners side, the Technology index witnessed the biggest decline of 8.5% during the month followed by Energy and Utilities indices with declines of 1.9% and 1.1%, respectively. Gains in the Insurance sector came mainly on the back of double-digit gains of 22.3% in shares of GIG. The Telecom index was supported by a 9.9% gain in shares of Ooredoo Kuwait followed by 4.3% and 4.8% gain in shares of Zain and Hayat Communications Co., respectively. Large-cap indices like Banking was marginally up by 0.2% during the month after shares of six out of ten Kuwaiti banks declined. In Q1-2023 earnings releases, in the Banking sector, Q1-2023 results showed promising growth in bottom-line performance. NBK reported a net profit of KD 134.20 Mn for the Q1-2023 compared to KD 116.6 Mn in Q1-2022, up by 15.1%, while net profit for KFH more than doubled y-o-y to KD 162.1 Mn in Q1-2023.

Prominent gainers during the month included First Investment, Sultan Center and Munshaat Real Estate with gains of 35.0%, 30.3% and 29.0%, respectively. Prominent decliners included Equipment Holding, Kuwait Emirates Holding Co., and Kuwait Finance & Investment Co. with declines of 22.3%, 18.4% and 11.6%, respectively. Trading activity declined owing to the month of Ramadan. Total monthly volume traded declined by 16.5% to 2.1 Bn shares as compared to 2.6 Bn shares during the previous month, while monthly value traded declined at a higher pace of 27.6% to KWD 643.9 Mn as compared to KWD 889.3 Bn during March-2023. Shares of KFH topped the value traded chart with total trades worth KWD 208.1 Mn followed by Agility and NBK at KWD 55.9 Mn and KWD 54.9 Mn, respectively. In terms of monthly volume, KFH topped with 275.1 Mn traded shares followed by KIPCO and Jiyad Holding recording 192.8 Mn and 156.1 Mn shares traded during the month, respectively. In terms of monthly volume, KFH topped with 275.1 Mn traded Saudi Arabia's TASI recorded the best monthly return in the GCC during April-2023. The Index breached the psychological mark of 11,000 points and closed at 11,307.77 points, which is the highest closing since November-2022, resulting in a monthly gain of 6.8%. The performance of the index was buoyed by a combination of factors, including elevated oil prices and strong corporate profitability for Q1-2023 for companies listed on the Saudi Exchange. The monthly performance pushed the YTD2023 gains for TASI further into the positive zone to 7.9%.

The monthly sector performance chart favored gainers and was topped by the Diversified Financials index with a gain of 14.0% followed by the Energy and Telecommunication Services indices with a gain of 11.7% and 10.4%, respectively. Gains for the Diversified Financials index was mainly led by double-digit gains of 24.4% in shares of Al-Baha Investment and Development Co. further supported by gains of 16.2% and 14.0% in shares of Saudi Tadawul Group Holding Co. and Saudi Advanced Industries Co., respectively. Shares of Aseer Trading, Tourism and Manufacturing Co. and Kingdom Holding Co. also showed strong gains of 12.8% and 6.5%, respectively. The resilience of the Telecommunication Services sector continued during the month after all the constituent stocks in the index witnessed gains. Shares of Zain KSA and Saudi Telecom Co. reported gains of 15.7% and 10.9%, respectively. Gains for the Energy sector was led by 12.4% gain in shares of Saudi Arabian Oil Co. and 10.7% gain in shares of Rabigh Refining and Petrochemical Co. partially offset by 2.6% decline in shares of Arabian Drilling Co. Within the Banking sector, all the constituent stock posted gains barring Saudi Investment Bank with a decline of 0.60% supported by solid earnings.

The monthly gainer's chart was topped by Tihama Advertising and Public Relations Co. with a gain of 45.2% followed by Anaam International Holding Group and Al-Baha Investment and Development Co. with gains of 27.1% and 24.4%, respectively. On the decliner's side, Thimar Development Holding Co. topped with a decline of 4.9% followed by Alamar Foods Co. and Saudi Industrial Services Co. with declines of 4.9% and 3.7%, respectively.

Trading activity on the exchange declined for the month mainly due to the month of Ramadan. Monthly

value of shares traded declined by 16.2% in April-2023 to reach SAR 88.9 Bn. Volume traded also declined almost at the same pace to 3.1 Bn shares during April-2023 from 3.8 Bn during the previous month. Al Rajhi Bank once again topped the monthly value traded chart with SAR 5.7 Bn worth of trades followed by Saudi Arabian Oil Co. and Dar Alarkan RE at SAR 3.5 Bn and SAR 2.7 Bn, respectively. On the monthly volume chart, Al Kathiri Holding topped with 312.6 Mn traded shares followed by Americana Restaurants and Dar Alarkan RE at 280.9 Mn and 173.0 Mn shares, respectively.

In earnings releases, Al Rajhi Bank posted net profit of SAR 4.14 Bn in Q1-2023 compared to SAR 4.13 Bn in Q1-2022 marginally up by 0.3%. A decline in operating income by 2.5% y-o-y because of lower net financing and investment income affected results. Arab National Bank and Bank Albilad also reported results with relatively a higher y-o-y profit growth during the quarter.

## Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange

The FTSE ADX index rose by 3.8% during April-2023 partially recovering from a 4.2% drop during March-2023. This was also the best monthly performance for the index in the last six months. In terms of sectoral indices, seven out of the ten sectors recorded increases during the month while the remaining three recorded declines during the month. On the gainers side, the Real Estate index led the way recording 15.2% growth to close the month at 7,887.1 points mainly reflecting growth in shares of Al Dar Properties and Esraha Investments to the tune of 16.1% and 11.2%, respectively. The Consumer Staples Index followed with an increase of 9.6% in April-2023 while the Telecoms Index witnessed a rise of 8.3%. On the other hand, the Utilities Index recorded the biggest fall among the indices at 6.9% during April-2023 to close the month at 12,884.5 points.

United Arab Bank topped the monthly gainers chart for April-2023 with a gain of 43.8% followed by Methaq Takaful Insurance and Hayat which witnessed gains of 24.0% and 19.9%, respectively. United Arab Bank has recently announced that Fitch Ratings has affirmed its Long-Term Issuer Default Rating (IDR) at 'BBB+' with Stable Outlook. Moreover, Fitch has upgraded the bank's Viability Rating (VR) to 'b+' up from 'b'. On the decliner's side, National Bank of Umm Al Qaiwain lead the way registering 13.4% fall in its share price during April-2023 followed by Sudan Telecommunications Company and Fujairah Cement Industries which saw share price declines of 11.6% and 8.9%, respectively.

Trading activity decreased m-o-m during April-2023. Total volume of shares traded reached 3.3 Bn shares in April-2023 vs. 4.1 Bn shares traded during March-2023. Monthly value traded witnessed a steeper decline of 49.0% to reach AED 18.0 Bn in April-2023. Multiply Group topped the monthly volume chart for the third month running with 377.1 Mn traded shares followed by Esraha Investments and Arkan Building Materials Co which traded 235.8 Mn shares and 233.9 Mn shares, respectively. In terms of value traded, IHCC topped the table for the third month in a row with AED 4.9 Bn worth of shares changing hands during the month followed by Alpha Dhabi Holdings and Multiply Group at AED 2.1 Bn and AED 1.2 Bn, respectively.

In earnings releases, Emirates biggest banks recorded Q1-2023 profits that beat estimates buoyed by rising interest rates. First Abu Dhabi Bank and Emirates NBD reported Q1-2023 net profits of USD 1.0 Bn and USD 1.63 Bn, respectively. The banks indicated that they would focus on accelerating their expansion programs, underlining their confidence in the economy.

In economic news, the World Bank revised down its economic forecast for the UAE for 2023 from 4.1% to 3.3% mainly due to weakening oil demand. In market news, RICS said that the UAE property market was one of the strongest globally during the Q1-2023. The positive sentiment towards the UAE property market was mainly driven by quickening in investment. Furthermore, the UAE recently launched dirham-denominated Islamic treasury sukuk with a benchmark auction size of AED 1.1 Bn. According to Bloomberg, the T-sukuk will initially be issued, in 2, 3, 5-year periods followed by 10-year sukuk later. Issuing the T-sukuk in local currency has many advantages such contributing to the buildup of the local currency sukuk market as well as being a safe investment alternative.

## Dubai Financial Market

The DFM General Index recorded the second-best monthly increase of 4.1% during April-2023 bouncing back from a marginal decline of 0.9% during March-2023 to close April-2023 at 3,544.79 points. The monthly index performance was induced by increases in six out of the eight sectoral indices including Financials, Real Estate, and Consumer Staples sectors. The Consumer Staples Index recorded the biggest monthly gain of 13.2% to close the month at 120.2 points. The Financials Index followed with 6.7% gain during the month driven by double-digit growth in shares of certain financial companies such as Amlak Finance, which recorded a monthly growth of 29.2% and Ajman Bank with a gain of 18.7%. On the other hand, the Materials index posted a monthly fall of 2.1% driven mainly by the 11% decline of shares of National Cement followed by a 1.2% decline in the Utilities index.

According to Bloomberg data, Amlak Finance led the monthly gainers table with a 29.2% increase in share price followed by Ithmaar Holding and Al Salam Bank Bahrain with 27.4% and 25.9% gains, respectively. Share price growth of Amlak Finance during April-2023 came off the back of 18.6% decline in the previous month (March-2023). Ithmaar Holding followed with share price growth of 27.4% during April-2023 followed by Al Salam Bank Bahrain which recorded a monthly share price gain of 25.9%. On the decliner's side, Dubai Islamic Insurance topped the table recording a share price decline of 11.1 during April-2023 followed by Al Salam Bank Sudan and GFH with share price declines of 7.5% and 2.7%, respectively.

In terms of monthly trading activity, total volume traded rose by 14.1% to reach 3.1 Bn shares in April-2023 vs. 2.7 Bn shares during March-2023. Total value traded, meanwhile, declined by 10.8% to reach AED 6.0 Bn in April-2023 as compared to AED 6.8 Bn during March-2023. Union Properties topped the monthly volumes traded chart for the second consecutive month recording 409.4 Mn shares which changed hands during the month followed by Ajman Bank and Gulf Navigation Holding which saw 342.9 Mn and 295.5 Mn of their shares change hands during the month, respectively. On the monthly value traded chart, Emaar Properties topped the list with AED 1.4 Bn worth of shares changing hands during the month, followed by Emirates NBD and Dubai Ajman Bank which saw AED 527.2 Mn and AED 526.2 Mn values of their shares traded, respectively.

In economic news, despite the existing global economic headwinds, Dubai has recorded growth in forward air ticket bookings on the back of a rise in the number of international visitors during the first quarter of the year.

GCC Equity Markets	Index Closing	MTD Chg%	YTD Chg%	M-Cap (USD Bn)	Monthly Val Traded (USD Mn)	P/E (x) TTM	P/B (x) TTM	Div. Yield
Kuwait - Premier Market Index	7,912.5	1.2%	(2.5%)	145.6	2,131.2	14.1	0.8	2.8%
Kuwait - Main 50 Index	5,644.1	0.9%	(1.3%)					
Kuwait - Main Market Index	5,606.4	1.9%	0.2%					
Kuwait - All Share Index	7,142.5	1.3%	(2.1%)					
Saudi Arabia	11,307.8	6.8%	7.9%	2,942.1	23,707.5	17.7	2.3	2.9%
Abu Dhabi	9,789.2	3.8%	(4.1%)	729.2	4,901.8	29.9	2.6	1.8%
Dubai	3,544.8	4.1%	6.3%	165.8	1,644.0	8.9	1.2	4.8%
Qatar	10,181.2	(0.3%)	(4.7%)	162.2	1,827.4	12.1	1.3	4.9%
Bahrain	1,904.4	0.9%	0.5%	85.9	31.8	6.1	0.6	9.1%
Oman	4,718.1	(3.0%)	(2.9%)	22.6	297.2	12.9	1.1	4.4%
<b>Total GCC</b>				<b>4,253.4</b>	<b>34,541.0</b>	<b>17.3</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>3.0%</b>



Moreover, Dubai is forecasted to break tourism record in 2023. Dubai recorded 3.1 million visitors during the first two months of the year with numbers topping the pre-pandemic heights in the month of February. However, Dubai's number of visitors in January was lower than the pre-pandemic levels despite recording a growth of 50% y-o-y. Furthermore, there is significant increase in job creation in the city as Dubai's businesses hiring reached its fastest pace since January-2018 according to reports. Dubai's Construction Sector has been the primary driver of most of the added jobs as it recovered from a relatively quiet second-half of 2022. The increase in the Construction Sectors staffing is mainly due to the initiation of new projects, especially off-plan real estate projects.

In market news, the Real Estate sector in Dubai remained vibrant during Q1-2023. According to analysis by global analysis consultant Knight Frank, Dubai recorded 88 home sales which were above USD 10 Mn price during Q1-2023. In 2022, Dubai has seen 219 deals above the USD 10 Mn price mark, making it a record year above the price point. In context, Dubai's prime residential market witnessed a price increase of 44% during 2022.

## Qatar Exchange

The Qatar Stock Exchange reported decline for the third consecutive month during April-2023. The QE 20 index closed the month at 10,181.2 points witnessing a marginal decline of 0.3%, almost in-line with the performance of the Qatar All Share Index that reported a monthly decline of 0.4% to close at 3,398.0 points. With the decline during April-2023, the YTD-2023 decline for the QE 20 index went deeper into the red at -4.7%, while that of QE All Share index was relatively small at -1.5%.

The sector performance chart was mixed with the Transportation index topping the chart with a double-digit gain of 12.2% followed by the Insurance and Telecoms indices with a gain of 8.9% and 1.8%, respectively. On the other hand, the Banks & Financial Services Index reported the biggest monthly decline of 3.4% followed by Consumer Goods & Services with a decline of 2.1%. Gains for the Transportation index was mainly led by shares of Qatar Gas Transport and Qatar Navigation which were up by 13.8% and 11.9%, respectively, during the month, while shares of Gulf Warehousing declined by 3.4%. In the telecom sector, shares of Ooredoo gained 2.0% while shares of Vodafone Qatar was up 1.2% supported by the Q1-2023 earnings. The decline of the Banking & Finance index was led by fall in the shares of large-cap banks in the sector including QNB (-4.8%) and Qatar International Islamic Bank (-1.9%). In the Banking sector, six out of nine stocks reported a decline during the month, whereas Leshma Bank LLC and The Commercial Bank reported gains of 7.2% and 1.4%, respectively.

Inma Holding topped the gainers chart for the month with a gain of 25.1% followed by Alkhaleej Takaful Insurance and Qatar German for Medical Devices with gains of 19.2% and 19.0%, respectively. In terms of laggards, Masraf Al Rayan led with a monthly stock price decline by over 11.4% followed by Zad Holding and Dukhan Bank with declines of 10.4% and 6.5%, respectively.

Trading activity on the exchange declined during the month. Total volume of shares traded declined by 20.8% to reach 2.5 Bn shares as compared to 3.1 Bn shares in the previous month. In terms of value traded, the decline was at 26.3% reaching QAR 6.7 Bn in April-2023 as compared to QAR 9.0 Bn in March-2023. Estithmar Holding topped the monthly volume chart with 257.3 Mn traded shares followed by Qatar Aluminum Manufacturing and Dukhan Bank at 243.7 Mn shares and 193.4 Mn traded shares, respectively. On the monthly value traded chart, QNB topped with shares worth QAR 800.1 Mn traded during the month followed by Dukhan Bank and Estithmar Holding with value traded at QAR 645.0 Mn and QAR 541.7 Bn, respectively.

In Q1-2023 earnings releases, QNB's net profit reached QAR 3.9 Bn in Q1-2023, up by 7.35% compared to QAR 3.6 Bn in Q12022, driven by 6% growth in loans and advances that reached QAR 810 Bn (USD 222 Bn) while customer deposits grew by 5% to reach QAR 828 Bn (USD 227 Bn). Similarly, QIB's net profit surged 5.9% in Q1-2023 to reach QAR 905.3 Mn. Total income for Q1-2023 stood at QAR 2.5 Bn registering an 18.4% growth as compared to QAR 2.1 Bn for Q1-2022. Meanwhile, Q1-2023 net profits for Masraf Al Rayan declined by 21.1% to QAR 384.9 Mn from QAR 487.7 Mn in Q1-2022 mainly led by the increase in the cost of fund.

## Bahrain Bourse

After witnessing a monthly decline of 2.3% during March-2023, the Bahrain Bourse All Share Index showed a partial recovery of 0.9% during April-2023 to close the month at 1,904.39 points. In terms of sectoral performance, only three out of the seven indices recorded gains during the month. The Materials index, which only has one constituent company (Aluminum Bahrain), recorded the biggest growth among the indices at 1.9% during April-2023 mainly contributing to the support in the overall Bourse index monthly growth. The Financials Index followed as the second biggest gainer among the indices registering 1.2% gain during April-2023 to close the month at 6,837.6 points mainly due to the performance of companies such as Solidarity Bahrain and Al Salam Bank Bahrain which posted monthly share price gains of 12.8% and 37.5%, respectively. On the other hand, the Consumer Staples Sector witnessed a 6.5% monthly drop to close the month at 2,806.5 points while the remaining

three indices (Communication Services, Industrials and Real Estate) all recorded declines of 1.4%.

In terms of share price performance, according to Bloomberg data, Al Salam Bank-Bahrain topped the list of gainers with 37.5% share price gain during the month followed by Nass Corp BSC and Solidarity Bahrain BSC with gains of 28.6% and 12.8%, respectively. On the decliners side, Bahrain Ship Repairing & Engineering Co topped the list recording 5.3% share price decline during the month followed by Esterad Investment Co and APM Terminals with share price declines of 5% and 4.1%, respectively.

Trading activity on the exchange decreased during April-2023 after recovering from two consecutive months during March-2023 and February-2023 mainly reflecting the trading holidays during Ramadan. Total volume traded on the exchange fell 61.6% to 58.6 Mn as compared to 152.7 Mn in March-2023. Similarly, total value traded on the exchange witnessed a decline of 41.6% to reach BHD 16.2 Mn in April-2023 as compared to BHD 27.8 Mn during March-2023. Al Salam Bank-Bahrain topped the monthly volumes chart with 19.8 Mn traded shares followed by GFH Financial Group and Ithmaar Holding BSC which saw 18.1 Mn and 5.8 Mn of their shares change hands during the month, respectively. On the monthly value traded chart, GFH Financial Group topped this list for the second month running with BHD 4.6 Mn worth of shares changing hands during the month followed by Aluminum Bahrain and Al Salam Bank-Bahrain which witnessed BHD 2.7 Mn and BHD 2.3 Mn values of their monthly shares traded, respectively.

In economic news, according to reports the Kingdom of Bahrain has recently started the process of selling a mix of Dollar bond and Sukuk debt on international debt markets. The Kingdom is undertaking plans to sell dollar-denominated Islamic securities which matures in 7 years as well as a conventional dollar bond with maturity period of 12 years. Bahrain's debt offering comes after the global credit rating agency S&P recently upgraded its outlook on Bahrain's sovereign rating to Positive during November-2022. Currently, the Kingdom of Bahrain has an estimated USD 2.5 Bn of debt maturities this year (including USD 1.5 Bn bond which matures in August).

## Muscat Securities Market

The MSX 30 index was the worst performing market in the GCC during April-2023 witnessing a monthly decline of 3.0% to close the month at 4,718.08 points. In terms of sector performance, two out of the three sector indices recorded monthly gains during April-2023. The Industrial Sector Index recorded the biggest monthly growth of 3.7% during April-2023, closing the month at 6,296.5 points. The growth was primarily driven by a small number of top performing companies including National Aluminum Products which witnessed share price growth of 227.3% during April-2023 and Raysut Cement which witnessed recorded 23% gains. The Services Sector Index registered a marginal monthly gain of 2.4% during April-2023. On the other hand, the Financial Sector index recorded a monthly decline of 2.3% to close the month at 7,601.3 points while. Stand out share price decline of companies like OMINVEST (-18.2%) & Al Madina Investment Holding Co (-16.7%) in the Financial Sector Index were the primary driver of the sector monthly decline during the month.

Trading activity on the exchange witnessed gains for the second consecutive month with monthly value traded recording a gain of 24.5% to reach OMR 114.5 Mn during April-2023 as compared to OMR 91.9 Mn during March-2023. Similarly, total volume of shares traded on the exchange witnessed an increase of 18.1% to reach 375.2 Mn traded shares during April-2023 as compared to 317.8 Mn traded shares in March-2023. Bank Muscat topped the monthly value traded chart for the second month running with trades at OMR 4.6 Mn followed by Oman Telecommunications Company and National Bank of Oman with total value traded at OMR 3.8 Mn and OMR 2.5 Mn, respectively. In terms of monthly volume traded, Oman Cement topped the table with 200.9 Mn shares followed by Bank Muscat and HSBC Bank Oman with volumes at 17.0 Mn shares and 12.9 Mn shares, respectively.

In terms of company performance, National Aluminum Products Co topped the gainers list with a share price gain of 227.3% followed by Al Hassan Engineering and Oman Chromite Co with 38.5% and 35.8% monthly share gains, respectively. On the decliner's side, Construction Materials Industries topped the monthly losers list with a share price drop of 21.6% followed by OMINVEST and Al Madina Investment Holding Company which recorded 18.1% and 16.7% share price declines during the month, respectively.

In terms of economic news, Oman is expected to become the fastest growing economy among the GCC countries in 2023. The Sultanate's economy is forecasted to expand 4.3% in 2023, according to the World Bank. The Sultanate's economy is expected to be supported by increased hydrocarbon production and the development of new natural gas fields. The Sultanate's programs to boost its economy such as the USD 3 Bn railway network link with the UAE and the USD 320 Mn infrastructure project that it signed with Saudi Arabia were also supporting elements of the country's robust economic outlook. Moreover, the global ratings agency S&P recently revised its outlook on Oman's sovereign rating from Stable to Positive. The agency cited the Oman government's improved balance sheet in which percentage of gross debt fell from 60% of GDP in 2021 to 40% of GDP in 2022.



Muhammad Al-Faris and KFH team with the MOI personnel



KFH volunteer team in front of KFH Ramadan tent



Yousef Abdullah Al-Ruwaieh



Honoring the winners of the Holy Quran Reading Competition



Gift distribution to children in Jaber Hospital

Volunteer team carried out several initiatives covering all segments of society: Al-Ruwaieh

## KFH's 'Increase Good Deeds in Ramadan' program concludes

KUWAIT CITY, May 1: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has concluded the 2023 "Increase Good Deeds in Ramadan" program amid great public attention and social engagement in a new affirmation of KFH's leadership in social responsibility and its role in active participation in social events.

Group Deputy General Manager Public Relations and Media, Yousef Abdullah Al-Ruwaieh pointed out that KFH has succeeded in carrying out several social initiatives within an integrated Ramadan program that considers the requirements of the community and the nature of the Holy Month, to cover all aspects of the fasting Iftar campaign, providing hospitality service in Taraweeh and Qiyam prayers, Gergean events, the Holy Quran competition, sports competitions, cooking courses, health and traffic awareness initiatives, awareness of security and safety. It was extended to include events and activities during Eid, stressing that the program included all segments of society in a way that enhances KFH's leadership in volunteer work, social responsibility and sustainable development.

### Quran application as a gift from 'KFH'

Al-Ruwaieh pointed out that KFH offers the public the Holy Quran application as a gift from KFH, noting that the application launched by KFH on iOS and Android devices has achieved a record number exceeding 10 million users.

### Iftar meals

Al-Ruwaieh added that during the month of Ramadan, KFH volunteer team prepared and distributed thousands of Iftar meals to fasting people daily in various governorates of Kuwait, and through the largest Ramadan tent in the Grand Mosque and different locations.

### Sharing Iftar with those on duty during Iftar time

Al-Ruwaieh said that KFH participated with employees of the Public Security Operations Department at the Ministry of Interior and employees of the Fire Force in Iftar Ramadan in appreciation of their efforts during Iftar, and their great role around the clock.

### Ramadan Aman

Al-Ruwaieh pointed out that KFH participated in the "Ramadan Aman" campaign to distribute light fasting Iftar meals to motorists at the main intersections that witness traffic congestion, with the aim of reducing traffic accidents resulting from speeding before Iftar time. KFH also participated in distributing "Ramadan basket" and Eid clothing to needy families in cooperation with the Kuwait Red Crescent Society, indicating that the month of Ramadan represents an opportunity to enhance social responsibility, and the participation of the community in various occasions, stressing that such initiatives encourage the spirit of volunteerism, and contribute to instilling the concept of giving.

### Hospitality service in mosques

He said that KFH, as part of the Ramadan program, provided hospitality service in several mosques in different regions in Kuwait during Taraweeh prayers, as well as Qiyam prayers in the last ten days of Ramadan.



KFH volunteer team distributes Gergean



KFH volunteer team distributing Iftar meals.



The young Holy Quran reader Othman Al-Haddad



KFH team shares the joy of Gergean at The Avenues



Ayadi cash gifts being offered through ATMs in The Avenues



Walking challenge organized by KFH



KFH Ramadan tent



Distribution of fasting meals in Mubarakiya

### 'KFH Reciters' Competition

Al-Ruwaieh said that KFH organized the tenth edition of the "Quran Reciters" competition to recite the Holy Quran with the participation of about 1000 contestants. 42 winners from male and female categories were announced, pointing out that the "KFH Reciters" competition is the largest in terms of the value of prizes.

### Sadu House

Al-Ruwaieh explained that KFH, as part of its strategic partnership with the Sadu House, organized many events within the Ramadan program, such as the Gergean event for children.

Al-Ruwaieh stated that the children at Sadu House completed the "Fun with Weaving" program sponsored by KFH which reviewed their handicrafts, indicating that part of the proceeds of these works will be for community and charitable activities.

Sadu House aims to preserve Kuwait's culture and textile traditions and is an advisory organizer at UNESCO.

### Biggest virtual walking challenge (V-Fit)

Al-Ruwaieh mentioned that KFH concluded the biggest virtual walking challenge, which was launched during the Holy Month of

Ramadan, in collaboration with its strategic partner, V-Thru application, and with the participation of over 10 thousand participants. The initiative encourages the community to exercise and adopt a healthy lifestyle under KFH's (Better Health... Better Life) campaign.

### Sustainability and (Keep it Green) campaign

He added that KFH took into consideration sustainability standards in all its initiatives and activities, indicating that the walking challenge allowed participants to earn a balance in the V-FIT application in exchange for their steps. Participants were able to use the balance in purchasing transactions

or contributing to the greening of Kuwait through (Keep It Green) campaign to achieve a sustainable environment.

### Gergean Events

He went on to say that KFH also organized many (Gergean) events for kids in different locations particularly in Winter Wonderland, the Avenues, Naif Palace, and the Kuwaiti Society for the Guardians of the Disabled, adding that this initiative contributes to the joy of children and helps maintain the Kuwaiti tradition.

### Daily engagement with the society

Further, Al-Ruwaieh mentioned

that KFH continues exerting all efforts in employing its social media channels to interact with the public and followers on various occasions.

He pointed out that the Bank launched a series of awareness messages on different subjects that contained Sharia advice and instructions for the audience in collaboration with a cohort of distinguished religious scholars such as sheikh/Ahmad Al-Nafees and Sheikh/Fahad Al-Kandari. KFH has also collaborated with nutritionists and doctors to share healthy tips, as well as awareness messages in cooperation the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Interior, in addition to Ramadan daily fasting calendar. The Bank also collaborated with the young Quran reciter Othman Al-Haddad through its social media channels.

### Ayadi ATMs

Al-Ruwaieh also stated that KFH provided customers with Ayadi cash gifts, adding that the Ayadi were offered through ATMs in the Avenues, as well as in KFH Go branches across Kuwait, Mubi Baitak, in addition to KFH branches.

### Eid surprises

He said that during Eid, KFH's voluntary team organized (Your Lunch is on Us) initiative for KFH customers in the Avenues, in addition to (Your Coffee is on Us) for all the Bank's customers. These initiatives affirm KFH's keenness to stay in touch with its customers anywhere, any time and on different occasions.

### Visiting children during Eid

He said that KFH voluntary team visited children admitted to Jaber Hospital and shared the joy of Eid with them, wishing them speedy recovery.

### Visiting KFH family members working during Eid

He pointed out that the Bank's voluntary team also visited KFH family members who were on duty serving customers during the Eid holiday. The voluntary team presented their colleagues with Eid gifts and extended their appreciation for their vital role in serving KFH customers.

### KFH voluntary team

Al-Ruwaieh indicated that KFH voluntary team undertook a major societal role by carrying out and supervising all Ramadan initiatives appropriately, which contributes to enhancing the culture of volunteering among youth, and thus contributes to strengthening friendliness and generosity among members of society.

### The leader of social responsibility

He affirmed that KFH is moving forward in community contributions and support of all volunteering initiatives, which confirms KFH's leadership in social responsibility, and being the pillar in sustainable development in numerous environmental, health, social, educational, sports and other aspects.

He concluded by saying that naming KFH as the "CSR Market Leader" at Kuwait level by Euromoney, is a recognition of KFH's extended community contributions and its significant role in carrying out community initiatives with added value and positive impact, and its leadership at the private sector level.

**Concept Medical gets IDE approval to probe safety of MagicTouch SCB**

The US FDA has granted an Investigational Device Exemption (IDE) approval for Concept Medical Inc's novel MagicTouch Sirolimus Coated Balloon (SCB) for the treatment of Small Vessels (SV) in coronary arteries.

US FDA, on the 25th of April 2023, granted the third IDE approval for Concept Medical's Sirolimus Coated Balloon - MagicTouch SCB. Along with this latest IDE approval for the treatment of Small Vessel indication, Concept Medical received two other IDE approvals for the MagicTouch SCB family of products for the treatment of

coronary In-Stent Restenosis (ISR) indication and Below-the-Knee indication (PTA).

Small vessel disease is common among patients undergoing PCI and has been documented in up to 30% of cases and Myocardial revascularization of small vessels remains challenging owing to increased rates of technical failure following coronary artery bypass graft surgery and an increased risk of restenosis with PCI resulting with repeated interventions. Small Vessel Disease also remains an independent predictor of major adverse cardiac events (MACE).

The current IDE approval will allow Concept Medical to initiate pivotal clinical study to support safety and effectiveness of the MagicTouch SCB in small vessel coronary disease. The data generated from this IDE clinical study will support a future pre-market approval (PMA) application in the USA.

MagicTouch SCB is the world's first Sirolimus coated Balloon with extensive commercial usage in Europe, major markets of Asia and the Mid-Eastern markets. More than 100 thousand patients have been treated with MagicTouch SCB in these markets.

Currently, there are no FDA approved Drug Coated Balloons for the treatment of CAD in the USA. The physicians' choices are restricted to Drug Eluting Stents and uncoated Balloons. MagicTouch SCB has already been widely studied globally in multiple clinical trials, most notably the Eastbourne Registry (2123 patients), Nanolute, and ongoing trials like the Transform 1, Transform 2, Ginger, Titan, and Hybrid Bifurcation DEB. Sirolimus has already proven to be safer in coronary artery disease treatment.

Dr. Martin Leon, MD (Founder and Chair-

man Emeritus, Cardiovascular Research Foundation), who will lead the coming IDE Trials, stresses on the importance of this achievement, "The FDA-approval to initiate the MAGICAL-SV Clinical trial using the MagicTouch sirolimus-covered balloon with novel coating technology represents a landmark event in our decades-long quest to find an optimal therapy to manage patients with small vessel coronary obstructive disease. Our US clinical investigators are thrilled and anxious to begin enrolment in close collaboration with the Cardiovascular Research Foundation and Concept Medical." (AP)

**Allergy testing can help identify what's triggering allergies**

**Expert advice on identifying and treating allergic asthma**

CLEVELAND, May 1: Individuals who develop sneezing, wheezing and shortness of breath all at once may have allergic asthma, which can impact on their quality of life, but there are many ways to manage the condition, says an expert from global health system Cleveland Clinic ahead of World Asthma Day on 2 May.

While tests and definitions vary, bodies such as the World Health Organization have estimated that more than 260 million people worldwide have asthma.

Allergic asthma is the most common type of asthma and is triggered by environmental factors, says Cleveland Clinic allergist and immunologist Ronald Purcell, MD.

"When your allergies combine with asthma, it's known as allergic asthma. This causes your airways to tighten whenever you breathe in an allergen. While many different allergens can trigger allergic asthma, they all have one thing in common: They're in the environment, not in your food or your medication," says Dr. Purcell.



Environmental allergies can include pet dander (dead skin cells), dust mites, cockroaches, mold and pollen. "If pollen or mold trigger the condition, it may occur only seasonally. If your pets or the dust mites on your bedding trigger it, you may have symptoms year-round," Dr. Purcell notes.

With allergic asthma, a person will most likely have both allergic rhinitis and lung symptoms at the same time, says Dr. Purcell. "Allergic rhinitis, or hay fever, affects the nose and sinuses and may cause symptoms including sneezing, congestion, itchy nose and eyes. Asthma, on the other hand, mainly affects the lungs and may cause symptoms including coughing, wheezing, chest tightness, shortness of breath or rapid breathing."

In children, the symptoms of allergic asthma can be more subtle, notes Dr. Purcell. "They might say they're too tired to play, but parents should check for wheezing or coughing. If the other kids are running around playing, and your child wants to sit on the sidelines, they may be having trouble breathing," he says.

**Testing and treatment**

Allergy testing can help identify what is triggering allergies, and additional testing can help to confirm a diagnosis of asthma, says Dr. Purcell.

Once allergic asthma has been diagnosed, identifying and avoiding its triggers will help to control the symptoms.

- To reduce allergens in the home, Dr. Purcell recommends:
  - Using a high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter to reduce airborne triggers.
  - Minimizing or eliminating pet exposure if necessary.
  - Using special dust mite covers on bedding and aiming for indoor humidity levels of 35% to minimize dust mite exposure.
  - Eliminating food sources for cockroaches by using sealed food containers and regularly cleaning kitchen floors and surfaces.
  - Changing clothes and showering once indoors if the individual is allergic to pollen, and closing doors and windows when pollen counts are high.
  - Checking for and eliminating mold, which can develop indoors if there is an unwanted source of moisture such as leaky plumbing.

The good news, says Dr. Purcell, is that today's allergic asthma treatments — mainly medication and inhalers — are very effective. "They're relatively easy to use and have minimal side effects," he says.

"In cases where there are severe symptoms that don't respond to medication or where triggers cannot be avoided, a course of allergy shots (allergen immunotherapy) is very effective," he adds. "These shots help build immunity against allergens such as cat and dog dander, dust mites, mold spores and pollen from trees, grasses or weeds. The shots can relieve allergic asthma, rhinitis and conjunctivitis."

While allergy shots are generally suitable for adults and children over the age of five, they aren't for everyone. "People with severe heart disease, or who need to take medications such as beta blockers, aren't good candidates, for example," Dr. Purcell cautions. "One option that shouldn't be on the table is letting allergic asthma ruin your quality of life." Dr. Purcell concludes, "The goal is to manage your condition so that it never limits the activities you love because they trigger an allergic reaction. Working with your doctor will help you find a treatment plan that's right for you."

'50% of patients develop recurrences within 10 years'

**Blue Earth's PET imaging agent shows high detection rate of prostate cancer**

MONROE TOWNSHIP, NJ, May 1: Blue Earth Diagnostics, a Bracco company and recognized leader in the development and commercialization of innovative PET radiopharmaceuticals, has announced additional results from its completed Phase 3 Spotlight trial of 18 F-rhPSMA-7.3 in recurrent prostate cancer, among a subgroup of patients who had undergone primary treatment with radiation therapy only. It evaluated the overall Detection Rates (DRs) of 18 F-rhPSMA-7.3 at patient level and stratified by anatomical region, Gleason score, baseline Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) levels and PSA doubling time. 18 F-rhPSMA-7.3 is an investigational high affinity radiolabeled (rh) Prostate-Specific Membrane Antigen-targeted PET imaging agent. The results were reported in a moderated poster presentation at the American Urological Association's 2023 Annual Meeting (AUA2023), in Chicago, Ill.

"The ability to determine the extent and location of recurrent prostate cancer to inform appropriate clinical management for these men is key for physicians and their patients, because up to 50% of patients who undergo radiation therapy will develop local or distant recurrences within 10 years," said Brian T. Helfand, MD, Chief of Division of Urology, NorthShore University HealthSystem, Evanston, Ill., on behalf of the Spotlight Study Group.

**Conventional**

"The utility of conventional imaging for the localization of recurrence is limited, and relapse after curative-intent radiation therapy remains a considerable clinical burden. Precise imaging techniques are required to identify areas of involvement in order to facilitate delivery of optimized management for patients. These findings from the Phase 3 Spotlight subgroup study showed high detection rates by majority read for 18 F-rhPSMA-7.3 across all regions. In particular, the finding that 43% (33/76) of men had distant extra-pelvic recurrences has important implications for clinical management, as procedures such as salvage prostatectomy would be futile in those cases."

"These results from the Phase 3 Spotlight trial in biochemically recurrent prostate cancer are included in our New Drug Application for 18 F-rhPSMA-7.3 PET imaging currently under review by the US Food and Drug Administration, and we are pleased that they are being presented to the urology community at AUA 2023," said David E. Gauden, D.Phil., Chief Executive Officer of Blue Earth Diagnostics. "18 F-rhPSMA-7.3 represents a new class of PSMA-targeted PET radiopharmaceuticals, with early studies showing a high binding affinity for PSMA, together with biodistribution data suggesting the potential for low bladder activity. The compound is part of Blue Earth Diagnostics' comprehensive prostate cancer portfolio, which includes

**NextGen collaborates with ASAM to offer quality care for substance use disorders**

**Patients receive evidence-based treatment**

LOS ANGELES, May 1: NextGen Healthcare, Inc. (Nasdaq: NXGN), a provider of innovative, cloud-based healthcare technology solutions, has announced the integration of the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) Continuum into the NextGen Behavioral Health Suite. Considered the industry's leading standard in addiction assessment and treatment protocol, ASAM's collaboration with NextGen Healthcare delivers guidelines that assist providers in determining the severity of substance use disorders (SUD) and outlines best practices in addiction management. A partner since 2016, NextGen Healthcare is now helping to expand access to ASAM's tools in Arizona's public behavioral health system. The program aims to improve adoption of evidence-based quality care for the assessment and treatment of SUDs.

"ASAM has put decades of effort into raising the standard of care to give patients and their loved ones optimal treatment outcomes," said David R. Gastfriend, M.D., DFASAM, chief architect of the ASAM Continuum decision toolkit. "Our work with NextGen Healthcare is helping to ensure patients receive the evidence-based care they deserve. This technology can now easily be integrated into routine care — boosting the comprehensiveness of assessment, standardizing placement, streamlining reimbursement approvals, and improving the quality and efficiency of care nationwide."

ASAM Continuum is an electronic assessment tool that allows clinicians, counselors, and other staff to leverage a computerized clinical decision support system (CDSS) to assess individuals with addictive SUDs and co-occurring conditions.

"ASAM is setting the standard in addiction

medicine through clinical guidelines that allow providers to treat the whole patient," said Srinivas (Sri) Velamoor, NextGen Healthcare chief growth & strategy officer and executive vice president. "The seamless integration of these standards into the NextGen Behavioral Health Suite means that clinicians have the information they need at the point of care. As more states began to require this standard of care, our clients have the solutions they need to deliver the best care possible, as well as comply with regulatory guidelines."

**Addiction**

Preventing, identifying, and treating addiction has never been more crucial. According to a 2021 survey commissioned by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), 46.3 million people aged 12 or older (16.5 percent of the population) are dealing with a substance use disorder.

"When dealing with patients in crisis, having the right technology in place is critical," said Erica Chestnut-Ramirez, regional vice president at La Frontera EMPACT - Suicide Prevention Center, a NextGen Healthcare client based in Arizona. "NextGen Healthcare is easing the burden on providers so they can focus on what matters most — providing top-notch patient care."

NextGen Behavioral Health Suite delivers behavioral health and human services across outpatient, residential, community and inpatient settings and is the industry's only solution to combine these services with comprehensive primary care and oral health data in one integrated solution.

NextGen Healthcare will demonstrate NextGen Behavioral Health Suite featuring ASAM integration at NatCon23, May 1-3 in Los Angeles. Visit booth #821 or stop by the

Palm Tree Court to connect with the NextGen Healthcare team. To schedule a meeting at NatCon, visit at nextgen.com.

NextGen Healthcare, Inc. (Nasdaq: NXGN) is a leading provider of innovative healthcare technology solutions. We are reimagining ambulatory healthcare with award-winning solutions that enable high-performing practices to create healthier communities. We partner with medical, behavioral and oral health providers in their journey toward whole person health and value-based care. Our highly integrated, intelligent and interoperable solutions go beyond EHR and Practice Management to increase clinical quality and productivity, enrich the patient experience and drive superior financial performance. We are on a quest to achieve better healthcare outcomes for all.

ASAM, founded in 1954, is a professional medical society representing over 7,000 physicians, clinicians, and associated professionals in the field of addiction medicine. ASAM is dedicated to increasing access and improving the quality of addiction treatment, educating physicians and the public, supporting research and prevention, and promoting the appropriate role of physicians in the care of patients with addiction.

EMPACT is committed to working collaboratively with public and private partners to solve community problems. We have the resources and expertise to address issues of behavioral health, housing, family and children's services, employment, crisis intervention, and community and cultural education. We work hard to build personal responsibility, stabilize families, and assist individuals in achieving their recovery goals — helping to make our communities safer, stronger and healthier.

other compounds and this investigational rhPSMA compound for potential use in diagnostic PET imaging and targeted radiopharmaceutical therapy."

The findings presented at AUA included analyses of clinical factors impacting DRs for 18 F-rhPSMA-7.3 as evaluated by three blinded central readers: DRs, overall patient-level detection rate, and regional-level analyses, stratified by Gleason score, baseline PSA levels and PSA doubling time. For example, results showed that among the subgroup (n=76) of patients in the Evaluable PET Scan Population who had undergone primary treatment with radiation therapy for prostate cancer, the overall

patient-level DR was 99% (75/76) and consistently high across the three independent readers (range 93-99%). Recurrence by region was 76% (58/76) for the prostate, 25% (19/76) for pelvic lymph nodes and 43% (33/76) for extra-pelvic recurrences. As noted previously, no serious adverse reactions were attributed to 18 F-rhPSMA-7.3 PET in the SPOTLIGHT study. Of the 391 patients who received 18 F-rhPSMA-7.3 in the SPOTLIGHT study, 16 (4.1%) patients had at least one treatment-emergent adverse event that was considered possibly related/related to 18 F-rhPSMA-7.3. The most frequently reported events were: hypertension: 1.8% (n=7); diarrhea: 1.0%

(n=4); injection site reaction: 0.5% (n=2), and headache: 0.5% (n=2).

The Spotlight trial (NCT04186845) was a Phase 3, multi-center, single-arm imaging study conducted in the United States and Europe to evaluate the safety and diagnostic performance of 18 F-rhPSMA-7.3 PET imaging in men with suspected prostate cancer recurrence based on elevated PSA following prior therapy.

Key results for 18 F-rhPSMA-7.3 PET were previously presented at ASCO GU in February 2022, 1 with additional results announced at AUA in April 2022 2, at SNMMI in June 2022 3 and at ASTRO in October 2022 4.

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# Known for laughs, DC dinner spotlights risks to journalism

WASHINGTON, May 1, (AP) — The White House Correspondents' Association dinner — known for its fun albeit ferocious jabs at Washington — took a more solemn tone this year as President Joe Biden acknowledged the several American journalists under siege in authoritarian countries around the world.

"We are here to send a message to the country and, quite frankly, to the world: The free press is a pillar, maybe the pillar, of a free society, not the enemy," Biden said in his speech.

The president and first lady Jill Biden, upon arriving at the Washington Hilton on Saturday, met privately with the parents of Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich, who has been imprisoned in Russia since March. He was charged with spying, despite strong denials from his employer and the US government. Some guests wore buttons with "Free Evan" printed on them.

Also among the 2,600 people attending the gala was Debra Tice, the mother of Austin Tice, who has not been heard from since disappearing at a checkpoint in Syria in 2012. US officials say they operate under the assumption that he is alive and are working to try to bring him home.

"Journalism is not a crime," Biden said. "Evan and Austin should be released immediately along with every other American detained abroad." He said: "I promise you, I am working like hell to get them home."

The Bidens also made a beeline for Brittney Griner, the WNBA star

and Olympic gold medalist who was detained in Russia for nearly 10 months last year before her release in a prisoner swap. Griner attended with her wife, Cherelle, as guests of CBS News.

"This time last year we were praying for you, Brittney," Biden said to the basketball star.

The annual black-tie dinner drew a wide array of celebrities and media moguls to Washington, with parties being held across the capital. Among those in attendance were actor Liev Schreiber, singer John Legend and his wife, Chrissy Teigen, the model and television personality.

## Freedom

Actor and former California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger opened the dinner with a pre-taped video about the importance of a free and independent press, calling reporters an "ally of the people." Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris were seated on the stage along with comedian Roy Wood Jr., a correspondent for "The Daily Show," who was the featured entertainer.

While Biden spent the majority of his speech focused on the issue of press freedom, he also jabbed at some of his most vocal political critics. The occasion is a familiar and comfortable one for Biden, who attended several of the dinners as vice president to Barack Obama. The Washington event returned last year after being sidelined by the pandemic in 2020 and 2021. Biden was the first president in six years to accept

the invitation after Donald Trump shunned the event while in office.

But this year, he came not only as the commander in chief but as a presidential contender.

He started his punchlines with House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, taking aim at a recent bill Republicans passed that would lift the debt ceiling in exchange for a series of budget cuts, including some of Biden's key legislative achievements.

"The last time Republicans voted for something that hapless it took 15 tries," Biden said, referring to the gruesome fight McCarthy endured to become speaker in January.

And he didn't stop there, going after Fox Corp. Chairman Rupert Murdoch about his age. "And you call me old?" he told the crowd. Murdoch is 92; Biden, 80.

Biden even made a couple of self-deprecating jokes, mostly surrounding criticism of his age as he mounts a second bid for reelection. "I believe in the First Amendment and not just because my good friend Jimmy Madison wrote it," he said to a roaring crowd.

Wood, who took the stage after Biden, also zeroed in on the president's age.

"We should be inspired by the events in France. They rioted when the retirement age went up two years to 64," Wood said. "Meanwhile in America, we have an 80-year-old man, begging us for four more years."

Media

## Variety



This image released by A24 shows Joaquin Phoenix in a scene from 'Beau is Afraid.' (AP)

## Film

A magically dark fable within a fable

# 'Beau' is stuck in one-note nightmare

By Jake Coyle

Beau may be afraid but Ari Aster certainly isn't.

Of the many words used to describe the writer-director's previous two films — "Hereditary" and "Midsommar" — timidity was never of them. This is a filmmaker who has sent Toni Collette skittering across the ceiling and intricately arranged mutilated bodies the way some people make bouquets.

But if any doubts remained about just how far Aster is willing to go, "Beau Is Afraid" should pacify them. Not because of the degree of terror within it; by Aster's high standards, "Beau Is Afraid" is notably less ghoulish than his first two outings. But it's even more audaciously grotesque, more self-evidently pulled from its director's psyche, more a work of a filmmaker's unfiltered, runaway imagination.

Rather than slotting in as a "horror" film, it can be categorized a little less neatly as a surreal three-hour Homeric odyssey about guilt, Oedipal angst and somebody named "Birthday Boy Stab Man." And this, remember, constitutes a sunnier register for Aster.

What has made Aster such a potent filmmaker, I think, is the lack of relief he offers audiences. His movies are nightmares without any possibility of waking. And just as much as one might spend "Midsommar" looking for an escapeway, the urge to open a window for just one breath of fresh air in "Beau Is Afraid" is considerable.

That's both a compliment and a complaint for Aster's film, a rigorously wearisome experience propelled by a monstrous current of anxiety and dread. Aster's cinema is that of a bad trip: a surreal and comic journey through dark corners of consciousness, vividly rendered in caricature and detail. ("Midsommar," if you remember, began with mind-altering mushrooms.) It's not an easy ride to recommend taking. But, just the same, there's never any doubt that you are, most definitely, traveling somewhere else.

"Beau Is Afraid," which A24 released in theaters in US recently, opens not with psychedelics but the pangs of child birth. After some muffled screams and flashes of light, we, as Beau, emerge directly out of the womb. His mother Mona (played at different times by Zoe Lister-Jones and Patti LuPone) screams because her baby

is oddly silent. Flashing forward several decades, the grown but still whimpering Beau Wassermann (Joaquin Phoenix) is sitting with his therapist (Stephen McKinley Henderson, a boon to any movie). It doesn't take long for his mother to come up in their session. "Do you ever wish she was dead?" the therapist asks. Beau, protesting a little too much, quickly shouts "No!"

Back near his New York apartment, the city streets are an over-the-top hellscape, draped in garbage and graffiti, with mean-looking faces everywhere, including that loose maniac, Birthday Boy Stab Man, along with roaming hordes of vandals. We're less in the real world than some bonkers, not-funhouse-mirrors manifestation of Beau's fears. His anxiety might called cripplingly extreme if it didn't appear to be well-founded by the state of things around him.

## Apocalyptic

Beau is to travel the next day to visit his mother. But after a neighbor harasses him through the night and his apartment keys and bag are stolen, Beau calls to tell his mother that he's missed his plane, news she coldly receives as confirmation that her son never loved her. Things are already antic and unhinged but they then turn cartoonishly apocalyptic. Beau's apartment is broken into and taken over, and his spiraling desperation is amplified into crushing remorse when he's called and told that his mother has been killed, her head severed by a fallen chandelier.

After Beau, by now completely crazed and stripped of nearly everything he owns, is struck by a truck, Aster's film proceeds as a nightmarish quest to reach his mother's house before the funeral service. Clearly defined sections make up the odyssey, each of which offer some disturbing alternative to family life, with a few flashbacks mixed in. First is a period of distressing convalescence with the seemingly stable suburban couple who ran him over (Amy Ryan, Nathan Lane); then a magical section in a forest where Beau encounters a traveling theater group and is transported into their stage play; and finally his late, bedraggled arrival home.

Much of all this is far more extended than it perhaps ought to be. But it's also crammed full with subtle gags in a meticulous and twisted tapestry of psychological

torture. The way Beau keeps dropping through trap doors of narrative in a metaphorical movie realm will remind some of Charlie Kaufman or maybe a particularly grim version of "Alice in Wonderland." But "Beau Is Afraid" is eminently unique to Aster, who fills his frames with sly jokes. Beau's recent phone calls, for just one example, are only his mother, his therapist and Moviefone. Who needs anything else?

But whether there's enough here to sustain this nakedly ambitious three-hour roller coaster is harder to say. There are scenes, shot by cinematographer Pawel Pogorzelski, that I don't expect to forget. The animated interlude in the forest, with the help of Chilean artists Cristóbal León and Joaquín Cocina, is a magically dark fable within a fable. Nathan Lane, while otherwise entrapping Beau, peppering every line with "Old buddy" and "My dude" is one of the funnier things I've seen lately. And in the film's final chapter, Patti LuPone steps forward magnificently with such gothic menace that she makes Collette's mother of "Hereditary" look like a peach.

All of this, though, is a lot of movie to hang on mommy issues. "Beau Is Afraid" takes a long road — and one with a lot of yelling and sniveling along the way — to not get very far. That could, of course, be the point. But the sipping sad sack Beau — despite Phoenix's typically committed and sympathetic performance — remains curiously void, stuck in a one-note nightmare.

Aster, whose first film also dug into the frightful side of what we inherit, is clearly and intensely channeling something deep within. And as captivating as it can be to see a filmmaker out on the ledge like this, the sense that characters are being moved around like pawns in an elaborate design — an aspect of Aster's previous films, too — never quite dissipates. The one exception: Parker Posey. She walks into the movie late, as a long-ago encounter of Beau's, and instantly changes the movie's chemistry. She's the one breath of fresh air in "Beau Is Afraid," but, boy, does Aster snuff it out quick.

"Beau Is Afraid," an A24 release is rated R by the Motion Picture Association for strong violent content, sexual content, graphic nudity, drug use and language. Running time: 179 minutes. Two and a half stars out of four. (AP)

# Features

ARABIC TIMES

TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2023

NEW YORK: It's still Mario Time at the box office.

"The Super Mario Bros Movie" led ticket sales for the fourth straight weekend in US and Canadian theaters with \$40 million as the global haul for the Universal Pictures release surpassed \$1 billion, according to studio estimates Sunday.

The Nintendo videogame adaptation dominated the month of April in theaters, smashing records along the way. Over the weekend, it faced little new competition, though that will change next week when Marvel's "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3" kicks off the summer movie calendar and is expected to move Mario to the side. Studios spent the last week at CinemaCon in Las Vegas promoting coming blockbusters and promising big returns at the summer box office. The Super Mario Bros Movie is produced by Universal Pictures, Illumination, and Nintendo, and distributed by Universal, the film was directed by Aaron Horvath and Michael Jelenic and written by Matthew Fogel. The ensemble voice cast includes Chris Pratt, Anya Taylor-Joy, Charlie Day, Jack Black, Keegan-Michael Key, Seth Rogen, and Fred Armisen.

"The Super Mario Bros. Movie" was estimated to easily cross \$1 billion in worldwide box office Sunday, making it the 10th animated film to reach that milestone and the first since 2019. With a domestic total thus far of \$490 million, international sales are even stronger. The Illumination-animated release took in \$68.3 million overseas over the weekend, pushing its international haul to \$532.5 million.

Second place went to "Evil Dead Rise." The horror sequel from Warner Bros held well in its second week, especially for a horror film, dipping 50% with \$12.2 million.

Among the weekend's newcomers, the Judy Blume adaptation "Are You There ... It's Me, Margaret" fared the best. The Lionsgate release grossed \$6.8 million in 3,343 locations, a decent start for the \$30 million-budgeted coming-of-age tale written and directed by Kelly Freemon Craig ("The Edge of Seventeen"). As expected, "Are You There ... It's Me, Margaret," about an

11-year-old (Abby Ryder Fortson) going through puberty, drew an overwhelming female audience. With stellar reviews (99% fresh on Rotten Tomatoes) and strong audience scores (an "A" CinemaScore), "Are You There God? It's Me Margaret," should play well through Mother's Day. Lionsgate also released the



Taylor-Joy



Pratt

Finnish action movie "Sisu" in 1,006 locations. The film, about a prospector (Jorma Tommila) whose gold is stolen by Nazis, grossed an estimated \$3.3 million. That was a solid result for the rare international film to receive a nationwide opening. Reviews have been good (93% fresh on Rotten Tomatoes) for writer-director

Jalmari Helander's film. "Sisu" managed to surpass the weekend's most heavyweight new release: "Big George Foreman: The Miraculous Story of the Once and Future Heavyweight Champion of the World." The film, from Sony's Christian production company Affirm Films, gives a faith-based twist to the sports

biopic. But after getting dinged by bad review, it didn't punch very hard, with \$3 million in 3,054 theaters.

Nida Manzoor's "Polite Society," about a British-Pakistani high-schooler (Priya Kansara) with dreams of becoming a stunt-woman, debuted with \$800,000 in 927 theaters. (AP)

## People &amp; Places

## Music

## 'Rollercoaster'

## Doyle writes march for Charles' big day

LONDON, May 1, (AP) — Patrick Doyle woke up in the middle of the night hearing trumpets. The film composer had been commissioned to write the music for King Charles' Coronation March, so he quickly recorded the idea on his phone.

That's part of what the Oscar-nominated composer calls the "rollercoaster" he's been on, ahead of hearing the finished work performed on the global stage of Westminster Abbey on Saturday, May 6. Doyle says the four-minute piece is a march to commemorate King Charles' life so far, compiled of four identifiable sections. It moves from a "bold heraldic opening that's ceremonial and full of pageantry," to a pacy, Celtic-influenced march, he explains.



King Charles

"The third movement is joyful and fun and it's got sort of fireworks in it," says Doyle. "And the final movement is, is reflective and romantic, and it leads to a triumphant climax. But I got the sense he's quite a romantic person, the poet in him, and loves the arts and loves all music."

Doyle, one of several composers tapped to create new music for the royal event, says

King Charles has been "extremely generous" at remaining hands-off and trusting everyone to do their job. That's not to say there aren't restrictions.

The size of the organ loft in Westminster Abbey means there is a physical limit on the number of musicians who can perform at the venue. "It was three violas and only four cellos and only one trombone, a bass trombone; two horns instead of three horns, four horns; and so on. So you had to redesign how you thought of your normal way of composing for a symphony orchestra, so that was a challenge, as well as coming up with the piece itself."

## Extremes

Doyle has worked around this by using instruments played at the extremes of their range - so violins go down to join the violas and the bass trombone sounds like a horn at the top of its register, to appeal to King Charles' broad taste.

"He's been brought up with marches, playing as part of that world that he inhabits, which is a unique world compared to the rest of us. But also, he loves the opera. He loves melody. He loves a memorable tune."

Doyle's film scores for "Hamlet" and "Sense and Sensibility" earned him Academy Award nominations; he's also known for his work on "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire" and "Carlito's Way." Now his composition of the 2023 Coronation March adds his name to an impressive lineage that includes Handel, Purcell and Elgar, which he found overwhelming.

"The wow factor is really high," he says. "There's a great legacy before me, but I had to not think about that and get on with my job."

Another consideration is the vast venue itself.

He admits he had shortened notes to compensate for the abbey's echo - then changed them back after realizing that the assembled orchestra would know how to handle the space.

This was proven at a recent rehearsal, which was recorded and sent to King Charles. "Our work can die or live on the strength of minutiae, the detail and the love and attention it gets. But when they all played it, it was phenomenal. Some of the best musicians in the country, throughout the U.K. Fabulous. I was thrilled with it."

That's not to say that the Coronation March is so complicated it can only be performed by professionals.

The brief was to compose a piece that could be played by bands all over the world. Doyle is especially delighted at the thought of Scottish wind bands giving the march an afterlife.

The composer describes his relationship with King Charles as a "professional friendship." He says he was very nervous and intimidated to be asked because "it's going to be shown in front of so many people, millions of people."

Doyle and the King first met in 1988, when the composer played piano onstage for Kenneth Branagh's production of "Twelfth Night."

A lamp slid off the piano, knocking the sheet music all over the floor and causing Doyle to quip, "Has anybody seen page one?"

The then Prince Charles was seen laughing in the audience and when they were introduced afterwards, he suggested Doyle did it every night.

Doyle was also commissioned by Charles to compose music for the Queen Mother's 90th birthday celebrations, in 1990.

Still, he was shocked to be invited to Westminster Abbey to attend the ceremony in person.

"I assumed I would be home watching it," Doyle says. "When the invitation arrived, I was gobsmacked. 'It's hard to believe all this,'" he smiles.

## Also:

**WASHINGTON:** Mario, Madonna and Mariah have entered the national audio canon.

Madonna's star-making 1984 album "Like a Virgin," Mariah Carey's 1994 holiday perennial "All I Want For Christmas Is You" and the original 1985 theme from Super Mario Bros. are now in the U.S. National Recording Registry as part of "the defining sounds of the nation's history and culture," the Library of Congress announced Wednesday.

In all, 25 albums, singles and other sound artifacts spanning more than a century are being inducted into the registry, from the first known recording of mariachi music in 1908 and 1909 by Cuarteto Coculense, to 2012's "Concerto for Clarinet and Chamber Orchestra" by composer Ellen Taaffe Zwilich.

The Super Mario Bros. music, officially known as the "Ground Theme," written by young Nintendo composer Koji Kondo, becomes the first music from a video game to enter the registry, which called it in a news release "the most recognizable video game theme in history." The tune has appeared in countless Mario-related incarnations, including in the new megahit "Super Mario Bros. Movie."

Queen Latifah becomes the first female rapper with a recording in the registry with the inclusion of her 1989 album "All Hail the Queen," whose songs include the feminist anthem "Ladies First."

Other full albums getting recognition include 1970's "Déjà Vu" by Crosby, Nash and Young, 1983's "Synchronicity" by the Police, and 1985's "Black Codes (From the Underground)" by jazz trumpeter Wynton Marsalis.



Country music legend Willie Nelson finishes his set at the Outlaws & Legends Music Fest in Abilene, Texas, on Saturday, April 1, 2023. Nelson celebrated his 90th birthday with concert on Saturday, April 29, at the Hollywood Bowl in Los Angeles. (AP)

## Music

## Music stars join legend to mark his birthday

## Nelson inhales the love at 90

LOS ANGELES, May 1, (AP) — "Are there any more real cowboys?" Neil Young sang Saturday night at the Hollywood Bowl on a rare evening when he was neither the headliner nor, at age 77, even close to the oldest artist on the bill.

Providing an instant answer, Willie Nelson, wearing a cowboy hat and red-white-and-blue guitar strap, slowly strolled on to the stage on his 90th birthday, bringing the crowd of more than 17,000 to its feet.

Nelson sat in a chair - one of the few onstage concessions he's made to age - and joined Young for the rest of their 1985 duet, "Are There Any More Real Cowboys?"

"I want to thank all the artists who came out tonight to help celebrate whatever it is we're celebrating," said Nelson, feigning senility and getting a laugh.

The moment came three hours into the first of a two-night celebration of the country legend at the open-air Los Angeles amphitheater, where generations of stars sang his songs in tribute.

"As a kid growing up in Texas, it seemed like there was nothing bigger than Willie Nelson," said Owen Wilson, one of the evening's emcees along with Helen Mirren, Ethan Hawke and Jennifer Garner. "And looking out at the Hollywood Bowl tonight, it still feels like there's nothing bigger than Willie Nelson."

After Young, Nelson brought out George Strait, a country superstar of the following generation, for their self-referential duet, "Sing One With Willie," followed by the Willie perennial, "Pancho and Lefty," with Strait singing the part once played by the late Merle Haggard.

Nelson then shouted, "Come out and roll one with me Snoopy!"

Strutting out came rapper Snoop Dogg, sitting next to Nelson as they launched into their stoner anthem,

"Roll Me Up and Smoke Me When I Die." Perhaps fittingly, each seemed to forget the words at times. The two friends looked too happy to care.

"Somebody make some noise for the legend Mr. Willie Nelson!" Snoop shouted mid-song.

The parade of partners illustrated one of the night's themes: Willie brings people together.

"All of the sudden, it didn't matter if you were a hillbilly or a hippie, everyone was a Willie Nelson fan," Wilson said of Nelson's late-blooming emergence as a singing superstar when he left Nashville, Tennessee, and returned to his native Texas in the 1970s. "Even the Dalai Lama is a Willie Nelson fan. It's true."

## Tribute

The crowd, which ranged from small children to seniors, illustrated the point. The stands were dotted with cowboy hats while hippies danced in the aisles and weed smoke wafted in the air.

Miranda Lambert thrilled them with a rousing, sing-along version of "Mammas Don't Let Your Babies Grow Up to Be Cowboys," Nelson's 1978 hit with Waylon Jennings. The Chicks blazed through 1970's "Bloody Mary Morning" at the same breakneck pace that Willie and his Family Band played it live in their prime.

Nelson has outlived nearly every member of that band, which backed him for decades of constant touring and recording. His little sister and piano player, Bobbie Nelson, died last year. She got her own tribute from Norah Jones, who banged the keys through the younger Nelson's saloon-style solo song, "Down Yonder," from Willie Nelson's definitive 1975 album, "Red Headed Stranger."

While many of the women who took the stage played rousing rockers, most

of the men went in for quiet emotion.

Chris Stapleton kept his guitar at his side through a soft, reflective rendition of "Always on My Mind." Nelson's biggest solo hit of the 1980s. Nelson's son Lukas sang "Angel Flying Too Close to the Ground" alone with his acoustic guitar, his voice a dead ringer for his dad's.

Another surviving member of the Family Band, harmonica master Mickey Raphael, was part of the weekend's house band, led by Don Was, which backed almost everyone.

Nelson also has outlived most of his classic collaborators. But an essential one, his 86-year-old Highwaymen bandmate Kris Kristofferson, made it to the stage to join Rosanne Cash, the daughter of another Highwayman: Johnny Cash.

Rosanne Cash was singing Nelson's "Loving Her Was Easier (Than Anything I'll Ever Do Again)" when Kristofferson, who wrote the song, came out and harmonized with her on the choruses.

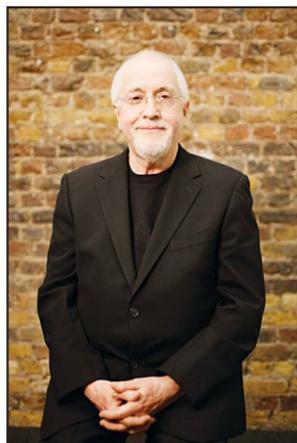
Nelson's musical diversity was another evening theme.

"He blends and bends genres," Mirren said from the stage. "His timing and categories are his own."

Leon Bridges' "Night Life" showed off Nelson's affinity for the blues, as did Jones' jazzy trip through "Funny How Time Slips Away" from 1961, when Nelson was known primarily as a songwriter of hits for others.

Ziggy Marley sang "Still Is Still Moving To Me," which Nelson recorded in 1993 and later sang with Toots and the Maytals in one of his occasional forays into reggae. Marley shouted "Wee-lay!" in his Jamaican accent during the song.

Sunday's night show will feature a whole different range of acts including Dave Matthews, Sheryl Crow and Emmylou Harris.



Scottish film composer Patrick Doyle poses for a portrait in London, Thursday, April 20, 2023. Doyle has been commissioned to write the music for King Charles' Coronation March which will debut, in front of the world, at the royal event at Westminster Abbey on Saturday, May 6. (AP)



Churchwell



Shapiro

## Variety

**LONDON:** An engrossing account of a pivotal year for English history and literature has been named the greatest-ever winner of the UK's leading nonfiction book prize.

James Shapiro's "1599: A Year in the Life of William Shakespeare" won the Baillie Gifford Prize Winner of Winners award. It was crowned from a field of six finalists drawn from the 24 winners of the Baillie Gifford award, which marks its 25th edition this year.

Shapiro, professor of English and comparative literature at Columbia University, was awarded the 25,000-pound (\$31,000) prize at a celebratory dinner in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Launched in 1999 and known until 2015 as the Samuel Johnson Prize, the award celebrates English-language books from any country in the fields of current affairs, history, politics, science, sport, travel, biography, autobiography and the arts. It has been credited with bringing an eclectic slate of nonfiction books to a wider audience.

Shapiro's book, which won the prize in 2006, explores Shakespeare's life in teeming Tudor London in the year he turned 35, completed "Henry V," wrote "Julius Caesar" and "As You Like It" and produced the first draft of "Hamlet," widely regarded as his greatest play.

Author and academic Sarah Churchwell, one of the four prize judges, said Shapiro's book "does so many things remarkably well."

It's "a biography of one of the greatest writers who ever lived, about whom we know almost nothing," she said, and "a biography of the mind of a genius at work." Churchwell said the judges "felt it was important the book that won showed what creative nonfiction can do."

"1599" beat five other books, including British writer Craig Brown's "One Two Three Four: The Beatles in Time," Canadian author Wade Davis' mountaineering odyssey "Into the Silence" and Canadian Margaret MacMillan's history of the post-World War I peace talks, "Paris 1919."

The two other finalists were American:

Barbara Demick, for "Nothing to Envy: Real Lives in North Korea," and Patrick Radden Keefe for opioid expose "Empire of Pain: The Secret History of the

Sackler Dynasty." (AP)

WARSAW, Poland: A baroque Warsaw



Frederic Chopin's last piano, a Pleyel, among the items on display at the refurbished museum of the Polish 19th century pianist and composer, which opens this week displaying also his handwritten letters, at the Frederic Chopin Museum in Warsaw, Poland, Thursday, April 27, 2023. Popular among Poles and foreign tourists, the museum to Poland's greatest 19th-century musician closed in the fall of 2022 for the renovation and rearrangement works. (AP)

mansion hosting a museum dedicated to one of Europe's greatest 19th century musicians, Polish pianist and composer Frederic Chopin, is reopening with a new focus on original artifacts after months of pandemic-spurred renovations.

"The main reason of this refurbishing was to create a good atmosphere, good air conditions for the ... original objects," Artur Szklener, director of the National Frederic Chopin Institute said.

"And at the same time we wanted to change some ideas of the exhibition itself showing more of the originals," he told The Associated Press.

The museum, which houses Chopin's last piano, a Pleyel, and manuscripts of his music, will also display new items including letters he wrote to his companion, writer George Sand, and a satirical drawing she made of him, as well as an oil portrait of Chopin by his friend Teofil Kwiatkowski, a fellow Pole.

The focus of the renewed exhibition is on the original manuscripts, which take the place of previous copies, and on recreating the mood and style of the times they belong to, museum officials said.

"Especially after the pandemic we realized that people are overwhelmed, oversaturated with things that are not original, they have enough of it and they wanted more originals, they wanted to touch the real thing," Chopin institute spokesman Aleksander Laskowski told the AP. "They cannot touch the letters, obviously, but they almost can."

"That was the reason for change: be original. And we are," Laskowski said. (AP)

## Health

## Treatment delays

## Med shortages stress patients and doctors

NEW YORK, May 1, (AP): Shortages of drugs like Adderall are growing in the United States, and experts see no clear path to resolving them. For patients, that can mean treatment delays, medication switches and other hassles filling a prescription.

In recent months, unexpected demand spikes, manufacturing problems and tight ingredient supplies have contributed to shortages that stress patients, parents and doctors. For some drugs, such as stimulants that treat ADHD, several factors fueled a shortage and make it hard to predict when it will end.

Shortages, particularly of generic drugs, have been a long-standing problem. The industry has consolidated and some manufacturers have little incentive to solve shortages because cheap generics generate thin profits.

Here's a deeper look at the issue.

## How many drug shortages are there?

There were 301 active national drug shortages through this year's first quarter, according to the University of Utah Drug Information Service. That's 49% higher than the 202 recorded in the first three months of 2018.

Patients don't feel all drug shortages because doctors may be able to substitute different medications or because other parts of the drug supply system mask the issue, said **Stephen Schondelmeyer**, a University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy professor.

"But there are more shortages now, and they're becoming more visible," he said.

## Which drugs are in shortage?

In the fall, the US Food and Drug Administration announced a shortage of the attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder treatment Adderall due to a manufacturing problem. That has persisted and grown at times to include other stimulants that treat the condition.

That situation seems to be improving, said University of Utah Health researcher Erin Fox. But several extended-release doses of the medication, its most popular form, remain in short supply.

The FDA also has tracked a shortage of the diabetes treatment Ozempic, which doctors also prescribe for weight loss. Prescriptions for Ozempic - touted by celebrities and others on social media - have doubled since the summer of 2021 to more than 1.2 million, according to the health data firm IQVIA.

A spokeswoman for Ozempic maker Novo Nordisk says all doses of the drug are now available at pharmacies nationwide.

Last year, a spike in respiratory illnesses forced drugstore chains to temporarily limit purchases of fever-reducing medicines for children. A shortage of the antibiotic amoxicillin also cropped up around then.

Injectable drugs used in hospitals and clinics, such as IV saline and some cancer treatments, are more than twice as likely as tablets or topical treatments to experience a shortage, according to a recent report written by Sen. Gary Peters, D-Mich., chairman of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

## Why do drug shortage develop?

Reasons can vary, and a combination of factors fuels many shortages.

The Adderall manufacturing problem hit as more people started taking the drug.

During the pandemic, prescriptions climbed as regulators started allowing doctors to prescribe the drug without first seeing a patient in person. Prescriptions for Adderall and its generic equivalents jumped 20% between February 2020 and the end of last year, according to IQVIA.

Adderall supplies face an additional challenge when demand spikes. Federal regulators limit supplies for the drug each year because it is a controlled substance.

Pricing might also be a factor with some drugs.

Ozempic is a diabetes drug. The same medication, semaglutide, is sold under a different brand name, Wegovy, for weight loss. Schondelmeyer noted the per-milligram price for Wegovy can be more than twice as much as Ozempic.

"They've been having a run on Ozempic because people don't want to spend that much on Wegovy," Schondelmeyer said.

Novo Nordisk spokeswoman Allison Schneider said price was not connected to the shortage. She tied that to a combination of demand and global supply constraints.

Another factor driving shortages: Medications like Adderall and amoxicillin generate thin profits so companies don't have an incentive to make and store large amounts in case a shortage develops, Fox said.

"Once a shortage starts with something you make just in time anyway, it's really hard to resolve it unless all the suppliers are back," she said.

## How are patients affected by drug shortages?

Shortages might lead to treatment delays, which can hurt patients dealing with time-sensitive conditions like cancer.

Doctors are sometimes forced to prescribe alternatives that might not be as effective. That also can lead to medication errors if the doctor is less familiar with the other medication.

Patients also may run out of their prescriptions or be forced to hunt for a pharmacy that has enough supply to refill it.

## Future prospect

It's tough to predict when many shortages may be resolved, partly because measuring demand is hard.

"You can estimate you're going to increase your production by 10%," said Mike Gano, senior director of pharmacy practice and quality with the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, "but is that going to be enough?"

Meanwhile, conditions that could feed future shortages still exist. The Senate report cited an overreliance on foreign sources as a concern.

Factories in China and India supply most of the raw materials used in American medicines. Early in the COVID-19 pandemic, India restricted exports of 13 active pharmaceutical ingredients and finished drugs made from those chemicals, to protect its domestic drug supply.

Once shortages develop, they can last years. And it can be tough for patients to get reliable information. Fox said there is no legal requirement for drugmakers to update the public.

The Senate report notes that "no federal agency or private industry partner has end-to-end visibility into the entire U.S. pharmaceutical supply chain."

Fox says the stimulant shortage has been particularly frustrating. Companies have said they aren't getting enough raw materials to make the drugs, and the federal government says companies aren't using what they have.

## Also:

**NEW YORK:** More than a year after OxyContin maker Purdue Pharma reached a tentative settlement over the toll of opioids that was accepted nearly universally by the groups suing the company - including thousands of people injured by the drug - money is still not rolling out.

Parties waiting to finalize the deal are waiting for a court to rule on the legality of a key detail: whether members of the Sackler family who own the company can be protected from lawsuits over OxyContin in exchange for handing over up to \$6 billion in cash over time plus the company itself.

This week - days before the one-year anniversary of the April 29, 2022, appeals court arguments on the matter - lawyers told judges that the suit is causing problems.

Lawyers on multiple sides of the case, including those representing Purdue, asked the 2nd US Circuit Court of Appeals in New York to issue a ruling or provide an update soon, saying the efforts to use the funds to fight the opioid crisis can't begin until the money can start to flow.

While it's not unusual for an appeals panel to take a year or more from a hearing until it releases a decision, this case was originally fast-tracked by the court. At the hearing last year, there were signs that the three-judge panel might not rule unanimously.



A patient waits in an exam room at the Mountain Park Health Center, Thursday, March 30, 2023, in Phoenix. As heat waves fueled by climate change arrive earlier, grow more intense and last longer, people over 60 who are more vulnerable to high temperatures are increasingly at risk of dying from heat-related causes. Heat related deaths are challenging community health systems, utility companies, apartment managers and local governments to better protect older people when temperatures soar. (AP)

## Climate

## 1,100 deaths a year in 200 US cities: 2021 study

## Deadly heat waves threaten seniors

PHOENIX, May 1, (AP): Paramedics summoned to an Arizona retirement community last summer found an 80-year-old woman slumped inside her mobile home, enveloped in the suffocating 99-degree (37 C) heat she suffered for days after her air conditioner broke down. Efforts to revive her failed, and her death was ruled environmental heat exposure aggravated by heart disease and diabetes.

In America's hottest big metro, older people like the Sun Lakes mobile home resident accounted for most of the 77 people who died last summer in broiling heat inside their homes, almost all without air conditioning. Now, the heat dangers long known in greater Phoenix are becoming familiar nationwide as global warming creates new challenges to protect the aged.

From the Pacific Northwest to Chicago to North Carolina, health clinics, utilities and local governments are being tested to keep older people safe when temperatures soar. They're adopting rules for disconnecting electricity, mandating when to switch on communal air conditioning and improving communication with at-risk people living alone.

Situated in the Sonoran Desert, Phoenix and its suburbs are ground zero for heat-associated deaths in the US. Such fatalities are so common that Arizona's largest county keeps a weekly online tally during the six-month hot season from May through October. Temperatures this year were already hitting the high 90s the first week of April.

"Phoenix really is the model for what we'll be seeing in other places," said researcher Jennifer Ailshire, a native of the desert city now at the University of Southern California's Leonard Davis School of Gerontology where she studies how environmental factors affect health and aging. "The world is changing rapidly and I fear we are not acting fast enough to teach people how harmful rising temperatures can be."

A 2021 study estimated more than a third of US heat deaths each year can be attributed to human-caused global warming. It found more than 1,100 deaths a year from climate change-caused heat in some 200 US cities, many in the East and Midwest, where people often don't have air conditioning or are not acclimated to hot weather. Another study showed that in coming decades dangerous heat will hit much of the world at least three times as hard as climate change worsens.

Isolated and vulnerable, the heat victims last year during Maricopa County's deadliest summer on record included a couple in their 80s without known relatives, an 83-year-old woman with dementia living alone after her husband entered hospice care and a 62-year-old Rwandan refugee whose air conditioner broke down.

While most of the county's confirmed 378 heat-associated deaths were outdoors, those who died indoors were especially vulnerable because of isolation, mobility issues or medical problems as outside summertime highs hit 115 degrees (46.1 C).

Older people of color, with a greater tendency for chronic conditions like diabetes, obesity and high blood pressure are especially at risk.

In Chicago, three African American women in their 60s and 70s died in spring 2022 when the centrally controlled heating in their housing complex remained on and the air conditioning was off despite unseasonable 90-degree weather in mid-May.

An undetermined number of older people died during the summer of 2021 when an unexpected heat wave swept across the US Pacific Northwest. Canada reported that coroners confirmed more than 600 people died from the heat in neighboring British Columbia.

Many US cities, including Phoenix, have plans to protect people during heat waves, opening cooling centers and distributing bottled water.

But many older people need personalized attention, said Dr. Aaron Bernstein, who directs the Center for Climate, Health, and the Global Environment at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

"If you are elderly and sick you are unlikely to get into an Uber or bus to get to a cooling center," said Bernstein, who vividly recalls a 1995 heat wave that killed 739 mostly older people in Chicago, his hometown. "So many were socially isolated and at tremendous risk."

Sociologist Eric M. Klinenberg, who wrote about the catastrophe in his book "Heat Wave: A Social Autopsy of Disaster in Chicago," has noted social contacts can protect older people during disasters.

"Older people are more prone to live alone," he said, "and they are the most likely to die."

That's true of all extreme weather.

## Killed

When Hurricane Katrina devastated Louisiana in 2005, around half of the 1,000 people killed were 75 or older, most of them drowned when their homes flooded.

Chicago encourages residents to check on older relatives and neighbors on hot days and city workers visit people's homes. But last year's deaths at a Chicago apartment house shows more is needed.

Bernstein's center is working with relief organization Americans to help community health clinics prepare vulnerable patients for heat waves and other extreme weather.

A "climate resilience tool kit" includes tips like making sure patients have wall thermometers and know how to check weather forecasts on a smart phone. Patients learn simple ways to beat the heat, like taking a shower or sponge bath to cool off and drinking plenty of water.

Alexis Hodges, a family nurse practitioner at the Community Care Clinic of Dare in coastal North Carolina, said rising temperatures can cause renal failure in patients with kidney problems and exacerbate dehydration from medications like diuretics.

Hodges contributed to the climate kit from a region that experiences all the weather events it covers: extreme heat, hurricanes, flooding and wild-

fires.

At the nonprofit Mountain Park Health centers that annually serve 100,000 patients in greater Phoenix, nurse practitioner Anthony Carano has written numerous letters to utility companies for low-income patients with chronic conditions, asking them not to turn off power despite missed payments.

"This is such an at-risk population," Carano said of the overwhelmingly Latino patient population that suffer from diabetes and other ailments aggravated by warm weather. About one-tenth of the patients are 60 and older.

Francisca Canes, a 77-year-old patient visiting for back pain, said she's fortunate to live with two daughters who take care of her during hot spells. In the summertime, she stays in shape by joining several women friends at 4 a.m. most mornings for a 4-mile (6.4 kilometers) walk.

Maricopa County in April used federal funds to allocate another \$10 million to its air conditioner replacement and repair program for people who qualify, brining total funding to \$13.65 million. In greater Phoenix and several rural Arizona counties, older low-income people can apply for free repair or replacement of air conditioners through a separate non-profit program.

The Healthy Homes Air Conditioning Program run by the nonprofit Foundation for Senior Living last summer ensured about 30 people got new air conditioners or repairs and helped others with home improvements.

Priority goes to older people, those with disabilities and families with very small children, who are also vulnerable to the heat. A person living alone must earn \$27,180 or less, said Laura Simone, program coordinator for FSL Home Improvements.

The program recently installed energy efficient windows in the 1930s home of 81-year-old widow Socorro Silvas.

"I am so grateful they are taking care of low-income people like me," said Silvas, who got her air conditioner in the middle of a sweltering summer several years ago through a program run by Tolleson, a suburb west of Phoenix.

Utility companies can also help protect vulnerable people by halting power disconnections during hot periods.

"In Arizona, air conditioning is a matter of life and death, especially if you are older," said Dana Kennedy, the state director of AARP, which has fought for stricter regulations preventing summertime power cutoffs.

New rules for Arizona utilities were adopted after 72-year-old Stephanie Pullman died in August 2018 at her Phoenix area home as outside temperatures reached 107 degrees (41.6 Celsius).

The medical examiner's office said Pullman died from "environmental heat exposure" combined with cardiovascular disease after her power was shut off over a \$176.84 debt.

The Arizona agency that regulates utilities now bans electricity cutoffs for nonpayment during the hottest months.



A SpaceX Falcon Heavy lifts off from Pad 39A at Kennedy Space Center, at Cape Canaveral, Fla., Sunday April 30. The rocket is carrying the ViaSat-3 Americas satellite. (AP)

## Climate

**Warming worsened drought:** The on-going drought in Eastern Africa has been made worse by human-induced climate change, which also made it much likelier to occur in the first place, an international team of climate scientists concluded.

The report came from World Weather Attribution, a group that seeks to quickly determine whether certain extreme weather events were influenced by climate change. Nineteen scientists from seven nations assessed how climate change affected rainfall in the region.

"Climate change caused the low rainfall in the region," Joyce Kimutai, principal meteorologist at the Kenya Meteorological Department said. "Climate change has made the drought exceptional."

The scientists analyzed historical weather data, including changes in the two main rainfall patterns in the region alongside computer model simulations dating back to the 1800s. They found that the long rains season - March through May - was turning drier and the short rains season - typically October through December - was becoming wetter due to climate change. They called the region's experience with drought "one of a kind."

**Friederike Otto**, senior climate scientist at Imperial College London and the leader of the study, said it underscored how climate change's effects "strongly depend on how vulnerable we are."

While climate change has made drought more frequent and extreme in the Horn region, the scientists acknowledged that previous failed rainy seasons, high temperatures, conflict, fragile statehood and poverty are also to blame for the "devastating impacts."

The United Nations said more than 20 million people in Kenya, Ethiopia, Somalia, Uganda and South Sudan have been affected by the drought, with more than 2.2 million displaced in Somalia and Ethiopia and severe maternal risks to hundreds of thousands of expectant or breast-feeding women.

**Rod Beadle**, head of relief and humanitarian affairs at Food for the Hungry, said almost 15 million children are exposed to acute malnourishment. (AP)

**Govt outlines new package:** The Dutch government unveiled a new package to slash carbon emissions by promoting clean energy, sustainable homes and industry and the use of electric cars among other raft of measures to combat climate change.

Climate and Energy Minister Rob Jetten said the package would cost a total of 28 billion euros in coming years and lead to a reduction of 55%-60% reduction in carbon emissions by 2030 compared to 1990 benchmark levels.

"We are working towards a completely climate-neutral and circular economy by 2050. For that we really have to wean ourselves off fossil fuels and reduce our greenhouse gas emissions," he said.

He pitched the package as a win-win scenario for the Netherlands - making it a leader in the energy transition needed to slow global warming while reducing dependency on external suppliers such as Russia.

"The climate challenges of today also create the economic opportunities for tomorrow," he told reporters in The Hague.

"If we lead the way in the green transition, we in the Netherlands will also reap the benefits for years to come," he added. "By putting a lot of effort into our own renewable energy, we make ourselves less dependent on fossil energy from dubious regimes. We have our own clean and sustainable energy supply and therefore no longer have to be blackmailed by types such as (Russian President Vladimir) Putin."



Otto



Beadle

Jetten unveiled the plans days after the Netherlands joined other Western European nations led by Germany and France in committing to massively ramp up the production of clean energy from wind turbines in the North Sea, to both meet climate targets and reduce their strategic energy dependence on Russia.

Jetten said the government aims to make the country's energy generation carbon-free by 2035. (AP)

### Green wins LPGA at Wilshire in playoff

## Finau holds off Rahm for sixth career victory at Mexico Open

VALLARTA, Mexico, May 1. (AP): Tony Finau and Jon Rahm play enough golf together away from the PGA Tour that Finau thinks it has only made him a better player.

He showed that Sunday in the Mexico Open at Rahm's expense.

Finau was expecting a tough test against Rahm, the Masters champion and No. 1 player in the world. Equipped with a two-shot lead, Finau played bogey-free for a 5-under 66 and never gave Rahm or anyone else much of a chance.

He wound up winning by three shots for his fourth PGA Tour title in the last nine months.

"Any time you can battle with a guy like Jon Rahm who's in the form that he was and come out on top, it makes me feel good," Finau said. "Rahm is a good friend of mine, we practice quite a bit together, so having Rahmbo as like a sparring partner for me has only made me better. And I hope he can say the same."

### GOLF

Finau earned a small measure of redemption at Vallarta Vidanta, where last year he finished runner-up to Rahm by one shot.

Finau finished at 24-under 260. Turns out Rahm wasn't his biggest threat.

Brandon Wu, also a runner-up last year, holed a 45-foot eagle putt on the par-5 sixth hole and made a short birdie on the next hole to briefly tie for the lead. Finau answered with a birdie on the seventh, and then Wu fell back with a bogey on the bunker on No. 8 and a tee shot into the water on the 10th that led to double bogey.

The Spaniard's last hope was on the 16th hole. Finau hit his approach into the bunker and Rahm hit a 7-iron into the same bunker. Both made par, and at that point, Rahm sim-

ply ran out of holes.

"I feel like if I hit that second shot on 16 on the green and give myself a real look at birdie, Tony's up-and-down gets significantly more difficult," Rahm said.

Akshay Bhatia, the 21-year-old who has special temporary membership, faded to a 70 and finished fourth.

Finau now has two victories this season - his other was in the Houston Open last fall - to join Rahm, Scottie Scheffler and Max Homa as the only multiple winners on tour this season.

Finau's sixth career PGA Tour victory was worth \$1,386,000. He also moved to No. 11 in the world.

Finau did his best work on the front nine. He left a bunker shot in the sand on the sixth hole and managed to get up-and-down for par. On the eighth hole, another bunker shot from a tough lie didn't quite reach the green, and he holed a 15-foot putt from the fringe for par.

Rahm was playing for the second time in three weeks since winning the Masters. He is skipping the Wells Fargo Championship - his one opt-out from elevated events with a \$20 million purse - and will have a two-week break going into the PGA Championship.

Finau, who went more than five years between his first and second wins on the PGA Tour, now has multiple wins in back-to-back seasons.

Hannah Green of Australia made a 25-foot birdie putt on the final hole to join a three-way playoff, and then made par on the second extra hole to win the JM Eagle LA Championship on Sunday at Wilshire Country Club.

In a wild finish that featured a five-way tie for the lead late in the final round, Green made birdie for a 2-under 69 to join Aditi Ashok of India and Xiyu Lin of China in the playoff.

"Pretty much all day I left every putt short," Green said. "I knew I had to get it to the hole. I knew I needed to hit it a little bit harder than what I had all day. I don't often get my caddie to read my putt, but I pulled him in for the last hole, and we both saw the same line, so it was nice to have that confidence that I was seeing the correct line, and yeah, just stroked it and it went perfectly in the hole."

Ashok, who had the 36-hole lead, and Lin each closed with a 67 and were the first to post at 9-under 275. Green and Lin birdied the first playoff hole on the par-3 18th.

On the second extra hole on No. 18, Lin hit into a bunker and blasted out to some 18 feet and missed the par putt. That left Green to tap in from 2 feet for her first LPGA win since September 2019.

Green was emotional and wiping away tears after the win.

Green won for the third time. She captured her lone major in the 2019 KPMG Women's PGA at Hazeltine, and followed it with a win at the Portland Classic that year.



Hannah Green poses for photos with the winner's trophy after winning in a playoff in the LPGA LA Championship golf tournament at Wilshire Country Club in Los Angeles. (AP)

## Ohtani sets Statcast-era mark for highest HR as Angels avoid sweep

### Red Sox rout Guardians

**MILWAUKEE, May 1, (AP): Shohei Ohtani hit a third-inning home run off Colin Rea that reached 162 feet above the field, the highest since Statcast started tracking in 2015, and helped the Los Angeles Angels beat the Milwaukee Brewers 3-0 on Sunday to avoid a three-game sweep.**

Ohtani hit his seventh home run of the season on an 85.9 mph cutter from Rea (0-2). Ohtani is batting .394 (13 for 33) in his last eight games and .294 for the season.

José Suarez (1-1) allowed two hits in five innings with six strikeouts and three walks.

Rea struck out a career-high nine in five innings, allowing three hits and a walk.

### Astros 4, Phillies 3

In Houston, Jake Meyers homered, Martín Maldonado ended his 0-for-24 slump with an RBI double and Houston defeated Philadelphia to avoid a three-game sweep.

The Astros beat Philadelphia in six games to win last year's World Series. But the Phillies dominated the first two games of the rematch, winning by a combined score of 9-2.

Kody Clemens homered for a second straight game and J.T. Realmuto also went deep for the Phillies, who had won a season-best four in a row.

### BASEBALL

Houston starter José Urquidy (2-2) allowed three hits and two runs before leaving with an apparent injury with one out in the sixth.

### Padres 6, Giants 4

In Mexico City, Matt Carpenter capped an eighth-inning rally with a tiebreaking, two-run double off the glove of diving center fielder Mike Yastrzemski, and San Diego beat San Francisco for a two-game sweep of Major League Baseball's first regular-season series in Mexico City.

A day after winning an 11-home run slugfest 16-11, the Padres overcame a 4-0 deficit with three runs in the fifth and three in the eighth.

In the thin air of Estadio Alfredo Harp Helú, 7,349 feet above sea level, Lamonte Wade Jr. led off the first inning with a home run against Yu Darvish.

J.D. Davis went deep in the second and Mitch Haniger homered in a two-run third that included an RBI single by Yastrzemski, who is headed to the injured list.

Before a crowd of 19,633, Austin Nola's two-run homer and Juan Soto's RBI single against Alex Cobb cut the deficit to 4-3 in the fifth.

Luis García (1-2) pitched two hitless innings and Josh Hader got three straight groundouts to remain perfect in 10 save chances.

### Dodgers 6, Cardinals 3

In Los Angeles, Noah Syndergaard earned his first win in a Dodgers uniform and Los Angeles got some timely hits and took advantage of mistakes by St. Louis pitchers for the win.

David Peralta drove in two runs for the Dodgers. Syndergaard (1-3) allowed three runs on eight hits in 5 1/3 innings.

At 10-19, the Cardinals are 10 games behind Pittsburgh in the NL Central - that's the first time since 1907 that St. Louis is in this spot at the end of April, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

The game was tied at 3 in the fifth inning when Will Smith led off with

a double before Zack Thompson (1-2) walked Max Muncy and Jason Heyward to load the bases. After James Outman struck out, Drew VerHagen came on and threw a wild pitch on a sweeper with a 2-2 count to score Smith.

### Nationals 7, Pirates 2

In Washington, Josiah Gray pitched six strong innings, Joey Meneses had four hits and Washington finally cooled off Pittsburgh in a game delayed nearly 2 1/2 hours by rain.

Jeimer Candelario and Victor Robles each had an early two-run double for Washington, Luis García delivered a two-run single in the second, and every Nationals starter got at least one hit.

Bryan Reynolds and Tucupita Marcano each had two hits and an RBI for the Pirates, who finished April with a 20-9 record.

Gray (2-4) allowed one run on three hits and three walks while striking out six. Andrés Machado worked two scoreless innings for Washington, and Kyle Finnegan allowed a run in the ninth.

### Mariners 10, Blue Jays 8, 10 innings

In Toronto, Cal Raleigh hit two of Seattle's four home runs, including a tiebreaking shot in the 10th inning, to rally the team past Toronto and snap a four-game losing streak.

Toronto was one strike away from completing a three-game sweep and extending its winning streak to seven, but Mariners shortstop J.P. Crawford hit a game-tying single off Yimi García in the ninth.

Raleigh won it with a two-run shot off Zach Pop (1-1), scoring automatic runner Eugenio Suárez. It was the third multi-homer game of Raleigh's career. He also hit a two-run homer off Anthony Bass in the eighth.

### Marlins 4, Cubs 3

In Miami, Luis Arraez hit a go-ahead sacrifice fly in the eighth inning to give Miami the three-game series sweep over Chicago.

Jon Berti drew a leadoff walk against reliever Keegan Thompson (1-1) and advanced to third on Jesús Sánchez's single. Arraez then drove the first pitch from Thompson to deep center to score Berti.

Tanner Scott (2-1) pitched a scoreless eighth around two singles and A.J. Puk closed with a perfect ninth for his fifth save. Garrett Thompson doubled twice for the Marlins, who won their fourth straight.

### Red Sox 7, Guardians 1

In Boston, Connor Wong hit a two-run homer and Alex Verdugo

singled home a pair of runs and added a late solo homer to help Boston top Cleveland.

Chris Sale (2-2) struck out five, holding the Guardians to three hits over 6 1/3 innings. Christian Arroyo added a two-run double during a three-run seventh that sealed it for the Red Sox, who overcame a strong start by rookie Logan Allen (1-1) and piled on late runs against Guardians relievers.

Amed Rosario drove in Cleveland's only run with a single in the sixth inning, one of just four hits for the Guardians.

### Twins 8, Royals 4

In Minneapolis, Byron Buxton hit a three-run homer as part of a seven-run third inning and Sonny Gray kept rolling with six strong innings in Minnesota's win over Kansas City.

Gray (4-0) allowed one run on five hits while striking out seven batters. Gray has given up just three runs in 35 innings this season and saw his MLB-best ERA rise to 0.77 after the outing. Jhoan Duran recorded his sixth save.

### White Sox 12, Rays 9

In Chicago, Andrew Vaughn capped Chicago's seven-run ninth inning with a three-run homer to help the White Sox stop a 10-game losing streak with a wild victory over Tampa Bay.

Yasmani Grandal also homered and Adam Haseley had four hits as Chicago won for the first time April 18. It was the longest slide for the team since it also dropped 10 in a row in 2013.

Jake Burger sparked the winning rally with a one-out RBI double against Jalen Beeks (0-2). Oscar Colás then hit a sacrifice fly and Elvis Andrus made it 9-8 with a run-scoring single.

After Lenyn Sosa's single, Beeks was replaced by Garrett Cleavinger. But Haseley greeted Cleavinger with a tying single and Vaughn followed with his third homer of the season, a drive to left field that led to a big celebration at home plate.

### Orioles 5, Tigers 3

In Detroit, Adam Frazier homered in the fourth inning to help Baltimore take a four-run lead, and Yennier Cano made sure the Orioles held on against Detroit.

Baltimore has won six straight series for the first time since 2014. The Orioles scored one run in four consecutive innings, taking a 4-0 lead in the fifth before Detroit scored three in the home half.

Baltimore's bullpen combined to pitch 4 1/3 innings of scoreless relief. Austin Voth (1-1) worked two hitless innings and Cano earned his

second save. He has not allowed a hit in 32 at-bats this season.

Baltimore's Kyle Bradish started strong, retiring nine of the first 10 Tigers he faced and holding them scoreless through four innings. He was chased after giving up three runs in the fifth.

### Rangers 15, Yankees 2

In Arlington, Josh Jung hit a first-inning grand slam, Nathaniel Lowe and Adolis García also homered off All-Star Nestor Cortes and Texas routed New York to hand the Yankees their sixth loss in eight games.

Cortes (3-2) had the worst outing of his Yankees career, allowing seven runs and five hits in 4 2/3 innings along with four of New York's eight walks.

Fellow All-Star Martín Pérez (4-1) gave up one run and six hits in six innings for Texas, which has won three straight following a four-game losing streak. Jung tied his career high with five RBIs.

### Rockies 12, Diamondbacks 4

In Denver, C.J. Cron had three hits, including a three-run homer, Austin Gomber gave up one run over six innings and Colorado beat Arizona to snap a seven-game home losing streak.

The last-place Rockies also avoided tying the worst 29-game start in franchise history.

Cron's team-leading sixth home run of the season was the catalyst for a four-run third inning that gave Colorado the lead and broke the game open.

Gomber (2-4) threw his second consecutive quality start, allowing only three hits and striking out four. Charlie Blackmon's run on Cron's third-inning homer moved him past Larry Walker for sole possession of second place on the franchise's all-time list.

Evan Longoria's 463-foot home run in the second inning was the only source of offense for much of the day for the Diamondbacks. Arizona starter Ryne Nelson (1-2) pitched just four innings, allowing six runs and nine hits.

### Athletics 5, Reds 4

In Oakland, Esteury Ruiz singled in the winning run in the bottom of the ninth inning and Oakland beat Cincinnati to halt its nine-game home losing streak.

Jesús Aguilar and Brent Rooker homered for the Athletics. The victory prevented Oakland (6-23) from having the worst 29-game start to a season since the 2003 Detroit Tigers opened 4-25.

The crowd of 18,271 was Oakland's largest since 26,805 on opening day.



Tony Finau of the United States celebrates after winning the Mexico Open golf tournament in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. (AP)

### Change Name

I, Vincent Bonni Fernandes Jeronimo Caetano, holder of Indian Passport No. V 9394428, having permanent address Abraq Khaitan, Block No. 9, Street No.55, Apt No 10, 3rd floor, Bldg No 16, Kuwait, hereby declare that henceforth my name will be read as Given name: Vincent Bonni and surname: Fernandes

### Plenty of pole positions for Leclerc, but few wins

BAKU, Azerbaijan, May 1, (AP): Charles Leclerc is the first driver in Formula One history to win the pole position in two qualifying sessions on the same weekend.

He didn't come close to winning either race - the story of his career.

Leclerc has a talent for outperforming in an imper-

fect car - like this year's Ferrari - to set surprisingly fast times over a single lap. But he wasn't able to keep up with the dominant Red Bulls in either Saturday's sprint race or the main Grand Prix on Sunday.

Still, he finished second in the sprint and third in the main race to jumpstart a poor start to the 2023 season for Leclerc, who retired in two of the first three races.

"Got closer (to Red Bull), maybe a little bit, but still very far behind in race pace, at least, and also I think we are behind Aston Martin in terms of race pace," Leclerc said Sunday. "For now, we need to work on that because for now over one lap, taking a bit more risk - of course I did also two great laps I think - in qualifying which helped us to be in front, but then over 51 laps (in Sunday's) race, there's not much we can do more."

Leclerc now has 19 career pole positions - not counting his "sprint shootout" pole Saturday, which used a shortened format - but only five race wins. His record hardly mirrors Max Verstappen, who has 22 poles but 37 wins and two world championships.

### MOTOR RACING

Leclerc last converted a pole position into a race victory over a year ago, at the Australian Grand Prix in April 2022. Since that win, he has qualified on pole eight times - including four in a row in mid-2022 - and picked up one win, when he started second in Austria but passed Verstappen.

F1 has had qualifying specialists before, and plenty of drivers who were unlucky in races. Back in the 1980s, René Arnoux racked up 18 career pole positions but only seven wins, largely because of driving a fast but fragile turbocharged Renault at the peak of his career.

There are plenty of different causes for Leclerc's comparative lack of wins, ranging from a slow or unreliable car (the Ferrari overheated when he led from pole in Spain last year), team strategy blunders (a pit stop mix-up at the next race in Monaco) to driver error (a crash while in the lead after starting on pole in France a few weeks later).

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## Chennai's middle order failed to provide the desired momentum

## Raza gives Punjab last-ball IPL win in 'Battle of the Kings'

CHENNAI, India, May 1, (AP): Sikandar Raza pulled off a last-ball heist to help Punjab Kings beat Chennai Super Kings by four wickets on Sunday in the Indian Premier League.

Needing three runs off the final ball, the Zimbabwe batter pulled to the vacant square leg area and ran three with Shikhar Khan to reach 201-6 as Punjab won the "Battle of the Kings."

Choosing to bat first, Chennai had scored 200-4 thanks to Devon Conway's 92 not out off 52 balls. Punjab's chase was propelled by 42 from opener Prabhshimran Singh and Liam Livingstone's 40 off 24 balls.

Conway and Ruturaj Gaikwad (37) gave Chennai another good start, adding 86 off 58 balls. It was a slower start compared to their earlier partnerships but provided a

platform for the other batters.

Gaikwad was out stumped at the halfway mark and big hitting Shivam Dube was then sent in at No. 3. He hit two sixes off 17 balls to score 28 and put on 44 off 26 balls with Conway.

The Kiwi opener reached 50 off 30, including nine fours and a six. Conway then accelerated with another

## CRICKET

seven fours off the next 22 balls, adding 42 in the second half of his knock.

It was his fifth half century in nine matches and Conway climbed to second (414 runs) in the most runs' tally

behind Faf du Plessis' 422 for Royal Challengers Bangalore.

Chennai didn't get the desired momentum from its middle order. Moeen Ali fell for 10 and Ravindra Jadeja was out for 12, leaving much to do for crowd favorite MS Dhoni. The Chennai skipper smashed two sixes off the last over, scoring 13 not out off four balls, as Conway was stranded eight short of his hundred.

In reply, Prabhshimran gave Punjab a rollicking start as he smacked two sixes and four fours off the 24 balls he faced. Shikhar Dhawan contributed 28 as the duo put on 50 off 26 balls for the opening stand.

Tushar Deshpande took 3-49 in four overs. Dhawan was his first dismissal before Atharva Taide fell to Ravindra Jadeja for 13.

Jadeja had Prabhshimran stumped to help reduce Punjab to 94-3 in 10.2 overs. Just when the chase looked like fading away, Livingstone regained his scoring touch with four sixes.

He put on 57 off 33 balls with fellow Englishman Sam Curran, who scored 29 off 20.

Despite Livingstone falling to Deshpande, Punjab continued on its path with a 10-ball 21 from Jitesh Sharma. He was Deshpande's third wicket, while Matheesha Pathirana bowled Curran.

Raza's innings then kept Punjab's knockout qualification hopes alive.

Mumbai Indians take on Rajasthan Royals in Sunday's second encounter, the 1,000th game in IPL history.

## Panthers oust record-setting Bruins 4-3 in OT to 'advance'

Kraken eliminate defending champs Avs

BOSTON, May 1, (AP): The Boston Bruins are done, with a long offseason to think about their failure to capitalize on the greatest regular season in NHL history.

The Florida Panthers are moving on, thrown right into their second-round series against the Toronto Maple Leafs beginning Tuesday night.

"Game 7. Overtime win. Against pretty much the best team in regular-season history. It's unreal," Panthers center Aleksander Barkov said after Florida beat Boston 4-3 in OT to eliminate the record-setting Bruins from the playoffs. "For sure it's up there, and it's hard to understand right now. I don't think we need to understand right now. We'll understand later."

Brandon Montour tied it with 1 minute left in regulation, and Carter Verhaeghe scored the game-winner at 8:35 of overtime. The Panthers won three straight after falling behind 3-1 in the best-of-seven series.

Boston, the Presidents' Trophy winners with NHL records of 65 wins and 135 points, had not lost three in a row all season.

"The fact that we were able to do what we did after what they did all year ... they're an unreal team and the best I've played in my NHL career. The fact that we were able to beat them was crazy," Panthers forward Matthew Tkachuk said. "Let's be honest: Nobody in the whole world thought we were going to win that series except for the guys in that room."

Sergei Bobrovsky made 33 saves for Florida, which advanced in the post-season for just the second time since reaching the Stanley Cup Final in 1996.

They will face Toronto, which finished off the Tampa Bay Lightning on Saturday in six games.

Boston rallied from a two-goal deficit to take a 3-2 lead, but Maurice pulled Bobrovsky in the final minutes and called timeout with 88 seconds left to give his players a breather. Montour tied it with his second of the game.

Maurice, who was on the Winnipeg bench when the Jets eliminated Presidents' Trophy-winning Nashville in the second round in 2018, admitted his confidence was waning.

## ICE HOCKEY

"We're down a goal with under two minutes to go against Boston. I wouldn't bet everything, because the match doesn't add up," he said. "But when that goal goes in you go, 'Ohhh, we're going to win this game.'"

Verhaeghe won it on a wrist shot from the right faceoff circle that just made it under the crossbar.

That eliminated the Bruins, who became the second Presidents' Trophy winner in five years to lose in the first round. No team with the best regular-season record has won the Stanley Cup since 2013, when the Chicago Blackhawks beat Boston in the Final.

Montour scored Florida's first goal, and Sam Reinhart made it 2-0 early in the second period. David Krejci and Tyler Bertuzzi scored to tie it, and David Pastrnak gave the Bruins their only lead of the game on a power-play goal 55 seconds into the third period.

Jeremy Swayman, making his first start of the series as a sub for likely Vezina Trophy winner Linus Ullmark, stopped 27 shots.

The game could be the last for Bruins captain Patrice Bergeron, who teased retirement last year but opted to return. He was the last Boston player on the ice, leaving after a stick-wave to the crowd and one last hug with Brad Marchand.

Bergeron said after the game he will take some time to consider his future. The five-time Selke Trophy-winner missed the first five games of the series and played the last two with a herniated disc.

"Learned a lot from him this year," Montgomery said. "Hopefully learn more from him next."

## Kraken 2, Avalanche 1

In Denver, the Seattle Kraken converged from all points on the ice to the same spot - Philipp Grubauer's net.

A fitting gathering place to celebrate another first for this young franchise.

Grubauer was stellar in stopping 33 shots, Oliver Bjorkstrand scored twice and the Kraken eliminated the defending Stanley Cup champion Colorado Avalanche with a 2-1 win in Game 7 on Sunday night.

The Kraken became the first expansion team to beat the reigning Stanley Cup champs in their inaugural playoff series, according to NHL Stats.

"A great accomplishment," said Kraken forward Yanni Gourde, who had two assists. "Our fans have been amazing. They deserve this."

Bjorkstrand scored one goal on a fortuitous deflection - the puck hit off a stick and glove - and another with a liner past goaltender Alexandar Georgiev that clanged off the post. Seattle grabbed the lead in every game in the series.

Next up for the second-year Kraken is a second-round series against the Stars that opens in Dallas on Tuesday night. Seattle was 1-1-1 against Dallas in the regular season.

The Kraken take a heap of momentum with them, too.

Mikko Rantanen was credited with a power-play goal for Colorado after a shot by Nathan MacKinnon clipped him and went in. MacKinnon appeared to score early in the third period to tie it at 2, but Seattle challenged the play and the goal was disallowed due to Colorado being offside.



Seattle Kraken right wing Oliver Bjorkstrand, (left), battles for control of the puck with Colorado Avalanche center Nathan MacKinnon in the third period of Game 7 of an NHL first-round playoff series Sunday, April 30, 2023, in Denver. The Kraken won 2-1 to advance to the next round. (AP)



PSG's Danilo Pereira (right), dribbles Lorient's Ayman Kari (center), and Lorient's Laurent Abergel during the French League One soccer match between Paris Saint-Germain and Lorient, at the Parc des Princes stadium in Paris, Sunday, April 30, 2023. (AP)

## Monaco suffer heavy loss

## Lorient stun 10-man PSG 3-1

PARIS, May 1, (AP): Paris Saint-Germain will have to work harder - much harder - for a record 11th French league title after Lorient stunned the defending champion 3-1 on Sunday.

Second-place Marseille could cut PSG's lead to five points with a win over Auxerre later Sunday.

"The title is in our hands, we mustn't let it go like this, especially with such games at home. We must show more than that at home," PSG defender Marquinhos told Canal Plus television. "We were not good in the duels, we were always late. In the rough moments, we mustn't concede goals."

PSG supporters were unhappy with the players' lack of effort and booed them off the field at halftime and again after the final whistle.

The hosts were down to 10 men after Achraf Hakimi received a second yellow card for a stamp on Darlin Yongwa in the 20th minute. The Morocco right back also got booked for a late tackle on Romain Faivre in the fifth minute.

Lorient capitalized on a spell of possession to take the lead in the 15th with a sliding effort from Enzo Le Fee into the roof of the net.

Kylian Mbappe equalized with a poacher's goal in the 29th when Yvon Mvogo had a lapse in concentration. The Lorient goalkeeper put the ball on the ground, thinking he had a free kick, but the referee had only waved to play on. Mbappe couldn't believe his luck and took a touch before tucking into an empty net to consolidate his spot as the top scorer in the league with 23 goals.

## SOCCER

Mvogo did well to save Danilo's close-range header in the 67th.

Faivre exposed the weakness of PSG in the 39th by strolling past Marco Verratti and Juan Bernat to cut the ball back for Yongwa, who slotted home for a 2-1 lead.

Substitute Bamba Dieng sealed the win by converting a rebound after a counterattack in the 88th.

PSG also produced unconvincing team performances in the past couple of games but was saved by the brilliance of Lionel Messi and Mbappe.

Lorient snapped a five-game winless streak to remain in the middle of the table.

Arnaud Nordin notched two goals

and an assist as Monaco's hopes of qualifying for the Champions League took a hit after a 4-0 loss to Montpellier.

Fourth-place Monaco occupies the Europa League spot, five points behind Lens which has a game in hand, while Montpellier earned three precious points in its fight for safety to move 11 points above the relegation zone with five games remaining.

"We've been playing for the podium so far and it's still possible if we turn things around. But we must act quickly," Monaco coach Philippe Clement said. "I still have confidence in my players, but we have to look at ourselves in the mirror and get back to basics, to put in some intensity. We have to be dominant with the ball but also without it, and show more aggression."

Belgium international Jeremy Doku netted the last two goals to give Rennes a 4-2 win over bottom side Angers, officially relegated to the second division. Doku volleyed home in the 54th before dribbling past two defenders to fire into the bottom corner in the 85th. Rennes stayed in the race for European spots, trailing fifth-place Lille by three points.



Sikandar Raza of Punjab Kings celebrates after winning the Indian Premier League cricket match between Chennai Super Kings and Punjab Kings in Chennai, India, Sunday, April 30, 2023. (AP)

## Refereeing error casts a pall on the Bundesliga race; no help from VAR

BERLIN, May 1, (AP): A refereeing error has become the focus of attention in the Bundesliga after it helped Bayern Munich regain the lead from Borussia Dortmund with four rounds of the league remaining.

The video assistant referee didn't intervene to award a penalty in Dortmund's game on Friday as the team was held to a 1-1 draw with Bochum on Friday night, a result that could have a major impact on the title race.

The German soccer federation acknowledged Saturday that referee Sascha Stegemann should have given the penalty "without the need for support from the video assistant." However, it did not say why there was no support from the video assistant.

Stegemann failed to spot the foul in the area in the 65th minute when Karim Adeyemi from behind and brought the Dortmund forward down without touching the ball. Soares was already booked and could have been sent off with a second yellow card.

"We would probably go in front and you're playing against 10 men, it's a whole other game," Dortmund coach Edin Terzic said.

But Stegemann allowed play to continue and received no indication from video assistant Robert Hartmann that he should do otherwise. The video assistant is there to inform a referee of any clear mistake, and video replays can then be used to recheck the incident. But Hartmann apparently felt the possible foul on Adeyemi wasn't a clear mistake.

The federation disagreed.

"It's a foul and therefore a penalty, as the TV pictures also show. The expectation has to remain that such events are decided correctly by the referee on the

field," the federation said.

The decision was one of three that Dortmund complained about as it slipped to a draw that allowed Bayern to retake the lead on Sunday.

Stegemann, who acknowledged "several mistakes" among the match officials and said he could understand Dortmund's anger, told broadcaster Sport1 that threats have been made against him and his family. It led him to file a criminal complaint and seek temporary protection measures.

## SOCCER

The referee said he is thinking about "whether a break makes sense or whether it's better to continue straightaway."

Dortmund chief executive Hans-Joachim Watzke condemned those threats on Sunday.

"Dear soccer fans, of course we are all still very disappointed with how Friday night went," Watzke said in a statement published on the club website. "We discussed our point of view with the referee immediately after the game, and he assured us then how sorry he was. With that, the matter is closed for us."

There was no comment on the matter from Bayern, which holds a one-point lead as it bids to win a record-extending 11th consecutive league title.

Dortmund must now hope for a favor from Werder Bremen, Schalke, Leipzig or Cologne if it is to end the Bavarian powerhouse's 10-year reign - while also winning its own remaining games against in-form Wolfsburg, Borussia Mönchengladbach, Augsburg and Mainz.

"We won't let any opponent, any referee or any illness stop us," Dortmund youngster Youssoufa Moukoko said. "We believe in it, we're convinced of it."



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Daniil Medvedev, of Russia, returns the ball to Alexander Shevchenko, of Russia, at the Madrid Open tennis tournament in Madrid, Spain. (AP)

# Sports

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Medvedev reaches last 16

## Andreeva's impressive run comes to an end in Madrid

MADRID, May 1, (AP): Russian teenager Mirra Andreeva's impressive run at the Madrid Open came to an end with a loss to second-seeded Aryna Sabalenka on Monday.

After three straight-set victories against top-40 opponents in her main-draw debut, the 16-year-old wild-card entry couldn't get past Sabalenka in the fourth round, losing 6-3, 6-1 in her first center-court appearance in the Spanish capital.

Andreeva became the youngest player to reach the last 16 of a WTA 1000 event after upsetting 2021 U.S. Open finalist Leylah Fernandez in the first round, 14th-ranked Beatriz Haddad Maia in the second and 19th-ranked Magda Linette in the third. She had won 16 straight matches at all levels before falling to Sabalenka, her first top-10 opponent.

"It was a great match. I'm really happy with the result," the second-ranked Sabalenka said. "In the first few games I was just trying to adjust to her game and her rhythm. After that I started feeling my game a little bit better and started playing better."

Sabalenka, the Australian Open champion and the 2021 Madrid Open winner, made it to the last eight in Madrid for the second time. She reached at least the quarterfinals in all seven tournaments she has played in 2023, carrying a 26-4 record for the year.

Her next opponent will be Mayar Sherif, who defeated 24th-seeded Elise Mertens 6-4, 0-6, 6-4 after nearly three hours to become the first Egyptian to reach the quarterfinals of a WTA 1000 tournament.

In the men's draw, Daniil Medvedev had to come from a break down twice in the final set to reach the last 16 with a 4-6, 6-1, 7-5 win over fellow Russian Alexander Shevchenko.

"He played well. He's young, so I'm sure he's going to (move) up the

rankings, especially if he plays like in this tournament," Medvedev said of the 96th-ranked Shevchenko, who was making his main-draw debut in Madrid after coming through qualifying.

The victory takes Medvedev to a tour-best 33-4 record this season. He will next face qualifier Aslan Karatsev, who defeated 16th-seeded Alex de Minaur 6-3, 4-6, 6-4.

The 22-year-old Shevchenko, who appeared to struggle with cramps toward the end of the match, took a 5-1 lead in the first set but went down 5-0 in the second. He then led 2-0 and 4-2 in the decisive set.

"I feel like I played pretty well in the second and third sets, and maybe the end of the first," the third-ranked Medvedev said. "The thing about clay (is) usually it is tough for me to start matches for what-

### TENNIS

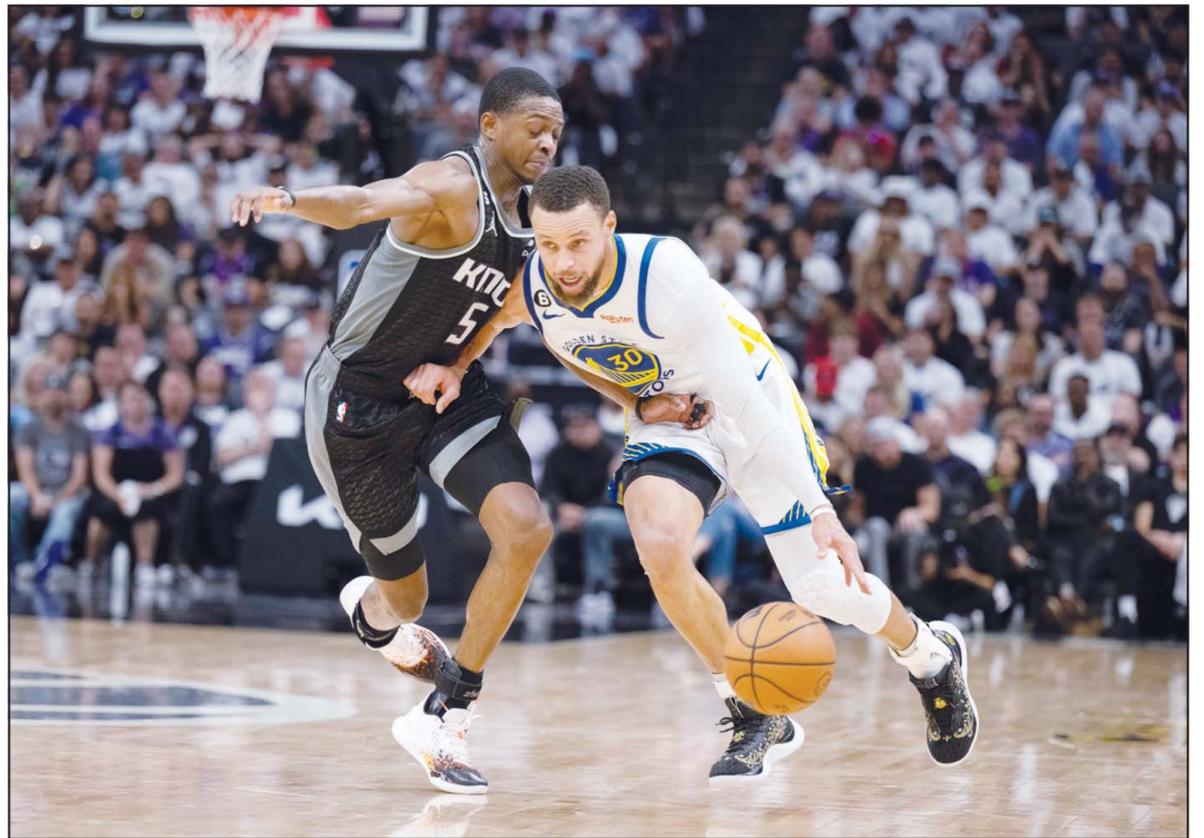
ever reason. I need a lot of time to get used to everything that is happening on the court. The third set (I could) have been a bit better at crucial moments, or maybe a lot better. But finally I won, so that counts also."

This is the first time Medvedev has won consecutive matches in Madrid.

Ninth-seeded American Frances Tiafoe lost 6-1, 7-6 (2) to Pedro Cachin, while Jan-Lennard Struff defeated Dusan Lajovic 6-7 (2), 6-3, 6-3.

Women's No. 1 Iga Swiatek later faces 16th-seeded Ekaterina Alexandrova for a spot in the quarterfinals. Mirra Andreeva, the 16-year-old Russian, takes on second-seeded Aryna Sabalenka. Irina-Camelia Begu upset 14th-seeded Liudmila Samsonova 6-4, 6-4 to earn her third win against a top-20 opponent in 2023. It will be her third quarterfinal appearance in Madrid.

## Curry erupts for record-breaking 50 pts in Game 7 as GSW advance



Sacramento Kings guard De'Aaron Fox (5) defends against Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry (30) during the second half of Game 7 of an NBA basketball first-round playoff series in Sacramento, Calif. (AP)

### 'Arsenal still fighting for Premier League title'

## Wild finish as Liverpool edge Tottenham

LIVERPOOL, England, May 1, (AP): Substitute Diogo Jota scored a stoppage-time winner as Liverpool beat Tottenham 4-3 after a wild finish to their Premier League game.

Trailing 3-0 after only 15 minutes at Anfield, Tottenham rallied to make it 3-3 through Richarlison's strike in the third minute of second-half stoppage time.

But Jota responded almost immediately to secure a fourth straight win in the league and boost Liverpool's bid for Europa League qualification at least.

Tottenham had recovered from going 2-0 down against Manchester United in a 2-2 draw on Thursday.

The Londoners looked like securing another comeback draw after Curtis Jones, Luiz Diaz and Mohamed Salah all scored inside 15 minutes.

Harry Kane pulled one back for Spurs in the 39th and Son Heung-min added another in the 77th.

Richarlison came off the bench to equalize, but the visitors' celebrations were cut short by Jota's goal.

Liverpool moved up to fifth and



Tottenham's Harry Kane (top left) and Liverpool's Virgil van Dijk jump for the ball during an English Premier League soccer match between Liverpool and Tottenham Hotspur at Anfield stadium in Liverpool. (AP)

## Kuwait win 3 silver medals in Arab Archery Tournament

TUNIS, May 1, (KUNA): The Kuwaiti team won three silver medals in the 12th Arab Archery Tournament hosted by the Tunisian island of Djerba.

The Kuwaiti shooter Abdullah Malallah won a silver medal in the category: Individual men, composite bow, while the Kuwaiti woman athlete, Hanan Al-Mayas, came second in the category: Individual women.

In the mixed games, Malallah

and Al-Mayas bagged the silver one.

The four-day tournament concluded on Sunday. The games involved teams from Kuwait, Jordan, Egypt, Qatar, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, the UAE, Algeria and the host country, Tunisia.

### ARCHERY

hasn't diminished his players' ambitions.

"That is the mentality that we need and that is what I love more the last few days," Arsenal coach Mikel Arteta said ahead of Tuesday's home game against Chelsea. "We are still not satisfied, we are still upset and we want more."

With five games left for Arsenal - and six for Man City - Arteta insisted "a lot of things are going to happen still" in a title race that many have already called for Pep Guardiola's team.

City now tops the table again after winning 2-1 at Fulham on Sunday to move one point clear of Arsenal, which is on a four-game winless run. Guardiola's team also has played one game fewer.

Arsenal has led the standings for 247 nights this season and can add one more Tuesday with a win against fast-falling Chelsea, which has just two points from six league games.

"This is what I want. Win tomorrow and be at the top," Arteta said. "Great, we are in the Champions League and everybody is still unsatisfied with the situation. This is what we need if we want to move forward as a club and as a team. ... What we have to do is forget about what happened last week, learn from it and move on into the next game."

Arteta also confirmed that center back William Saliba will be absent again Tuesday because of a back injury. Man City will seek a ninth straight league win Wednesday at home against West Ham.

SACRAMENTO, Calif., May 1, (AP): With his big-game swagger on display for the world and that signature mouthpiece dangling from a celebratory grin, Stephen Curry drove fearlessly to the basket with jaw-dropping acrobatics all afternoon and he fired with precision from way back in a Game 7 extravaganza for the ages.

He even playfully pretended to push the button and Light the Beam, Sacramento-style.

Curry scored a playoff career-high 50 points in the most prolific Game 7 performance ever and answered time and again to will the Warriors on in their quest for a repeat, sending Golden State into the Western Conference semifinals with a 120-100 win against the Sacramento Kings in Sunday's winner-take-all Game 7.

Curry led a memorable comeback in the series, too, perhaps improbable even for the defending champions when they got down 2-0 and given their road woes all season.

"It's amazing 'cuz you're still in the fight," Curry said. "Better than the alternative of on the outside looking in. Having been down 0-2 in this series, nothing was guaranteed, you don't take anything for granted."

Curry's points are the most in NBA history in a Game 7, topping former teammate Kevin Durant's 48 for the Nets against Milwaukee in 2021.

"For Steph to be the first player ever to get 50 in a Game 7, he's sublime," coach Steve Kerr said.

Kevon Looney grabbed 21 rebounds for a Warriors team that needed to win twice on the road facing a hostile, cowbell-clanging crowd in the state capital to become the first reigning champion to drop the first two games and win any postseason series.

Now, bring on LeBron James and the Los Angeles Lakers in the Western Conference semifinals with all that NBA Finals history between James and Golden State dating to his Cleveland days. Game 1 is Tuesday night at Chase Center.

### Heat keep rolling

Sacramento's special comeback season is over long before these young Kings had planned. After snapping a 16-year playoff drought - longest in NBA history - under Coach of the Year Mike Brown, playoff-starved Sacramento missed advancing to the second round for the first time since 2004.

Curry shot 20 of 38 with seven 3s and delivered after almost every big play by Sacramento as Splash Brother Klay Thompson struggled on both ends again. But Thompson came through in some crucial moments.

"What an incredible performance," Thompson said. "This is a Game 7 I'll forever remember as the Steph Curry game."

### BASKETBALL

Malik Monk's putback and three-point play with 14.6 seconds remaining in the third pulled Sacramento within six only for Thompson to hit a long 3 and convert a four-point play to make it 91-81 heading into the final 12 minutes.

Domantas Sabonis had 22 points, eight rebounds and seven assists but the Warriors held De'Aaron Fox in check as he scored 16 points on 5-for-19 shooting in his third game playing with a broken index finger on his shooting hand.

Trailing 58-56 at halftime, the Warriors opened the second half with a 13-4 burst and held the Kings to 42 points after intermis-



Miami Heat forward Jimmy Butler (22) shoots over New York Knicks guard RJ Barrett during the first half of Game 1 in the NBA basketball Eastern Conference semifinals playoff series in New York. (AP)

sion. Sacramento had scored early on with a beautiful combination of classic give-and-goes and long jumpers off crisp passing around the perimeter.

But Curry kept coming, and Looney kept scrapping to create second and third opportunities to cap his brilliant series on the boards. They sent Kings fans to the exits late in the fourth.

Thompson began 1 for 10 missing his first five 3s before connecting at the 9:18 mark of the third and finishing with 16 points on 4-for-19 shooting - "disgusting," he said - while playing smothering defense. Golden State, playing just its fourth Game 7 under Kerr since the 2014-15 title run, was smart down the stretch after 18 turnovers in Game 6 led to 23 Kings points and Kerr calling his team "wildly undisciplined."

Kerr had no doubt before the deciding game - and he went back to Draymond Green in the starting lineup for Game 7 with the season on the line after the fiery forward came off the bench the previous three contests following a Game 3 suspension for stepping on Sabonis.

Just before the final buzzer, Kerr offered a long embrace to Brown - Golden State's former top assistant who once coached the Warriors on the post-season stage during Kerr's extended health absence and just guided the Kings' remarkable turnaround.

"I can't dream of nothing like this, gotta see it in person," Monk said of all the successes. "You can't dream anything like this unless you're doing it. Looking forward to being back next year."

Looney wound up with 106 rebounds in the series - 37 on the offensive glass. This was his fifth straight playoff game with double-digit rebounds.

### Heat 108, Knicks 101

In New York, Jimmy Butler had 25 points and 11 rebounds, and the No. 8-seeded Miami kept rolling after barely reaching the postseason, beating New York in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference semifinals.

Gabe Vincent scored 20 points for the Heat, who became the sixth No. 8 seed to beat a No. 1 when they toppled Milwaukee in the first round and continue to look nothing like a team that needed to win a play-in game just to get the final postseason berth in the East.