



Biometric system installed to forestall ID forgery

All borders covered

KUWAIT CITY, May 10: The land, air and sea borders in the country on Wednesday started using the central biometric system to verify the face prints, fingerprints and electronic signatures of all departing and arriving travelers - Kuwaiti, Gulf and other nationalities, reports Al-Anba daily quoting sources.

Sources confirmed that the General Department of Information Systems, in cooperation with the General Department of Criminal Evidence and Borders Security Sector, installed the biometric devices last week with the aim of creating the largest database for travelers.

Sources disclosed the system is connected with the borders of all Arab and Gulf countries to ease coordination and follow up in terms of security. Sources said this will prevent those wanted by law from forging documents, as their data will be revealed immediately through the system.

Select committee to deplete, diversify labor demographic

Panel vows fresh determination

KUWAIT CITY, May 10: Barely 10 days after the formation of the National Committee for Regulating the Demographics, headed by First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and Acting Minister of Defense Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled, the Al-Qabas daily said the govern-

ment of Kuwait is determined to uproot vice from society, purify the labor market of menial workers and clamp down on visa traders.

Moreover, the committee is tasked with looking into the Kuwaitization of jobs in the state institutions. The sources indicated that Al-Khalid has instructed the Public Authority for Manpower and other concerned institutions to exert more efforts to modify the demographics and intensify the efforts of the Ministry of Interior to arrest thousands of expatriates who are violators of the residence and labor laws and identify and eliminate fake companies and also identify those who sell visas and work permits.

The Minister of Interior also stressed -- according to the sources -- the need to accelerate opening up to new countries that export skilled labor. Meanwhile, the sources revealed that the Public Authority for Manpower and the concerned authorities referred to the Public Prosecution 139 cases of visa trade over a period of four years-- from 2019 until the end of 2022.

The sources told the daily during the past year alone 16 cases of visa trade were referred to the Public Prosecution constituting eight times more since in 2021 only two such cases were identified.

According to the sources, 2019 and 2020 were the highest records of referrals to the Public Prosecution Office, with a total of 121 visa trade cases.

In the same context, the head of the Migrant Workers Committee at the Kuwaiti Human Rights Society, Mishari Al-Sanad, told Al-Qabas that the sponsorship system causes some workers to live in a tragic situation, as a result of the employer's delay in paying their salaries, forced labor and filing malicious reports without the worker's knowledge which contributes to the high volume of this type of issues.

Al-Sanad added that forcing workers to work overtime without additional pay and housing are not suitable for human life due to the large number of workers huddled in a small place and to add insult to injury the owners of companies circumvent the law to their benefit, in addition to closing the company file without informing the worker and as a result the worker falls foul with the law.

Al-Sanad referred to the report of the US State Department that was issued last year, as Kuwait's rating decreased due to these issues, stressing that there was a failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat such issues, indicating that the number of victims is large and increasing, and the government has not taken concrete and sufficient measures to protect them.

Al-Qabas learned that the tripartite committee was able, in just eight days in May, to arrest 205 violators of the Labor and Residence Law, 89 of whom were included in the list of those prohibited from renewing work permits, after confirming that they had purchased residency permits from a fake company.

Informed sources said that the committee referred those in charge of the fictitious company seized in the Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh area, which sells visas to the competent authorities, while 13 fictitious offices managing domestic workers were raided in the Farwanjia and Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorates.

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Opinion

Next parliament without programs

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah
Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

WITH the continuation of the registration of candidacy for the parliamentary elections until next Sunday, a number of aspirants announced their withdrawal from the race.

There is no doubt that each of them have their own base of supporters, and a way to test the political pulse of the people and discover the extent of the people's reluctance and tedium towards the lack of productivity of the previous parliamentarians. It may also be because they saw that the atmosphere was different from before, and therefore they chose to stand on the sidewalk of time, waiting for a better opportunity.

Respective of the results, there is evidence that these elections are different in form compared to the previous ones. However, the content is the same and cannot be relied upon. This is due to the fact that the title of a book tells a lot about the book itself. When looking at those who are presenting themselves to be part of the next parliament, nothing is promising at all.

Popular discontent has reached its extreme. Of course, the government will not be able to perform miracles in the remaining few years of its life. Rather, it is working on lost time, due to which we will not witness any reliable changes from the two authorities.

On this principle, the political leadership can play a role by issuing major decisions to change the situation in Kuwait, either in resolving the housing problem, or working to revive the industrial sector, enhance food security, reduce unemployment among Kuwaiti youth, restore the political situation, and open the country in front of the investors. The people have been waiting for years for decisions in this regard, but neither the successive governments nor the parliaments have made laws that deserve people's approval.

Based on what Kuwait is going through today, it is not possible to get out of this situation except with a will greater than an employee at the level of a minister, not a MP who is only concerned with investing in people's votes to enhance his financial and electoral assets. It is not possible to remain convinced that constitutional institutions alone bear responsibility for failures.

As per logic, we all bear the burden of what the country has reached, so the leadership alone can get the country out of this situation because it has actual powers that no one can override.

There is no doubt that the world is changing in these major political moments that the events ended with. There are new rules drawn in economics, politics and even geography. All of this requires confronting it with precision and a correct assessment of the positions.

Consequently, it affects Kuwait negatively if it does not prepare for the coming events, and works to fortify its internal front in all aspects particularly economically, socially, security, and politically. It impacts Kuwait positively if it has prepared its tools for confrontation, and worked to enjoy great capabilities to deal with any emergency.

For instance, last Monday, the government approved a draft law to abolish the Public Authority for Roads and Transportation. Although it is of no practical importance, it is a clear indication of how matters may end up.

It is true that it is just a proposal, but it needs to be approved by the National Assembly, that is, a return to the same vicious circle, while necessary decrees may be issued that can end this cycle.

What people are waiting for today is a firm decision that can end their problems and the crises caused by each of the successive governments and parliaments.

Time is pressing, and the acceleration of events in the world and the region does not allow the luxury of entertaining the outcome of the coming elections.

Rather, it is necessary to work quickly to bridge the gaps and take firm decisions to prevent what could further weaken Kuwait. This is what the people hope for from the political leadership because it is clear that we will be faced with a parliament without programs, but with just rhetoric that neither nourishes nor avails against hunger.

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Newswatch

KUWAIT CITY: The Foreign Ministry Tuesday expressed Kuwait's condemnation and denunciation of the Israeli occupation forces' aggression on the besieged Gaza Strip and the storming of Nablus city.

In a statement, the ministry stressed Kuwait's absolute rejection of this dangerous escalation and repeated attacks that constitute a continued series of crimes committed by the Israeli occupation forces against the brotherly Palestinian people and a flagrant violation of international humanitarian law.

The Ministry renewed its call for the international community and the Security Council to bear their responsibilities and take an action to immediately stop those attacks and provide full legal and civil protection to Palestinian brothers, in accordance with the UN Charter and international laws, the statement said. (KUNA)

KHARTOUM: As part of "Kuwait by your side" humanitarian campaign, the first batch of support containing 75 tons of material arrived in Sudan met by the people's praise and adulation.

Speaking to KUNA on this occasion, Kuwaiti Ambassador to Sudan Dr. Fahad Al-Dhafiri told KUNA that his country was keen on supporting Sudan during such turbulent times, saying that additional relief aid material would be sent in coordination between Kuwaiti and Sudanese authorities.

The Sudanese doctors union revealed that 69 percent of medical services and clinics near the areas of conflict had ceased operations, while 27 hospitals were struggling to operate due to the lack of staff and material.

The Kuwaiti and Sudanese red crescents societies had delivered thus far thousands of relief aid material, foodstuff, and medical supplies to those affected by the violence in Sudan. (KUNA)

WASHINGTON: The Justice Department said Tuesday that it had disrupted a long-running Russian cyberespionage campaign that infected computer networks in dozens of countries, including in the United States, and resulted in the theft of sensitive information from governments.

Prosecutors linked the spying operation to a unit of Russia's Federal Security Service, or FSB, and accused the hackers of stealing documents from hundreds of computer systems belonging to governments of NATO members, an unidentified journalist for a U.S. news organization who reported on Russia, and other select targets of interest to the Kremlin.

"For 20 years, the FSB has relied on the Snake malware to conduct cyberespionage against the United States and our allies - that ends today," Assistant Attorney General Matthew Olsen, the head of the Justice Department's National Security Division, said in a statement. (AP)

WASHINGTON: President Joe Biden will host Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi next month as part of Modi's trip to the United States that will include honors at an elaborate White House state dinner.

White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said Wednesday that Modi's June 22 visit "will affirm the deep and close partnership between the United States and India and the warm bonds of family and friendship that link Americans and Indians together."

Biden last hosted Modi at the White House in September 2021.

Modi is the third world leader to be invited on a U.S. state visit by Biden, following French President Emmanuel Macron late last year and South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol in April. (AP)

TUNIS: The number of people killed in a gun attack on a synagogue on the Tunisian island of Djerba during an annual Jewish pilgrimage has risen to five, Tunisia's TAP news agency said Wednesday. The victims were two Jewish pilgrims and three Tunisian police guards.

A police guard who had been hospitalized after Tuesday's attack died from his injuries on Wednesday, according to a medical official cited by TAP. Four other members of the security forces remain hospitalized in Djerba, including one in critical condition, according to TAP. (AP)



A woman talks on her cellphone as she walks around Tajrish commercial district without wearing the mandatory Islamic headscarf in northern Tehran, Iran, Saturday, April 29, 2023. More women are choosing not to wear the mandatory headscarf, or the hijab, publicly in Iran. (AP)

Beards balk as women brandish beauty

The hair that tests a soup

TEHRAN, May 10, (AP): Billboards across Iran's capital proclaim that women should wear their mandatory headscarves to honor their mothers. But perhaps for the first time since the chaotic days following Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution, more women - both young and old - choose not to do so.

Such open defiance comes after months of protests over the September death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini in the custody of the country's morality police, for wearing her hijab too loosely. While the demonstrations appear to have cooled, the choice by some women not to cover their hair in public poses a new challenge to the country's theocracy. The women's pushback also lays bare schisms in Iran that had been veiled for decades.

Authorities have made legal threats and closed down some businesses serving women not wearing the hijab. Police and volunteers issue verbal warnings in subways, airports and other public places. Text messages have targeted drivers who had women without head covering in their vehicles.

However, analysts in Iran warn that the government could reignite dissent if it pushes too hard. The protests erupted at a difficult time for the Islamic Republic, currently struggling with economic woes brought on by its standoff with the West over its rapidly advancing nuclear program.

Some women said they've had enough - no matter the consequence. They say they are fighting for more freedom in Iran and a better future for their daughters.

Some suggested the growing numbers of women joining their ranks might make it harder for the authorities to push back.

"Do they want to close down all businesses?" said Shervin, a 23-year-old student whose short, choppy hair swayed in the wind on a recent day in Tehran. "If I go to a police station, will they shut it down too?"

Still, they worry about risk. The women interviewed only provided their first names, for fear of repercussions. Vida, 29, said a decision by her and two of her friends to no longer cover their hair in public is about more than headscarves.

"This is a message for the government, leave us alone," she said.

Iran and neighboring Taliban-controlled Afghanistan are the only countries where the hijab remains mandatory for women. Before protests erupted in September,

it was rare to see women without headscarves, though some occasionally let their hijab fall to their shoulders. Today, it's routine in some areas of Tehran to see women without headscarves.

For observant Muslim women, the head covering is a sign of piety before God and modesty in front of men outside their families. In Iran, the hijab - and the all-encompassing black chador worn by some - has long been a political symbol as well.

Iran's ruler Reza Shah Pahlavi in 1936 banned the hijab as part of his efforts to mirror the West. The ban ended five years later when his son, Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, took over. Still, many middle and upper-class Iranian women chose not to wear the hijab.

By the 1979 Islamic Revolution, some of the women who helped overthrow the shah embraced the chador, a cloak that covers the body from head to toe, except for the face. Images of armed women encompassed in black cloth became a familiar sight for Americans during the U.S. Embassy takeover and hostage crisis later that year. But other women protested a decision by Grand Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini ordering the hijab to be worn in public. In 1983, it became the law, enforced with penalties including fines and two months in prison.

Forty years later, women in central and northern Tehran can be seen daily without headscarves. While at first Iran's government avoided a direct confrontation over the issue, it has increasingly flexed the powers of the state in recent weeks in an attempt to curb the practice.

In early April, Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei declared that "removing hijab is not Islamically or politically permissible."

Khamenei claimed women refusing to wear the hijab are being manipulated. "They are unaware of who is behind this policy of removing and fighting hijab," Khamenei said. "The enemy's spies and the enemy's spy agencies are pursuing this matter. If they know about this, they will definitely not take part in this."

Hard-line media began publishing details of "immoral" situations in shopping malls, showing women without the hijab. On April 25, authorities closed the 23-story Opal shopping mall in northern Tehran for several days after women with their hair showing were seen spending time together with men in a bowling alley.

Zain Group Q1 2023 net soars 15 percent

— Details Pages 6 & 7 —

Day by Day

I TOLD him that when we wrote and proposed, no one paid attention; rather the answer was 'it is better to light a candle instead of cursing the darkness'.

The question is: 'How many candles have we lit to get rid of the darkness because the one who hears and sees has never cursed the darkness'.

I fear for tomorrow. Nothing can be done when the birds fly away with their food. I wish what has happened had not happened...

Days pass by but nothing changes. All we hear is chatter, gossip and boasting.

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar



SPECIAL REPORT

'TRACES OF NOSTALGIA'

lost & found

A BIT OF BOTH

By Chaitali B. Roy

Special to the Arab Times

On April 29, Sadu House hosted the opening of an exhibition titled 'Traces of Nostalgia' by Studio SADI artist-in-residence Hanadi Al Marzouq at 7 pm. A multidisciplinary exhibition curated by Shahad Bishara, the exhibition presents Hanadi Al Marzouq's response to the phenomena of collective memory and lost heritage due to the oil legacy. "This Studio SADI with resident artist Hanadi Al Marzouq has been a beautiful process that has come to life," observed Sheikhha Bibi Duajj Al Sabah, Chairperson of Sadu House. "The artist went into deep layers of the deep-rooted symbolism and traces of this traditional art. She searches for its modern-day references and invites artists to be inspired and more inclined to use it within their design process."

SADI is an ambitious program the Al Sadu Society envisioned to encourage creativity and innovation in contemporary textile arts and design for artists in Kuwait. The diverse textures and techniques, rich colours, and bold symbolism in textile art led the Al Sadu team to introduce the Sadu Art and Design Initiative (SADI). This program strives to encourage out-of-the-box thinking and cultural exchange in the field of textile arts.

During the SADI residency, artists undergo an immersive mentorship program that includes weekly talks, workshops, research exercises, and access to the Sadu House permanent archives and library that expand their understanding of textile arts.

Shahad Bishara, an art consultant and curator, worked with Hanadi for three months on the ideation and execution. "There were different ideas, and we turned them into a full-on story, ensuring that each work is somehow connected." Shahad has curated exhibitions since 2009 and worked with many artists locally and regionally. "You have to look below the surface in this exhibition," she said. "We have worked hard on the text and the descriptions to relay the uniqueness of the exhibits. It is one thing to look at. To understand it, you must read the description."

Hanadi Al Marzouq, an MFA from the Sotheby's Institute of Art, is an experienced product designer skilled in art and graphic design. In the exhibition 'Traces of Nostalgia', Hanadi has explored different mediums and motifs to explore the deep meanings of heritage, culture, its transience, and relevance. The exhibition includes five installations which are research-based and go beyond mere aesthetics. It acknowledges the discovery of oil as a catalyst for modernization. At the same time, the blessing is not unalloyed but has its share of loss.

The premise of 'Traces of Nostalgia' is that the abundance of material wealth and increasing consumerism due to oil wealth have rendered heritage in terms of locally crafted objects irrelevant. Sudden oil wealth has also affected the country's built landscape, leading to the demolition and bulldozing of traditional buildings, creating a state of imbalance and impermanence. The exhibition draws attention to this imbalance and examines the shifts.

Heritage

The exhibition, which features textiles, video and installation art, urges the audience to reflect on the importance of preserving heritage and recontextualizing the narrative of heritage craft. Explaining the lone sculpture of a man carrying symbols of lost heritage on him like medals, Hanadi said, "Everything became an event with the coming of oil. It was both a blessing and a curse that bound us in cycles of consumerism. What I am trying to do with my art is rethinking those symbols and transforming them into functional motifs." The mixed media sculpture installation titled 'The Prophecy' fuses various materials such as ceramic, brass, and collage, transporting oil from static to living, drawing attention to the fact that the purpose of the exhibition is not to recover what has been lost but to expand the potential of contemporary identities of Kuwaitis influenced by this dichotomous transition.

When asked about the importance of conserving cultural heritage, Hanadi said, "I hope this exhibition will create shifts in social and environmental behaviour. What we are trying to do is raise some questions."

"Social transformation starts with culture, and culture is more important than ever before," observed Sheikhha Altaf Al Sabah, noted anthropologist, researcher, author, cultural advocate, and co-founder and patron of Sadu House. "There will come a time when boundaries will cease to exist. It is important that communities preserve their own special characteristics in an inclusive way. We are all the same, but each culture or community has its own story, its own smell. It's important to preserve that."

May Al Marafie, a designer and artist who collaborated with Sadu House on her capstone project, was part of the large, engaged audience flocking the courtyard. May was poring over 'The Trace' Hanadi's main installation, which features tire tracks on a pathway of sand made up of Sadu Motifs. In this installation, Hanadi deconstructs the language of traditional symbols found in Sadu textiles and uses them as functional motifs. The central part of this installation is a tire, a symbol of a consumerist mindset, manufactured from recycled rubber whose tracks reveal the ephemeral Sadu symbol impressions on the sand. "To every person in this room, the centrepiece will be different, but this installation draws my attention," said May. "Sadu was born out of necessity, but it is now a historical document about society and the struggles the weaver faced in her journey."

SADI as a cultural project has drawn attention since its introduction. On Saturday evening, Bayt Al Sadu, which has a spirit of its own, basked under the attention of the large crowd and well-wishers who flocked to its courtyards to view the exhibition. "SADI; Sadu Art and Design Initiative was formally introduced as a program in 2016. It has two components the collective SADI residency for emerging artists and the Solo Studio SADI residency, where we support artists to explore, engage and reimagine the cultural heritage of traditional Sadu weaving," noted Sheikhha Bibi Al Sabah. "Since inception, we have more than 30 artists who have completed the residency and continue to build a community of artists and designers. We continue to grow this community by providing platforms, opportunities and programming."



Hanadi Al Marzouq (inset) showstopper at the recently held SADI 2023 at Sadu House

editor's choice



Prayer Timings

Fajr	03:31	Asr	15:20
Sunrise ..	04:59	Maghrib ..	18:30
Zohr	11:44	Isha	19:55

Local

Expected weather for the next 24 hours:

By Day: Hot and partly cloudy with light to moderate northeasterly wind to light variable wind with speeds of 08-32 km/h.

By Night: Mild and partly

Weather

cloudy and relatively humid over coastal areas with light variable wind to light to moderate northeasterly wind with speeds of 08-28 km/h.

Station
Kuwait City

Max Exp
38

Min Rec
26

Kuwait Airport	39	22
Abdaly	35	24
Jahra	39	25
Salmiyah	29	25
Ahmadi	30	25
Nuwaisib	39	26
Wafra	41	23

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

By-elections prohibited

Decision on media poll coverage issued

KUWAIT CITY, May 10: In confirmation of a recently-published article titled "Media: An integrated plan to keep pace with the elections", the Minister of Information Abdul Rahman Al-Mutairi issued a decision regarding the conditions and controls for media coverage, advertising, and promotion of the National Assembly elections, reports Al-Qabas daily.



Al-Mutairi

As per the decision, electronic media, audio-visual channels, and licensed newspapers will be allowed to conduct opinion polls that deal with electoral affairs, in line with three conditions:

1. Polls related to elections are to be conducted after obtaining a license from the Ministry of Information and the approval of the concerned authorities.
2. They should be characterized by objectivity and adherence to generally accepted scientific and professional principles.

3. They should not include any of the prohibitions stipulated in the law.

The decision prohibited the organizing of by-elections, and the printing, publishing, broadcasting or re-broadcasting of anything that would call for their organization or participation. It also bans any advertising or promoting any news or data related to them.

The decision also called on all electronic media, audio-visual channels, and print newspapers to distinguish between media news and electoral advertisements, when covering the activities of election candidates, by indicating the advertising character of the latter.

It banned coverage of anything that could harm the electoral process or candidates directly or indirectly.

It forbade specifying the method of advertising or coverage as presenting financial inducements or giving, offering or pledging to give the voter something to induce him to vote in a certain way or to abstain from voting.

The decision asked all media outlets, when publishing, broadcasting or re-broadcasting statistics, opinion polls and their results, to commit

to mentioning the authorized party that conducted them, the date of their conduct and the number of respondents in the poll, in addition to not announcing the election results or their official final averages and percentages, before announcing them from the competent authorities.

The decision prohibits all media outlets from broadcasting, re-broadcasting or publishing any interviews, programs, or reports related to candidates on polling day and the day preceding it, which is known as electoral silence.

It is forbidden to broadcast, rebroadcast or publish any of the reports or audiovisual works that include propaganda or media coverage about any of the candidates or about the general elections, unless they are in accordance with the provisions of the relevant laws.

The decision stipulated that the media outlets of all kinds must apply to the Ministry of Information (press, publishing and publications sector) for permits for their journalists who will participate in covering the electoral process, through a form that has been prepared for this purpose, and in accordance with the conditions and controls specified therein.

'Reinstate 2022 legislature'

Poll candidates reach 142; more women join fray



KUNA photo
The Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi reviews the devices that the Poison Center has been provided with.

Minister opens poison control center

Anti-smoking campaign launched

KUWAIT CITY, May 10, (KUNA): Minister of Health, Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi, inaugurated Wednesday the Kuwait Center for Poison Control as the first center specialized in following up on poisoning cases, providing advice and treatment plans, controlling toxic substances, and coordinating with the concerned state institutions.

In a press statement, the minister said that the center carries out a number of tasks and provides information based on scientific evidence regarding poisoning cases.

For his part, the Center's Head, Dr. Abdullah Al-Oumi, affirmed that the center specializes in organizing laboratory tests related to toxins, preparing studies on poisoning cases, coordinating with the concerned authorities to monitor toxic substances, and training medical staff.

Dr. Al-Oumi also noted that the poisoning cases dealt with by the center include all cases resulting from poisoning due to nutritional supplements, medicines, medical preparations, chemicals, narcotics, toxic fumes, foods, biological or radioactive toxins, heavy metal toxins, plants, or poisoning cases resulting from poisonous

mushrooms, snake bites, scorpions, or marine organisms of all kinds.

Meanwhile, Kuwait's Ministry of Health launched Wednesday an awareness campaign on the harms of tobacco, in cooperation with the National Anti-Smoking Program.

Vice President of the Health Ministry's National Anti-smoking Program Dr Ahmad Al-Shatti said in a speech during the campaign launch that the ministry is working to reduce the number of smokers due to its negative effects on human health.

Al-Shatti noted that smoking is not a "masculine behavior and includes both genders," which calls for raising the level of awareness as well as control of sales of tobacco, prevent smoking in public places, and stop advertising and promoting it.

Head of the Health Promotion Department and member of the National Anti-Smoking Program Dr Aber Al-Bahou stated that tobacco harms "our health as well as the planet, adding that the campaign aims to encourage governments to end tobacco cultivation and switch to more sustainable crops that support farmers to improve food security and nutrition."

Not all to get bonus as PADA readies list

KUWAIT CITY, May 10: The Human and Financial Resources Sector in the Public Authority for Disabled Affairs (PADA) has completed the list of employees eligible for the excellent job performance bonus in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Civil Service Commission (CSC), reports Al-Jarida daily quoting sources.

Sources revealed the bonus will be deposited in the beneficiaries' bank accounts next week - once the financial controllers in the authority approve the list.

Sources clarified not all employees who got an excellent rating in the annual job performance evaluation will receive the bonus, as the rules and regulations of the CSC will be taken into consideration.

On the other hand, sources confirmed that the list of employees eligible for promotion by selection will be approved after a thorough review to ensure strict compliance with the CSC's rules and regulations.

Sources said the corresponding financial dues for those who will be promoted will be paid along with the salary for this month or next month; that is, after updating their data in the integrated system for civil service information.

More liberty for 'citizens'

KUWAIT CITY, May 10: The Minister of Commerce and Industry, Muhammad Othman Al-Aiban, has issued a decision No. 69 of 2023 according to which the executive regulations of Law No. 117 of 2013 to amend some provisions of Decree Law No. 10 of 1979 regarding the supervision of trading in goods and services and craft work and determine the prices of some of them, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The daily added, the decision grants greater freedom to citizens eligible for construction support to choose the type and quantity of material including "iron, cement, insulating bricks, air conditioning, concrete, black bricks, as well as lime bricks, dyes, waterproofing, and insulators, thermal, sanitary ensembles, ceramics, wires and lighting."

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh

Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 10: The number of candidates for the National Assembly elections on Wednesday reached 142 - 138 men and four women.

Following are the 23 male citizens who filed their candidacies on the sixth day of the registration period for candidates:

First Constituency

- 1-Abdulsamad Mustafa Zahed
- 2-Ali Abdurassoul Al-Qattan

Second Constituency

- 1-Ahmad Muhammad Al-Hamad
- 2-Abdullah Salem Al-Mutairat
- 3-Faraj Abdullah Al-Khudhari
- 4-Falah Dhahi Al-Hajri
- 5-Mejbel Muhammad Al-Anzi

Third Constituency

- 1-Ahmed Abdulaziz Al-Saadoun
- 2-Khalifa Ali Al-Hashash
- 3-Abdulaziz Tariq Al-Saqabi
- 4-Yaqub Abdulmuhsen Al-Sanei

Fourth Constituency

- 1-Thamer Saad Al-Suwait Al-Dhufairi
- 2-Soud Saad Al-Mutairi
- 3-Sguaib Shabbab Al-Muwaizri
- 4-Abdulrahman Ghazeer Al-Adwani
- 5-Abdullah Fehad Al-Anzi
- 6-Abdullah Metleq Al-Mutairi
- 7-Ali Daham Al-Raheli
- 8- Marzouq Khalifa Al-Khalifa
- 9-Musaed Saad Al-Manei

Fifth Constituency

- 1-Salah Owaijan Ali
- 2-Ghanim Talei Al-Mutairi
- 3- Muhammad Husain Al-Ajmi

Meanwhile, constitutional expert Professor Ibrahim Al-Homoud said the explanatory memorandum of the Constitution states that members Al-Sabah Family are not allowed to run for parliamentary elections. He added the Constitution regulates the ruling family's contribution in the government by allowing them to occupy ministerial positions and the prime minister post. He clarified the Al-Sabah Family members are banned from running for election, because those who drafted the Constitution wanted to keep the family away from political disputes which usually happen in elections.

In addition, the Constitutional Court has confirmed receiving the appeal filed by former MPs and members of the nullified 2022 Parliament - Muhammad Al-Mutair, Hamad Al-Obaid, Yousef Al-Bazzali, Mubarak Al-Hajraf and Fares Al-Otaibi as well as Muhammad Al-Mahan - to reinstate the 2022 legislature. They demanded for the cancellation of the decision to nullify the 2022 Parliament, because the ruling was based on the erroneous decree for holding fresh elections. They argued this is not part of the authority of the court, since it is a sovereignty issue.

On the other hand, former MP Marzouq Al-Khalifa, who submitted his candidacy to the General Department for Election Affairs at the Ministry of Interior, is currently in prison for participating in the tribal primary election.

Fourth Constituency candidate Abdulrahman Al-Aqwani, who is blind, disclosed that his electoral agenda focuses on issues concerning people with disabilities including the blind.

Former MP Shuaib Al-Muwaizri told journalists after filing his candidacy that "the ratification of laws is not necessary in solving urgent issues like education, housing and health. The government must take decisions and measures in this regard. In the 2022 Parliament, we started forming fact-finding committees to conduct investigations, but we were not given the chance to complete the task due to the nullification of that legislature."

□ □ □

Suspension ordered: Acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs Abdulaziz Al-Mutairi has confirmed that the ministry decided to suspend the general assemblies and elections of the board of directors of cooperative societies from June 8-16 in light of the National Assembly election on June 6, reports Al-Anba daily.

Al-Mutairi revealed in a press statement that the ministry took this decision after receiving a letter from its Interior counterpart on the need to suspend the above-mentioned activities due to the upcoming parliamentary election.

□ □ □

From two to four years: The Ministry of Electricity and Water, based on a directive from Minister Eng Mutlaq Nayef Omar, has begun extending the validity period of licenses regarding power supply in private housing from two to 4 years, reports Al-Anba daily.

This approach, by the minister aims to facilitate the needs of citizens who own private housing, in addition to saving costs for applicants, which were paid at the end of the previously specified two-year license period only.

This, and the Assistant Undersecretary for Networks, Saad Al-Rashidi, instructed the concerned departments to implement this new direction retrospectively from Thursday, May 4.

□ □ □

Cyber attacks: The Civil Service Commission (CSC) is keen on strengthening the protection of its systems against cyberattacks, reports Al-Anba daily quoting sources.

Sources said the CSC has asked for the approval of the regulatory authorities to float a tender for the protection of its systems against cyberattacks at a total cost of KD205,000.

Amir congrats Paraguay's new head

KUWAIT CITY, May 10, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations on Wednesday to the newly elected President of Paraguay Santiago Pena.

In the cable, His Highness wished the new Paraguayan leader perpetual good luck, health, and happiness, and further progress and prosperity for his country and people.

He also wished further growth and development of the Kuwaiti-Paraguay-an relationship.

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Other Voices

Al Kandari and spiteful stealing of our sciences

By Ahmad alsarraf

Fayez Al-Kandari, who was detained in "Guantanamo", and for whom the state spent millions to release him and return him to his homeland, says:

"The Islamic economy was the strongest for centuries, and our civilization was the largest in history, and it extended for centuries, and our borders reached China in the east and the Atlantic in the west.

On the scientific side, Abu Al-Barakat Al-Baghdadi has the precedence over the British scientist Newton in discovering the laws of motion.

Ibn Sina also discovered schistosomiasis (as he pronounced it) and meningitis. Al-Biruni also discovered the laws of gravity before others, as he explained the phenomena of eclipses and was able to measure the diameter of the globe, and its sphericity before Galileo, and determined the latitude and longitude, and said that the speed of light is faster than the speed of sound.

He said Al-Razi invented the surgical threads currently used, and that Al-Khwarizmi is the father of Logarithms, the foundation of computer science, and that Ibn al-Haytham showed us how the eye sees.

He said that the Westerners are thieves who stole the sciences of other nations, and attributed it to themselves because of their hatred against us. America also stole the wealth of Iraq and Afghanistan!

I would not have responded to his words, which were mentioned in the Black Box program, had it not been for the repetition of many similar things. I had to respond because it is mostly incorrect, and this requires clarification, especially the saying that the reason for all our backwardness is because we distanced ourselves from religion, knowing that the most strict countries religiously, is Afghanistan, where he went to fight in defense of its current political system itself.

There is no progress of any kind in Kabul despite the "strong" adherence of its government to the true religion, and the application of its teachings literally!



alsarraf

Likewise, America, the messenger of Western thought, which previously liberated Japan from its delusions and the supremacy of its emperor, and saved Germany from its insane dictator, and pulled Korea out of the clutches of communism, and liberated us from the oppression of the tyrant, did not plunder any wealth of these countries, but rather did the opposite, as Washington flooded these countries with their taxpayers' money to restore life to its arteries, and this is not a testimony of vindication of the bloody history of America, nor of European colonial history, for this is known, and all powerful countries have acted and will act, whenever they find that it is in their interest to colonize other countries that are weaker than them, and what the Umayyad, Abbasid, Ottoman and others did is not an exception, this is human nature.

As for the achievements of Ibn Sina and Al-Khwarizmi, and dozens of others who were forgotten, or by Brother Fayez, they are, for his knowledge, religious outcasts, and the validity of their faith is almost all challenged.

All the caliphs of the successive "Islamic" countries, and that this is the reason for our backwardness, not colonialism that took from us the sciences that it talks about because they are "hateful", but rather because we killed our scholars and abandoned their knowledge and rejected their sciences, and considered them a title of disbelief and heresy!

Does Brother Fayez know that the clergy burned all of Ibn Rushd's books; and that Ibn Sina was called the imam of atheists? And that Al-Razi was mocking the sheikhs of religion? And that Al-Tawhidi burned his books himself because of oppression from the clergy? And that Al-Ma'ari imposed imprisonment on himself for the same reasons?

The list is long, and there is no room for mentioning everything, and it is enough to know that Imam Al-Shafi'i considered natural sciences, chemistry and philosophy to be taboo, and that he and Imam Al-Ghazali, Al-Dhahabi, Ibn Al-Qayyim, Ibn Al-Jawzi, Ibn Taymiyyah and others issued fatwas declaring takfir and wasting the blood of all those who insult the rational sciences!

Go and read your history, which you are proud of, well, and then give us lectures, through the black box!

□ □ □

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

66% of Turks cast ballots: envoy

KUWAIT CITY, May 10: The Turkish Ambassador to Kuwait, HE Touba Nur Sonmez, has praised the turnout of the community to participate in voting in the parliamentary and presidential elections that were held in the embassy premises over a period of 3 days, reports Al-Anba daily.

She explained the participation percent-

age was 66 compared to 52 percent in the previous elections in 2018.

Ambassador Sonmez said this was possible because voting was made comfortable as much as possible. She said members of the polls committee, party representatives, and election observers worked in harmony.

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CSRSIR urged to okay automated link for data of Bedoun pilgrims

'Kuwait Al-Youm' now available on smart phones

KUWAIT CITY, May 10: The Ministry of Awqaf has asked the Central System for Remedying the Status of Illegal Residents (CSRSIR) to approve the automated link mechanism for the data of Bedoun pilgrims, reports Al-Qabas daily.

According to the ministry, it will launch a platform for the registration of pilgrims for the next Hajj season; that is, if the concerned authorities in Saudi Arabia will allow Bedouns to perform Hajj this year.

The ministry affirmed it is ready to coordinate with the concerned authorities to create an automated link with CSRSIR in order to deal with Bedoun pilgrims properly.

In addition, sources said this step aims to ensure that Bedouns who have yet to perform Hajj can do so this year and link them to the Public Authority for Civil Information just like the citizens, the ministry explained.

Sources explained the pilgrimage system in the ministry is linked to the civil identification card and it does not have any data regarding Bedouns, since this is under the

jurisdiction of the CSRSIR.

Kuwait Al-Youm: The Ministry of Information announced the launch of the Official Gazette application "Kuwait Al-Youm" for smart phones for the "IOS" and "Android" systems, which contains most of the features of the website, in a step towards developing the newspaper in all technical and practical aspects to bring the project to the best stages of its work, reports Al-Jarida daily.



Murad

The spokesperson for the Ministry of Information, Anwar Murad, said that the launch of this application comes under the directives of the Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs, Abdul Rahman Al-Mutairi, within the framework of implementing the sustainable goals of the ministry's strategy regarding the expansion of digital and technical transformation.

Murad pointed out that the development includes a number of features that help display the Official Gazette in a way that benefits it, including, but not limited to, the

addition of text message alerts to visitors and subscribers, in addition to e-mail, processing all previous issues and their paper appendices, and converting them into an electronic image and facilitating the service of accessing the Official Gazette archive from the field of all publications, as the publications will be uploaded successively as soon as they are ready.

Murad explained that the "Chatbot" feature has been added with artificial intelligence to assist in the automatic response to the site's users, as well as to provide protection for the numbers of copies and printing, and to record the number of copies for each user.

Murad confirmed that the ministry is continuing to develop its services in accordance with Kuwait Vision 2035, in implementation of a sustainability program consisting of a set of executive initiatives with clear features, goals and indicators.

Freedom of expression: The Chargé d'Affaires at the Lebanese Embassy, Ahmed Arafa, said that Kuwait has continuously and consistently supported his country over the ages, reports Al-Qabas daily.

He was speaking at the launch of a book by Ahmed Al-Sarraf "70 texts...in 11 years...about 70 years of fondness," which was held in the

Diwaniya of the Lebanese Embassy in Daiya.

Arafa added Al-Sarraf is aware of the details of Lebanese society in its simplicity and complexities politically, artistically, in the media, tourism and religiously.

He went on to say writer Ahmed Al-Sarraf dives into the concepts of Lebanese identity, individuality, and sectarianism, in a way that is not devoid of certain keenness and frank criticism, which many consider stinging, and perhaps this is due to our nature as Orientals or Levantines, most of us tend not to call things by their names."

For his part, Al-Sarraf said his works "70 texts...in 11 years...about 70 years of fondness" is not a novel nor a collection of separate articles or texts, but rather a love story that began seventy years ago between a Kuwaiti and a homeland called Lebanon and this love affair continues.

On another issue, Al-Sarraf stressed that the margin of freedom in Kuwait has declined in recent years. What I used to write 27 years ago and be published without complications or problems, I cannot write and publish at the present time, as censorship has become more fierce, reaffirming the rejection of restrictions imposed on freedom of expression.

diwaniya

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'60-yr-olds decision not right way to modify demographics'

"OVER the past few years, the government has taken ill-considered decisions, and all the social, legal, administrative, and economic aspects of those decisions have not been studied, and the extent of their impact on business owners and company owners, including, for example, the 60-year employment decision, which forces a worker, who is over 60 years old, to leave the country or to pay unreasonably high fees for his one-year renewal of residence permit if he does not hold a university degree," columnist Fawaz Ahmed Al-Hamad wrote for Al-Qabas daily.

"This is not the right way to modify the demographics.

It was possible to set a "quota" or a specific percentage for each nationality to enter Kuwait, and not by specifying the age of 60, because there are workers with a lot of experience, and their exit from Kuwait will not reduce or improve the demographics.

"Many technicians have completed 60 years of age, and do not have a university degree. Some of them left the country, and others will leave soon, including those with specializations and technical professions, as they obtained these experiences through years of work in Kuwait, so why should they be dispensed with so easily?"

"There are professions that the Kuwaiti worker cannot currently fill or practice, due to the lack of government support for these professions, including the plumber, blacksmith, carpenter, air conditioning work, ceramic installation, surveying work, roofing installation, wall painting, electrical work, and insulation work. This miserable decision created a gap and caused a problem in the labor market.

"The prices of some jobs for professions have increased due to the 60-year-old decision, so there is a big problem in the labor market in Kuwait because of this decision, so the simple citizen will pay the price dearly from his own account because of this ill-conceived decision.

"Many countries pay millions to attract tourists and workers to work on their lands, and Kuwait expels workers for no apparent reason.

"Kuwait has become a repelling environment for investment and for business owners and company owners, due to laws that do not encourage work in Kuwait. Many business owners moved their trade and business abroad because of the attractive investment opportunities, and the ease of executing and completing business in those countries, in contrast to the obstacles and bureaucracy that exist in Kuwait.

"Kuwait continues to flounder and enter a dark tunnel, and there are no signs of reform. The road is long, and I hope that decisions will be taken to correct the course and develop Kuwait before it is too late, because the current road is dark. Will the current government be able to fix what was corrupted by some previous governments?"

Also:

"In this period, we are witnessing the registration for the upcoming elections 2023, and the candidates' statements are juicy filled with promises to look into the development files of the country, and the question that deserves consideration and research in this milieu is the democratic process," columnist Dr Ghadir Muhammad Asiri wrote for Al-Qabas daily.

"Why are elections held in such atmosphere which is not conducive to democracy? Is the rule of the majority always right? We find an explanation for this question that the majority of society does not necessarily have to be right or correct, and elections in many countries do not achieve the desired result for building societies, and do not represent the general will.

"It is important before any elections that many important rules be made available, such as integrity and transparency, and an emphasis on guaranteeing voters' freedom of choice, freedom of competition, and equal opportunities between candidates, and that there be equal opportunities for presenting

candidates' ideas, visions, and future perceptions, and that there be a ceiling for spending on electoral campaigns to stop exorbitant trading and buying votes indirectly, such as payment to workers in the campaign or delegates, unfortunately, in exchange for money that violates the rules of equality in electoral competition.

"There is a legislative deficiency in some laws that contain loopholes, such as the rampant behavior in the elections by the voter, who offers his vote for sale. There is no law that protects the candidate from these prevailing behaviors, as the vote is presented by the voter to the candidate in some electoral stages.

"The most important factors of democracy and true citizenship are the cohesion of all the poles and citizens of the state. If there are groups that have a separatist tendency or a sense of external ethnic or sectarian affiliations, a successful democracy cannot be established in that country.

"It is also important that there be an independent body that is not related to any affiliation or political pressure to supervise the elections, so that there is no influence on the choices and the voting results, and it is a good idea to change the polling sites to be accessible to all, and it is known as an easier mechanism than the voting being effortless.

"We must propose and demand a change in polling places, and that voting be prohibited in schools, so that the educational process is not disrupted because it affects the concept of neglect in education, as some countries tend to encourage voting by the presence of polling stations in shopping centers, malls or social events halls and not to disrupt the educational or community institutions.

"One of the foundations of democracy is an organized political society that is capable of practicing meaningful political action, and with the existence of these elements, there must be a fair and impartial electoral system that is appropriate to the nature of the citizens in the country.

"This is in addition to a system that reflects all groups without discrimination in society, including women. It is logical that 52% of the population are women, i.e. the majority, and they are almost non-existent, or are timid if they exist with modest success. Here it is important to have an electoral system that supports their presence and representation in society, so that justice and equality can be achieved in their issues and interests so that society can advance."

"We hope the next National Assembly will set priorities, implement projects and ratify laws in the interest of the country and citizens, as well as lay down the main points toward a new stage, especially after the disruption of many projects and laws due to political crises, division into two teams - for and against, and distribution of national bonds. We wish it will raise the slogan of fighting against corruption and corrupt people in the State," columnist Dr Thayer Hadi wrote for Al-Anba daily.

"Realistic reform can be achieved only through constitutional and legislative channels, including an agreement between members of the Assembly and government to work on a rescue plan for the country. This starts with the common points between the Assembly and government to issue laws on the advancement of the development process that was stalled due to the fabrication of crises in the State.

"The people are fed up and tired of squabbles on social media - a virtual world, while repercussions, causes and accusations are reflected in the real world.

"Indeed, we need a real reform vision and efforts of State agencies and institutions to support the reform process. In this manner, the citizen becomes the basis for construction and reform. Kuwait is full of youths who are competent in scientific and practical fields. They are capable of making the impossible possible and facing future challenges."

— Compiled by Mai Elsoukary

MoE urged to use banks for giving dues to terminated teachers

KUWAIT CITY, May 10: The Kuwait Banking Association has called on the Ministry of Education to deposit the end-of-service dues for about 2,000 male and female resident teachers covered under the replacement (Kuwaitization) decision, in their bank accounts with local banks so that they are able to

collect their dues and preserve their rights, reports Al-Qabas daily.

According to informed sources, the association, in its letter sent to the Ministry of Education, explained that there are debts owed by hundreds of expatriate teachers whose services will be terminated by the ministry at the end of the cur-

rent academic year of 2022/2023. If the relevant sectors pay the end-of-service dues through some other means, it will negatively affect the collection of dues by banks. The association called on the ministry to provide it with the names of the employees whose services will be terminated at the end of the academic

year, in preparation for settling their dues, in accordance with the proper legal frameworks and regulations.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Health has called on its Ministry of Education counterpart to encourage and facilitate the participation of schools in the "Healthy City" movement.

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'Non-commissioned officers'

'Defense' enrolls 600 volunteers at the Officers Training Institute

KUWAIT CITY, May 10: The Administration and Manpower Authority, in cooperation with the Military Education Authority, represented by the Non-Commissioned Officers and Personnel Training Institute at the Ministry of Defense, received the batch of 600 volunteer non-commissioned officers, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The Army General Staff said, in a statement, the volunteers have completed all procedures and medical examinations necessary for their acceptance and enrollment in the Non-Commissioned Officers and Personnel Training Institute and that they were accepted immediately.

The Chief of Staff added this comes within the framework of the army's General Staff continuing to implement the directives of the First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and Acting Minister of Defense Sheikh Talal

Al-Khaled, to make room for Kuwaiti youth to join the armed forces by providing them all forms of support, encouragement to serve his country in various positions and specializations.

It is noteworthy that the General Staff had accepted last March 277 applicants who passed the tests and medical examinations, followed by the acceptance of 400 in April.

The Chief of Staff said that the ceiling for the number of accepted students in the current batch has been raised from 350 to 600, with the aim of accelerating the pace of admission and enrollment.

The sources added that registration is open throughout the year, and is not restricted to specific periods, and applicants for these courses will be approved as soon as they meet the conditions and pass the prescribed medical tests and examinations.



The Guest Show poster

TGS presents Erika Mansouri

ON The Guest Show (TGS), we once again pay tribute to the unrelenting efforts of animal rescuers in Kuwait with our next episode.

Erika Mansouri is an old friend of The Guest Show. Erika has helped animals for as long as she remembers. Back home in Canada, she started early. In Kuwait, her rescue efforts translated into an organization that does commendable work.

IcareQ8 is a very active animal rescue organization that is working hard at creating a more animal-friendly environment. Animal rescuing is a thankless job in Kuwait, with volunteers like Erika fighting against numerous odds to achieve what seems a herculean task.

In this episode, she speaks of her journey, animal rights in Canada, challenges in Kuwait and her hopes for the future. Tune in.

Positions weren't filled in various faculties

SAB urges Kuwait University to expedite appointment of leaders

KUWAIT CITY, May 10: The State Audit Bureau has called on Kuwait University to expedite the appointment of the leadership positions in the various faculties of the university, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to informed sources, the State Audit Bureau, in its annual report, referred to the observations that marred the appointment of deans and heads of academic departments.

It explained that leadership positions were not filled in the various faculties of the university in accordance with the approved organizational structure, and what was stated in the law has not been implemented, which may negatively affect the flow of work in colleges.

Also, the positions of vice-rectors and their assistants, the positions of deans of faculties and their assistants, and heads of academic departments in the various faculties of the university were not filled in accordance with the approved organizational structure.

The university did not do what was stated in articles 11, 17 and 21 of law No.

76/2019 regarding public universities and article 3 of its executive regulations regarding the requirement to announce the vacancy of the dean's position. The university council did not issue a decision to select candidates for the position of dean, announce the vacancies for the positions of heads of practical departments in colleges, and open the door for candidacy for such fields.

This happened despite the approval of the Council of Public Universities on the conditions, criteria and procedures for candidacy for the following positions - university rector, deputies of the rector, deans of specific faculties and deanships, assistant deans, assistant deputies of the university rector, heads of scientific departments, and the like - and the issuance of the decision No. 90/2021 by the Minister of Higher Education on May 23, 2021 and its amendments in this regard, the second article of which stipulates that the decision be implemented as of its date on which the Commission made a statement to that effect.

Forbes lists Kuwaiti dinar as 'strongest currency' in 2023

Bahraini dinar second, Omani rial 3rd

KUWAIT CITY, May 10: The Kuwaiti dinar remains the most powerful currency in the world on the list of the Forbes magazine for 2023. The magazine said, "We have analyzed the most powerful currencies based on the number of foreign currency units that must be paid in exchange for one US dollar," reports Al-Anba daily.

Exchange rates are obtained by the magazine's currency conversion section based on data issued by Open Exchange at the time of writing this report. Below is the "Forbes" list of the 10 most powerful currencies in the world for the year 2023, said the daily.

The Kuwaiti dinar is the strongest currency in the world where the unit buys 3.26 US dollars (or in other words, the US dollar equals 0.31 Kuwaiti dinars), and Kuwait earns much of its wealth from being a leading global exporter of oil and in second place comes the Bahraini dinar as the second strongest currency in the world, as one Bahraini dinar buys 2.65 US dollars.

The Omani rial is the third-strongest currency in the world, with 1 rial buying 2.60 dollars (or \$1 equals 0.38 Omani rial).

In fourth place is the Jordanian dinar as the Jordanian dinar buys 1.41 US dollars (or one dollar equals 0.71 Jordanian dinars); then comes the British pound in fifth as the British pound buys 1.20 US dollars; in sixth place is the Cayman Islands dollar buying 1.20 US dollars; in seventh place is the Gibraltar pound also buying 1.20 US dollars; followed by the Swiss franc in eighth position as one Swiss franc buys 1.07 US dollars; the Euro -- the official currency of the Eurozone used in 20 of the 27 countries that are part of the European Union and entered in circulation in 2002 and is floating freely -- trails in ninth position buying 1.07 US dollars (or one US dollar



Public Authority for Housing Welfare affirms its keenness to support citizens by guiding and educating them.



Al-Anba daily photos

Authority continues to issue clearance certificates

PAHW hosts 'Baiti' exhibition to support citizens

KUWAIT CITY, May 10: The Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) affirmed its keenness to support citizens who own housing plots to build a lifetime home by guiding and educating them through specialized practical and scientific workshops that will be held and announced soon, reports Al-Rai daily.

In a press statement, PAHW revealed that its Director General Rashid Al-Enezi participated, on behalf of the Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy and Minister of State for Housing Affairs Eng. Mutlaq Abu Quba, in the opening of the "Baiti" exhibition for construction in the Jahra area. The exhibition is scheduled to end on May 11.

The authority explained that it continues to distribute certificates of "To whom it may concern" to citizens who own ready-made housing plots in the outskirts of Mutlaa City in order to complete the procedures of the Kuwait Credit Bank and the

Kuwait Municipality in preparation for issuing building orders.

It will move forward with distributing the certificates of the remaining four suburbs until their completion according to a schedule that ends on June 20. There is cooperation with the Ministry of Electricity and Water to complete the delivery of electricity to the ready-made plots in Mutlaa area in addition to the ready-made public buildings.

Its strategy in the next phase is based on preparing means of stability for the city's residents, by providing road lighting, water services, and coordination with the relevant government agencies to take over and operate service public buildings so that they are available in the city, so that citizens do not need to move around in search of basic services that they need.

Meanwhile, the exhibition coordinator Engineer Khaled Al-Otaibi said, "The aim of holding this exhibition, in which more than 70 sectors

specialized in building and foundation materials participate, is to create the largest gathering of leading contracting companies in Jahra Governorate, the largest governorate in Kuwait, to serve the city of Al-Mutlaa, which includes 28,288 plots.

Building orders have been granted to 18,519 vouchers, and 9,769 vouchers remain in the last four suburbs.

The exhibition provides building materials and engineering offices, and gives offers to all the people in the Jahra Governorate in addition to those in Mutlaa area, and saves effort and time for the plot owners. There is also the possibility of issuing a certificate of "To whom it may concern" through the PAHW employees present in the exhibition until May 11.

The exhibition has a special educational center to answer all questions and inquiries of citizens about everything related to construction work and various finishes."

equals 0.94 Euros).

And finally the US dollar is the tenth strongest currency in the world,

and it is considered the basic unit for measuring the value of other currencies against it. It can be said that all

other global currencies circulating around the world are worth less than the US dollar.

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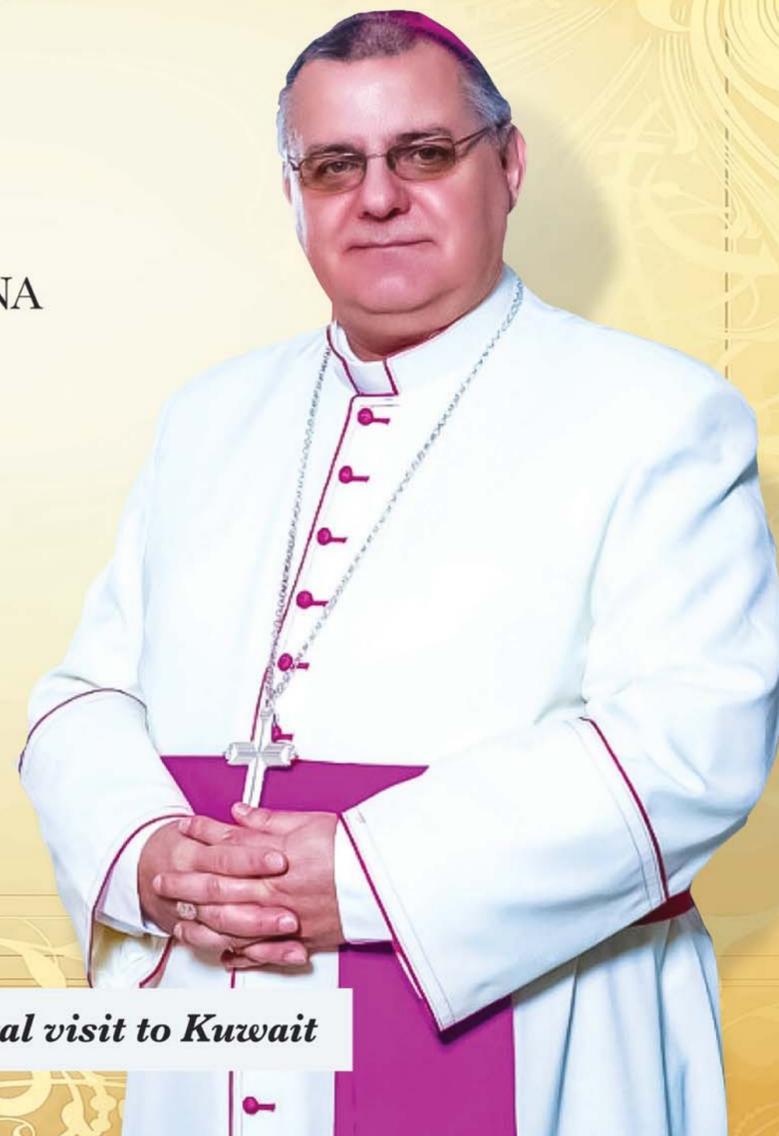
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Business

Wall St. mixed after inflation report

Asia dips ahead of US report

NEW YORK, May 10, (AP): Wall Street is mixed on Wednesday after a report showed inflation is making strides toward easing, even if it remains too high.

The S&P 500 was 0.2% higher in midday trading after giving up most of an earlier gain. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down by 104 points, or 0.3%, at 33,457, as of noon. Eastern time, and the Nasdaq composite was 0.7% higher.

Bond prices climbed after the highly anticipated report said inflation at the consumer level edged down to 4.9% last month, its lowest level in two years. That was slightly better than economists expected, and other underlying measures of inflation also came in very close to forecasts.

Because the inflation data was roughly as expected, Wall

Street sees the door still open for the Federal Reserve to leave interest rates alone at its next meeting in June. That would be the first time it hasn't raised rates at a meeting in more than a year, and a pause would offer some breathing room for the economy and financial markets.

"The concern coming in was that it would be hotter than feared," said Ross Mayfield, investment strategy analyst at Baird. "While not exactly an exciting report, I think there was enough good news baked in that it shouldn't impact the Fed or the economic trajectory all that much."

Europe

Global shares declined in muted trading Wednesday as investors awaited an upcoming report on inflation in the United States, an important indicator for where interest rates and global growth might go in the coming months.

France's CAC 40 shed 0.2% in early trading to 7,382.48.

Germany's DAX declined 0.3% to 15,914.55. Britain's FTSE 100 fell 0.2% to 7,752.65.

Asia

Asian shares declined in muted trading Wednesday as investors awaited an upcoming report on inflation in the United States, an important indicator for where interest rates and global growth might go in the coming months.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 lost 0.4% in afternoon trading to 29,136.92. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 inched down 0.1% to 7,255.70. South Korea's Kospi slipped 0.9% to 2,488.42. Hong Kong's Hang Seng dipped 0.4% to 19,783.56, while the Shanghai Composite shed 1.4% to 3,309.98.

Market watchers are also worried about any signs of economic woes in China after recent data showed imports were lagging, even as exports continued to grow, although at a slower pace than before.

Focus remains on what the U.S. Federal Reserve might do on interest rates. Although the general consensus is that hikes are over for now, that view could quickly change.

"Market reaction is expected to be skewed in the event of a miss on the data, as the Fed has indicated it is prepared to raise interest rates again if needed," said Anderson Alves at ActivTrades. In the bond market, the 10-year Treasury yield rose to 3.52% from 3.51%.

Oil

In energy trading, benchmark U.S. crude lost 57 cents to \$73.14 a barrel. Brent crude, the international standard, fell 55 cents to \$76.89 a barrel.

Currencies

In currency trading, the U.S. dollar rose to 135.35 Japanese yen from 135.18 yen. The euro cost \$1.0971, inching up from \$1.0967.

Default 'not an option'

Debt meeting 'productive'

WASHINGTON, May 10, (AP): President Joe Biden and congressional leaders confronted each other on the debt limit impasse Tuesday, ending their meeting with no breakthrough but agreeing to meet again this week to try to avert the looming risk of an unprecedented government default.

Speaking at the White House, Biden described the talks as "productive" even though House Speaker Kevin McCarthy said after the high-stakes Oval Office meeting that he "didn't see any new movement" toward resolving the stalemate.

Lawmakers and their staffs were to continue discussions on the annual federal budget at Biden's encouragement. Biden and the congressional leaders are to meet again Friday.

After the hourlong discussion in the Oval Office, Biden said he was "absolutely certain" that the country could avert a default, declaring that failure to meet America's obligations "is not an option."

Still, time is short. The government is bumping up against its legal limit for borrowing and will not be able to pay all of its bills as soon as June 1 if Congress doesn't agree to raise the debt ceiling. That failure would send the country into default with wide-reaching economic impact at home and around the world.

Republicans came to the White House hoping to negotiate sweeping cuts to federal spending in exchange for allowing new borrowing to avoid default. Biden, on the other hand, reinforced his opposition to allowing the country's full faith and credit to be held "hostage" to negotiations - while affirming his willingness to hold talks on the budget only after default is no longer a threat.

"I told congressional leaders that I'm prepared to begin a separate discussion about my budget, spending priorities, but not under the threat of default," Biden said.

Outside the White House, McCarthy said, "I asked the president this simple question: Does he not believe there's any place we could find savings?"

As the president welcomed McCarthy, House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, he quipped to reporters, "We're going to get started, solve all the world's problems."

Biden later described the meeting's tone as "very measured and low-key," adding, "Occasionally there would be a little bit of an assertion that maybe was a little over the top from the speaker."

He especially took issue with McCarthy's branding as a lie the Democrats' assertion that the Republicans' budget restraints would hurt veterans.

Still, Biden added, "I trust Kevin will try to do what he says." There seemed to be at least a bit of daylight between McConnell, who has let his House counterpart take the lead in negotiations and backed him up ahead of the White House meeting, and McCarthy.

The Senate leader said: "The United States is not going to default. It never has and it never will." The speaker, though, simply said, "I've done everything in my power to make sure we will not default."

Democrats said there is room to "come together" on spending cuts as part of the budget process, but quickly jumped on McCarthy's refusal to rule out the possibility of default, with Schumer saying the Republican is "greatly endangering America."

"To use the risk of default, with all the dangers that has for the American people, as a hostage and say it's my way or no way, are mostly my way or no way, is dangerous," Schumer said.

McCarthy said Biden had directed their staffs to continue discussions, and said the leaders themselves would convene again in person Friday at the White House.

While Biden ruled out default, he also all but dismissed trying to unilaterally prevent it. He said he didn't believe invoking the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, which says the validity of the federal debt shall not be questioned, was a solution to the current impasse.

White House lawyers will pursue the idea further, he added, but "the problem is it would have to be litigated."

Before the White House meeting, both McCarthy and White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre insisted it would be simple to avert default - if only the other side capitulated.

The chasm between these opposite postures had fomented uncertainty that is roiling financial markets and threatens to turn into a tidal wave that swamps the country's economy. Default, officials say, threatens to disrupt Social Security payments to retirees, destabilize global markets and tilt the nation into a potentially debilitating recession.

Last month, House Republicans passed a sweeping bill to slash spending, an opening offer in negotiations. But that legislation has no chance in the Democratic Senate and the White House has threatened to veto it. Republicans hope that bill would achieve \$4.5 trillion in deficit savings through cuts in spending, eliminating tax breaks for investing in clean energy, and reversing Biden's plans to reduce the burdens of student loan debt.

Referring to the House bill, McCarthy said, "We both said default is not an option - but only one of us took action."

Already looking past the meeting, Biden on Wednesday is to go to Westchester County, New York, where he plans to deliver a speech on how proposed spending cuts approved by House Republicans could hurt teachers, older adults needing food aid and veterans seeking health care.

It's part of a broader campaign by Biden to try to paint the Republican cuts as draconian. Aides believe that message both strengthens his position in talks with the GOP and boosts his nascent 2024 reelection effort. His Wednesday visit will be to a congressional district won by Biden in 2020 but now represented by a Republican, Rep. Mike Lawler.

Because the House Republican bill does not specifically spell out which federal programs would be cut, Democrats have gone on offense warning of steep hits to popular programs. The Democratic-aligned group House Majority Forward announced a \$1 million campaign Tuesday amplifying such cuts, while the House Republicans' campaign committee countered with its own effort portraying Democrats as "addicted to spending."



FINANCIAL RESULTS Q1 2023

KD **54** Million **NET PROFIT** **15%**

REVENUE

↑15%

468
KD Million

EBITDA

↑8%

165
KD Million

EPS

13
Fils

CUSTOMERS ↑4%

53
Million

Revenue grew 15% to reach USD 1.53 billion or KD 468 million

Zain Q1 '23 net profit soars 15% to reach USD 177 million, equivalent to KD 54 mln

Zain Group Q1 2023 net profit soars 15% to reach USD 177 million (KD 54 million); Revenue grew 15% to reach USD 1.53 billion (KD 468 million)

- Newly appointed Chairman, Mr. Osamah Al Furaih: "The Board will build on the strong ESG foundations it inherited, and continue the company's profitable growth trajectory"
- Vice-Chairman & Group CEO, Bader Al-Kharafi: "Our track record of sustainable growth and solid financial position today primes Zain to execute its ambitious '4Sight' strategy"
- Customer base grows by 2.2 million customers, a 4% increase to reach 53 million
- Group consolidated EBITDA up 8% to reach USD 540 million (KD 165 million)
- Data Revenue grows 10% to reach USD 591 million
- Operations in KSA, Sudan and Iraq record impressive Q1 growth in major KPIs
- Focus on Fintech services driving healthy customer and revenue growth
- Digital services revenue soar 48%
- Enterprise revenue up 37% as ZainTech and local B2B teams secure lucrative deals



Bader Al-Kharafi – Vice-Chairman & Group CEO



Osamah Othman Al Furaih – chairman

KUWAIT CITY, May 9: Zain Group, a leading provider of innovative technologies and digital lifestyle communications operating in seven markets across the Middle East and Africa, announces its consolidated financial results for the first quarter (Q1) ended March 31, 2023. Over the past 12 months, Zain added 2.2 million active customers, a 4% increase to serve 53 million customers.

Zain Group generated consolidated Revenue of KD 468 million (USD 1.53 billion) for Q1 2023, up 15% year-on-year (YoY). EBITDA for the quarter reached KD 165 million (USD 540 million), up 8% YoY, reflecting an EBITDA margin of 35%. Net income for the quarter reached KD 54 million (USD 177 million), up 15 YoY reflecting an Earnings Per Share of 13 Fils (USD 0.04).

Key Operational Notes for Q1 2023

1. Zain Group consolidated data revenue grows 10% to reach USD 591 million, representing 39% of the Group's overall revenue
2. During the quarter, Zain Group invested USD 112 million in CAPEX (tangible and intangible)
3. Kuwait, KSA, and Bahrain witness impressive growth in 5G customers
4. Zain KSA completes the sale of 8,069 tower assets to the Kingdom's PIF for USD 807 million, transferring 3,600 out of the 8,069 tower assets. The ownership of the remaining towers will be transferred in batches in the coming quarters.
5. Zain Iraq finalizes the sale and leaseback as well as the management rights of 4,968 towers to TASC Towers Iraq (a subsidiary of Zain Group) for USD 180 million. The second phase to sell these towers to TASC Towers Holding will be concluded during second half of 2023.
6. Fintech services Group-wide witness exponential growth as total revenue soared five-fold, customer growth of 60% to reach 1.1 million customers with transaction value doubling
7. Enterprise revenue up 37% as ZainTech and local B2B teams secure multiple deals offering dynamic new and lucrative ICT services to businesses and governments.
8. Dizlee API platform and VAS digital services Group-wide witness revenue growth of 48%.
9. Zain's digital operator Yaqoot in KSA, and oodi in Iraq, witness robust growth in revenue and customer growth YoY
10. Brand Finance, a leading valuation and strategy consultancy based in London, values the Zain brand at USD 2.74 billion, up 14% YoY

Newly appointed Chairman of the Board of Directors of Zain Group, Mr. Osamah Al Furaih said, "It is a distinct honor and privilege to be appointed as Chairman of Zain Group, a company with a proud history of having a positive socio-economic impact on communities across all the countries it has operated in over the years. I want to thank my predecessor, Mr. Ahmed Al Tahous for his contribution and legacy that took Zain to new heights, and I look forward to building on these strong foundations and working with fellow Board members and executive management to continue this upward trajectory of profitable growth and creation

Bader Al-Kharafi: "Zain maintains leadership position of A- in 'CDP Score Report—Climate Change 2022'; commits to Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi)"

Zain has re-affirmed its commitment to setting emissions targets that are in line with the Science-Based Targets initiative (SBTi) guidance (@sciencetargets) to halve carbon emissions before 2030 and achieve Net-Zero carbon emissions by 2050.

Endorsing the company's commitment and progress in this area, Zain maintained its leadership position of A- score in the 'CDP Score Report – Climate Change 2022', a grade it first achieved in 2021, becoming the highest ranked and only telecom operator in the Middle East and Africa to achieve this high rating.

Zain's activities to mitigate the negative impact of its operations on the environment are in line with the reductions required to keep global warming to the 1.5C goal set by the

Paris Agreement by 2050.

Bader Al-Kharafi commented, "Addressing climate change and protecting biodiversity should be key priorities for every organization and everyone living on this planet, and private-sector organizations have a crucial role to play in setting an example as to the importance of this matter. We are passionate about being one of the most active, transparent, and outspoken advocates for achieving Net-Zero greenhouse gas emissions throughout our operations."

Furthermore, Zain has established near and long-term company-wide emission reductions targets that will soon be submitted to the SBTi for validation. The SBTi a partnership between the CDP; the United Nations Global Compact; World Resources Institute (WRI); the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) and one of the We Mean Business Coalition commitments.

Group Key Performance Indicators (KD and USD) for first three months (Q1) of 2023

Total Managed Active Customers	53 million
Revenue	KD 468 million (USD 1.53 billion)
EBITDA	KD 165 million (USD 540 million)
EBITDA Margin	35%
Net Income	KD 54 million (USD 177 million)
EPS	13 fils (USD 0.04)

of shareholder value."

He continued, "A key focus of the Board will be to ensure that our Environmental, Social and Governance practices continue to be at the forefront of our sustainability and business strategies. The Board also looks forward to constructive cooperation with telecom regulators and government authorities across our footprint given the vital role they play in supporting Zain to provide meaningful connectivity to the communities, businesses, and governments we proudly serve."

The Chairman concluded by commenting on the situation in Sudan, "With sincere sadness and concern, we are mindful of the challenges faced by our operation in Sudan and its dedicated workforce that are making personal sacrifices to provide vital connectivity to the local community. We pray for their safety and are hopeful that the conflict will end soon."

Mr. Bader Al-Kharafi, Zain

Vice-Chairman and Group CEO commented, "Our track record of sustainable growth sees Zain in solid financial position today, ideally positioned to invest further and exploit the next phase of growth in the telecom sector and beyond. The truly impressive Q1 2023 results are testament to the skilful execution of the company's '4Sight' strategy, focusing on innovative programs to improve the efficiency and profitability of the operations as well diversifying income sources from new lucrative business verticals in the digital and enterprise space."

"We have made giant strides in positioning Zain as the preferred digital lifestyle communications provider and transformation partner for our consumer, enterprises, and governments customers across our markets. Our future-ready approach to proficiently monetize the vast investments in 5G technology, 4G networks, and

fiber expansion across all markets in recent years is paying off, evident by the 2.2 million additional customers and resulting revenue and net profit growth during Q1."

"Our flagship operation in Kuwait continues to perform strongly, especially in the B2B sector, as well as through its introduction of Zain Max, a quad-play redefining a new generation of Internet and entertainment plans for postpaid customers. Similarly, the solid performances of our operations in Saudi Arabia, Sudan, and Iraq stand out for the quarter, as the teams in these markets effectively navigate their respective competitive and socio-economic challenges."

"The current conflict in Sudan is an unfortunate situation for humanity, and we are doing our utmost to maintain operational stability and provide connectivity to the community there. Crisis management teams have been established, implementing strategic initiatives to

support our customers and workforce, and safeguard the network. Voice and data services remain functional in most parts of Sudan at this point, and we are doing everything in our power to ensure this remains the case, with Zain teams working 24/7. We are taking all reasonable measures to protect our people, assets, and commercial operations during this turbulent time and as soon as normality is restored, the entire network will become operational without much delay. Zain Sudan is a significant component of the Zain Group family given its outstanding performance in recent times, and we look forward to a peaceful solution in the country soon."

"The exponential revenue and customer growth in several of our digital initiatives, particularly in regard to our fintech, pure digital operators in Saudi Arabia and Iraq, and the Dizlee API platform and related VAS activities, are extremely gratifying, and we will continue to foster their growth. We look forward to receiving a Digital Bank license in Kuwait soon, and we are actively preparing the go-to-market roadmap and resources to launch fintech services in the country thereafter."

Al-Kharafi concluded by com-

menting on the increased brand valuation of Zain. "We are proud to have one of the most powerful brands in the region and all that it represents with respect to providing meaningful connectivity and empowering and improving the lives of the communities we serve. This year's 14% increase in brand valuation to reach USD 2.74 billion has been driven by the demonstrable developments within the company, where strong corporate governance, customer-centric initiatives, heavy investment in network upgrades, B2B strategies and digital innovation are all impacting stakeholders and customer experience positively. Our corporate sustainability program and talent development through our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion initiative, eye-catching marketing, and social media campaigns have captured the hearts and minds of the region."

Financial KPIs of key markets for first quarter (Q1) ended March 31, 2023

Kuwait: Maintaining its market leadership, the flagship operation saw its customer base grow 4% to serve 2.6 million. Revenue for Q1 2023 reached KD 87 million (USD 285 million), a 3% YoY growth, EBITDA grew by 2% to KD 32 million (USD 105 million), representing an EBITDA margin of 37%. Net income reached KD 19 million (USD 62 million) for Q1 2023, with data revenue growing by 1% and accounting for 38% of total revenue.

Saudi Arabia: For Q1 2023, Zain KSA revenue grew by 11% to USD 644 million, EBITDA for the period reached USD 189 million, reflecting an EBITDA margin of 29%. Net income for the three months increased six-fold reaching USD 151 million mainly driven by the gain on sale of towers. The operator's data revenue represented 40% of total revenue and active customers increased 4% to stand at 8.7 million.

Iraq: Zain Iraq's Q1 2023 revenue increased by 15% to reach USD 223 million and EBITDA recorded was USD 76 million, reflecting an EBITDA margin of 34%. The operation reported eight-fold increase in net profit of USD 30 million for Q1 2023 mainly driven by the gain on sale of towers, noting this Tower sale represents an intergroup transaction that was eliminated upon Zain Group consolidation. The customer base increased 4% to 18.2 million, reflecting a market leading position.

Sudan: For Q1 2023, Zain Sudan witnessed a robust growth in all its KPIs, that saw revenue increase by 70% to reach USD 167 million, with EBITDA up 66% amounting to USD 86 million, reflecting an EBITDA margin of 51%. Net income for the period reached USD 77 million, up an impressive 68%. Data revenue grew by 90% representing 34% of total revenue. The customer base increased 2% to 16.8 million, maintaining its market leadership.

Jordan: For Q1 2023, Zain Jordan revenue grew 4% to reach USD 129 million, EBITDA reached USD 52 million, reflecting an EBITDA margin of 40%, with net income at USD 18 million. Data revenue grew 2% representing 50% of total revenue. The customer base increased by 5% to stand at 3.8 million, maintaining a market leading position.

Bahrain: Zain Bahrain generated revenue of USD 48 million, an increase of 6% with EBITDA reaching USD 15 million, reflecting an EBITDA margin of 30%. Net income reached USD 3.8 million, with data revenue growing 5% to represent 45% of total revenue.

About Zain Group: Zain is a leading telecommunications operator across the Middle East and Africa providing mobile voice and data services to over 53 million active customers as of March 31, 2023. With a commercial presence in 7 countries, Zain operates in: Kuwait, Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and South Sudan. In Morocco, Zain has a 15.5% stake in 'INWI', through a joint venture. Zain is listed on Bursa Kuwait (stock ticker: ZAIN). We recommend the Investor Community download the "Zain Group Investor Relations" Mobile App. For more information please email info@zain.com or visit: www.zain.com; www.facebook.com/zain; www.twitter.com/zain; www.youtube.com/zain; www.instagram.com/zaingroup; www.linkedin.com/company/zain



Zain HQ Building 2021

BUSINESS

Japan, Bahrain establish trade

Japan and Bahrain on Wednesday exchanged documents regarding the establishment of a trade and investment bilateral working group between the two countries, the Japanese Foreign Ministry said.

The documents, based on the policy discussions between their foreign ministries, were exchanged in the presence of Kansuke Nagaoka, Director-General of the ministry's Mid-

dle Eastern and African Affairs Bureau, and Bahraini Industry and Commerce Minister Abdullah bin Adel Fakhro, who is visiting Japan, the ministry said in a statement. "The establishment of the Japan-Bahrain Trade and Investment Working Group demonstrates the commitment of Japan and Bahrain to strengthen bilateral economic relations and deepen their long-standing partnership. (KUNA)

court annuls EU approval

A top European Union court ruled Wednesday that EU competition authorities were wrong to approve massive bailouts designed to help German flag-carrier Lufthansa and Scandinavian airline SAS deal with the impact of COVID-19 restrictions.

The 27 EU member countries must seek approval from the bloc's executive branch, the European Commission,

when granting financial support to companies. Many countries across Europe did so in 2020 to help keep their airlines afloat during the pandemic.

In June 2020, Germany notified the commission of its intent to provide 6 billion euros (\$6.6 billion) in aid to Lufthansa. That August, Denmark and Sweden indicated they would be providing 1.07 billion euros (\$1.17 billion) in support to SAS.

court reverses ruling on tax

Maryland's highest court on Tuesday reversed a ruling by a lower court that the state's first-in-the-nation tax on digital advertising was unconstitutional, saying the court lacked jurisdiction over the case.

In an order, Justice Matthew Fader, the chief justice of the Supreme Court of Maryland, sent the case back to Anne Arundel County Circuit Court with directions to dismiss. He

said the plaintiffs failed to exhaust administrative remedies through the state's tax court - Reasons will be stated in a later opinion. The four-page order does not make any ruling on the constitutionality of the law.

Last year, the circuit court ruled that the tax on digital advertising violates the federal Internet Tax Freedom Act, which prohibits discrimination against electronic commerce. (AP)

'Comer has a history of playing fast and spreading baseless innuendo'

Federal bank records emerge as focus of GOP's Biden probes

WASHINGTON, May 10, (AP): Facing growing pressure to show progress in their investigations, House Republicans on Wednesday plan to detail what they say are concerning new findings about President Joe Biden's family and their finances.

The smoking gun, according to the GOP, is "thousands of pages" of recently obtained financial records that include more than 150 suspicious activity reports connected to the president's son Hunter Biden and brother James Biden, as well as a growing number of associates.

The confidential reports, called SARs for short, are often routine, with larger financial transactions automatically flagged to the government. The filing of a SARs report is not evidence on its own of misconduct.

But Republicans in Congress, notably Rep. James Comer, the chairman of the House Oversight Committee leading the probe, believe the records could potentially show an effort by the president and his family to trade off his name.

The White House has continuously dismissed the investigation as "yet another political stunt."

"Congressman Comer has a history of playing fast and loose with the facts and spreading baseless innuendo while refusing to conduct his so-called 'investigations' with legitimacy," White House spokesperson Ian Sams said in a statement.

Here's a deeper look at suspicious activity reports and how Republicans are using them as a roadmap to investigate the Biden family:

What is a suspicious activity report?

Financial institutions are required to file a suspicious activity report to the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) no later than 30 calendar days from when it detects a suspicious transaction that could have links to money laundering or terrorism financing.

First originated as a "criminal referral form," suspicious activity reports were established through the 1970 Bank Secrecy Act. In 1996, according to FinCEN, the form became the standard way to report suspicious activity in the financial system.

The rules around the reports were later amended under the U.S. Patriot Act. Today, banks and credit unions routinely submit SARs.

What triggers a SARs?

Industries that deal in large sums of money are required to file SARs to the government when they detect a transaction with possible links to money laundering, counterfeiting, fraud or illicit finance - this includes banks, casinos, loan companies and depository firms.

Signs of insider trading and individual transactions of \$5,000 or more often trigger an institution to file a report, but the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation states that entities "are encouraged to file nonetheless in appropriate situations involving these matters, based on the potential harm that such crimes can produce."

Large transactions involving foreign payers - like the kind that Hunter and James Biden are known to have engaged in through their work - are the kinds of transactions often flagged to federal authorities.

Individuals

SARs can also be filed by individuals or entities outside the financial sector, including law enforcement, public safety workers, city or state officials, business owners, and even the general public.

Law enforcement agencies use the reports to uncover and prosecute illegal activity, as well as help identify and counteract fraudulent and criminal behavior before it becomes a larger issue.

In recent years, electronic SARs reporting has increased through FinCEN's Bank Secrecy Act e-filing system. Nearly 42,000 reports were filed by the loan and financial services industry in 2021, according to data compiled by FinCEN, a huge jump from the more than 1,500 reports filed in 2015.

History of SARs against political actors

The filing of suspicious activity reports against elected officials is not uncommon. During the Trump administration, Deutsche Bank's anti-money laundering division recommended filing suspicious activity reports on transactions conducted by Trump companies, including the Trump Foundation, and firms owned by his son-law Jared Kushner.

Hackers aim to find flaws in AI - with White House 'help'

DEF CON hacker convention expected to draw several thousand people

WASHINGTON, May 10, (AP): No sooner did ChatGPT get unleashed than hackers started "jailbreaking" the artificial intelligence chatbot - trying to override its safeguards so it could blurt out something unhinged or obscene.

But now its maker, OpenAI, and other major AI providers such as Google and Microsoft, are coordinating with the Biden administration to let thousands of hackers take a shot at testing the limits of their technology.

Some of the things they'll be looking to find: How can chatbots be manipulated to cause harm? Will they share the private information we confide in them to other users? And why do they assume a doctor is a man and a nurse is a woman?

"This is why we need thousands of people," said Rumman Chowdhury, lead coordinator of the mass hacking event planned for this summer's DEF CON hacker convention in Las Vegas that's expected to draw several thousand people. "We need a lot of people with a wide range of lived experiences, subject matter expertise and backgrounds hacking at these models and trying to find problems that can then go be fixed."

Learned

Anyone who's tried ChatGPT, Microsoft's Bing chatbot or Google's Bard will have quickly learned that they have a tendency to fabricate information and confidently present it as fact. These systems, built on what's known as large language models, also emulate the cultural biases they've learned from being trained upon huge troves of what people have written online.

The idea of a mass hack caught the attention of U.S. government officials in March at the South by Southwest festival in Austin, Texas, where Sven Catell, founder of DEF CON's long-running AI Village, and Austin Carson, president of responsible AI nonprofit SeedAI, helped lead a workshop inviting community college students to hack an AI model.

Carson said those conversations eventually blossomed into a proposal to test AI language models following the guidelines of the White House's Blueprint for an AI Bill of Rights - a set of principles to limit the impacts of algorithmic bias, give users control over their data and ensure that automated systems are used safely and transparently.

There's already a community of users trying their best to trick chatbots and highlight their flaws. Some are official "red teams" authorized by the companies to "prompt attack" the AI models to discover their vulnerabilities. Many others are hobbyists showing off humorous or disturbing outputs on social media until they get banned for violating a product's terms of service.

"What happens now is kind of a scattershot approach where people find stuff, it goes viral on Twitter," and then it may or may not get fixed



Shown is a Toyota logo at the Philadelphia Auto Show, Friday, Jan. 27, 2023, in Philadelphia. Toyota released results Wednesday, May 10, 2023 showing its January-March profit edged up 3% from the previous year on robust sales as a chips supply crunch gradually eased. (AP)

Kuwait imports from Indonesia at \$220 mln in '21

KUWAIT CITY, May 10, (KUNA): Indonesia is one of the major exporters to Kuwait with exports amounting to USD 220 million during 2021, a member of the Chamber of Industry and Commerce said on Wednesday.

Wafa Al-Qatami, in a speech during a meeting with an Indonesian economic delegation headed by Deputy Minister for Investment Promotion at Indonesia Ministry of Investment Nurul Ichwan, praised the success achieved by Jakarta in advancing the economy and activating labor market, noting the strong trade relations between the two countries.

She also stressed the importance of the role of the private sector in the areas of economic development and the promotion of trade cooperation by attracting investment projects

if it's egregious enough or the person calling attention to it is influential, Chowdhury said.

In one example, known as the "grandma exploit," users were able to get chatbots to tell them how to make a bomb - a request a commercial chatbot would normally decline - by asking it to pretend it was a grandmother telling a bedtime story about how to make a bomb.

In another example, searching for Chowdhury using an early version of Microsoft's Bing search engine chatbot - which is based on the same technology as ChatGPT but can pull real-time information from the internet - led to a profile that speculated Chowdhury "loves to buy new shoes every month" and made strange and gendered assertions about her physical appearance.

Chowdhury helped introduce a method for rewarding the discovery of algorithmic bias to DEF CON's AI Village in 2021 when she was the head of Twitter's AI ethics team - a job that has since been eliminated upon Elon Musk's October takeover of the company. Paying hackers a "bounty" if they uncover a security bug is commonplace in the cybersecurity indus-

try - but it was a newer concept to researchers studying harmful AI bias.

This year's event will be at a much greater scale, and is the first to tackle the large language models that have attracted a surge of public interest and commercial investment since the release of ChatGPT late last year.

Chowdhury, now the co-founder of AI accountability nonprofit Humane Intelligence, said it's not just about finding flaws but about figuring out ways to fix them.

Feedback

"This is a direct pipeline to give feedback to companies," she said. "It's not like we're just doing this hackathon and everybody's going home. We're going to be spending months after the exercise compiling a report, explaining common vulnerabilities, things that came up, patterns we saw."

Some of the details are still being negotiated, but companies that have agreed to provide their models for testing include OpenAI, Google, chipmaker Nvidia and startups Anthropic, Hugging Face and Stability AI. Building the platform for the testing is another startup called Scale AI, known

for its work in assigning humans to help train AI models by labeling data.

"As these foundation models become more and more widespread, it's really critical that we do everything we can to ensure their safety," said Scale CEO Alexandr Wang. "You can imagine somebody on one side of the world asking it some very sensitive or detailed questions, including some of their personal information. You don't want any of that information leaking to any other user."

Other dangers Wang worries about are chatbots that give out "unbelievably bad medical advice" or other misinformation that can cause serious harm.

Anthropic co-founder Jack Clark said the DEF CON event will hopefully be the start of a deeper commitment from AI developers to measure and evaluate the safety of the systems they are building.

"Our basic view is that AI systems will need third-party assessments, both before deployment and after deployment. Red-teaming is one way that you can do that," Clark said. "We need to get practice at figuring out how to do this. It hasn't really been done before."

Soaring costs hurt bottom line

Toyota's profits rise as global chips supply crunch subsides

TOKYO, May 10, (AP): Toyota's January-March profit edged up 3% from the previous year on robust sales as a chips supply crunch gradually eased.

Toyota Motor Corp. racked up 552.2 billion yen (\$4 billion) in quarterly net profit, up from 533.8 billion yen (\$3.9 billion), according to results released Wednesday. Quarterly sales soared nearly 20% to 9.69 trillion yen (\$72 billion).

For the fiscal year ended in March, profit at Japan's top automaker fell 14% on-year to 2.45 trillion yen (\$18 billion). But it's forecasting profit to rise 5.2% for the current fiscal year to 2.58 trillion yen (\$19 billion).

Automakers worldwide have been hurt by a shortage of computer chips and other auto parts because of restrictions over the coronavirus pandemic that crimped production in various countries.

Toyota said soaring raw material costs also hurt its bottom line.

The automaker's sales for the fiscal year that ended in March rose across global regions, including Japan, the United States, Europe and other markets, such as Asia, the Middle East and South America.

Toyota, based in Aichi prefecture's Toyota city in central Japan, sold 10.56 million vehicles for the fiscal year through March, including its group makers like Daihatsu and Hino, and expects to boost that to 11.38 million vehicles for the fiscal year ending in March 2024.

The results underline the challenges that lie ahead, as well as the ongoing resilience of the maker of the Prius hybrid, Camry sedan and Lexus luxury models.

Toyota has acknowledged falling behind in the burgeoning shift to electric vehicles, especially in key markets like China, as well as the U.S. and

Europe. Toyota had long insisted on offering models that appeal to customers in various markets, noting EVs still made up a tiny portion of the market. But recently, that has changed dramatically, catapulting players like Tesla and BYD to stardom.

Toyota pioneered hybrids, which switch back and forth between a gas-line engine and electric motor to deliver an efficient ride. It pushed hybrids for decades as a viable green solution, and still does. But it's also expanding its low-emissions options with work on hydrogen-fed fuel cell electric vehicles. Such zero-emissions vehicles have already hit the road in various Toyota models in Japan, including buses and delivery vehicles.

In a statement, Toyota said it's committed to further growth and will continue to offer diverse options in ecological models, including hybrids and plug-ins as well as battery electric vehicles to "make sure to meet a wide range of global demand."

Toyota officials, including the new president and CEO, Koji Sato, have acknowledged the company must play catchup in delivering EVs.

All eyes are on Sato to see if he'll live up to his job. Sato replaced Akio Toyoda, the grandson of the automaker's founder. Toyoda remains a chair of the company.

Sato promised to work closely with Toyota to speedily respond to market demands, including EVs, so Toyota can continue to grow.

"The foundation for this is carbon neutrality," he said.

Sato stressed Toyota would stay aggressive, launching 10 EV models in China and the U.S. by 2026. Toyota will secure a steady supply of batteries for EVs by boosting in-house production and working closely with partners, said Sato.

Airbnb posts \$117 million profit

WASHINGTON, May 10, (AP): Airbnb said Tuesday that it earned \$117 million in the first quarter as revenue rose during the ongoing recovery in travel, but the company's outlook for late spring and early summer disappointed investors.

The San Francisco-based company's shares fell nearly 12% in extended trading hours after Airbnb posted the forecast. The weak outlook overshadowed Airbnb's first profit in the first three months of the year, a seasonally slow period for travel.

The company's profit compared with a loss of \$19 million a year earlier and worked out to 18 cents per share. Revenue climbed 20% to \$1.82 billion, beating Wall Street's forecast of \$1.79 billion, according to a FactSet survey.

Nights and experiences booked, a closely watched measurement for Airbnb, increased 19% to 121 million, and the company valued the bookings made in the quarter at \$20.4 billion, a 19% increase.

"We have seen our highest number of active bookers ever despite continued macroeconomic uncertainty," CEO Brian Chesky said during a call with analysts.

However, Airbnb said second-quarter bookings growth won't look as robust as a year earlier, when consumers were busy booking travel after hunkering down at home during the outbreak of COVID-19's omicron variant. The company said bookings will grow more slowly than revenue in the April-through-June period, and the average daily rental rate will be "slightly lower" than a year earlier.

The company predicted that revenue

in the second quarter, which includes the start of the peak summer travel season, would be around \$2.40 billion. That was below analysts' average prediction of \$2.42 billion.

In a letter to shareholders, Airbnb said its revenue and the gross value of bookings are both double what they were before the pandemic.

Airbnb is getting a lift from people who are traveling while they take advantage of the ability to work remotely and stay away from the office. More of those people are booking international stays. The company said cross-border bookings grew 36% over last year's first quarter, helped by travel to and within the Asia-Pacific region and bookings into North America.

The average nightly rate paid by Airbnb customers was \$168, level with a year earlier, the company said. Price hikes in some places were offset by a slight shift toward in-city rentals, which tend to be lower in price than whole-house rentals in beach and mountain destinations.

Airbnb has grown increasingly concerned about rising rates, which could be pricing out some consumers.

Last week the company announced a renewed emphasis on renting rooms in hosts' houses, which it said would provide rentals averaging \$67 per room per night. Chesky said rooms would be particularly appealing to younger travelers who can't afford to rent an entire house.

Airbnb is gradually making cleaning fees - a major complaint among Airbnb customers - part of the total price that consumers see first when they search for lodging.



A group photo of the organizers, sponsors and participants in the forum

Firm empowering education through its 'upgrade' initiative

stc plays its role in 'Seniors Expo' as the main sponsor

KUWAIT CITY, May 10: Kuwait Telecommunications Company – stc, a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers, announced its role as the main sponsor of 'Seniors Expo', one of the largest educational exhibitions organized under the patronage of the Private Universities Council. The exhibition was held in the presence of Mr. Fahad Alkhalifa, Director of the General Secretariat of the Private Universities Council, as well as other executives from the various participating entities.

stc's sponsorship of the exhibition also falls under "upgrade" initiative which serves as a platform dedicated to stc's contributions towards the education sector. This initiative aligns with the Company's past efforts in sponsoring or organizing educational events and graduation ceremonies, showcasing its continued commitment to supporting the education sector in Kuwait. Moreover, stc's strategy focuses on attracting young Kuwaiti talent to join the stc family, where they can nurture and develop their skills in a welcoming and empowering culture that drives innova-



Dana Al Jassim, representing stc, receives the plaque, honoring the company as the main sponsor of the forum

tion. The Company is determined to become the employer brand of choice for ambitious young professionals, offering opportunities for growth and

development within a supportive environment.

The exhibition took place at Al Shaheed Park from May 1st to 2nd,

2023, and operated in two separate sessions: the morning session from 8 am to 1 pm and the evening session from 5 pm to 9 pm. In collaboration with the Ministry of Education, the exhibition saw the participation of all colleges and universities in Kuwait, with over 120 public high schools for girls and boys in attendance. stc participated in the exhibition as a main sponsor to empower the younger generation and provide support to an initiative that can assist high schoolers in pursuing the next chapter of their educational journeys. The exhibition runs parallel to the core objectives that stc aims to achieve under its CSR framework, focusing on the key pillars of education, to create a lasting and positive impact on the community.

Role

During the exhibition, AlKhalifa, along with other representatives from the Private Universities Council, played a significant role in assisting students and their families in exploring the various opportunities within the local education sector. By addressing their questions and

concerns, they provided valuable insights and guidance.

Danah AlJasem, General Manager of Corporate Communications at stc, said, "We are proud to have participated in a highly impactful educational exhibition that witnessed the participation of the various colleges and universities in Kuwait, while welcoming students from over 120 schools. By sponsoring the Seniors Expo through stc "upgrade" initiative under our extensive CSR program, we are not only contributing to the expansion of educational opportunities for Kuwaiti youth but also reinforcing our strategic focus on promoting education being an essential requisite for a better and advanced community. We remain dedicated to creating a lasting and positive impact on the lives of students and their families by supporting initiatives that empower them to pursue their educational aspirations with confidence and determination."

AlJasem added, "stc designed its CSR program to serve and support the community, addressing various societal needs and challenges.

The Company actively participates in various initiatives that contribute to the key pillars defined under its extensive CSR agenda. Through partnerships, sponsorships, and collaborations with local institutions from both private and public sectors, stc remains committed to creating a meaningful and lasting impact on the community. The Company's unwavering dedication to fostering positive change, combined with its innovative approach to CSR, solidifies its position as a leading pioneer in Kuwait's dynamic market. As stc continues to redefine the telecommunications and digital landscape, it also strives to enrich the lives of Kuwait's citizens and residents, driving growth and prosperity to the younger generation, entrepreneurs, and the community."

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

Lead by 29 points

TOYOTA GAZOO Racing claim third win of the 'season' at Croatia Rally

KUWAIT CITY, May 10: The TOYOTA GAZOO Racing (TGR) World Rally Team secured another victory in the 2023 FIA World Rally Championship (WRC) recently taking first place in the No. 33 GR YARIS Rally1 Hybrid Electric Vehicle.

A well-managed drive enabled Evans and Martin to claim their fifth win for TGR amid challenging conditions around Zagreb, with the pair succeeding in finding the right balance between caution and speed to overcome frequent surface changes and mud and gravel on the road.

After gaining the lead during day three, Evans increased his advantage to 25.4 seconds in the evening and had extended the gap to over half a minute by the first of the final day's four tests. This allowed a more cautious approach to the closing stages and enabled the No. 33 GR YARIS Rally1 Hybrid Electric Vehicle to finish the event with a winning margin of 27 seconds.

TGR's Evans and Martin dedicated the win to their friend and fellow competitor Craig Breen, who tragically lost his life in the build-up to the event. Martin was previously co-driver to Breen between 2014 and 2018, and had claimed their first WRC podiums together. As a mark of solidarity, only two drivers per team were nominated as eligible to score manufacturers' championship points during the race. TGR currently leads the field with a margin of 29 points.

Competed

Akio Toyoda, TGR-WRT Chairman, said: "Just before the Croatia Rally, we lost a driver who was our strong rival and also a precious friend of ours. I would like to extend my deepest condolences to Craig Breen's family and team.

I think all his fellow drivers and co-drivers competed thinking of him this weekend. For those of us who love rally and who always try to enjoy driving, his accident was a huge shock and a tragic incident. We must come up with and implement all the measures we can so that such a sad accident won't happen again in the future."

Toyoda continued: "I heard that Craig often talked about the importance of enjoying driving, and I believe Elfyn truly enjoyed driving this weekend. The sounds, smells, and power of running cars, the emotions involving drivers and co-drivers – I feel rallying is a sport that moves people. We hope to continue to deliver such excitement from the field of motorsport, and for that we will continue our ever-better car making."

Over the years, Toyota has been participating in many different forms of motorsports, including Formula One, the World Endurance Championship (WEC), and the Nürburgring 24 Hours endurance race. Toyota's participation in these events was overseen by

separate entities within the company until April 2015, when Toyota established TGR, to consolidate all of its motorsports activities under one in-house brand. Representing Toyota's belief that 'the roads build the people, and the people build the cars,' TGR highlights the role of motorsports as a fundamental pillar of Toyota's commitment to making 'ever-better' cars. Harnessing years of experience gained under the extreme conditions of various motorsports events, TGR aims to forge new technologies and solutions that bring the freedom, adventure, and joy of driving to everyone.

The WRC championship continues in May when Rally de Portugal begins a series of events on gravel. Based in Matosinhos near Porto in the north of the country, it features classic stages on sandy and rocky roads.

Race Notes:

- No. 33 GR YARIS Rally1 Hybrid Electric Vehicle (Elfyn Evans & Scott Martin)
- Position: 1st
- Time: 2h:50m:54s



Toyota at the 2023 FIA World Rally Championship, Round 4, Rally Croatia, April 20-23.

Bank reports quarterly financial results

Burgan Bank posts net income of KD 7.6 million for Q1 of 2023

KUWAIT CITY, May 10: Burgan Bank ("Burgan" or "the Bank") announced its financial results for the first quarter ending March 31, 2023. The Bank reported KD 54.7 million in Revenue for Q1 '23, up 4% from Q1 '22, driven by growth in Net Interest Income of KD 34.4 million (+8% y-o-y) and Net Fees Income of KD 10.2 million (+9% y-o-y). Burgan generated Operating Profit of KD 25.8 million for Q1 '23 while its Loan Provision charges for Q1'23 significantly reduced to KD 4.3 million (improvement of 69% y-o-y) driven predominantly by improved performance of the bank's portfolio in Turkey. Accordingly, Burgan's cost of credit for Q1'23 reduced to 40bps as compared to 130bps in Q1'22. Burgan's Net Income for Q1'23 fell to KD 7.6 million primarily because of the Net Monetary Loss of KD 6.5 million recorded due to hyperinflationary accounting treatment for its subsidiary in Turkey.

During Q1'23, Burgan's asset quality metrics continued to be solid with a Non-performing Loan (NPL) ratio of 1.8% and Provision Coverage Ratio of 219%. Additionally, the Bank's Capital Ratios for Q1 2023 were strong with a Tier 1 ratio of 14.2% and Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) of 18.0%, well above the regulatory minimum requirement of Tier 1 ratio of 12.0% and CAR of 14.0%.

Commenting on Burgan's Q1 results, the Bank's Chairman, Sheikh Abdullah Nasser Sabah Al Ahmad Al-Sabah, said: "We remain confident of our strategy and the direction of our franchise. The performance for this first quarter set a stable foundation for the year ahead and we expect improvement in the Bank's financials as the year progresses."

Sheikh Abdullah also noted that Burgan remains focused on strengthening its focus on its core market, Kuwait. Therefore, and as part of the Bank's asset reallocation strategy, the Group successfully concluded the sale of Burgan's Iraqi subsidiary, Bank of Baghdad.

In terms of digitalization, which remains a core part of the Bank's strategy, the Bank expanded its digital payment offerings in Q1 by launching Google Pay and Apple Pay to allow its



Sheikh Abdullah Nasser Sabah Al Ahmad Al-Sabah, Chairman at Burgan Bank

customers to make secure contactless payments across Android and iOS platforms. Burgan was also the first bank in the MENA region to implement a Visa solution allowing cardholders to easily enroll in multiple digital wallets and eCommerce merchants within their mobile banking app.

Progress

Moreover, Burgan made considerable progress in its environmental, social and governance (ESG) journey, another core component of its strategy. The Bank continued to promote strong ESG awareness amongst its staff, in line with its "Driven by You" philosophy. In another first, the Bank introduced biodegradable and braille-friendly debit cards to facilitate transactions for its visually impaired customers. Moreover, Burgan recently became the first bank in Kuwait to officially be certified as a "Great Place to Work", in addition to being named one of the 20 Best Workplaces in Kuwait. In a notable achievement, Burgan also recently received an upgrade in its MSCI ESG rating to "BB", reflecting the success of various actions taken by the Bank over the last 18 months."

It serves to note that the consolidated financials for Burgan include the results of the Group's operations in Kuwait, as well as its share of results

from its subsidiaries, namely: Burgan Bank Turkey, Gulf Bank Algeria, and Tunis International Bank. Through this regional reach, Burgan Bank has one of the largest regional branch networks across Kuwait, Turkey, Algeria, Tunisia and a representative office in the United Arab Emirates.

Established in 1977, Burgan Bank is currently the third-largest bank by assets in Kuwait. From its earliest days, the Bank has significantly focused on the corporate and financial institution sectors, in addition to diversifying its offering to cater to its growing retail and private banking customer base.

Burgan Bank has majority-owned subsidiaries, collectively known as the "Burgan Bank Group", in the MENA region. This Group is supported by one of the largest branch networks across the region and includes: Gulf Bank Algeria – AGB (Algeria), Tunis International Bank – TIB (Tunisia), and the fully owned Burgan Bank Turkey. Furthermore, Burgan Bank has a presence in the UAE through its corporate office, Burgan Financial Services Limited.

The Bank has continuously improved its performance over the years, through an expanded revenue structure, diversified funding sources, and a strong capital base. The adoption of state-of-the-art services and technology has positioned it as a trendsetter in the domestic market and within the MENA region. Moreover, Burgan Bank's brand has been built on a foundation of real values – trust, commitment, excellence, and progression – which serve as a reminder of the high standards to which the Bank always aspires. In fact, the Bank's core philosophy of 'Driven by You' is the foundation on which its products and services are continuously developed.

The Bank obtained the ISO/IEC 27001: 2013 Information Security Management Systems certificate (ISMS) and was re-certified with the prestigious ISO 9001:2015, making it one of the few banks in the GCC and Kuwait to receive such certification for five consecutive times. The Bank also has the distinction of being the only Bank in Kuwait to have won the JP Morgan Chase Quality Recognition Award for twenty consecutive years.

The Conversation

Concerns raised over unnecessary use of antimicrobial chemicals

Disinfectants, cleaning products lack screening for health hazards

By Courtney Carignan
Michigan State University

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

Concerns about unnecessary use of a common class of antimicrobial chemicals used in disinfectants reinforces recommendations to opt for soap and water or safer products, my colleagues and I determined in our recent critical review of the scientific literature.

Quaternary ammonium compounds, or QACs, are increasingly marketed and used in homes, schools and workplaces with limited evidence for their appropriateness or safety. These chemicals can be found in common disinfectant solutions, wipes, hand sanitizers, sprays and even foggers.

Laboratory animal studies have found that some QACs can have developmental and reproductive toxicity with sustained exposure, may contribute to weight gain, and can impair energy production in cells.

Surprisingly, despite these concerns, studies on people have been limited to patients with allergic contact dermatitis and workplace-induced asthma among workers in hospitals and other facilities that require a sterile environment. We were even more surprised to find a lack of comprehensive screening for health hazards in the majority of this large class of common and widely used chemicals.

One of the top reasons to use antimicrobials only when needed is that

overuse leads to the rise of antimicrobial resistance, which contributes to millions of deaths per year worldwide. QACs and other antimicrobials create "superbugs" that not only can't be killed by disinfectants but can also become resistant to lifesaving antibiotics.

When the COVID-19 pandemic began, recommendations circulated in the news and social media to disinfect almost everything, from doorknobs to desks to groceries. Because COVID-19 is not primarily transmitted from surfaces, many of these disinfection practices don't substantially reduce transmission risk.

Adverse

Our team became concerned that frequent disinfectant use could lead to adverse health effects from QACs. Most people probably don't know about existing health concerns regarding QACs, or aren't aware that QACs can remain on surfaces and in indoor air and dust long after the product has dried, exposing more people to these chemicals than just the initial user. Researchers have found that the average levels of these chemicals in people's bodies have risen since the pandemic began.

One of the most commonly used QACs is benzalkonium chloride. Others may be identified on ingredient labels with names that end in "ammonium chloride" or similar terms.

While reading labels can help consumers identify QACs, some products

may not require disclosure of these chemicals in the ingredient list. For example, pesticide labels are required to list QACs whereas paint labels are not. QACs can be used in a wide variety of consumer products where they may or may not be listed when used, including personal care products, textiles, paints, medical instruments and more.

Reducing the harm of QACs requires their disclosure in all products, comprehensively screening them for health hazards and closely monitoring their broader effects in people and on the environment.

In the meantime, my colleagues and I recommend that individuals, schools and workplaces take a close look at their cleaning practices to see where disinfectants can be replaced with safe cleaners or safer disinfectants.

Cleaning with soap or detergent removes most types of harmful germs like COVID-19 from surfaces. While disinfection can help kill any remaining microbes, it should be limited to situations where people have been actively ill, such as vomit on a surface, and during certain disease outbreaks.

For disinfectants to work properly, they must be left on the surface long enough to kill the germs, and this required contact time may be noted on the product. When you use or handle disinfectants you should wear protective gloves and eyeglasses or safety glasses, and you should open windows and doors to ventilate indoor spaces. (AP)

14.9% weight loss after 46 weeks

Boehringer, Zealand drug meets weight-loss goal in phase II trial

NGELHEIM, Germany, May 10: Boehringer Ingelheim and Zealand Pharma A/S (Nasdaq: ZEAL) announced that patients treated with BI 456906 achieved up to 14.9% weight loss after 46 weeks, using the planned maintenance dose. The phase II clinical trial evaluating the effect of different doses of the novel glucagon/GLP-1 receptor dual agonist BI 456906 in people living with obesity or overweight without type 2 diabetes (NCT04667377) met its primary endpoint. These results including an analysis of the actual maintenance dose indicating even greater weight loss will be presented at the 2023 American Diabetes Association's 83rd Scientific Sessions in San Diego, CA, US Until then, the data is under embargo.

"Obesity is one of many cardio-renal-metabolic diseases, which together represent one of the fastest growing health challenges worldwide. The distinct mode of action of BI 456906 targets multiple pathways pivotal to metabolic regulation, including those associated with obesity and liver diseases," said Carinne Brouillon, Head of Human Pharma, Boehringer Ingelheim. "With our longstanding heritage in cardio-renal-metabolic diseases, we are excited by the findings and potential implications for millions of people who urgently need healthcare solutions."

"We are both enthusiastic about these data and encouraged by the clinical outcomes announced today," said David Kendall, M.D., Chief Medical Officer, Zealand Pharma. "At Zealand Pharma we continue our long-term commitment to the discovery and development of novel differentiated peptide therapeutics that target critical metabolic pathways to achieve substantial weight loss while addressing the complex pathophysiology of overweight and obesity."

In 2016, more than 1 billion people worldwide were living with cardio-renal-metabolic (CRM) diseases such as obesity, type 2 diabetes, chronic kidney disease, liver disease, heart failure and cardiovascular disease 1-10. Obesity is a major global health challenge, and the worldwide prevalence has more than doubled over the past four decades. The World Obesity Federation predicts that by 2025, 2.7 billion adults could be living with obesity or

overweight, placing a high burden on individuals, healthcare systems and society.

Also:

PARIS: Dr. Santiago Munné, a pioneer in preimplantation genetic diagnosis, presented the first whole genome sequencing test in embryos before delegates at the 20th Conference of the Preimplantation Genetic Diagnosis International Society (PGDIS), held in Paris.

In his plenary address attended by over 300 experts, Dr. Munné, an internationally recognized trailblazer in reproductive genetics, presented validation data for GenomeScreen™, the test developed by the research team he leads at the biotechnology firm GenEmbryomics.

"We have known since we started working with embryo diagnostics back in 1993 that embryo selection would be key to pregnancy, especially in older patients. Over the last 30 years, our work has been focused on improving genetic embryo selection, though the definitive diagnostic approach—the one that provides the most information and the best outcomes—will doubtless be this one: whole genome sequencing of the embryo using just a few cells obtained from a biopsy. This test will open doors that we never knew existed," says Munné of the work done at GenEmbryomics.

GenomeScreen™ is a revolutionary new whole genome sequencing test for IVF embryos that has been described as "the most complete genetic test in IVF" by authorities at the PGDIS forum.

The test provides highly precise information on the genome sequence of the embryo and the genetic parents, offering families key preimplantation insights on embryo health and reproductive prognosis that can inform their decisions. Furthermore, this information will be invaluable to individuals born from IVF, as it will provide input on nutrigenomics or guidance on which medicines are most genetically suited to the patient.

"When we first started our research on embryo sequencing, our goal was to create a powerful, comprehensive tool that could equip fertility physicians with exhaustive data for precision screening," recalls Dr. Nick Murphy, founder of GenEmbryomics.

Thermo Fisher and Pfizer team up on global access to 'cancer DNA testing'

Cancer tied to 4.5 million deaths worldwide

WALTHAM, Mass, May 10: Pfizer and Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc. (NYSE: TMO) has announced they have entered into a collaboration agreement to help increase local access to next-generation sequencing (NGS)-based testing for lung and breast cancer patients in more than 30 countries across Latin America, Africa, the Middle East and Asia where advanced genomic testing has previously been limited or unavailable. Access to local NGS testing can help to provide faster analysis of associated genes, empowering healthcare providers to select the right therapy for that individual patient.

Cancer is a leading cause of death globally, accounting for nearly 10 million deaths in 2020, or around one in six deaths. Breast and lung cancer are the leading types of cancer diagnosed and are responsible for almost 4.5 million deaths worldwide. By 2040, the global burden for cancer is expected to grow to 27.5 million new cancer cases and 16.3 million cancer deaths.

Cancer is a disease in which some of the body's cells grow uncontrollably and spread to other parts of the body.

Cancer can start almost anywhere in the human body, which is made up of trillions of cells. Normally, human cells grow and multiply (through a process called cell division) to form new cells as the body needs them. When cells grow old or become damaged, they die, and new cells take their place.

Sometimes this orderly process breaks down, and abnormal or damaged cells grow and multiply when they shouldn't. These cells may form tumors, which are lumps of tissue. Tumors can be cancerous or not cancerous (benign).

Cancerous tumors spread into, or invade, nearby tissues and can travel to distant places in the body to form

new tumors (a process called metastasis). Cancerous tumors may also be called malignant tumors. Many cancers form solid tumors, but cancers of the blood, such as leukemias, generally do not.

Large

Benign tumors do not spread into, or invade, nearby tissues. When removed, benign tumors usually don't grow back, whereas cancerous tumors sometimes do. Benign tumors can sometimes be quite large, however. Some can cause serious symptoms or be life threatening, such as benign tumors in the brain.

Under the agreement, Thermo Fisher will identify local labs that will be using the company's NGS technology and ensure they have the necessary infrastructure, trained staff, and quality control measures to meet industry standards for NGS testing services for breast and lung cancer. Pfizer will explore ways to enable affordable patient access for NGS testing for these types of cancer and work to raise healthcare provider awareness regarding the benefits of advanced testing. The two companies will continue to evaluate opportunities to expand geographically and to expand testing for other types of cancer.

"Anyone facing a cancer diagnosis should have access to cutting-edge testing that can match them with an appropriate, optimized treatment plan and better inform their care. Today, we aim to bring rapid NGS testing to an increased number of decentralized labs, closer to where patients are treated," said Gianluca Pettiti, executive vice president at Thermo Fisher Scientific. "We are moving one step closer to delivering precision insights to underserved patients so they can receive a more tailored path for their care no matter where they are in the world."

"The more we understand the

complex science behind cancer, the better we can treat it. Our experience has taught us that cancer cannot always be treated with a broad brush and often requires an individualized approach based on precise disease characteristics," said Nick Lagunowich, Pfizer Global President of Emerging Markets. "In many parts of the world, access to next-generation sequencing may be limited or unaffordable for cancer patients. This program aims to improve their treatment journey and help increase their chances for improved outcomes."

Single gene testing has historically been used to match patients with appropriate targeted therapies. However, this can be a time intensive process if sequential tests are needed and there may not be enough tissue to run every test – which may require additional biopsy procedures. As more targeted therapies are available that can be matched through a broader set of genomic markers, next-generation sequencing is quickly replacing sequential, single biomarker tests. By screening a single tumor tissue or blood sample for multiple biomarkers simultaneously, NGS can provide clinical teams with rapid and actionable genomic insights to help inform precision oncology treatment decisions for eligible patients.

Survival

A retrospective observational real-world data study looked at newly diagnosed stage IV non-small cell lung cancer patients, and found outcomes such as apparent survival and time to next treatment were significantly compromised if actionable mutations were identified after systemic treatment was initiated (e.g. chemotherapy and immunotherapy). However, when treatment was initiated based on molecular results, patients experienced better outcomes compared to patients who

were treated prior to receiving molecular results, supporting the need for rapid molecular testing to inform better treatment decisions.

At Pfizer, we apply science and our global resources to bring therapies to people that extend and significantly improve their lives. We strive to set the standard for quality, safety and value in the discovery, development and manufacture of health care products, including innovative medicines and vaccines. Every day, Pfizer colleagues work across developed and emerging markets to advance wellness, prevention, treatments and cures that challenge the most feared diseases of our time. Consistent with our responsibility as one of the world's premier innovative biopharmaceutical companies, we collaborate with health care providers, governments and local communities to support and expand access to reliable, affordable health care around the world. For more than 170 years, we have worked to make a difference for all who rely on us.

Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc. is the world leader in serving science, with annual revenue over \$40 billion. Our Mission is to enable our customers to make the world healthier, cleaner and safer. Whether our customers are accelerating life sciences research, solving complex analytical challenges, increasing productivity in their laboratories, improving patient health through diagnostics or the development and manufacture of life-changing therapies, we are here to support them. Our global team delivers an unrivaled combination of innovative technologies, purchasing convenience and pharmaceutical services through our industry-leading brands, including Thermo Scientific, Applied Biosystems, Invitrogen, Fisher Scientific, Unity Lab Services, Patheon and PPD.

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'It warrants compensation'

UK tabloid group admits it unlawfully gathered info on Harry

LONDON, May 10, (AP) — The publisher of British tabloid the Daily Mirror has acknowledged and apologized for unlawfully gathering information about Prince Harry in its reporting, and said it warrants compensation, at the outset of the prince's first phone hacking trial Wednesday.

The admission was made in court filings outlining Mirror Group Newspapers' defense.

The group continued to deny that it hacked phones to intercept voicemail messages, and said that Harry and three less-well-known celebrities brought their claims beyond a time limit.

But it acknowledged there was "some evidence of the instruction of third parties to engage in other types of UIG (unlawful information gathering) in respect of each of the claimants," which includes the Duke of Sussex. It said this "warrants compensation" but didn't spell out what form that might take.

"MGN unreservedly apologizes for all such instances of UIG, and assures the claimants that such conduct will never be repeated," the court papers said.

The publisher said its apology was not a tactical move to reduce damages but was done "because such conduct should never have occurred."

The trial is Harry's opening salvo in his legal battle against the British press. Harry and the other celebrities are suing the former publisher of the Daily Mirror for alleged invasion of privacy.

The case is the first of the duke's three phone hacking lawsuits and threatens to do something he said his family long feared: put a royal on the witness stand to discuss embarrassing revelations.

The activities in question stretch back more than two decades, when journalists and private eyes intercepted voicemails to snoop on mem-

bers of the royal family, politicians, athletes, celebrities and even crime victims. A scandal erupted when the hacking was revealed.

Harry is expected to testify in person in June, his lawyer has said. It won't be his first time in the High Court, following his surprise appearance last month to observe most of a four-day hearing in one of his other lawsuits.

He did not show up for opening statements in the trial. Harry breezed through London for Saturday's coronation of his father, King Charles III, before leaving immediately after the ceremony to fly back to California to be with his family for his son's birthday.

Mission

The prince has waged a war of words against British newspapers in legal claims and in his best-selling memoir "Spare," vowing to make his life's mission reforming the media that he blames for the death of his mother, Princess Diana. She died in a car wreck in Paris in 1997 while trying to evade paparazzi.

Harry has also sued the publishers of the Daily Mail and The Sun over the phone hacking scandal that metastasized after a year-long inquiry into press ethics in 2011 revealed that employees of the now-defunct News of the World tabloid eavesdropped on mobile phone voicemails.

Harry has outlined his grievances against the media in court papers, saying the press hounded him since his earliest days and created a narrative that portrayed him as "the 'thicko,' the 'cheat,' the 'underage drinker.'" His relationships with girlfriends were wrecked by "the entire tabloid press as a third party."

"Looking back on it now, such behavior on their part is utterly vile,"

he said in a witness statement in a similar case.

His lawsuits could further roil family relations that have been strained since Harry and his wife, Meghan, left royal life in 2020 and moved to the United States after complaining about racist attitudes from the British press.

Mirror Group Newspapers and other publishers have primarily defended themselves by asserting that Harry failed to bring his cases within a six-year year time limit. The duke's lawyer has argued that an exception should be applied because publishers actively concealed the skulduggery. In a stunning revelation last month that dredged up an embarrassing chapter in his father's life, Harry blamed his delay in bringing suit, in part, on his family.

He asserted he was barred from bringing a case against The Sun and other newspapers owned by media magnate Rupert Murdoch because of a "secret agreement" - allegedly approved of by Queen Elizabeth II - that called for reaching a private settlement and getting an apology.

"The reason for this was to avoid the situation where a member of the royal family would have to sit in the witness box and recount the specific details of the private and highly sensitive voicemails that had been intercepted," Harry said in a witness statement against News Group Newspapers.

"The institution was incredibly nervous about this and wanted to avoid at all costs the sort of reputational damage that it had suffered in 1993," he said, alluding to a transcript of a leaked recording - published in the Sunday Mirror - of an intimate conversation his father, then Prince of Wales, had with his paramour, now Queen Camilla, in which he compared himself to a tampon.

People

Variety

Features

ARABIC TIMES

THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2023



This image released by IFC Films shows Jay Baruchel as Mike Lazaridis, (left), and Glenn Howerton as Jim Balsillie in a scene from 'BlackBerry.' (AP)

Film

Gripping and enjoyable

'BlackBerry,' a look at phone war's also-ran

By Mark Kennedy

Gather around, young ones. Silence your iPhones and Samsungs. We're here to learn about the Before Times, when the hottest tech device was nicknamed "CrackBerry."

The gripping and hugely enjoyable "BlackBerry" is about the famous - and later infamous - Research in Motion gadget that helped trigger the global smartphone era as we know it, before sliding into obsolescence.

The BlackBerry may seem quaint now in the days of sleek water resistant 5G phones with face ID, but it was the first mobile device with a pager, cellphone and email capability all in one thing. No idea? Ask your parents.

"BlackBerry" tells the standard rise and fall of a tech startup that blows up, naturally leading to insider infighting - think "Silicon Valley" and "The Social Network" - but there's a twist here: The main money guy, while very shouty, is not the sleazy, bad guy you might expect.

Director and co-writer Matt Johnson recounts a breathless decade or so starting in 1996, when Research in Motion was just an office filled with tech geeks in Canada. Johnson also stars as Doug Fregin, a headband-wearing, movie-quoting uber-geek, an amalgam of a few Research in Motion people.

Smart as the geeks were, they weren't modern businessmen. Research in Motion - led by a nervous but good-intentioned engineer Mike Lazaridis (an excellent Jay Baruchel) - had the idea of a computer inside a phone using a free wireless signal but was in debt and out of its depth, with no prototype.

Enter Jim Balsillie (a superbly menacing Glenn Howerton) who snaps his Harvard-educated towel at the geeks, canceling movie nights and slamming their noses to the grindstones. He screams things like: "You need to sell a million BlackBerries before Q3!"

Balsillie manages BlackBerry through shark-infested waters - like an attempted takeover by PalmPilot and network collapses - but his plan to backdate

stock options to hire top engineers dog the company, and you can feel Apple breathing down the company's neck.

Audiences will get that terrible sinking feeling when they see Research in Motion employees watch one of Steve Jobs' early presentations at Apple, offering the-then mind-blowing idea of a phone with no external keyboard while BlackBerry was armed... with a trackpad.

The film is adapted from Jacquie McNish and Sean Silcoff's "Losing the Signal: The Untold Story Behind the Extraordinary Rise and Spectacular Fall of BlackBerry." It is said to be "a fictionalization inspired by real people and real events."

Geek

The second half of "BlackBerry" is heartbreaking - the loss of geek culture, the loss of principles and the loss of friendships. It's the Icarus story, except instead of wings they had autocompletes while typing with your thumbs.

The funniest bits of the movie are when the geeks are king, like NASA engineers on Apollo 9 gathering around a table figuring out data puzzles or soldering together hardware and writing code. The filmmakers use clips of "Star Trek" and "Inspector Gadget" to show what they were doing was futuristic.

Johnson makes the film even more enjoyable as the soundtrack moves from Joy Division, the Strokes and Moby to MC Hammer and The White Stripes. There are also small but great acting turns by Saul Rubinek, Cary Elwes and Michael Ironside.

Johnson's nicely plotted and sympathetic eye is in every frame, and he sets the tone early on in the first image from 1996: It's a car driven by the BlackBerry co-creators and it is passing a horse.

"BlackBerry," an IFC Films release that is in theaters Friday, is rated R for "language throughout." Running time: 119 minutes. Three stars out of four. MPAA definition of R: Restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.

Also:

SANTA FE, N.M.: A New Mexico judge has approved a \$1.15 million settlement between a medic who worked on the "Rust" film set and one of several defendants she accused of negligence in the fatal 2021 shooting of a cinematographer by **Alec Baldwin** during a rehearsal.

Court records show the partial settlement between **Cherlyn Schaefer** and prop master **Sarah Zachry** was approved during a hearing Monday. Schaefer told the judge there's not a day that goes by when she doesn't think about what happened, the Santa Fe New Mexican reported.

In her civil complaint, Schaefer said she fought desperately in a failed attempt to save the life of cinematographer **Halyna Hutchins**. She said the shock, trauma and emotional distress that followed has made it impossible for her to continue working in her field.

Prosecutors dismissed an involuntary manslaughter charge against the actor and producer last month, citing new evidence and the need for more time to investigate.

State District Judge **Kathleen McGarry Ellenwood** had entered a default judgment against Zachry in November after the film worker failed to file responses within court deadlines.

Zachry's current attorney, **Nathan Winger**, told the court Monday that her previous attorney, **William Waggoner**, let deadlines pass without her permission, and she intends to seek damages from him to fund her settlement with Schaefer. Waggoner disputes the claim.

Justin Rodriguez, one of several attorneys representing Schaefer, said the settlement "is a small portion of what we expect to receive in the future." The remaining defendants include Rust Movie Productions, weapons supervisor **Hannah Gutierrez-Reed** and assistant director **David Halls**, but not Baldwin.

Schaefer's complaint claims Zachry and Gutierrez-Reed failed to ensure there were no live rounds in Baldwin's weapon. An involuntary manslaughter charge remains pending against Gutierrez-Reed, but her attorneys have said they fully expect her to be exonerated. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: Robert De Niro has welcomed another child. The 79-year-old is now the father of seven.

A representative for De Niro confirmed the birth to The Associated Press on Tuesday but said no other details were expected.

At a film premiere Tuesday night, De Niro told The Associated Press about becoming a father again: "It's always good and mysterious and you don't know what the hell is going to happen."

The Oscar winner is also a parent to **Drena**, 51, and **Raphael**, 46, from his first marriage; and twins, **Julian** and **Aaron**, 27; **Elliott**, 24; and **Helen Grace**, 11, from his second marriage.

De Niro is currently promoting the new comedy "About My Father," which opens on May 26.

De Niro is a two-time Oscar winner for his supporting role in "The Godfather: Part II" and best actor in "Raging Bull." In 2011, he was also honored with the Golden Globes' Cecil B. DeMille Award for his impact on the world of entertainment and awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom five years later. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: A Los Angeles judge on Tuesday denied a motion for a new trial for lawyers for rapper **Tory Lanez**, who was convicted of three felonies in December for shooting hip-hop star Megan Thee Stallion in the feet and wounding her.

Superior Court Judge **Herriford** rejected arguments from lawyers for Lanez that evidence was wrongly admitted at the trial he presided over. He said that the exclusion of the disputed evidence would not have made a difference at the trial.

Lanez, 30, whose legal name is **Daystar Peterson**, will now be sentenced for convictions of assault with a semiautomatic firearm, having a loaded, unregistered firearm in a vehicle and discharging a firearm with gross negligence. He could get up to 22 years in prison and faces deportation to his native **Canada**.

As he was led from the courtroom back to jail after a hearing on the motion a day earlier, he pleaded with Herriford to help him, saying "I could be your son. I could be your brother."

Motions for a new trial filed immediately afterward with the same judge are a common precursor to appealing to a higher court, which Lanez's attorneys plan to do. The motions are very rarely successful. Lanez's lawyers asserted that a post from his Instagram account was improperly admitted into evidence. They said that Megan's



De Niro



Lanez

testimony that Lanez urged her not to go to police because he was on parole and would be in serious trouble was both untrue and an improper allowance of prior bad acts. And they said DNA evidence that prosecutors used to argue Lanez was the likely shooter fell well short of industry standards.

Lanez's attorneys were disap-

pointed from the start of Monday's all-day oral arguments on their motion.

They had an elaborate presentation prepared, complete with audio-visuals and witnesses, but Herriford would have none of it, insisting instead on narrow legal arguments on the precise issues raised, the norm for such motions

in **California** court.

They pleaded at length with Herriford to allow them to present their arguments in the way they had planned.

"I feel that I would be ineffective if we proceeded," defense attorney **Jose Baez** said. "Mr. Peterson has the right to due process for which he is entitled." (AP)

People & Places

Obituary

Versatile artist

Brazil's 'queen' of rock Rita Lee dies

BRASILIA, Brazil, May 10, (AP): **Rita Lee Jones**, Brazil's million-selling "Queen of Rock" who gained an international following through her colorful and candid style and such hits as "Ovelha Negra," "Mania de Você" and "Now Only Missing You," has died at 75.

Otherwise known as Rita Lee, she died at her home in Sao Paulo on Monday evening, according to a statement posted to her official Instagram account.

With a career spanning six decades, the Sao Paulo native left a lasting mark with her irreverence, creativity and compositions containing messages that helped introduce Brazilian society to feminism, while also candidly addressing her struggles with drug abuse.

Although she regarded her voice as "weak and a little out of tune," like a sparrow's, she enjoyed a long run of top-selling albums, including "Rita Lee" and "Rita Lee & Roberto de Carvalho," and dozens of her songs were featured in widely watched telenovelas in Latin America. The behemoth television network Globo used her rendition of the song "Poison Weed" (Poison Ivy) in three of its programs.

"I was not born to get married and wash underwear. I wanted the same freedom as the boys who used to play in the street with their toy cars," she told the Brazilian edition of Rolling Stone in 2008. "When I got into music, I realized that the 'machos' reigned absolute, even more in rock music. 'Wow,' I said, 'this is where I'm going to let my fangs out and, literally, give them a hard time.'"

She was a singer and songwriter praised for her versatility, playing at least five instruments: drums, guitar, piano, harmonica and autoharp. She was also one of the first Brazilian musicians to use electric guitar.

Admired

Eventually, her popularity extended beyond Brazil. She performed in Portugal, England, Spain, France and Germany. In 1988, the British newspaper Daily Mirror revealed that then-Prince Charles admired her song "Lança Perfume" and considered her his favorite singer. She won a Latin Grammy in the Best Portuguese Language Album category in 2001, for her album "3001."

Rita Lee rose to fame with the group Os Mutantes (The Mutants), starting in 1966. Colors and creativity, as well as irony and irreverence, were Lee's trademarks from the start, evident in the flamboyant costumes she performed in her shows. By the mid-1970s, after selling 200,000 copies of the album "Forbidden Fruit," Lee began to be called the "queen of rock" on the music scene. Hits on "Forbidden Fruit" include "Now Only Missing You" and "Ovelha Negra," long played on radio stations and Brazilian soap operas.

In an interview with the music website I Have More Records Than Friends! in 2017, Lulu Santos, judge of the Brazilian version of The Voice, recalled seeing Rita Lee play autoharp at a concert.

"She brought that thing on stage, in those clothes... it was completely mythological," the musician said. "There really is a lineage of 'girls' tied to rock in Brazil, of which she is a legitimate representative. But I see her as an element that distances herself from the clichés of rock." She, from her feminine point of view, sees the clumsiness of the worn-out cliché of the male rocker, the one who plays with his legs open. She saw right through him."

She was one of the first public figures in Brazil to popularize feminist themes, such as infusing the lyrics of her 1979 song "Mania de Voce" (Mania for You) with female sexuality and pleasure. Similar songs followed, such as "Amor e Sexo" (Love and Sex) which contrasted the two in detail and "Lança Perfume" (Spray Perfume), an ode to unbridled hedonism.

Later in life, she became a vegan and animal rights activist. For decades, she kept her hair bright red and often wore matching lenses, a popular look that she discarded in recent years as she allowed her gray to grow out. She resolved in 2015 to reinvent herself as a white butterfly.

Abuse

In her autobiography, published the following year, she didn't shy from describing the sexual abuse she suffered as a child at the hands of a man who had come to fix her mother's sewing machine.

She also referred to herself as a "rebel" and "hippie communist," and wrote of sneaking out the windows of her house as a teenager to play, being arrested during the dictatorship for possession of marijuana, and her multiple stints in rehab clinics for drugs and alcohol.

"I recognize that my best songs were written in an altered state, and my worst too. I only regret my delay in realizing that the 'medicine' had long since expired," she wrote. "My generation suffered the claustrophobia of a brutal dictatorship, and using drugs was a way to breathe air of freedom."

In an interview with the television program Fantastico in 2020, she explained that physical frailty had prompted her to leave the stage eight years earlier.

"Getting old, for me, was a surprise, because I've never been old in my life," she told the show. "I was left wanting to live my old age away from the stage, without sharing it with the public."

A public wake will be held at the planetarium in Sao Paulo on May 10, according to the Instagram post.

She is survived by her three children and her husband, musician Roberto de Carvalho, with whom she shared a 44-year musical partnership. In 2021, they released a new song, Change, together, and a remix of some of the singer's biggest hits.

Years before, she imagined her future death, as if prophesying:

"I will be in heaven," she wrote, "with my soul present playing my autoharp and singing to God, 'Thank you, Lord, finally sedated.' Epitaph: She was never a good example, but she was good people."



Ukrainian singer Jamala sings during the final rehearsal at the National Opera in central Kyiv on Friday, May 5. Jamala won the Eurovision Song Contest in 2016 with a song about the deportation of Crimean Tatars. Fast forward to this Eurovision week and she's launching a new album, filled with more stories about her ancestors. (AP)



Claire Danes arrives for a screening of 'Fleishman Is In Trouble,' on Tuesday, May 9, at Directors Guild of America in Los Angeles. (AP)



Manson



Wallen

Variety

OXFORD, Miss: Thousands of country music fans were awaiting singer **Morgan Wallen** when he suddenly canceled his performance Sunday night at Vaught Hemingway Stadium.

WTVA-TV reported video boards inside the Ole Miss football stadium showed a message saying the "Thought You Should Know" singer had lost his voice and was unable to perform, adding that people would be refunded their money where they bought the tickets.

Some people expressed anger on social media because the announcement of the cancellation came after the opening acts had performed.

While Wallen is one of country music's biggest stars, he's no stranger to controversy. He was caught on camera in 2021 outside a home in **Nashville, Tennessee**, yelling profanities and a racial slur. He apologized at the time but was suspended indefinitely from his label and his music was pulled by radio stations and streaming services.

The year before, Wallen was arrested for public intoxication and disorderly conduct after getting kicked out of a downtown Nashville bar.

The sudden cancellation concluded what was supposed to be two consecutive nights of performances by one of the hottest stars in country music. Saturday night's show appeared to be a huge success with thousands showing up for the first concert in the stadium's history. (AP)

LAS VEGAS: A "Dances With Wolves" actor charged with sexually abusing Indigenous women and girls for more than a decade has asked **Nevada's** high court to toss his sweeping indictment in state court.

Nathan Chasing Horse and his lawyers have argued that his accusers wanted to have sex with him.

The 46-year-old's appeal to the state Supreme Court, filed Tuesday, marks his latest attempt to get his case dismissed as he remains jailed in Las Vegas on charges that could send him to prison for decades - or life - if convicted.

"Nathan is pursuing this extraordinary writ because the trial court refused to dismiss the charges contained within the indictment in this case," Deputy Clark County Public Defender **Kristy S.**

Music

Song contest returns to Britain after 25 years

UK hosts Eurovision for Ukraine

LONDON, May 10, (AP): Last week, Britain crowned a king. This week, it will help bestow Europe's pop crown.

The Eurovision Song Contest is returning to the UK for the first time in 25 years, but the heart of the glitzy music competition will be in Ukraine.

Britain is hosting the event on behalf of the war-battered country, and organizers have vowed to make it a celebration of Ukrainian spirit and culture.

The contest will see musical acts from 37 countries perform original songs in the English city of Liverpool, with semi-finals Tuesday and Thursday and a grand final on Saturday watched by an estimated 160 million people.

For fans and first-timers alike, here's an essential Eurovision guide:

First staged in 1956, Eurovision was founded to help unite a shattered continent after World War II and to test nascent live-broadcasting technology.

Initially a sedate affair featuring crooners in ballgowns and tuxedos, it began to let its hair down during the swinging 60s and reached pop perfection in 1974, when ABBA won with "Waterloo," propelling the band toward superstardom and jump-starting Sweden's music industry.

Since then, the contest has expanded across Europe and beyond - Israel and Australia are both entrants - with ever-more elaborate staging and eye-popping costumes.

Eurovision also has become a celebration of diversity, with a huge LG-BTQ+ following that celebrated when Israel's Dana International became the contest's first transgender winner in 1998.

Above all, the competition is a crash course in the continent's wonderfully varied musical tastes. Winners have ranged from Canadian chanteuse Celine Dion, who competed for Switzerland in 1988, to fright mask-wearing Finnish metalheads Lordi in 2006 and bearded Austrian drag performer Conchita Wurst in 2014.

Italian rock band Måneskin parlayed its 2021 Eurovision victory into a substantial international career, with gigs at major US festivals and a stint opening for the Rolling Stones on tour.

Last year, Ukrainian folk-rap band

Kalush Orchestra triumphed, delivering a morale boost for a country battling Russia's invasion.

Paul Jordan, an expert on the contest who is known as "Dr. Eurovision," said the competition has become a treasured part of European culture.

"You can go to Spain, Slovenia, wherever - everyone's heard of it," he said. "They may not love it, they may not like it, they may not watch it, but everyone's heard of it. Everyone's got an opinion. I think it's really powerful, and it's a brilliant icebreaker."

Eurovision is about much more than music. It's diplomacy with a disco beat, a forum in which countries can boost their profiles and play out regional rivalries.

Organizers strive to keep pop and politics apart; overtly political symbols and lyrics are prohibited. But global tensions have often imposed themselves on the contest. Ukraine has several times used its entries to criticize Russia, winning in 2016 with a song about the expulsion of Crimea's Tatars by Stalin in 1944.

Platform

Russia was banned from the contest last year after it invaded Ukraine. Belarus had been kicked out the previous year over its government's clampdown on dissent.

Dean Vuletic, an academic expert on Eurovision, said that by banning Russia, Eurovision lost one of its biggest national audiences and "one of its most enthusiastic participants."

"But Eurovision is also a platform on which values are expressed, around which values are constructed," Vuletic said, and pressure from member nations forced the European Broadcasting Union, which runs Eurovision, to act.

Eurovision "has always reflected cultural, political and social change in Europe," he said. "(It's) a way to measure the zeitgeist in Europe."

Eurovision was long associated with fluffy 3-minute pop songs - previous winners include the likes of "La, La, La" and "Boom Bang-a-Bang."

But Vuletic says it's no longer "the contest with silly songs, innocuous lyrics that it perhaps used to be." He says

a third of this year's entries deal lyrically with "toxic relationships, anxiety" and other mental-health issues. Another batch of songs are about war.

Musically, contestants range from pop ballads like "Power" by Iceland's Dilljá and relationship-breakup dance track "I Wrote a Song" by Britain's Mae Muller to the electronica of "Heart of Steel" by Ukraine's Tvorchi. Austrian duo Teya & Salena offer an offbeat tribute to Edgar Allan Poe, "Who the Hell is Edgar?" while Croatia's Let 3 belts out antiwar rock opera "Mama ŠĆ!"

Eurovision's complex voting system, which awards points from juries of music industry professionals as well as viewers across Europe, makes winners notoriously hard to predict.

Bookmakers' favorites include Finnish entry Käärijä's pop-metal party tune "Cha Cha Cha" and power ballad "Tattoo" by Sweden's Loreen, who previously won the contest in 2012. Singer La Zarra, competing for France, is also highly ranked for her Edith Piaf-esque chanson "Évidement."

The UK stepped in to host the contest for Ukraine after last year's British entry, Sam Ryder, finished second. As Ryder put it: "It's Ukraine's party. We're just inviting them to throw it at our house."

The final will be co-hosted by Ukrainian singer Julia Sanina and will feature a performance by Kalush Orchestra and other representatives of Ukrainian culture. Several thousand Ukrainian refugees in Britain have received tickets to attend.

Ryder's strong showing last year with "Spaceman" helped transform Eurovision's image in the UK. Long viewed as a guilty pleasure - amid perennial grumbling over the country's poor results -- it now a source of pride and celebration.

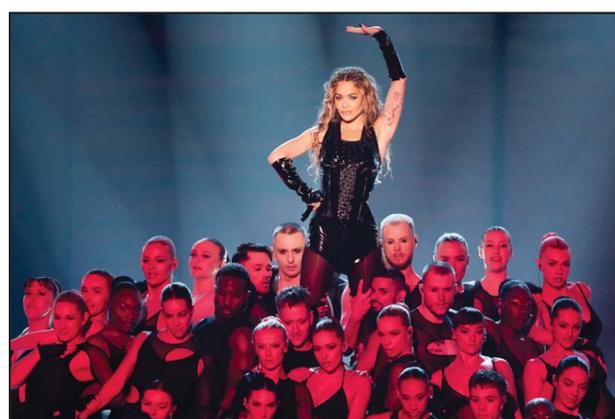
Several UK cities competed to host the event, and winner Liverpool is in party mood. The port city that gave birth to The Beatles went through tough times as UK industry collapsed in the late 20th century. It has since reinvented itself as a hub for sports, culture and nightlife - a resilience that fits well with Ukraine, Jordan says.

Holston wrote in an affidavit attached to the formal appeal to the high court.

The presiding judge in the state's case, **Carli Kierny**, upheld Chasing Horse's

indictment last month, writing in an order that prosecutors in Clark County presented enough evidence for "a reasonable grand juror to conclude that the sexual

assaults occurred." (AP)



British singer Rita Ora performs as a show act during the first semi final at the Eurovision Song Contest in Liverpool, England, Tuesday, May 9. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: A California judge on Tuesday threw out key sections of **Marilyn Manson's** lawsuit against his former fiancée, "Westworld" actor **Evan Rachel Wood**, claiming she fabricated public allegations that he sexually and physically abused her during their relationship and encouraged other women to do the same.

Manson's suit, filed last year, alleges that Wood and another woman named as a defendant, **Hilma Gore**, defamed Manson, intentionally caused him emotional distress and derailed his career in music, TV and film. It says they used false pretenses, including a phony letter from the FBI, to convince other women to come forward with sexual abuse allegations and coached them on what to say about Manson, whose legal name is **Brian Warner**.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge **Teresa A. Beaudet** dismissed the part of the suit dealing with the disputed FBI letter, which Wood denies forging. Beaudet also tossed out a section that alleges Wood and Gore used a checklist found on an iPad for other women to use to make abuse claims about Manson. (AP)

Health

Cancer deaths declining

Start mammograms at 40, not 50: panel

WASHINGTON, May 10. (AP): Women should start getting every-other-year mammograms at age 40 instead of waiting until 50, according to a draft recommendation from a federal task force.

The US Preventive Services Task Force has long said women can choose to start breast cancer screening as young as 40, with a stronger recommendation that they get the X-ray exams every two years from age 50 through 74.

Tuesday's update — if the draft proposal is finalized — would mark a shift in the influential panel's guidelines although it's not likely to end confusion. Other health groups differ over when and how often to screen.

"This new recommendation will help save lives and prevent more women from dying due to breast cancer," said former task force chair **Dr. Carol Mangione**.

The task force noted that Black women are 40 percent more likely to die of breast cancer than white women, making mammograms at 40 an especially important step — but also urged more research to better understand and combat the disparity.

The task force also noted that nearly half of all women have dense breasts, which means mammograms may not work as well, and called for more research into whether additional types of testing would help.

The draft recommendation applies to women at average risk of breast cancer but not those at very high risk due to certain genetic or other factors. It is open for public comment through June 5, after which the task force will decide whether to finalize it.

While cancer deaths have been declining for years, breast cancer remains the second leading cancer killer of US woman, behind lung cancer.

Health organizations have long had different screening recommendations, seeking to balance catching breast cancer early while avoiding too many false alarms, when the X-rays spot non-cancerous blips.

The American Cancer Society says women ages 45 to 54 should get mammograms every year — but can choose to start at 40 and then at 55, can choose to switch to every other year.

The American College of Radiology recommends annual mammograms starting at 40 for women at average risk of breast cancer — but urges that young women get assessed for risk factors that require even earlier screening.

'Forever chemicals': Minnesota is on the verge of banning non-essential uses of "forever chemicals." And lawmakers say they are naming the legislation after a woman who spent the last months of her life campaigning for restrictions that will be some of the toughest in the country.

Legislators, environmentalists and family members paid tribute Tuesday to **Amara Strande**. She died two days shy of her 21st birthday last month from a rare form of liver cancer. She grew up in a **St. Paul** suburb where the groundwater is contaminated by PFAS and believed the chemicals were part of what caused her cancer, which was diagnosed when she was 15.

"Through her pain and exhaustion, Amara was willing to be a voice of those who have become the victims of illnesses that are linked to these forever chemicals," said her father, **Michael Strande**. "Amara called on the lawmakers of Minnesota to do what is right in passing laws that will not only protect our environment, and human lives, but also force industries to find alternative ways of manufacturing their products without these deadly chemicals."

PFAS, or per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, have spread around the globe and don't break down in the environment. They have been linked to a broad range of health problems, including low birth weights and certain cancers. The chemicals have been used since the 1940s in many consumer and industrial products, including nonstick pans, fast-food packaging, fabrics and firefighting foam.

"I have spent the last five years fighting cancer with every ounce of my being. And I will for the rest of my life," Amara Strande said at an emotional news conference with lawmakers and her parents back when they announced the legislation in January. "Corporations must stop the production of these toxins and be held accountable and pay for the damage they've done. Through no fault of my own, I was exposed to these toxic chemicals. And as a result, I will die with this cancer."

"Amara's Law" will allow only limited exceptions to the ban, such as firefighting foam used at airports and oil refineries and in protective clothing for firefighters. It also will require companies to disclose if the products they sell in Minnesota contain the chemicals. The ban would take effect in 2025 for a long list of products including carpets, cleaning products, cookware, cosmetics, dental floss, fabrics and fabric treatments, furniture, products for children, menstruation products and ski wax.

A House-Senate conference committee that is negotiating the details of a broad environment and natural resources bill agreed last Thursday to the PFAS language that will be included. Democratic Gov. **Tim Walz** and his administration support the ban. He is expected to sign it after the House and Senate complete work on the final package.

"This will be the strongest PFAS legislation in the nation," said Democratic Rep. **Sydney Jordan**, of Minneapolis, who went on to say: "Minnesota invented PFAS. By passing this, Minnesota is going to invent the solution."

Supporters said Minnesota has a special responsibility because the chemicals were invented by Maplewood-based 3M, which announced in December that it is exiting PFAS manufacturing and discontinuing their use in its products.

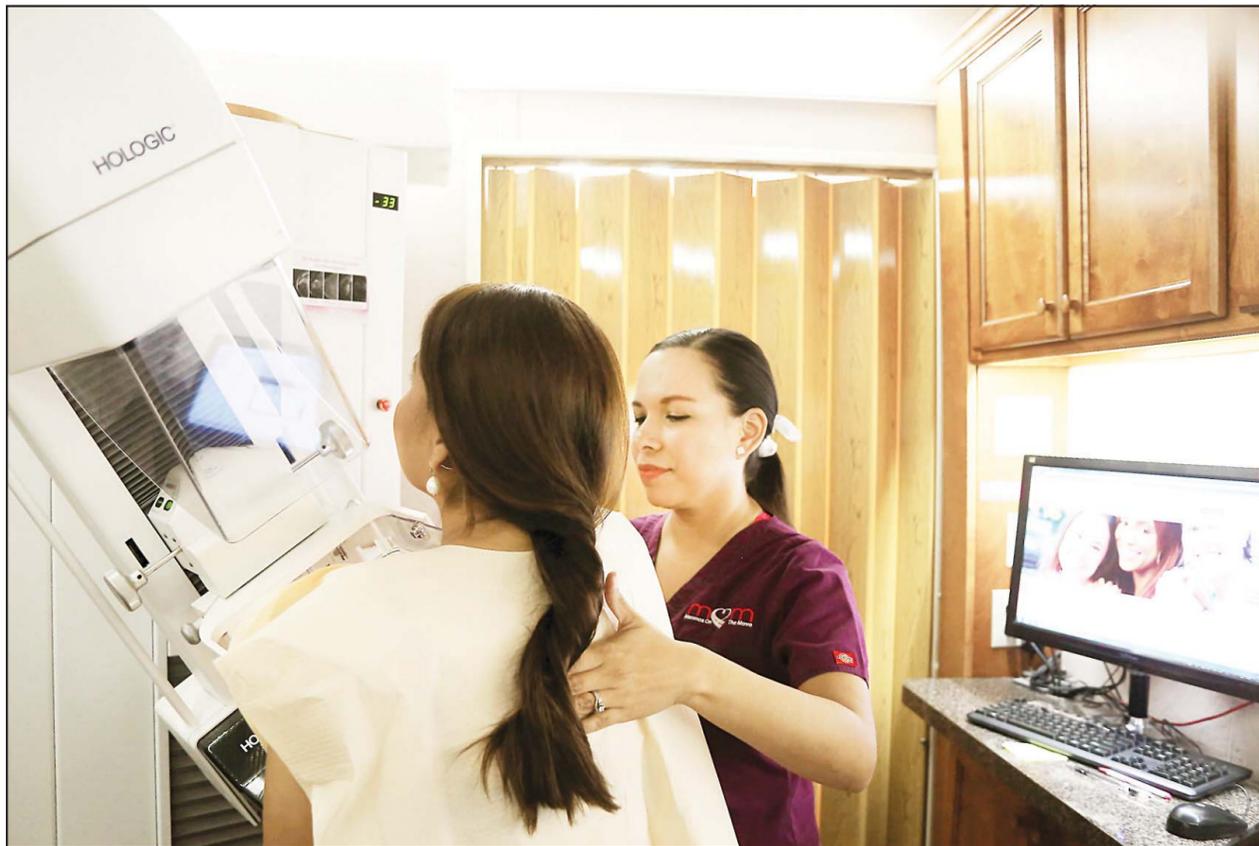
"We have a duty to lead the charge in their eradication from the environment, from our bodies, from our consumer products, from our water," said Democratic Sen. **Judy Seeberger**, of Afton, the lead sponsor in the Senate. She said the issue is personal because her home well is contaminated with PFAS, forcing her to use a filtration system to get safe water.

Andrea Lovoll, legislative director of the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy, said the Minnesota legislation goes farther than any other state's and has the strictest list of what counts as non-essential uses. For example, she said, **California's** restrictions don't cover cookware or require as many comprehensive disclosures. Up until now, she said, **Maine** has had the strongest restrictions. But **Maine's** 2021 law mandates a phaseout by 2030 while **Minnesota's** law kicks in faster.

The US Environmental Protection Agency last year designated the chemicals as hazardous substances under the Superfund law. But the EPA stopped short of an outright ban, after warning that the compounds were more dangerous than previously thought and pose health risks even at extremely low levels.



Mangione



Mammographer Alma Garcia, (right), demonstrates the process of a mammogram on marketing liaison Dalilah Garcia of the Neighbors Emergency Center in Brownsville, Texas, on Monday, Sept. 18, 2017, inside a Mammos on the Move (MOM) mobile mammogram trailer. According to a draft recommendation from a government task force released on Tuesday, May 9, women should start getting every-other-year mammograms at age 40 instead of waiting until 50. Tuesday's update - if the draft proposal is finalized - would mark a shift in the influential panel's guidelines. (AP)



Actress Elizabeth Hurley attends the Breast Cancer Research Foundation's Hot Pink Party at The Glasshouse on Tuesday, May 9, in New York. (AP)

Discovery

Spain records hottest April: Drought-stricken Spain says last month was the hottest and driest April since records began in 1961.

The State Meteorological Agency, known by the Spanish acronym AEMET, said Monday the average daily temperature in April was 14.9 degrees Celsius (58.8 Fahrenheit), that is 3 degrees Celsius above the average.

AEMET said average maximum temperatures during the month were up by 4.7 Celsius.

Rainfall was a fifth of what would normally be expected in the month, making it the driest April on record in Spain.

Last year was Spain's hottest since record-keeping started in 1961, and also the country's sixth driest.

Three years of scant rainfall and high temperatures put the country officially into long-term drought earlier this year.

A flash study by a group of international scientists last week found that record-breaking April temperatures in Spain, Portugal and northern Africa were made 100 times more likely by human-caused climate change and would have been almost impossible in the past. Prime Minister of Spain is **Pedro Sánchez**. (AP)

Civil Guard raid illegal wells: Record-breaking April temperatures in Andalusia have coupled with a chronic lack of rainfall. Water reservoirs in the Guadalquivir river basin, which runs through the territory, are only about a quarter full, at 27.95%, even before summer has begun. Farmers in the region have had their water allowance for irrigation cut by up to 90% in some cases.

The situation in the vast agricultural heartland and in northeastern Catalonia means that Spain's total water reserves nationally have dipped to 48.9%.

April was also Spain's driest ever. Currently, 27% of Spanish territory is in either the drought "emergency" or "alert" category. Farmers across the Western Mediterranean have warned that crop failures are likely.

Water resources in Spain have meanwhile become increasingly politicized ahead of May 28 local elections. The left-wing central government has criticized Andalusia's right-wing regional administration for attempting to declare an amnesty for illegal wells around the region's Doñana wetlands, in contravention of European Union law.

Meanwhile, the far-right in Spain has used social media to perpetrate disinformation about a government official falsely ordering reservoirs to be emptied. (AP)

Meteorite crashes into home: A metallic object believed to be a meteorite punched a hole in the roof of a central New Jersey home this week, smashing into a hardwood floor and bouncing around a bedroom. The family who owns the home discovered the black, potato-sized rock in a corner — still warm.

Nobody was hurt and there was no serious damage to the residence, said police in Hopewell Township, north of the state capital Trenton. The object measures about 4 by 6 inches (10 by 15 centimeters) and weighs about four pounds (1.8 kilo-

The Conversation

Some evidence-based ways to counter virus

Many still grappling with long COVID

By **Kyle B. Enfield**
University of Virginia

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

A patient of mine, once a marathon runner, now gets tired just walking around the block. She developed COVID-19 during the 2020 Christmas holiday and saw me during the summer of 2021. Previously, her primary care doctor had recommended a graded exercise program. But exercise exhausted her. After months of waiting, she finally had an appointment at our post-COVID-19 clinic at the University of Virginia.

She is hardly alone in her extended search for answers. Studies suggest that from 10% to 45% of COVID-19 survivors have at least one of the following symptoms three months after recovery: fatigue, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty sleeping, difficulty with daily activities or mental fog, otherwise known as "brain fog."

There are many names for this condition: long COVID, long-haul COVID, post-acute COVID-19 syndrome and chronic COVID. Patients report that their symptoms, or the severity of them, fluctuate over time, which makes diagnosis and treatment difficult.

Researchers and doctors have seen similar recovery patterns from other viruses, including Ebola and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome, or MERS, which is another coronavirus.

This suggests that the illness we see following a bout with COVID-19 may be part of a patient's response to the infection. But doctors and researchers do not yet know why some patients go on to have persistent symptoms.

My clinical practice and academic research focus on critically ill patients. Most of my patients now are people who had COVID-19 with various levels of severity.

I often tell these patients that we are still learning about this disease, which wasn't part of our vernacular before 2020. Part of what we do at the clinic is help patients understand what they can do at home to start improving.

Chronic fatigue can greatly affect quality of life. Exercise limitations can have their roots in problems with the lung, heart, brain, muscles or all of the above.

Graded exercise therapy works for some but not all patients. Graded exercise is the slow introduction of exercise, starting slowly and gradually increasing in load over time. Many are frustrated because they feel more exhausted after exercising or even doing the routine tasks of daily living. The lack of progress leads to feelings of depression.

The condition of feeling more ex-

hausted after exercise is called post-exertional malaise, which is defined as physical and mental exhaustion after an activity, often 24 hours later, that is out of proportion with the activity.

For example, you feel good today and decide to go for a walk around the block. Afterward you are fine, but the next day your muscles ache and all you can do is lie on the couch. Some patients don't even have the energy to answer emails. Rest or sleep do typically relieve the fatigue. There is no one-size-fits-all approach to treatment; the severity and frequency of post-exertional malaise varies from person to person.

Fatigue following any illness is common, as is exercise intolerance. So when should you see a medical professional? Diagnostic testing for post-exertional malaise exists, but it's not readily available to all patients. These questions may provide clues to whether or not you are experiencing it:

■ Does it take more than one day to recover to your usual baseline activity?

■ Do you feel unwell, weak, sleep poorly or have pain when recovering from activity?

■ Are you feeling limited in your ability to do your daily tasks after activity?

■ Does exercise activity affect you positively?

■ Do you have soreness and fatigue after nonstrenuous days, or mental fatigue after strenuous or nonstrenuous activities?

All of these can be clues to discuss with your primary care provider, who may want to do additional testing to confirm the diagnosis, such as a two-day cardiopulmonary exercise test.

Before your appointment, there are a few things you can do at home that may help.

Activities

One of those techniques is pacing, or activity management, an approach that balances activities with rest.

The Royal College of Occupational Therapists and the Intensive Care Society, both in the UK, developed what they call the 3Ps - Pace, Plan and Prioritize.

Pacing yourself means breaking down activities into smaller stretches with frequent breaks rather than doing it all at once. An example would be to climb a few steps and then rest for 30 seconds, instead of climbing all the stairs at once.

Planning involves looking at the week's activities to see how they can be spread out. Think about the ones that are particularly strenuous, and give yourself extra time to complete them.

This helps with prioritizing - and recognizing those tasks that can be skipped or put off.

Some patients with long COVID develop abnormal breathing patterns, including shallow rapid breathing, known as hyperventilating, or breath-holding. Either of these patterns can make you feel short of breath.

Symptoms of abnormal breathing patterns include frequent yawning, throat-clearing, experiencing pins-and-needles sensations, palpitations and chest pain. Don't ignore these symptoms, because they can be signs of serious medical problems like heart attacks and abnormal heart rhythms. Once those are ruled out, it is possible to relearn to breathe properly.

You can practice these techniques at home. The simple version: Find a comfortable position - either lying down or sitting upright with your back supported. Place one hand on your chest and the other over your belly button. Exhale any stale air out of your lungs. Then breathe in through your nose and into your abdomen, creating a gentle rise in the belly.

You should feel the hand resting on your belly button move up and down. Try to avoid short, shallow breaths into the upper chest. Slowly exhale all the air out of your lungs. The goal is to take around eight to 12 breaths per minute.

Focus on a longer exhale than inhale. For example, inhale as described for a count of two, then exhale for a count of three, as a starting point. If you take one breath every five seconds, you will be breathing 12 breaths per minute. As you get more comfortable with this, you can increase the time to further reduce your breaths per minute.

A more advanced tool is called box breathing: Breathe in for a count of four to five, holding your breath for a count of four to five, breathing out for a count of four to five and hold that for a count of four to five.

Long COVID patients who use these techniques show improvement in symptoms of breathlessness and sense of well-being.

The patient I referred to earlier did all of these things. As we worked with her, we discovered she had multiple reasons for her symptoms. In addition to overbreathing and symptoms of post-exertional malaise, she had a new cardiac problem, possibly related to her COVID-19 illness, that made her heart work less well during exercise. Now she is recovering; while not back to marathon running, she is feeling better.

Currently there is no cure for long COVID, though we hope research will lead to one. Clinical trials looking at potential therapies are continuing. In the meantime, people should be cautious about using medications that are not proved to help - and if you're having symptoms, get evaluated. (AP)

grams), police said. **Phil Murphy** is the governor of New Jersey.

Suzy Kop, whose family owns the home, said they initially thought someone had thrown a rock into an upstairs bedroom Monday, but soon realized that wasn't the case. The family plans to meet with an astrophysicist who will further examine the object.

"We are thinking it's a meteorite, came through here, hit the floor here because



Sánchez



Murphy

that's completely damaged, it ricocheted up to this part of the ceiling and then finally rested on the floor there," Kop told KYW-TV in Philadelphia. "I did touch the thing because it thought it was a random rock, I don't know, and it was warm."

Kop said hazmat officials responded to their home to check it out along with her family, in case they had been exposed to some type of radioactive material, but those checks were all negative. (AP)

SPORTS

Former Vikings, Cal QB
Joe Kapp dies at age 85

WASHINGTON, May 10. (AP): Joe Kapp, the hard-nosed quarterback who routinely ran into tacklers instead of away from them while leading the Minnesota Vikings to their first Super Bowl and California to its last Rose Bowl, has died. He was 85.

Cal confirmed that Kapp died on Monday. He had suffered from Alzheimer's disease for the last 15 years and was residing in an assisted living facility, his son J.J. Kapp said.

The family made plans to send his brain to UC San Francisco researchers for study of the potential connection between his dementia and hits he took to the head with his punishing playing style.

After a stellar collegiate career at Cal that was capped by an appearance in the 1959 Rose Bowl, Kapp went on to star in Canada before making it to the NFL. He took over for Fran Tarkenton in Minnesota and led the Vikings to a Super Bowl appearance in the 1969 season before losing to Kansas City.



Kapp

Kapp is the only quarterback to lead his team to a Rose Bowl, Grey Cup and Super Bowl. He still holds a share of the NFL single-game record with seven touchdown passes, in a 1969 win over Baltimore.

"It was kind of like having your own superhero living in your house," J.J. Kapp said in a phone interview with The Associated Press.

Known as a fighter on the field, Kapp was the subject of a Sports Illustrated cover story that dubbed him "The Toughest Chicano." That was

the title of Kapp's autobiography published in 2019 and co-authored by J.J. Kapp and two other friends.

Kapp, whose mother was Mexican American, was a fierce advocate for the Latino community who worked with activist Cesar Chavez for farmworker rights. He also dabbled in acting, with credits that include a role in the 1974 film "The Longest Yard" about a prison football team.

He was a trail blazer as one of the first Mexican-American stars in pro football and remains with Jim Plunkett one of only two Mexican Americans to start at quarterback in a Super Bowl.

Kapp also later coached his alma mater for five seasons and was on the sideline for one of the most memorable plays in school history when the Golden Bears returned a kickoff with five laterals to beat rival Stanford on the final play in 1982, scoring the touchdown with the Cardinal band on the field.

When he was hired to coach at Cal before the 1982 season, he vowed not to drink his favorite alcoholic beverage tequila until the Bears made another appearance in the storied bowl game. They never made it back in his lifetime. Kapp had a 20-34-1 record in five years at Cal, his final game being the biggest upset in the history of the rivalry with Stanford when the Golden Bears won as 21-point underdogs.

Astros' Valdez outpitches Ohtani,
who takes season 1st mound loss

Cleveland Guardians' Amed Rosario covers as Detroit Tigers' Zach McKinstry steals second base during the fifth inning of a baseball game in Cleveland. (AP)

MLB Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, May 10. (AP): Results and standings from the MLB games on Tuesday.

Team	W	L	Pct	GB	Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	2	0	.784	—	Seattle	5	0	1.000	0
Baltimore	4	0	.800	—	Colorado	10	0	1.000	0
Chicago W. Sox	4	0	.800	—	Cincinnati	7	0	1.000	0
NY Yankees	10	0	1.000	—	LA Dodgers	6	0	1.000	0
Philadelphia	8	0	.800	—	St. Louis	6	0	1.000	0
Atlanta	9	0	.900	—	San Francisco	4	0	1.000	0
San Diego	6	0	.600	—	Miami	6	0	1.000	0
Houston	3	0	.300	—	LA Angels	1	0	1.000	0

American League					National League				
East Division					East Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	Team	W	L	Pct	GB	
Tampa Bay	29	8	.784	—	Atlanta	25	11	.694	—
Baltimore	23	13	.639	5-1/2	Miami	18	19	.486	7-1/2
Toronto	21	15	.583	7-1/2	New York	17	19	.472	8
Boston	21	16	.568	8	Philadelphia	17	19	.472	8
New York	20	17	.541	9	Washington	15	21	.417	10

Central Division					West Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	Team	W	L	Pct	GB	
Minnesota	19	17	.528	—	Pittsburgh	21	16	.568	—
Cleveland	17	19	.472	2	Milwaukee	20	16	.556	-1/2
Detroit	16	19	.457	2	Chicago	17	19	.472	3-1/2
Chicago	13	24	.351	6-1/2	Cincinnati	15	20	.429	5
Kansas City	10	27	.270	9-1/2	St. Louis	13	24	.351	8

West Division					West Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	Team	W	L	Pct	GB	
Texas	21	14	.600	—	Los Angeles	22	15	.595	—
Los Angeles	20	17	.541	—	Arizona	20	16	.556	1-1/2
Houston	18	18	.500	3-1/2	San Diego	19	17	.528	2-1/2
Seattle	18	18	.500	3-1/2	San Francisco	16	19	.457	5
Oakland	8	29	.216	14	Colorado	15	22	.405	7

2 Germany games set

Jaguars to play twice in London

WASHINGTON, May 10. (AP): Trevor Lawrence and the Jacksonville Jaguars will become the first NFL team to play two international games in the same season when they spend back-to-back weeks in London this year.

The Jaguars will "host" the Atlanta Falcons at Wembley Stadium on Oct. 1 and "visit" the Buffalo Bills at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium on Oct. 8. The Jaguars were set to play two designated home games in London in 2020 but the pandemic canceled those plans.

"Hosting the Falcons at Wembley Stadium will be awesome only to be followed by playing on the road against the Bills at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium," Lawrence said in a statement. "I'm pumped for the experience and know the support from Duval will be strong at both games."

The Jaguars have played nine games in London, including a 21-17 loss to the Denver Broncos last October in front of an NFL-record international crowd of 86,215 fans at Wembley Stadium. Under first-year coach Doug Pederson, who guided Philadelphia to a Super Bowl title in 2017, the Jaguars last year became the first team to win a playoff game after having the worst

record the previous season. The NFL also announced dates for three other international games.

The Tennessee Titans will "host" the Baltimore Ravens at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium on Oct. 15. It'll be the second trip to London for the Titans.

"It's exciting to witness and play a role in the NFL's rise in popularity across the globe," Ravens president Sashi Brown said. "This is an incredible opportunity to play in front of and connect with Ravens fans in the United Kingdom and throughout Europe."

NFL MVP Patrick Mahomes and the defending Super Bowl champion Kansas City Chiefs will "host" the Miami Dolphins in Germany at Eintracht Frankfurt Stadium on Nov. 5. The New England Patriots will "host" the Indianapolis Colts on Nov. 12, also in Frankfurt.

"We are thrilled to be headed to Frankfurt this fall to play the Dolphins," Chiefs owner Clark Hunt said. "The Chiefs have a long history of helping to grow the game of football around the world, and we have been eagerly anticipating our chance to play in Germany."

The Patriots are 3-0 in international games while the Chiefs are 2-0.

"Germany has some of the most passionate sports fans in the world and has always been an international leader in enthusiasm for American football and the NFL," Patriots owner Robert Kraft said. "I'm thrilled to play a home game in this new market and to continue to build upon our team's long history and engagement with German fans. Our goal is to connect with fans at the local level and I look forward to expanding

that fan base and fostering additional relationships and opportunities for partnership in Germany as well as Austria and Switzerland."

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers defeated the Seattle Seahawks in Munich in the NFL's first regular-season game in Germany last season.

There will be no international game in Mexico in 2023 because of renovations taking place at Estadio Azteca in Mexico City.

The five international games in 2022 set record-breaking attendance and viewership. Each game was sold out with a total of 356,116 in attendance.

FOOTBALL

"We are excited to bring three games to London once again, a city with a huge love for the sport and a passionate fan base across the UK," said Peter O'Reilly, NFL executive vice president, club business, major events and international. "We are also pleased to confirm that the two games in Germany will be played in Frankfurt, a city steeped in NFL heritage. We look forward to staging both games at Eintracht Frankfurt's Stadium, building on the incredible atmosphere experienced at last season's game in Munich."

The NFL's expansion to 17 regular-season games in 2021 gives teams a ninth home game in alternating seasons. Up to four of the teams from the conference whose teams are eligible for that ninth regular-season home game are designated to play a neutral-site international game each year.

The Jaguars host a game at Wembley Stadium as part of their multi-year commitment to playing in Britain.

ANAHEIM, Calif., May 10. (AP): Framer Valdez racked up 12 strikeouts over eight innings of three-hit ball and sent Shohei Ohtani to his first mound loss of the season as the Houston Astros beat the Los Angeles Angels 3-1 on Tuesday night.

Ohtani (4-1) passed Babe Ruth in career mound strikeouts while giving up six hits over seven innings. He finished with seven Ks, but he has yielded at least three runs in three consecutive starts for the first time in his major league career.

Martin Maldonado hit a two-run homer and Yordan Alvarez had an RBI single in the fifth for the defending World Series champion Astros, who snapped their three-game losing streak.

Valdez (3-4) held Ohtani hitless at the plate, limited Mike Trout to one single and didn't issue a walk while finishing one strikeout shy of his career high, also established against Los Angeles last July.

Rookie shortstop Zach Neto hit his first big league homer for the Angels, who have lost three of four.

Ryan Pressly pitched the ninth for his fifth save, striking out Ohtani along the way.

Orioles 4, Rays 2

In Baltimore, Adley Rutschman homered, Grayson Rodriguez pitched into the sixth inning and Baltimore's bullpen was solid as it beat Tampa Bay to snap a three-game skid.

The Orioles pulled within 5 1/2 games of the major league-leading Rays. Tampa Bay won the opener Monday in a three-game series between the American League's top teams.

Rodriguez (2-0) allowed seven hits in a career-high 5 2/3 innings. Félix Bautista got the final four outs for his eighth save in 11 chances.

Wander Franco and Taylor Walls homered for the Rays. Zach Efflin (4-1) gave up four runs in six innings.

Yankees 10, Athletics 5

In New York, Gleyber Torres homered for the second consecutive game and drove in three runs as New York overcame three homers by Oakland rookie Jordan Diaz. Diaz launched a solo shot in the fourth inning, a leadoff drive in the seventh and a two-run homer in the eighth. The 22-year-old second baseman from Colombia connected off three different pitchers, giving him four home runs in 30 major league games.

Aaron Judge had two RBIs in his return from the injured list and Clarke Schmidt (1-3) pitched a career-high six innings for his first big league win as a starter. The right-hander allowed two runs and five hits with seven strikeouts and two walks.

Drew Rucinski (0-3) gave up seven runs, five earned, in five innings for the major league-worst A's.

Reds 7, Mets 6

In Cincinnati, Buck Showalter was ejected for the first time as New York's manager as the Mets lost for the 12th time in 15 games.

Jonathan India drove in three runs for Cincinnati.

The Mets scratched Max Scherzer because of neck spasms. David Peterson (1-5) was recalled from Triple-A Syracuse to make the start and allowed four runs, seven hits and two walks in 3 1/3 innings.

Luke Weaver (1-2) gave up three runs and four hits in six-plus innings. The Mets hit a season-high four homers, two by Francisco Alvarez.

Showalter was tossed for arguing after Cincinnati's Wil Myers slid into second with his right arm extended and was hit by a batted ball, preventing New York shortstop Francisco Lindor from making a clean play.

Dodgers 6, Brewers 2

In Milwaukee, Mookie Betts, Will Smith and Miguel Vargas homered as Los Angeles withstood Noah Syndergaard's early exit to beat Milwaukee.

Syndergaard lasted only one inning because of a cut on the index finger of the 30-year-old right-hander's pitching hand.

Phil Bickford, Justin Bruhl (1-0), Yency Almonte and Victor Gonzalez combined to allow one hit over five innings of shutout relief as the Dodgers built a 6-0 lead.

Rowdy Tellez and Victor Caratini homered off Shelby Miller in the seventh for Milwaukee. Evan Phillips got the last out with two runners on for his sixth save in as many chances.

Eric Lauer (3-4) allowed four runs - three earned - in 3 2/3 innings.

Cardinals 6, Cubs 4

In Chicago, Paul DeJong, Nolan Gorman and Lars Nootbaar homered, and St. Louis beat Chicago for its third straight win.

DeJong put St. Louis in front when he opened the ninth inning with a drive to left-center off Javier Assad (0-2), his third homer this season. Dylan Carlson then tripled and scored on Andrew Knizner's bloop double into shallow right field.

Chris Stratton (1-0) got four outs for the win, and Giovanni Gallegos worked the ninth for his second save.

Dansby Swanson and Christopher Morel homered for Chicago in its third consecutive loss.

Braves 9, Red Sox 3

In Atlanta, Matt Olson crushed a two-run homer in a four-run first inning as Atlanta overwhelmed Boston.

Sean Murphy drove in four runs on three hits as the NL East-leading

Braves handed the Red Sox their second straight loss following an eight-game winning streak. Ronald Acuña Jr. added two hits and scored three runs.

Charlie Morton (4-3) allowed two runs on five hits in six innings. Nick Pivetta (2-3) allowed a season-high seven runs on eight hits and three walks in four innings.

Rockies 10, Pirates 1

In Pittsburgh, Jurickson Profar had his first multihomer game in four years, Connor Seabold got his first major league win and Colorado sent Pittsburgh to its eighth loss in nine games.

Pittsburgh's skid has followed a 20-8 start, the Pirates' best since 1992.

Profar hit a go-ahead solo homer off Luis Ortiz (0-1) in the second and followed Ryan McMahon's two-run triple with a two-run drive off Duane Underwood Jr. that capped a five-run seventh.

Seabold (1-0) allowed one run in five innings in his eighth big league start. He had been 0-4 in his career with Boston and Colorado.

Guardians 2, Tigers 0

In Cleveland, Shane Bieber struck out a season-high nine over six innings, Amed Rosario had an RBI triple among his four hits, and Cleveland beat Detroit.

BASEBALL

Bieber (3-1) scattered seven hits and walked one before relievers James Karinchak, Sam Hentges, Trevor Stephan and Emmanuel Clase completed Cleveland's third shutout of the season. Clase leads the majors with 13 saves in 16 chances.

Rosario singled in each of his three at-bats against Detroit starter Michael Lorenzen (1-2), then tripled home Will Brennan in the eighth against José Cisnero. The Tigers were shut out for the first time since opening day.

Mariners 5, Rangers 0

In Seattle, George Kirby struck out nine in seven sharp innings, Tom Murphy hit his first homer in more than a year and Seattle beat Texas.

Kirby (4-2) walked none and has only issued three free passes in his seven starts this season. He allowed only two Rangers batters to reach scoring position as his ERA dropped to 2.62.

Murphy's two-run homer in the

seventh off Andrew Heaney (2-3) made it 4-0. Heaney gave up four runs, three earned, in 6 2/3 innings as the Rangers' three-game winning streak was snapped.

Giants 4, Nationals 1

In San Francisco, Casey Schmitt homered in his major league debut and San Francisco beat Washington.

Schmitt was selected from Triple-A Sacramento earlier Tuesday and went 2 for 4.

Logan Webb (3-5) limited the Nationals to one run in seven innings, striking out seven and pitching out of several jams. Camilo Doval worked the ninth for his eighth save in nine chances.

Patrick Corbin (1-5) gave up three runs, two earned, in six innings.

Marlins 6, Diamondbacks 2

In Phoenix, Jorge Soler smashed two long homers and had five RBIs, Jesus Luzardo threw six effective innings and Miami beat Arizona.

Soler's first homer was a 468-foot shot in the second inning that landed on the concourse behind the left-center seats and gave the Marlins a 4-1 lead. His second homer, his ninth this season, was a two-run blast in the fifth that landed near the same area, just not quite as deep.

Both came off D-backs rookie Brandon Pfaadt (0-1), who gave up six runs in five innings.

Luzardo (3-2) gave up one run on seven hits.

Padres 6, Twins 1

In Minneapolis, San Diego used savvy baserunning and three Minnesota errors to score twice in the seventh inning, giving Michael Wacha his first win in five starts.

Juan Soto had a season-high four hits with two doubles and a walk and Manny Machado hit a three-run homer in the ninth for the Padres.

Wacha (3-1) gave up just three hits and one run in six innings.

Austin Nola's sacrifice squeeze bunt scored Ha-Seong Kim with the go-ahead run against Twins reliever Griffin Jax (1-4). Kim reached on an error by first baseman Alex Kirilloff. Catcher Christian Vázquez then committed two throwing errors, allowing Fernando Tatis Jr. to score.

Phillies 8, Blue Jays 4

In Philadelphia, Nick Castellanos went 3-for-4 with a homer and two RBIs as Philadelphia beat Toronto.

Aaron Nola (3-2) allowed two runs on five hits over six innings to win his third straight decision. Brandon Marsh had a two-run double in the eighth inning for the Phillies, who have won two straight after snapping a six-game skid.

Bo Bichette hit his eighth homer of the season for Toronto. Alek Manoah (1-3) allowed three runs in 4 2/3 innings, throwing 94 pitches.

White Sox 4, Royals 2

In Kansas City, Andrew Vaughn's two-run homer in the sixth inning broke a 1-1 tie and lifted Chicago past Kansas City.

Lucas Giolito (2-2) allowed two runs on five hits over six innings in a game that started two hours late because of rain. Kendall Graveman worked the ninth for his first save.

Jordan Lyles (0-6) threw a complete game, the first by a Royals pitcher in more than two years, allowing four runs on six hits with no walks.

Change Name

INBASEKARAN RAJANGAM, holder of Passport No. T1941002 (write full name as per present Passport) do hereby change my name to ABDUL RAHMAN (as Given Name) for all purposes. I will henceforth be known in the name ABDUL RAHMAN (write full name as changed now) and I also undertake to carry out this name change in all my documents. INBASEKARAN RAJANGAM.



Seattle Mariners' Sam Haggerty slides into home, scoring on a single by Ty France off Texas Rangers starting pitcher Andrew Heaney during the third inning of a baseball game in Seattle. (AP)

Suryakumar's 83 his best in IPL

Yadav helps Mumbai beat Bangalore to enter top 4 in IPL

MUMBAI, India, May 10, (AP) — Suryakumar Yadav scored 83 runs off 35 balls as Mumbai Indians beat Royal Challengers Bangalore by six wickets to enter the top four spots in the Indian Premier League.

Yadav's 83 was his IPL best and included seven fours and six sixes as Mumbai chased down Bangalore's 199-6 with ease. It finished with 200-4 and entered the top four for the first time this season.

Mumbai chased 200-plus for the third time this year, the most in any IPL season, and is now third with 12 points in 11 games, leapfrogging Lucknow Super Giants and Rajasthan Royals.

Bangalore started in haphazard fashion. Faf du Plessis was dropped on nought off Jason Behrendorff and then Virat Kohli (1) was caught behind off the very next ball. Du Plessis made it count, though, and went on to score 65 off 41 balls.

Behrendorff (3-36) got his second when Anuj Rawat was out caught at short third man but Glenn Maxwell didn't let Mumbai dictate terms. He smacked 68 runs off only 33 balls, hitting eight fours and four sixes.

Du Plessis and Maxwell put on 120 off 62 balls for the third wicket and Bangalore seemed to be running away with the game, before Behrendorff provided the breakthrough again.

CRICKET

Maxwell was out caught, and as has been the case this season, Bangalore's middle order lost steam again.

It lost three wickets in the space of 11 deliveries, including that of Mahipal Lomror (1) and du Plessis, as the scorecard went from 136-3 to 146-5.

Dinesh Karthik scored 30 off 18 balls, while Kedar Jadhav and Wanindu Hasaranga contributed 12 runs each, but Bangalore only managed a sub-par score on a batting beauty at the Wankhede.

In reply, Mumbai sped off thanks to Ishan Kishan's 42 off 21 balls. He smacked four fours and four sixes, putting on 51 off 28 balls for the first wicket with Rohit Sharma, who only contributed seven runs.

Both openers fell to Hasaranga's wrist spin. Kishan was caught behind, while Sharma was out lbw on DRS review, a surprising yet marginal call as the ball seemed to hit the leg stump.

Yadav then took center stage and found an able partner in 22-year-old Nehal Wadhwa. The duo added 140 off 66 balls for the third wicket, taking the game away from Bangalore.

Wadhwa, who had notched up his maiden IPL half-century against Chennai Super Kings in the previous game, con-

tributed a second fifty to Mumbai's cause. He scored 52 net out off 34 balls, including four fours and three sixes, making amends for dropping du Plessis in the first over.

But the night belonged to Yadav who reached 50 off 26 balls. His 100-run partnership with Wadhwa came off 53 balls.

After reaching 50, Yadav hit four more sixes to score 33 off just eight more deliveries before being caught at deep square leg. His previous best was 82 off 40 balls against Sunrisers Hyderabad in IPL 2021.

Tim David fell for a first ball duck thereafter, but Wadhwa made sure Mumbai crossed the finish line with 21 balls to spare, the highest margin in a 200-plus run-chase in IPL history.

Bangalore slipped to seventh in the table, on 10 points but behind Rajasthan Royals and Kolkata Knight Riders on net run-rate.

Stars top Kraken in Game 4 to even Western semifinal

Hurricanes rout Devils 6-1 for 3-1 lead



Carolina Hurricanes defenseman Brent Burns knocks the puck away from New Jersey Devils center Jack Hughes (86) during the first period of Game 4 of an NHL hockey Stanley Cup second-round playoff series, Tuesday, May 9, 2023, in Newark, N.J. (AP)



Dallas Stars defenseman Thomas Harley (55) follows through on a shot for a goal, next to Seattle Kraken right wing Eeli Tolvanen (20) during the second period of Game 4 of an NHL hockey Stanley Cup second-round playoff series Tuesday, May 9, 2023, in Seattle. (AP)

Roma vs Leverkusen in Europa League semifinal

Alonso takes on his former coach Mourinho

DUESSELDORF, Germany, May 10, (AP) — A decade after he last played under José Mourinho at Real Madrid, Xabi Alonso takes on his old boss as a coach.

A win over Mourinho's Roma in their Europa League semifinal first leg in Italy Thursday would further boost Alonso's growing reputation following a remarkable turnaround in Bayer Leverkusen's fortunes this season.

Leverkusen hasn't got this far in Europe since losing the 2002 Champions League final to a Madrid side led by Zinedine Zidane. That's one of several near misses that earned the club its "Neverkusen" nickname in Germany during the 30 years since its last trophy.

SOCCER

A two-time Champions League winner as a player, Alonso played for Mourinho at Madrid from 2010 through 2013, winning the Spanish league and cup.

Alonso later recalled how he was instantly convinced by Mourinho's ability when the Portuguese coach took over at Madrid.

"I remember the first meeting with Mourinho. He came from Inter (Milan), we came from the World Cup that we won in South Africa (with Spain) and we met in Los Angeles. The first meeting, five minutes, you already know why he's there and why he's so good," Alonso said in a 2016 interview with British broadcaster Sky Sports.

Mourinho tipped Alonso as a potential coach of the future in a 2019 interview to promote the Top Eleven video game.

"His father was a manager, so he grew up similar to me. He was born with a father-player, he grew up with a father-manager, then he became a player, of course much better than I was," Mourinho said, highlighting Alonso's experience playing for coaches like Pep Guardiola, Carlo Ancelotti and Rafa Benítez.

"So, I think if you put all this together, Xabi has conditions to be a very good coach."

Alonso took over in October with Leverkusen in the relegation zone and has now hauled it up to sixth in Germany. Previous coach Gerardo Seoane had qualified the club for the Champions League the season

before, but results then slumped.

There were doubts when Alonso won one of his first seven games in a tough schedule. However, he built momentum after the World Cup and turned the young squad known for its fast players into a powerhouse in both Germany and the Europa League. Highlights include a comeback win over Monaco on penalties and a 2-1 win over Bayern Munich swiftly followed by Bayern firing coach Julian Nagelsmann.

Leverkusen's 14-game unbeaten run ended Friday in a 2-1 loss to local rival Cologne, but Mourinho's Roma is coming off its own bruising 2-0 loss to Inter. For both teams, winning the Europa League is their best chance of playing Champions League games next season.



Roma's head coach Jose Mourinho follows the game during a Serie A soccer match between Roma and Inter Milan, at Rome's Olympic Stadium, Saturday, May 6, 2023. (AP)

SEATTLE, May 10, (AP) — Joe Pavelski scored his sixth goal of the series as part of a four-goal second period for Dallas, and the Stars routed the Seattle Kraken 6-3 on Tuesday night in Game 4 to even the Western Conference semifinal series.

After a pair of tight games in Dallas to open the series, Games 3 and 4 in Seattle were blowouts. The Kraken rolled to a 7-2 win in Game 3 and the Stars responded with their best performance of the series in a dominant Game 4 victory. Game 5 is Thursday night in Dallas.

Pavelski scored four goals in the series opener, added a fifth in Game 2 and gave the Stars a 4-0 lead midway through the second period of Game 4.

Pavelski's goal came on a power play after Seattle and challenged for goaltender interference on Max Domi's second goal of the playoffs that gave Dallas a 3-0 lead. The challenge failed and Pavelski made Seattle pay on the ensuing power play.

Pavelski's goal was his 70th career playoff goal, tying him with Steve Yzerman for 19th place. The only active players with more playoff goals are Alex Ovechkin (72) and Sidney Crosby (71).

ICE HOCKEY

Jamie Benn scored late in the first period to give Dallas the early advantage, just his third goal in his past 23 playoff games, and defenseman Thomas Harley made it 2-0 early in the second period. Roope Hintz capped Dallas' big second-period outburst at 19:07.

Jaden Schwartz scored twice for Seattle.

Hurricanes 6, Devils 1
In Newark, N.J., all the Carolina Hurricanes needed to push the New Jersey Devils to the brink of elimination was a five-minute span in the second period where everything went right and the puck just kept going in.

Jordan Martinook had a goal and two assists and the Hurricanes scored five times in the middle period to beat the Devils 6-1 on Tuesday night for a 3-1 lead in the Eastern Conference semifinal.

The Hurricanes have outscored New Jersey 17-3 in their three wins. The five goals in the second period were the most the Devils have given up in a period this season.

"The game was decided in a five-minute span and the rest of the game was eh, eh," Hurricanes coach Rod Brind'Amour said.

Martin Necas scored twice and Brett Pesce, Jesper Fast and Brent Burns added goals as the Hurricanes routed the young Devils for the third time in four games. Frederik Andersen made 21 saves in a relatively easy game after giving up an early goal to Jack Hughes.

The Hurricanes, who edged the Devils for the Metropolitan Division title, can wrap up the best-of-seven series Thursday night in Raleigh, North Carolina.

"We did what we wanted to do," said Carolina captain Jordan Staal, who had two assists. "It's great to see everyone contributing and winning battles."

Despite being down 2-1, New Jersey seemed to have the momentum coming into Game 4. It posted an 8-4 win Sunday and had things and the crowd going their way after Hughes' early tip for his sixth goal of the postseason.

Things changed late in the opening period when Martinook set up Necas with a deft flip pass for shot in close that beat Vitek Vanecek.

Everything went the Hurricanes way in the second period. They got a couple of friendly bounces off Devils' sticks, and then poured it on as a time out by New Jersey coach Lindy Ruff and later a goaltender change to first-round hero Akira Schmid didn't change the luck.



Mumbai Indians' Suryakumar Yadav bats during the Indian Premier League cricket match between Mumbai Indians and Royal Challengers Bangalore in Mumbai, India, Tuesday, May 9, 2023. (AP)

Cologne extends coach's contract

Sergio Busquets to leave 'Barca' at end of season

MADRID, May 10, (AP) — Sergio Busquets is ending his "unforgettable journey" of nearly two decades with Barcelona, he said Wednesday.

Busquets, whose contract ends this season, announced his decision with a video released on social media.

Busquets arrived at Barcelona in 2005 and made it to a "B" team coached by Pep Guardiola after two seasons with the under-19s. He helped the "B" team gain promotion and eventually made his first-team debut in 2008.

He has played 718 matches for Barcelona, putting him third all-time behind Xavi and record-holder Lionel Messi. Busquets has won 31 titles with the Catalan club, including three Champions Leagues and eight Spanish leagues.

He is about to finish his career with another league title as Barcelona holds a 13-point advantage at the top with five games remaining.

Cologne extended coach Steffen Baumgart's contract by another year to 2025 on Wednesday in a sign of continuity at a Bundesliga club facing a transfer ban.

Known for wearing a flat cap and showing his emotions on the touchline, Baumgart placed seventh with Cologne in his first season in charge last year with a squad which had barely avoided relegation under his predecessor. The team is 11th currently.

His contract had been due to expire at the end of the 2023-24 season.

Baumgart rose rapidly through the German soccer system after coaching in the fourth-tier regional divisions as recently as 2016. He led Paderborn to back-to-back promotions from the third tier to the Bundesliga, where the club lasted a single season in 2019-20, and then joined Cologne in 2021.

FIFA banned Cologne from signing new players for two transfer windows over the disputed acquisition of a young forward from Slovenia. The club has filed an appeal with the Court of Arbitration for Sport asking for the ban to be suspended until the case

is decided, which is the usual procedure.

US Soccer Federation hires Onyewu as vice president of sporting

Former defender Oguchi Onyewu was hired Wednesday by the U.S. Soccer Federation as vice president of sporting, a newly created role the governing body said is not a replacement for departed men's general manager Brian McBride.

SOCCER

The USSF said Onyewu will report to Matt Crocker, who starts as sporting director on Aug. 2, and will assist in the hiring of a men's national team coach. Onyewu will work with men's and women's national teams at all levels and will help manage relationships with clubs and leagues.

Gregg Berhalter, whose contract expired Dec. 31, remains a candidate to stay on as men's national team coach after a law firm hired by the USSF concluded he did not improperly withhold information of a 1992 domestic violence incident involving the woman who later became Berhalter's wife. Anthony Hudson, one of Berhalter's assistants, was hired as interim coach in January.

The USSF said Crocker will decide whether McBride's position will be filled.

Onyewu, a 40-year-old from Olney, Maryland, had six goals in 69 appearances for the U.S. from 2004-14, starting three matches at the 2006 World Cup and two more in 2010. He was voted the USSF's male player of the year in 2006.

Onyewu was elected to the USSF board of directors in 2021 and quit in the past week to take the staff position.

His club career spanned 2002-17 and included time with Standard Liège (2004-09) and limited appearances with Newcastle (2007), Sporting Lisbon (2011-13), Sheffield Wednesday (2014) and Charlton (2014-15). He last played with Philadelphia in 2017.

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Forge FC players celebrate after defeating Atletico Ottawa on penalties during a quarterfinal in the Canadian soccer championships in Hamilton, Ontario. (AP)

Sports

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Madrid, Man City play to classy draw

'There's everything to play for next week'

MADRID, May 10, (AP): Real Madrid's Vinicius Junior and Manchester City's Erling Haaland were relaxed and laughing as they embraced after the final whistle at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium.

They both seemed satisfied following an even first leg that ended in a 1-1 draw and left the Champions League semifinal wide open going into next week's return match in Manchester.

Vinicius and Kevin de Bruyne scored with long-range strikes in a match in which Madrid's defense successfully kept Haaland - the Champions League's leading scorer - from being decisive.

"I think both teams have the feeling that it was a good result," said Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti, who took charge of his 190th Champions League match as coach. "Maybe we played a bit better to deserve a victory, but it's a series that will be even until the last minute."

SOCCER

Madrid beat City in last year's semifinals and went on to win a record-extending 14th Champions League title while the English club again fell short of European success.

"It was an even match," City coach Pep Guardiola said. "They scored when we were better and we equalized when they were better. It will all be decided in Manchester."

"Both teams played well. It's a good draw," Madrid goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois said. "There's everything to play for next week."

City controlled possession but couldn't translate it into significant scoring opportunities. Haaland wasted a few chances early but wasn't much of a threat throughout the game at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium. The Norwegian came into the match having scored 12 of City's 26 goals in the Champions League this season and was five short of Cristiano Ronaldo's single-season record of 17 for Madrid in 2013-14.

Vinicius created problems for the City defense and opened the scoring in with a shot into the top corner in the 36th minute for his seventh Champions League goal this season. The Brazil forward picked up a pass by Eduardo Camavinga and used one touch to set up his right-footed shot from outside the area.

City struggled to come close to Madrid's goal but De Bruyne found the net in the 67th with a powerful one-timer from outside the area after Madrid lost possession because of a poor pass across the field by Camavinga.

Madrid complained that it was not awarded a corner in the buildup of City's goal. "It was a shame that we conceded that goal," Madrid midfielder Luka Modric said. "I think we deserved more. They had more possession but didn't create a lot of chances. It's still 50-50 and we will go into the second match with confidence."

Haaland had not yet joined City when it lost 6-5 on aggregate to Madrid in last year's semifinals. Vinicius, Rodrygo and Karim Benzema combined for all of Madrid's goals that time.

Madrid is making its 11th semifinal appearance in 13 seasons and is trying



Real Madrid's David Alaba slides in to block a shot by Manchester City's Erling Haaland during the Champions League semifinal first leg soccer match between Real Madrid and Manchester City at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid, Spain. (AP)



Denver Nuggets center Nikola Jokic (front), collects a loose ball as Phoenix Suns center Deandre Ayton defends in the first half of Game 5 of an NBA basketball semifinal playoff series in Denver. (AP)

to win its sixth title in 10 years. City played in its first Champions League final two seasons ago, losing to Chelsea.

Madrid, which won the Copa del Rey title this past weekend, is virtually out of contention in the Spanish league and can fully focus on the semifinal against City. The English side remains in the middle of a tight title race in the Premier League.

Evenepoel 'crashes' twice as Groves wins 5th stage of Giro

SALERNO, Italy, May 10, (AP): Giro d'Italia favorite Remco Evenepoel was involved in a crash caused by a stray dog early in Wednesday's rainy fifth stage, which was won by Kaden Groves.

On a wet and miserable day, Evenepoel also came off his bicycle a second time but that incident arrived in the final three kilometers so, as per the rules, the times will be neutralized.

He appeared furious after that crash, however, and it remains to be seen whether the world champion will suffer any after-effects.

Evenepoel crashed on the right side of the road early on, along with a number of other riders, after Soudal Quick-Step teammate Davide Ballerini was sent sliding on the wet surface as he tried to avoid a dog that had run out.

Evenepoel was quickly attended to by the race doctor and his team as he sat on the side of the road but eventually got up. He gave a thumbs-up to a television camera as he made the chase back to the peloton.

The Belgian rider led overall until Tuesday's fourth stage, when the pink

jersey was taken off him by Andreas Leknessund.

The 23-year-old Leknessund maintained his 28-second lead over Evenepoel on Wednesday, with Aurélien Paret-Peintre two seconds further back in third overall.

Groves edged out Jonathan Milan and Mads Pedersen in a bunch sprint at the end of the 171-kilometer (106-mile) route from Atripalda. There

CYCLING

were two categorized climbs early on before a flat finale to Salerno.

The day was littered with crashes, including one on the final corner with about eight kilometers remaining, and one in the bunch sprint that sent Mark Cavendish sliding across the line.

Thursday's sixth stage also has two categorized climbs on the 162-kilometer (101-mile) route that starts and finishes in Naples after going through Sorrento and along the Amalfi coast.

The Giro ends in Rome on May 28.

Embiid scores 33, 76ers as eye East finals

Nuggets beat Suns to regain series lead

DENVER, May 10, (AP): Nikola Jokic had a triple-double after making up with Suns owner Mat Ishbia and Michael Porter Jr. sank five 3-pointers to help the Denver Nuggets beat Phoenix 118-102 on Tuesday night for a 3-2 series lead.

Joker had 29 points, 13 rebounds and 12 assists for his 10th career play-off triple-double, breaking a tie with Wilt Chamberlain for most by a center in NBA history.

The Suns are confident they can shake this one off just like they did in bouncing back from two losses in Denver last week.

The home team has won every game in the series. If that holds true again, the decisive winner-take-all clash will come Sunday back in Denver, where the top-seeded Nuggets own the NBA's best home record at 40-7, including 6-0 in the playoffs.

Nuggets coach Michael Malone devised a five-point plan for the Nuggets to regain control of the series after losing two in Phoenix: patch up their transition defense, slow down Booker, get more from his bench, unleash MPJ and knock down open 3s.

Check, check, check, check and check.

Porter bounced back from a quiet night in Game 4 with 19 points on 5-of-8 shooting from long range. Denver outscored Phoenix 31-23 in fast-break points; Booker scored 28 points but missed 11 of 19 shots; Bruce Brown boosted the Nuggets' bench with 25 points and the Nuggets sank 13 of 27 from long range.

Jamal Murray added 19 points for Denver, and Kevin Durant chipped in 26 points for Phoenix but also had an uncharacteristic five turnovers.

The Nuggets turned a three-point halftime lead into a 91-74 cushion with a dominant third quarter in which Jokic made seven of eight shots for 17 points and Booker was just 1-for-8 for 3 points.

The chippiness of the series reached a new level in the final minute of the third quarter when Nuggets swingman Brown antagonized the Suns as they huddled up on the court and Durant gave Jokic a forearm shiver. A double technical was assessed on Durant and Brown.

So, no need for a hug and a handshake next time they play.

Before this game, Jokic shared a warm pregame embrace - and the basketball - with Ishbia 48 hours after their kerfuffle over a loose ball in Phoenix in Game 4 resulted in a tech-

nical foul and a \$25,000 fine for the Nuggets big man.

Having silenced the TD Garden crowd and put the defending Eastern Conference champion Celtics on the brink of a second-round exit, 76ers players barely cracked a smile as they walked off the court.

Embiid scored 33 points and Philadelphia easily took a 3-2 lead in the East semifinals, beating Boston 115-103.

The 76ers led by as many as 21 points in the fourth quarter as home fans booed the Celtics, and can close out the series and advance to the conference finals when they host Game 6 on Thursday night. Philadelphia hasn't reached that stage of the playoffs since 2001.

It was the third straight 30-point game in the series for the reigning MVP, who used his full array offensive weapons to pick apart the Celtics defense. He also had seven rebounds, four blocks and three 3-pointers.

Tyrese Maxey added 30 points and six 3-pointers. James Harden finished with 17 points, 10 assists and eight rebounds.

Coach Doc Rivers likened Harden's play to that of a catcher in baseball

calling the perfect game, putting his teammates in optimal position while also scoring big buckets in key moments.

Rivers said it helped his team endure each of Boston's attempts to get back into the game.

Jayson Tatum led Boston with 36 points but was just 11 of 27 from the field. Jaylen Brown finished with 24 points. The Celtics went 12 of 38 from the 3-point line.

The previous two occasions the 76ers were in a second-round series

BASKETBALL

that was tied 2-2, they were blown out in Game 5 - a 36-point loss to Toronto in 2019 and 35-point loss to Miami last season.

Not this time. The 76ers led by as many as 19 points in the third quarter and took an 88-72 lead into the fourth.

A quick flurry by the Celtics cut the deficit to 11, but Philadelphia responded with a 10-2 run to push it back up to 102-83.

It was 105-89 when Brown got free

on a fast break and attempted to drop in a layup. But Embiid, who stayed in pursuit, was there to swat it away.

Philadelphia made a concerted effort to get the ball to Embiid in the post from the outset. He was able to knock down midrange jumpers, helping to open the floor for his teammates as Boston's big men were pulled out of the paint.

Meanwhile, the Celtics struggled to find their shot throughout.

The 76ers enjoyed an early rebounding advantage and had success with Embiid running pick-and-roll sets at Al Horford. It led to scoring opportunities for Embiid and contributed to Philadelphia building a 15-point lead in the first half.

Tatum missed his first six attempts before hitting a runner with 5:48 left in the second quarter. He finished the first half with 15 points but was just 3 of 11 from the field (1 of 6 from 3-point range).

Boston eventually cobbled together a 10-0 run to cut into the deficit, but Philadelphia settled down and went into halftime with a 58-49 lead.

Harden said the Sixers' mindset heading back home with a chance to closeout the series is clear.



Philadelphia 76ers forward Paul Reed (center), vies for the ball against Boston Celtics guard Marcus Smart (left), and forward Jayson Tatum during the first half of Game 5 in an NBA basketball Eastern Conference semifinal playoff series in Boston. (AP)