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# **KUWAITI-FILIPINO PANEL ON DOMESTICS MEETS NEXT WEEK** Residence permit holders can enter

Filipinos residing in Kuwait can renew residence as usual

KUWAIT CITY, May 11: The government of the Philippines announced that it has not received an official notification from Kuwait regarding the suspension of visas for Filipino workers, while informed sources said the meeting of the Kuwaiti-Filipino joint committee on the issue of domestic workers will be held in Kuwait next week over a period of 3 days from May 16 to May 18, indicating that the meeting will discuss a number of issues, foremost of which is the possibility of reaching a solution to the issue of domestic workers in accordance with the bilateral agreements between the two countries, reports

On a related level, the sources indicated that the directives to stop issuing all types of visas to Filipino workers

include new and previously issued entry visas as well, and only those who have a valid residence permit are allowed to enter Kuwait, even if they have a previous visa, and the Filipino workers residing in Kuwait can renew their residence as usual, according to the procedures.

Well-informed security sources revealed that the General Administration of Civil Aviation has informed the airlines not to accept any passenger of the Filipino nationality, even if he/she has a entry visa issued earlier, except for those who have a valid residency in Kuwait.

The Director of the Airport Passports Department, Brigadier General Badr Al-Shaya, addressed the Civil Aviation Administration to implement these instructions until further notice. It is noteworthy that the suspension of visas for Filipino workers came under the directives of the First Deputy Prime

Minister, Minister of Interior and Acting Minister of Defense Sheikh Talal Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, in his capacity as supervisor of the Public Authority for Manpower, due to Manila's non-compliance with the bilateral agreement signed with Kuwait regarding employment.

#### **Opinion**

### O leadership: Old lady is right, jurist is wrong

#### By Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

FOR centuries, several groups and individuals have been exploiting religion and investing in it in order to achieve gains, either political or financial, and to control nations and people. Some of them have been able to achieve their goals. Some held their leadership by suggesting that they are able to achieve prosperity for society. Some suppressed others who have different views to assert their strength. This helped in the spread of fake religious phenomena, while the reality is totally different.

A testimony to the above mentioned is the story of a woman who entered a learning session and asked, "Who is the jurist among you?

The people there pointed to one of them, and she asked him, "How do you eat?"

He replied, "I start with the name of Allah and then I eat with my right hand. I eat what is in front of me, and in the smallest of bites. And I chew properly.' She then asked, "How do you sleep?

He said, "I perform ablution, sleep on my right side and recite my Quran supplications."

She said, "You do not know how to eat and you do

not know how to sleep!

He looked at her in astonishment and asked, "Then

how do you eat and sleep?"
She replied, "Eat as you wish as long as you don't allow anything Haram (forbidden) to enter your stomach. Sleep as you wish as long as your heart does not harbor any hatred towards anyone.

She continued, "What you told me is the etiquette of eating and sleeping, and what I told you is the essence of eating and sleeping.

Many of those who trade in religion take appearances and do not work with the call to stay away from lies, hypocrisy and fraud. Rather, they spread their slogans among the mobs to direct the societies according to their whims. Some of them make sectarianism their way of life, tighten the nerves of the people towards it, and seek to establish militias in the defense of the sect and the creeds.

In the past decades, we had seen many of these terrorist groups of all sects and creeds, and religions, that had deceived people. We saw how they caused massacres and failed states in order to market their program based on deluding even the leaders who are working according to the advice of these people.

That is why they ruled some countries, and even made them their private farms. This harmed social relations, and the relations of countries with each other indeed.

These groups have permitted all evils in their terrorist work. It was either in the manufacture, promotion and export of drugs, or the imposition of royalties on people through the slogan of donating to charitable causes.

All this was for the sake of its control. We can take some Arab countries as examples when they succumbed to the command of those criminals disguised in the cloak of religiosity who promote deceptive slogans.

Those people were deceived into believing that any openness to others meant open disbelief. Through that, they were able to lock down several countries, and even ban the media that exposes them. All this had nothing to do with religion.

Almighty Allah said in the Quran, "O people, We have created you all male and female and have made you nations and tribes so that you would recognize each other. The most honorable among you in the sight of God is the most pious of you. Allah is All-knowing and All-aware."

Some countries were able to get rid of these pests

when they acted in line with the correct, tolerant and moderate religion, and began to cleanse their societies from them. This is because the principle behind guiding the nation - any nation - is the leadership that works to protect its state, and make it immune from those gangs that have corrupted the land over the past decades.

Today, there is an awakening in several Arab societies to combat intellectual terrorism, and to expose the fraud of those about whom Almighty Allah said, "Verily, those who purchase a small gain at the cost of Allah's Covenant and their oaths...

Here we ask - When will some societies be liberated from the control of those who are still leading them into the abyss?

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#### Day by Day

IF we look at the names of candidates who have shown their interest to contest the next parliamentary elections, the situation does not look rosy for the general public. It reminds us of a proverb that says, 'Look at the face of the goat and milk it.

Of course, we do not mean all the goats, as there may be a goat whose udder is full of milk and useful, but in any case let us continue to live in the world of wonders.

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

**Zahed Matar** 



Rockets are launched from the Gaza Strip towards Israel, in Gaza, May 10, 2023. (AP)

#### **Egyptian cease-fire efforts falter**

### Israel kills 2 militant commanders in Gaza

#### Newswatch

**NEW YORK:** Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the UN headquarters in New York Ambassador Tareq Al-Banai, late Wednesday, vehemently condemned the recent Israeli acts of aggression against the hapless Palestinian people, saying that the UNSC must take responsibility in this regard to ensure peace and security in the region and the world.

Al-Banai, who heads the Arab group in the month of May, told the press outside the UNSC hall that resolutions concerning providing protecting to the people of Palestine as well as the UN charter, human rights, and international laws must be upheld in connection with this alarming situation. (KUNA)

BEIRUT: Saudi Arabia has invited Syrian President Bashar Assad to the upcoming Arab League summit in the oil-rich kingdom, the Syrian president's office said on Wednesday. The news comes as **Damascus** continues to slowly return to the Arab fold, following a 12-year-period of political isolation.

Assad received the invitation days after the Arab League restored Syria's membership into the organization during a meeting in Cairo on Sunday. Syria's membership was suspended for brutally cracking down on mass protests against Assad in 2011. (AP)

**DAMASCUS:** An explosion close to a police station near the Syrian capital killed one officer and wounded four others Wednesday, state media reported.

The reports, citing the Interior Ministry, did not provide further details on the explosion in the town of Barzeh, just north of Damascus. Initial reports only mentioned five injured officers. The state news agency SANA circulated photos of a charred car with investigators assessing the damage. (AP)

**TUNIS:** Tunisian authorities opened an investigation Wednesday into a shooting attack at a synagogue that killed two Jewish pilgrims and three members of the country's security forces. The motive of the gunman, whom guards killed before he could

enter the building on the island of **Djerba**, remained unclear. The island's historic Ghriba synagogue, thought to be one of the world's oldest Jewish temples, is a popular pilgrimage destination, but it was unknown if the assailant, a member of the Tunisian National Guard, specifically targeted Jews in Tuesday's attack. (AP)

**Pullout boost** 

to challenger

ANKARA, May 11, (AP): A candidate in Turkey's presiden-

tial election announced his with-

drawal from the race Thursday,

a move that's likely to benefit

President Recep Tayyip Erdo-

The candidate who pulled out,

Muharrem Ince, is the leader of

the center-left Homeland Party.

He was one of four contenders

running in Sunday's presidential

election. Turkey holds a parlia-

mentary election the same day.

Ince had faced criticism for po-

tentially ciphering support from the

Nation Alliance, which has united

behind the candidacy of opposition

leader Kemal Kilicdaroglu.

gan's main challenger.

Volunteers distribute aid to people in Antakya, southern Turkey, on Feb. 8, 2023. Turkey is grappling with a difficult recovery from February's 7.8 magnitude earthquake, the deadliest quake in the country's modern history. Erdogan's government, has been accused of setting the stage for the devastation with lax building

As part of 'Kuwait by your side' humanitarian campaign, the first batch of support containing 75 tons of aid arrived in Sudan on May 10.

WFP issues warning

### As Sudanese fight hunger rises

ROME, May 11, (KUNA): The UN World Food Programme (WFP) warned On Wednesday, that 2-2.5 million additional people in Sudan are expected to slip into hunger in the coming months as a result of the ongoing violence in the country.

In a statement, WFP said that this would take acute food insecurity in Sudan to record levels, with more than 19 million people affected, adding that the biggest spikes in food insecurity are expected in West Darfur, West Kordofan, Blue Nile, Red Sea and North Darfur states.

Meanwhile, the cost of food is soar-

ing all across the country, and the price of basic food items is expected to increase by 25 percent in the next three to six months if farmers are prevented from accessing their fields and planting key staples between May and July.

WFP added that operations are focused on assisting 384,000 people, including families who have recently fled the conflict, pre-existing refugees and internally displaced people and the vulnerable communities hosting them across Gedaref, Jezira, Kassala and White Nile states

#### Turkey, Syria will boost ties

MOSCOW, May 11, (AP): Syria and Turkey agreed Wednesday to set up a "roadmap" to improve strained ties, following talks alongside Russia and Iran in Moscow.

The agreement comes a week after Syria and Arab governments meeting in Jordan agreed to establish a roadmap of their own to resolve Syria's lengthy civil war and bolster ties. Syria has been returning to the Arab fold and slowly restoring ties with its neighbors.

The Arab League also readmitted Syria's membership after a 12-year suspension in the onset of the conflict on Sunday, before Saudi Arabia delivered a formal invitation earlier Wednesday.

raeli airstrikes in the Gaza Strip killed two militant commanders on Thursday, the army said, as the Palestinian death toll from the latest burst of fighting rose to 26. Rocket fire toward southern Israel continued amid reports of faltering Egyptian attempts to broker a

GAZA CITY, May 11, (AP): Is-

It has been the worst bout of fighting between Israel and Palestinian militants in Gaza in months, and among the dead were also women and children. The conflagration, now in its third day, comes at a time of soaring tensions and spiking violence over the past year in the occupied West Bank.

Early on Thursday, the Israeli military carried out strikes against the Islamic Jihad militant group and said a senior commander in charge of the group's rocket launching force, Ali Ghali, was killed when his apartment was hit.

Later in the day, Israel said it killed another Islamic Jihad commander who was meant to replace Ghali in southern Gaza. Islamic Jihad confirmed the man, Ahmed Abu Daqqa, was one of its com-

The Health Ministry in Gaza said 26 people - including at least 10 civilians - have been killed since the fighting erupted.

Military spokesman Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari told Israeli Army Radio that two other militants were also killed in the early morning strike, although no group immediately claimed them as members, and that the rest of the building remained intact.

"The apartment was targeted in a very precise way," Hagari said. "I hope this leads to a reduction, a blow and a disruption of the Islamic Jihad rocket abilities."

The strikes targeted the top floor of a building in a residential, Qatari-built complex in southern Gaza Strip. The pre-dawn airstrike in the city of Khan Younis caused damage to three surrounding buildings. The complex, known as Hamad City, consists of several tall buildings and thousands of housing units. The strike created panic among residents, with falling debris and shattered glass littering the streets.

"My children started crying. I did not see anything because of the dust, broken glasses, and debris,' said Abdullah Hemaid, who lives across from the targeted building.

Islamic Jihad said Ghali was a commander in charge of its rocket squad and a member of its armed group's decision-making body. The group has said it will only cease fire if Israel agrees to halt targeted killings of its fighters.





### 'THE MIRROR' WITH A HEART THAT SPEAKS ITALIAN

# maraya ... mamma mia!!!

#### **By Prof Andrea Lauria**

In this column up to now I have talked only about Arab Hyper-museums in many arab countries like the UAE, Kuwait, Qatar and also in Egypt. Today I will not describe an Arab hyper-museum but I will tell you about a building that is not a museum but which is certainly an extraordinary architectural work and an incredible landmark. Today we analyze the Maraya Concert Hall in Saudi Arabia.

Part of the reflected landscape, the spectacular multi-purpose structure Maraya Concert Hall is located in Al Ula, in the north-west of Saudi Arabia, a

crossroads of ancient civilizations, with its 20,000 years of history, and aims to become a cultural center for events, concerts and both regional and global chaves

As an Italian art historian who studies Arab countries I am particularly interested to write about the Maraya Concert Hall. Maraya, which means mirror in Arabic, has a heart that speaks Italian and I am so proud of it.

The structure was in fact designed by Elevier Poice of the Cià Forme design.

The structure was in fact designed by Florian Boje of the Giò Forma design studio in Milan, drawing inspiration from the natural landscape in which it is

located, just as nature has inspired the architecture and art of numerous civilizations from the times of the Nabataeans up to the our days.

The Giò Forma design studio is Milan-based architecture firm founded by Cristiana Picco, Florian Boje and Claudio Santucci has amply demonstrated that it takes its work extremely seriously; they have also designed the Tree of Life for Expo Milan 2015.

**Continued on Page 3** 

editor's choice



# oca

Expected weather for the next

By Day: Hot and relatively humid with light to moderate southeasterly wind with speeds of 08-35 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.

By Night: Mild and relatively

humid over coastal areas and with Abdalv light to moderate southwesterly wind to light variable wind with speeds of 06-28 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear. Station Max Exp **Kuwait City** 

Weather

Kuwait Airport

Wafra

39 22 40 28 Salmiyah 33 26 32 27 Ahmadi Nuwaisib 23

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

#### Maraya

#### **Continued from Page 2**

The Maraya Concert Hall project management was also led by the Italians Massimo Fogliati and Fabio Pavanetto of Black Engineering.

A gigantic cube of mirrors becomes part of the fascinating landscape of AlUla, in Saudi Arabia, a crossroads of ancient civilizations and today a new world reference for events, concerts and meetings. Maraya is a stunning piece of art set in the desert canyon of Ashar Valley. Designed to blend into the surrounding landscape, it rises from the sand like a mirage.

Maraya Concert Hall is in fact one of the architectural wonders of the world: 9,740 m2 of mirrors, supplied by Guardian Glass, cover the cubeshaped structure and reflect the vast and enchanting landscapes of AlUla, the first historical site of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia nominated by the Unesco World Heritage Site. The 26m high theater set a Guinness World Record in 2019 as the world's largest mirrored building.

Designing and constructing a building in such a particular place it is not easy task, especially if you design an audacious mirror building that is a strong landmark. We are in an area of enormous archaeological and scenic value, the valley called Wadi Al-Qura in the region of Al-'Ula, known as "the Petra of Saudi Arabia" owing to the presence of ruins from the Nabataean empire.

It must be said that the choice of mirrors is brilliant for two reasons; the first is that the building itself is not too intrusive in the territory, which in this way is respected, and the second is that the building, reflecting the landscape, becomes a theatre for the surrounding environment, which is the real attrac-

The design of the interiors, including the fover, the lounge area and the VIP box of the concert hall, is fairly essential. Here the choice has been to utilize local materials (especially stone) as far as possible to evoke a building carved out of the rock by human hand and by the wind.

The hall is 26 m in height, which means that stage sets can be moved around just as they are in the world's leading opera houses. The main auditorium houses 500 seats, along with five boxes with space for up to 60 more guests. The backdrop of the gigantic stage (50×20 m) an 800m2 retractable window can be opened to reveal craggy rock formations, which are illuminated at night and produce colorful reflections. The effect is in-

Other facilities include a roof terrace, a conference center, exhibition space (including an "infinity room" installation by Yayoi Kusama) and a restaurant. From the terrace-restaurant on the roof visitors can admire the shifting play of light on the surrounding canyon, at any hour of the day and

The Maraya Concert Hall is an extraordinary building, built in a splendid natural location, but is located 1000 km from the capital Riyadh and not very easily accessible.

I understand that the concert hall was built here to develop the local economy producing businesses for local residents, creating an ideal place to host local and international events.

The region wants to be the chosen destination for artists to draw inspiration from a territory that highlights the vestiges of civilizations that have inhabited it over the centuries and emphasizes the importance of architecture and art in the development of the culture of all ages.

Such an extraordinary building as The Maraya Concert Hall, to develop its full potential It should be located close to the capital, where other landmark buildings can be designed like an hyper museum designed by a famous Archi star. In this way a cultural district could be developed, as the cultural district on Sa'diyyat Island in the Abu Dhabi, with huge cultural, artistic but also economic potential.

However, it must be said that it is undeniable that the Maraya Concert Hall it is very interesting contemporary architecture. Such a strong landmark created considering the location, respecting the nature of the local segmented rocks and 'sculpting' from

This Saudi building is unique and leads us to reflect on the unmistakable geological environment in which it is immersed, on the strong abstraction of the surrounding landscape and on the unusual incursions of man into the natural landscape.

The mirrors themselves used as a contemporary canvas, reflect the remarkable heritage of the area. In the same time the mirrors building's reflections give a sense of enveloping balance: a profound connection of human heritage with nature and the

What is particularly intriguing to me in The Maraya Concert Hall is that on one side this building, with its mirrors, doesn't contaminates the beauty of the area but at the same time this construction changes forever the area in which it is built creating a unique metaphysical reality as unique as it is the place where it is located.

#### Problems abound in travel; 'My ID' to the rescue

### Delay in issuing Civil ID increases expat suffering

KUWAIT CITY, May 11: The delay caused by the Public Authority for Civil Information in issuing Civil IDs to expatriates has only increased the sufferings of the expatriate community (those who have renewed their residence permits), reports Al-

Each time a resident checks the status of Civil ID on the PACI website the screen flashes the familiar message the 'Civil ID card is still being processed'.

The daily added, PACI continues to delay without any reason to the extent the expatriates face problems everywhere and do not even know when they will get their IDs as if we live in an unseen world, not the world of technological development and digital transformation and artificial intelligence, although neighboring countries complete their identities in a few minutes, without the person visiting the government agencies.

After canceling the "residence" sticker on the passport, non-Kuwaitis are exposed to a long journey in which they suffer

Ahmad Al-Sa'adoun

Fear of disease

Ban on bringing in

personal foodstuff

KUWAIT CITY, May 11: The General Ad-

ministration of Customs said passengers com-

ing from Iraq, Syria and Lebanon are barred

from bringing into the country any foodstuffs

of unknown origin or home-made products,

Acting Director General of the General Ad-

ministration of Customs, Sami Muhammad

Al-Kandari, has issued customs instructions

listing preventive measures to prevent passen-

gers from bringing in foodstuffs from some

mendations of the Common Diseases Com-

mittee between Humans and Animals, which

recommended banning personal foodstuffs

from countries where some diseases have

been monitored and recommended the follow-

ing - continuing to prevent the entry of any

foodstuffs of unknown origin or home-made

products accompanied by those coming to the

country and food products are allowed to enter

provided they are packaged by the food pro-

Meanwhile, the Minister of Electricity and

Water and Minister of State for Housing Af-

fairs Mutlaq Abu Raqba has approved the par-

tial list of employees eligible for the excellent

job performance bonus, reports Al-Anba daily

Sources explained "the approval of the bo-

nus payment for the rest of the employees will

be completed within a month — after confirm-

Sources added the ministry will send messages to the employees included in the ap-

proved list, while affirming that Raqba is keen

on disbursing the bonus to all deserving em-

Panel's work reviewed

KUWAIT CITY, May 11: The Board of Di-

rectors of the Public Authority for Applied

Education and Training held its meeting No.

151 and reviewed the results of the work of

the ministerial committee formed to con-

sider complaints and grievances concerning

appointments 2020/2021 and the announce-

ment of scholarships 2021/2022, reports Al-

the committee's recommendations such as

the announcement of scholarships for the

academic year 2021/2022 and canceling the

announcement of appointments in the Public

Authority for Applied Education and Train-

By this the Authority affirms its constant

keenness to provide equal employment op-

portunities under fair and equal conditions

and criteria so that applicants are selected on

ing for the academic year 2020/2021.

The Board of Directors decided to adopt

ing that they fulfilled all the conditions.'

ployees as soon as possible.

The instructions came based on the recom-

reports Al-Anba daily.

neighboring countries.

ducing establishments.

quoting sources.

Anba daily.

objective grounds.

from two things and problems inside and outside Kuwait when traveling, and despite the justification of PACI that the delay is due to the Corona pandemic in 2020, after 3 years the situation is still the same and to make matters worse no one knows who can be contacted. This is in spite of the Authority announced on Aug 10, 2020 its apology to citizens and residents for the delay in issuing and distributing cards, due to the Authority's disruption for 4 months following the impact of the Corona pandemic.

#### Resuming

It announced that the delivery rate reached - after resuming work - more than 10 thousand cards per day, which means It receives 1.3 million cards per month, and 15 million annually, which is more than 3 times more than the population of Kuwait, while some visitors wait more than a year and do not receive

The authority confirmed that it receives 1.3 million cards per

month but the reality of the situation is contrary to that. With great dissatisfaction, Al-Jarida opened the file of the delay in issuing the card, as it toured the Public Authority for Civil Information, to find out the reasons for the delay of the cards and asked some of the visitors about the status of their civil cards where they expressed their strong dissatisfaction with the current conditions and poor service at the PACI.

Expatriates pointed out that they rely heavily on the digital card (My ID) in completing personal transactions, but there are parties that require verification through the original card, which put them in the circle of returning some transactions until the new card is issued. They added that in parallel with the presence of 3 million people using my "identity", there are parties, inside and outside Kuwait, that do not count. One of them indicated that the long wait for the new civil card has entered its tenth month, and the application is still under process stressing that the repeated review is to amend some information.

### **Kuwaiti citizens vouch for Constitution – ex-Speaker**

Number hits 170 as more join poll-run

**By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh** Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 11: A total of 27 males and one female on Thursday filed their candidacies for the parliamentary elections scheduled for June 6, 2023. This increases the number of candidates to 170 so

far - 165 men and five women.

Following are the candidates who registered on the seventh day of the 10-day registration period:

**First Constituency** 1- Osama Zaid Al-Zaid

2-Hassan Abdullah Jawhar 3- Abdullah Jassem Al-Mudhaf

4- Muhammad Merwi Al-Hadiya **Second Constituency** 

1- Ibrahim Musalam Al-Rashedi 2- Fahd Abdulaziz Al-Maoud

**Third Constituency:** 1-Ahmad Mahmoud Hassan

2- Ahmad Nabil Al-Fadhl 3-Salwa Saeed Saeed

4- Azzam Badr Al-Amim 5- Mehalhal Khalod Al-Mudhaf

6- Muhannad Talal Al-Sayer 7- Hesham Abdulsamad Al-Saleh

**Fourth Constituency** 

1- Jarrah Farraj Al-Dhufairi 2- Sultan Metni Al-Shemmari 3- Fawaz Thamer Al-Mutairi

4- Meteb Ayed Al-Zaidi 5- Muhammad Mubarak Al-Fajji

6- Muhammad Hayef Al-Mutairi

7- Musaed Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi 8- Muaz Mubarak Al-Duwaila

**Fifth Constituency** 

2- Khalid Khalifa Al-Azmi

3- Abdulmuhsen Ali Akbar

4- Eid Shraim Al-Otaibi

5- Fahd Amer Al-Aimi

6- Fawzi Saqr Al-Saqr 7- Muhammad Hadi Al-Hewaila

Meanwhile, former Assembly Speaker Ahmad Al-Sa'adoun said the people of Kuwait are committed to the Constitution, which is considered a contract between the citizens and political leadership. He added the citizens exercise their rights and freedom pointing out that the first legislature witnessed the resignation of seven MPs because they believed certain bills were aimed at curtailing

He went on to say that in 1990; there was no political, military or administrative leadership, yet the Kuwaitis affirmed their loyality to the ruling family and commitment to the Constitution. He explained the attempts to amend the Constitution failed due to the awareness of the people. He then called on all eligible voters to exercise their right of suffrage. He stressed that an eligible voter who does not vote should not complain later.

Former MP Abdulaziz Al-Saqaabi stated that the corrupt party might have disappeared from the parliamentary scene for one year, but it has been present in the political life with its influential tools. He claimed the corrupt wanted to distort the image of the 2022 Parliament. He pointed out that some parties, including traders, sheiks and certain beneficiaries do not want Kuwait to adopt democracy. He added they do not believe in the ability of citizens to contribute to decision-making.

keen on making citizens fed up and lose their desire to participate in the parliamentary elections. Over the last 10 years, citizens and politicians decided to boycott the elections for reasons which, at the time, proved that boycotting was not the right option. The worst laws have been enforced in the last 10 years concurrently with the boycott motion. Citizens should not hesitate to vote in order to foil attempts to disrupt democracy,'

### PAM fines, suspends 22 domestics hiring offices

KUWAIT CITY, May 11, (Agencies): The Public Authority for Manpower (PAM), in coordination with joint committee launched an inspection campaign on domestic workers recruitment offices, in governorates of Hawally, Farwaniyah and Al-Ahmadi, which culminated in the fining and suspension of 22 offices.

In a press statement issued on Thursday, the Authority mentioned that 13 workers were suspended and taken to migrant labor shelter center until their legal situation is remedied and departure measures are taken.

The fines suspend office permits for six months, citing article 11 of resolution 22 for the year 2022.

The continuation of such campaigns aims to ensure commitment of offices to the rules and regulations, and comes as per the instructions of First Deputy Prime Minister, Interior Minister and Acting Defense Minister Sheikh Talal Khaled Al-Sabah.

Minister of Commerce and Industry Muhammad Othman Al-Aiban recently issued a decision on the retirement of two deputy director generals at the National Fund for the Care and Development of Small and Medium Enterprises - Fahd Al-Nisafi and Faris Al-Anzi, reports Al-

#### All must abide by laws: minister

KUWAIT CITY, May 11, (KUNA): All personnel of the Ministry of Interior, no matter how senior they may be, are obliged to abide by the laws, the Interior Minister stressed on Thursday.

Sheikh Talal Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, also the First Deputy Prime Minister and the Acting Minister of Defense, was speaking during ceremonial decoration of 762 MoI officers with the brigadier's rank.

Sheikh Talal affirmed the supreme leadership's keenness on giving the personnel all their rights as stipulated by the laws, according to set terms

and timetables.

He conveyed greetings of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and congratulated them on the confidence accorded to them from the top

The Minister of Interior has affirmed that the promoted officers have substantial responsibilities to be shouldered ahead, noting nations' need for qualified personnel to face mounting dangers and challenges.

#### **Other Voices**

### Population now, and then

#### **Ahmad alsarraf**

The first population census was conducted in the history of Kuwait 65 years ago, and I remember the delegates' visits to our house and the homes of neighbors, and their sitting on the ground to write down the data, and some people doubted because they asked suspicious

questions, espe-cially with the police accompa-

nying them. All census data was published at the time in the Official Gazette "Kuwait Al-Youm", No. 211, and it included many details that were the subject of guidance from



alsarraf

several demographic and security authorities, and in the areas of economic, educational, social and health planning for the population, especially with the increasing flow of oil revenues, and the need to build new cities and facilities.

The statistics included sad information, and others very funny, and showed things that could have been avoided, but the "people of that time" tried as much as they could, and this did not prevent the occurrence of huge and terrible violations, which were if not for the wisdom that characterized the founding Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem, and the policy of firmness that he followed, with adults, the situation would have been much

The total population of Kuwait reached 206 thousand in 1957, compared to today's number (4.450 million people). The proportion of Kuwaitis among them is slightly more than half, but it has declined to almost 30% today, and this is normal, with the increase in the need for skilled hands and foreign expertise. The percentage of Kuwaitis would be much lower than that, had it not been for the random naturalization policy, from which many benefited, and often without a legitimate reason, and some of these became among the extremists of religious parties, because they knew that it was the party that provided them with protection and cover, even if their matter was exposed, as the owner of the hoopoes benefited!

The population of the capital in the 1957 census was 104 thousand citizens, while today it is devoid of citizens, and this is a phenomenon that is unique to Kuwait. The population of Failaka Island was 2,442, and today there are almost

The number of Egyptians at that time was 1,734, and today it exceeds 670,000. And the Indians were 4100 and today they are a little more than a million.

It is interesting to note that there are 7 Canadians, 164 Americans, 177 South Americans, 23 Australians, 2371 Britons, and 612 Europeans, and perhaps the majority of them work in the oil extraction and export industry, or consultants

to the government. The number of East Asian citizens did not exceed 345, and today their number is close to one million. As for the Palestinians and Jordanians, their number was 15,000, and at its peak it reached nearly half a million, before it declined to 7% of that number. As for the Syrians, their number did not exceed two thousand at the time, and today they are more than 160 thousand, due to the conditions of

the civil war in their homeland. In the same context, PACI showed a few days ago that the size of the population increased during the past 32 years to 939 thousand people (1,500,000 -578,000) distributed among 313,000 families. The annual increase amounted to 28.7 thousand Kuwaitis, while the annual increase rate ranged between 25 and 32 thousand people, with the exception of 1993, which witnessed an annual increase estimated at 78.9 thousand people, and the reason is known?

The replacement-level fertility rate, the rate at which a population replaces itself from generation to generation without emigration, is often seen as an acceptable birth rate. The replacementlevel fertility rate is usually estimated at about 2.1 births per woman. However, this rate may vary from country to country. Therefore, many question the rate of increase in Kuwait, and the figures of the Public Authority for Civil Information.

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# MoE working on combating phenomenon of exam cheat

Move to accept reserved 'attorney' applicants in legal dept

KUWAIT CITY. May 11: The Minister of Education and Higher Education Dr. Hamad Al-Adwani says the Ministry of Education is continuing its procedures to combat the phenomenon of cheating in upcoming exams for high school

Mujezat Al-Shifa Honey Company decided to prepare an atlas of pollen forms of

honey plants spread in Kuwait

of all kinds, with the aim of accurately identifying the

botanical and floral source of

existing and circulated honey

its kind in Kuwait.

#### students, reports Aljarida daily.

In a press statement, he said. "Our hands are extended to the Ministry of Interior to eliminate this great scourge that threatens the future of our children.'

Dr. Al-Adwani stressed that those who are trying to cover up the existence of this phenomenon are people from outside the Ministry of Education, be-

"Mujezat Al-Shifa": preparing an

atlas of honey plant pollen in Kuwait



Dr Hamad Al-Adwani

cause they benefit from it.

He called for the need to enact laws through the National Assembly to combat this scourge and deter cheaters and those who benefit from it, stressing that, "The survival of this phenomenon in the future will not benefit our children.'

#### **Preparations**

Regarding the recent institutions.

Al-Salem University, he explained that those in charge of it are making a great effort to operate it soon, explaining, "We strive to be better than we expect."

Meanwhile, the State Minister for Municipal Affairs Fahad Al-Shula says, "Based on the directives of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmed Al-Nawaf and in order to strengthen the support of Kuwaiti youth national competencies, it was decided to accept all those accepted as reserve for the position of "Attorney" in the Legal Department and those who passed the tests and the personal interview", re-

for filling the position of "attorney" within the spe-cial positions in the Legal Department headed by Dr. Nayef Al Mutair.

He specified the terms of

reference of the committee in requesting papers and documents related to the qualified and in accordance with the appointment procedures followed, taking into account the controls stipulated in the ministerial decision, and the memorandum submitted by the counselor, director of the legal department, head of the personal interviews committee and approved by the minister of Municipality, and preparing the necessary correspondence regarding the medical council in accordance with the requirements of health fitness for appointment, as well as preparing the conditions for appointment of qualified persons in preparation for entering data into the integrated systems of the Civil Service Commission, and saving and archiving all files of qualified persons in an electronic

Head of the Municipal Council Abdullah Al-Mahri appreciated the role played by the State Minister for Municipal Affairs Fahad Al-Shula and his tangible efforts in accepting all reserves for the position of a lawyer in the

#### and knowing its properties and quality, through the assistance of a leading company in the field of programming, pointing out that preparations on the mechanism for accepting high and state agencies with the project takes about a year to complete it accurately school graduates in varito achieve desired results, which is the first project of ous educational institutions and scholarships, Dr. Honey production expert and director of Mujezat Al-Shifa, Muhammad Qasim Al-Majdadi, confirmed Al-Adwani affirmed the readiness of the Ministry that the project aims to protect national honey from format. of Education and Higher manipulation, prevent fraud, and promote steps aimed at supporting food security and preserving the quality Education to accept stuof bee products, pointing out that Kuwaiti honey is dents in various academic distinguished by its delicious taste in the event that it is ports Al-Qabas daily. He said, "We keep this 100% pure, especially Kuwaiti Sidr honey and honey Al-Shula issued a decialfalfa and eucalyptus, and the demand for Kuwaiti issue in mind. We encoursion to form a committee honey is increasing day by day, noting that Kuwaiti age it to see results that to "fulfill the conditions honey entered international honey competitions and won will benefit the students in for appointment to fill the a number of prizes in first place, indicating that the project the near future.' position of a junior legal aims to protect the national product from manipulation. Regarding the Abdullah researcher" in preparation legal department. **Room Promotion**

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A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

### 'Need to reform first govt administrative apparatus'

"THE undersecretaries and assistant undersecretaries hold many positions in ministries and government agencies, which makes them the first line responsible for implementing the development plans, establishing development projects, and moving forward with work," columnist Asrar Hayat wrote for Al-Qabas daily.

"Therefore, the agents and their assistants bear a large part of the consequences and reasons for the failure of work for which they are responsible as desired, and they deserve praise if

they are able to fulfill the aspirations of Kuwaitis in achieving the desired development for Kuwait and to be taken to account if not.

"Even not long ago, the position undersecre-

tary and assistant Asrar Hayat undersecretary was considered a "more comfortable" term for a government position, so it was customary in Kuwait that the minister bears full responsibility for any shortcoming in his ministry, according to the constitution, while the undersecretary and assistant undersecretary remain free from any possible accountability, as the undersecretaries, or leaders in a broader sense, are guaranteed their positions for at least four years, which is the duration of their appointment decrees, no matter how shortcomings were on their part, which was not straightforward in the event that we wanted radical reform.

"Recently, we heard and read, albeit from sources, news that gives hope for the beginning of a radical reform, represented by placing leaders under the microscope of periodic evaluation, and submitting performance reports that assess what the leader has accomplished every six months, while the leader is no longer protected by the fortress of the appointment period

stipulated in his appointment decree.
"Rather, he may face accountability and dismissal much earlier, which we see as a serious and preventive step that makes the official think a thousand times before he fails in his work or violates it, and thus we ensure that the first building block is laid in reforming the government administrative apparatus.

'On the other hand, according to Al-Qabas in its issue issued last Friday, the Government Performance Follow-up Agency put a report that includes an integrated system for measuring the performance of government institutions on the Cabinet table. We hope that this system will be another contribution to ensuring the reform of the governmental administrative apparatus, and ensuring the progress of the development plan and development projects in a timely manner, and we hope that more reform steps will be approved."

#### Also:

"The people return once again to choose who represents them in Parliament. Many files await them, the most important of which, from my point of view, is their role and responsibility in arranging the chaos of the political work in which we live, which requires intervention and a clear position in which some MPs may pay a price and a benefit from their personal treasury, such as the possibility of not returning to parliament seats in the elections. The upcoming political reform has been completed or its signs have begun," columnist Mohammed Al-Matani wrote for Annahar daily.

"The people, who have been consumed a lot since the beginning of the electoral system, return to exercising their role in electing a parliament that does not present during the election period any program of action, any development vision, or a solution to any problem they suffer from, so that the people find themselves in the end obligated to choose individuals who know before others that their chance of success is in solving problems.

"In all democratic experiences, leaders bear the responsibility on behalf of society to move the society and its experience forward with their sacrifices and their acceptance of presenting their personal interests and perhaps losing their positions in order to transfer and mature the experience.

"Before the deputies of tomorrow, whatever their political orientation based on people and who leads and dominates, is the responsibility of dealing as statesmen, presenting the file of political reform and proceeding towards achieving it by developing the electoral system as a prelude, and who did not know the idea of delivering a legislative majority since the work of the constitution with the disparity of the electoral systems that we experi-

"But it certainly did not aim at all of them, without exception, to organize the work of Parliament and to create representatives of the nation's opinion and needs who, through an organized and clear work, could present the problem and the solution and imple-

"We need political reform for the people to choose representatives who came to elections based on programs and visions, not personal variables between one candidate and another and his sectarian, tribal and family affiliation, and before that we need maturity from the candidates and an understanding of the main problem that Parliament suffers from, which is the absence of collective action, which will only happen by improving the political environment through steps today, not tomorrow, so that the people will not return in a shorter period to repeat the same experience and obtain the same results."



"In recent years, Kuwait has been suffering from political instability, which halted the wheel of development no matter how hard the loyalists tried to push it," columnist Tariq Al-Derbas wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

"From December 2020 until the formation of the current government, seven governments were formed in about two and a half years, and the government served for only 99 days.

"For example, four ministers of interior were appointed in 2022, six in the ministries of Commerce and Municipality, five in the Ministry of Finance, while the Ministry of Public Works, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Communications (newly established) have had three ministers from January 2020 till date (within three years). During these three years and the seven governments, 55 new ministers passed through the govern-

"Indeed, the minister's job has become the fastest way to retire! What achievement, reform or development renaissance are we talking about in light of these rapid changes and instability? There has been no room for ministers to work according to a strategy that can evaluate their performance or hold them accountable in case of wrongdoing.

Considering the crowd of ministers, burdens of each ministry, Cabinet committees, National Assembly and their meetings, if we calculate a minister's present in each side, we will find that he spends a few days (not even equal to the number of fingers in one hand) to deal with urgent matters only!"



"Culture plays a pivotal role in building the concepts of peoples and appreciating their convictions. Therefore, it is the effective mediator in communication and in presenting visions upon which the features of human entities are formed," columnist Abdullah Al-Shihab wrote for Al-Anba daily.

"This role is the authentic historical reference rooted in the depths of man, since he knows his way of expressing himself and that of others.

"Culture and its tributaries branch out in all walks of life, which made many people think the manifestations of life are represented in such exten-

"Culture is a broad and loose concept that contains the patterns and paths of human life. We realized this function and confirmed how life is dyed like the work of a perfect artist, as well as how it affects the behavior of the individual creating an explicit emotional state, which appears to be manifested in the ways of rejection or acceptance. If culture has this much power and control, there is no objection to moving the slides to benefit from them, to occupy an area with which interests are achieved so we see the societal return.

"It is smart to think of charitable work as culture in people's minds, illuminating the corners of their thinking. This must be simplified in order to develop it and then make it an indispensable pillar.'

— Compiled by Mai Elsoukary

#### **Govt institutions complete land inventory**

KUWAIT CITY, May 11: Some government agencies have completed an inventory of all lands belonging to them, based on the request of the Diwan of His Highness the Prime Minister, reports Al-Qabas

An informed source said that the Investment Promotion Authority submitted a report to the Council of Ministers regarding the lands allocated to it, which are as follows -- economic zones (Al-Abdali Economic - Al-Naeem Economic; commercial plots of land located in the Salmiya area and in the Hawalli area; land allocated for the Investment Promotion Authority building and Free Zones -- Nuwaiseeb Free Zone).

The source indicated that the Ministry of Education submitted a report in which it revealed the lands reserved for it in 5 educational areas, and they amounted to 203 lands distributed over the different stages (kindergarten, primary, intermediate, and secondary) for boys and girls, as follows -- Capital Region 22, Al-Ahmadi 50, Al-Jahra 17, Hawalli 76 and Mubarak Al-Kabeer 38.

The source indicated that the number of lands reserved for kindergartens out of the total number is about 91, while there are 10 plots of land reserved for unspeci-

Minister of State for Municipal Affairs (right) with Municipal Council Chair-



Minister of State for Municipal Affairs in a group photo with Municipal Council members

KUNA photos

#### Al-Shula stresses moving to paper-less applications to make things convenient

### Municipal Affairs Minister Al-Shula to set new cleaning regulations

#### **Investment collaboration discussed**

#### Kuwait, Korean officials discuss ways to 'enhance' cooperation

SEOUL, May 10 ,(KUNA): Kuwait Assistant Foreign Minister for Asian Affairs Sameeh Hayat discussed with Deputy Minister for Political Affairs of the Korean Foreign Ministry Choi Young Sam Wednesday the latest political developments in the Middle East, and ways to enhance joint cooperation to boost peace and stability at the international level.

In a press statement, Kuwait Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that the meeting was held at the Korean Foreign Ministry and came on the occasion of launching the fourth round of political consultations between Kuwait and the Republic of Korea.

During the meeting, they reviewed the distinguished bilateral cooperation ties and ways to enhance them in the fields of oil, renewable energy, infrastructure and health, as well as discussing ways to promote trade and investment collaboration.

Ambassador Hayat held a meeting before the start of the political consultations round, with the Korean First Vice Foreign Minister Ambassador Chang Ho-jin, where he presented a letter from Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Sabah to his Korean counterpart Park Jin.

KUWAIT CITY, May 11, (KUNA): Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Minister of State for Communications Affairs Fahad Al-Shula stressed Wednesday need of setting new cleaning regulations to place penalties on non-compliant companies.

Al-Shula stated on the sidelines of his visit to municipal councils' members that cleaning issue is priority to any minister amidst complaints by citizens regarding this issue.

However, he announced an upcoming nationwide campaign starting next week in addition to discussing with the Municipal Council members means of boosting cooperation with the objective of facilitating pro-

During the meeting, the Minister stressed on transforming paper applications to paperless applications to make things easy for citizens and architecture offices.

From his side, Municipal Council chairman Abdullah Al-Mehri said in statement council members were keen on approving the State's fourth structural plans.

# **Kuwait economic growth highly** variable in recent years: report

'Political stalemate prevents reform efforts'





Kuwait Assistant Foreign Minister for Asian Affairs Sameeh Hayat with Deputy Minister for Political Affairs of the Korean Foreign Ministry Choi

#### Bid to amend articles of regulation

#### Cmte head tapped for improving waste transportation companies

KUWAIT CITY, May 11: The Director General of Kuwait Municipality Eng. Ahmad Al-Manfouhi has issued a decision to assign the Deputy Director General for Services Affairs to head the Committee for the Rehabilitation of Waste Transportation Companies and Institutions during the period from April 2, 2023 to March 31, 2024, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Eng. Al-Manfouhi specified the terms of reference of the committee in preparing the conditions and controls for the qualification document that must be available for applications for the rehabilitation of waste transportation companies, institutions and individuals (construction waste and municipal solid waste) in accordance with the provisions of the Regulations on Cleanliness and Waste Transportation and its amendments, and to receive and study rehabilitation requests and grievances submitted by companies and institutions and those wishing to qualify in accordance with the requirements provided in the rehabilitation list.

He stressed the need to receive applications from licensing companies, institutions and individuals (transportation of construction waste and municipal solid waste) who applied to the municipality, issue the necessary licenses in accordance with the conditions and controls that are approved, and take appropriate measures in accordance with the provisions of the Regulations on Cleaning and Waste Transport and its amendments in the

event that the license holder commits any violations (licensing withdrawal or temporary suspension).

The municipality's move is aimed to improve the waste management field in Kuwait. It will include meetings of the joint committee between legal and environmental affairs in the municipal council to discuss the regulation related to cleanliness and waste transportation, with the aim of approving the regulation in line with the management of solid waste services and construction waste.

The committee seeks to amend the articles of the regulation, in coordination with the executive body and the Environment Public Authority (EPA), especially since it has reviewed all the studies and strategies in force in the State of Kuwait, such as the state's structural plan report, related to waste management, EPA's strategy and the advice of the World Bank, in addition to the recommendations of the government's work schedule and the regulations of the Gulf states for the integrated management of municipal solid waste, in order to take scientific expertise in this field.

It is noteworthy that the Municipal Council had unanimously approved a proposal to classify cleaning companies according to ability, capabilities and experience, after the Kuwait Municipality expressed its opinion in its response to the proposal submitted by a member of the Municipal Council Engineer Munira Al-Amir.

KUWAIT CITY, May 11: A recent report by Al-Monitor touched on economic policies and competitiveness in Kuwait in light of the ongoing disputes between the legislative and executive authorities, which had a negative impact on health care, education and other social services, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The report stated that the country's economic growth has been highly variable in recent years, reaching 8.9% in 2020, 1.3% in 2021, and 8.3% in 2022 at a time when the International Monetary Fund expects the country to record real GDP growth of 0.9% during the current year.

The report pointed out that the oil and gas sector contributes more than 80% of the public sector revenue sources, as Brent crude prices are expected to average \$85.01 per barrel in 2023 and \$81.21 in 2024 -- down from \$100.94 in 2022, according to the US Energy Information Agency.

#### Annual

And at a time when the Ministry of Finance announced a record budget of \$ 86.7 billion for fiscal 2023-2024 that begins in April, reflects an annual increase of \$9.1 billion (11.7%), this expansionary fiscal policy records fiscal deficit year after year, when not calculating investment interest income from the Kuwait Investment Authority, where the break-even point in the budget for 2023-2024 is at \$92.90 per barrel.

A breakdown of spending in the draft budget for Kuwait reveals that 80% of the planned expenditures are allocated to salaries and subsidies, while capital expenditures and other expenses consume 9% and 11%, respectively, in conjunction with the failure to issue sovereign debt since 2017, due to the inability to pass a new debt law.

Dr. Robert Mogilnicki, a researcher at the Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington, presented 3 scenarios for the next stage in Kuwait:

First scenario -- Persistent political stalemate prevents real economic policy-making and reform efforts, leading to a slow - but manageable - deterioration in the country's economic environment and competitiveness, as



(IBPC), with the support of Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) and Union of Investment Companies (UIC), Kuwait organized an Investment Conference recently at Hotel Four Seasons, Kuwait City.

A press release issued by the embassy said delegates from Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Invest India, National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) comprising of high-ranking officials participated in the Investment conference.

The delegates from Invest India gave an elaborate presentation highlighting the emergence of India as one of the fastestgrowing economies in the world in recent years, making it an attractive destination for businesses and investors alike.

The Macroeconomic indicators justify the strong positing of India as a rising economy.

The macro indicators show on the back of solid structural reforms and macroeconomic stability, India's growth story has just begun.

India is currently a \$3.5 trillion economy, ambitiously aiming to be \$5 trillion economy by 2025; India achieved the highest annual



Dr Adarsh Swaika addressing the event.

FDI inflow of \$84.84 billion in FY21-22 as 'Make in India' focuses on 27 sectors to make India a manufacturing hub.

'\$5 trillion economy by 2025'

India emerging as one of the fastest

The highlights of macroeconomic indicators show US\$ 7.1 billion FDI equity inflows in services sector in FY22; UPI-based transactions grew 121 percent in value and 115 percent in volume between 2019 and 22; India ranks as the second largest manufacturer of mobile handsets in the world in volume terms since over 200 units are manufacturing cellular mobile phones and parts/ components up from only 2 units in 2014.

This is addition to India being a democratic stable governance regime and the largest democracy in the world; currently the United States is the leading economy in the world followed by China, Japan and Germany with India taking the fifth spot with \$3.5 billion after being in the 10th position in 2014-15 with \$2 trillion economy.

Kuwait trails neighboring Gulf states as a hub for global talent and foreign direct investment, at a time when many businessmen choose to Local and international companies, exploiting the growing opportunities in the neighboring Gulf countries and other emerging markets.

Second scenario -- Unexpected economic shocks eventually lead to a major economic crisis in Kuwait. In the face of a sharp drop in oil revenues and the lack of a legal path to debt issuance, the government relies heavily on its

sovereign wealth, as these strict measures harm the country's strong reputation provided by its fiscal and external budgets.

The third scenario -- The response of the main stakeholders (the government and the National Assembly) to the growing need to work together to advance reforms and economic development initiatives, will lead to ensuring the economic well-being of citizens, streamlining the "complex" business environment in the country, and making better use of financial resources to unleash economic

Mogilnicki explained that the most likely scenario in Kuwait is a steady decline in the Kuwaiti economic environment and competitiveness, but it can be controlled, as the country's strong financial and external budgets reduce the urgent need for reforms and make it easier for policy makers to continue moving forward, stressing that the possibility of a crisis Whole economic conditions, such as Kuwait's inability to meet debt repayment obligations, are very low.

### PAHW implements 5 infrastructure & 79 public buildings projects

KUWAIT CITY, May 11: The Public Authority for Housing Welfare showed the implementation of five projects related to infrastructure and 79 projects for the implementation of public buildings in four residential areas until last April, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The PAHW sources said the total number of existing housing applications were 91,114, noting that the actual completion rate of the two contracts for the East Sabah Al-Ahmad project was 35 percent -related to the construction of 1184

In the Sabah Al-Ahmad Residential City the construction for 1110 apartments is ongoing and according to the PAHW 720 apart-

ments have been completed, and work is underway for the rest of the 390 apartments, as the actual completion rate reached about 93

percent. According to the statistics, 79 public buildings are still under construction including 29 in Al-Mutla'a, 3 buildings in Al-Wafra expansion, 16 in the eastern Sabah

Al-Ahmad residential area, and 31 buildings in the south of Abdullah Al-Mubarak.

With regard to "To Whom It May Concern" certificates for issuing building permits, the number of plots handed out in Al-Mutla'a was about 17797, in the south of Abdullah Al-Mubarak 3207 plots, and in Khaitan 1341 plots.

# What's On





Photos from the event.

#### **Indian School of Excellence Kuwait celebrates Eid**

Happiness is an emotion; positivity is a mindset.

The Indian School of Excellence Kuwait conducted Eid assembly for the academic year 2023-24 on Thursday, 4th May. The theme of the assembly for KG was "My family, my strength" and for primary was "Celebrate Positivity (Humanity)."The KG students presented a skit on "Accountability and Eid" which emphasized the importance of being accountable for one's actions and how families are there to help us stay on the right path. A dance

of family celebrations and fashion show "Glam Jam" were the cherry on the cake.

ISEK's talented singers of Primary performed a melodious Eid Mubarak song, and also delivered a skit on "Love to Humanity and Compassion." The assembly ended with a lively group dance titled "ÉID Sayeed."The assembly successfully conveyed the message of the importance of positivity and the spirit of Eid.

The Director of the Indian School of Excellence Kuwait, Mrs. Sherly Dennis, addressed the audience and commended the students for their hard work and effort and also, shared her valuable thoughts on humanity and encouraged students to celebrate positivity in all aspects of life.

The celebrations concluded with a vote of thanks to everyone present for joining the celebration and for honoring the importance of family and accountability in their lives.

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A photo of the flyer

#### **Kuwait's Got Talent!**

The Touch of Hope Concert is a musical variety show organized by Helen Newton, featuring talented young musicians and some of Kuwait's top performers. Enjoy folk, rock, classical, blues and pop alongside free food, door prizes, and a silent auction. Includes a Beatles Sing-A-Long with Ahmadi Music Group. Join the fun at the prestigious American United School in Šabah Al Salem, Friday, May 19th, 6-9:30 pm Adult tickets 10 KD, half price for

kids 12 and younger
All proceeds pay for vet bills for rescued animals from @touch\_of\_ hope\_q8.

For more information and bookings WhatsApp 99835252.

#### **Competition of best gelato makers in ME on May 11**

### Gelato Festival World Masters in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, May 11: Kuwait is in the spotlight as the first Middle East stop of the new Gelato Festival World Masters international tour, the most important championship in search of the best gelato flavours in the world. On May 11, at the Millennium Hotel and Convention Centre Kuwait, the Carpigiani distributor Mabrook will host the Carpigiani Challenge, a competition where the best gelato artisans from the Middle East will compete with their best flavor. The new Gelato Festival World Masters 2022-2025 championship is organized by Gelato Festival in collaboration with Carpigiani Gelato University, the world's most renowned school for successful gelato entrepreneurs, and Sigep - Italian Exhibition Group, the world's leading B2B show dedicated to artisan gelato, pastry, bakery and coffee.

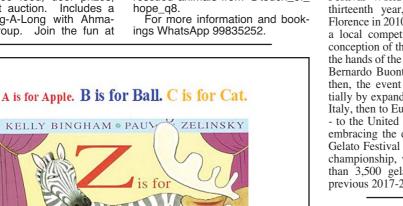
On the competition day, the chefs will prepare their gelato in the laboratory provided by the organizers; then, industry experts, local chefs and food journalists will taste and evaluate each gelato. The 3 top flavors will qualify for the Middle East Final of Gelato Festival World Masters, scheduled for

the upcoming years.
With the 2022-25 edition Gelato Festival World Masters reaches its thirteenth year, having debuted in Florence in 2010 as "Gelato Festival", a local competition inspired by the conception of the first gelato recipe at the hands of the multifaceted architect Bernardo Buontalenti in 1559. Since then, the event has grown exponentially by expanding first to the rest of Italy, then to Europe and - since 2017 - to the United States as well, before embracing the entire planet with the Gelato Festival World Masters world championship, which involved more than 3,500 gelato makers with the previous 2017-2021 edition.





On May 11, the traveling gelato competition will land for the first time ever in Kuwait to select the contestants who will enter the Middle East final.



### Oh really?

Find out from DAI volunteer Anwaar Fahed Mukhled

at Storytime at Amricani

Saturday, 13 May at 3:30

Amricani Cultural Centre

Saturday's Storytime is part of

DAI Art and Letters Family Day, 3 - 6 PM.

We've planned activities in Arabic and English

in the Amricani museum galleries.

Like Storytime, no registration is needed for Family Day.

There will be a family clay workshop from 4 - 6. Registration is required. For more info or to register: amricanieducation@gmail.com

A flyer of the event.



Photos from the event.

#### **Elected leaders don mantle of leadership**

### ICSK Amman inducts new Student Senate with grand ceremony

KUWAIT CITY, May 11: "Outstanding leaders go out of their way to boost the self-esteem of their personnel. If people believe in themselves, it's amazing what they can accomplish.'

The Indian Community School Kuwait, Amman Branch conducted its Investiture Ceremony for the academic year 2023- 2024, on 1st May 2023. It is an occasion of paramount importance wherein the chosen student leaders are duly sworn in. It also manifests the belief and confidence the school entrusts in the newly elected school senate. It is the day when the elected leaders don the mantle of leadership and pledge to perform their duties to the best of their

The electoral process was initiated by filing of nomination on 10th April 2023 by 78 candidates. The screening, campaigning and meet the candidate program were held from 15th to 17th April. They got an opportunity to canvas for votes both off and online. The election was held online on 18th April and 16 emerged winners forming the core senate. The results were declared by Principal Rajesh Nair on 19th April 2023.

The Chief Guest of the ceremony was Peeyush Jain, COO, AIRTEC Group of companies and the President of the most elite IIT-IIM alumni association in Kuwait. The ceremony commenced with the Chief Guest handing over the school and house flags to the elected Senate.

Principal Rajesh Nair delivered the welcome address and extended a hearty welcome to the Chief Guest Peeyush Jain and all present. He congratulated the newly elected school senate and reminded them of the duties and responsibilities vested on them. The senate advisor Mrs. Sumitra Nandakumar congratulated the winners and elucidated the electoral process.

In his address, the chief guest Peeyush Jain, congratulated the senate. In his inspirational speech, he spoke about leadership being a skill that has to be fostered from one's young age and felt the school was rendering this yeomen service admirably. He shared fond memories of being an ex-student of this very same school and having been elected as a head boy in his time nurturing his innate leadership skills. Being a man of exceptional qualification and holding leadership positions both at work and in the society, his speech was a motivating take away for all present.

The Chief Guest Peeyush Jain pinned the badges for the senate advisor, the house mentors and the school senate. Principal Rajesh Nair administered the oath to the school

senate and the prefects of all the classes. The President of the student Senate Sakina Taizun Petiwala conveyed her gratitude and delivered the acceptance speech on behalf of all the senate members.

The beautiful and graceful invocation dance and a melodious song by the school choir added charm to the event. The vote of thanks was rendered by the Vice Principal Dr. Mary Isaac. She wholeheartedly thanked chief guest Mr. Peeyush Jain, parents and everyone present. She also reminded the newly sworn in senate to carry out their responsibilities with conviction, confidence and commitment.

The ceremony concluded with the senate marching off the venue escorting the guests. The entire proceeding was well compered by Maryam Chorghay and Elvin Tom Varughese, students of class 10 with great elan and ease.

#### Yellen: Different system needed to end standoffs over US debt ceiling

After dozens of standoffs with Congress over government spending in recent decades, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said Thursday that in her personal opinion, the United States should adopt a different system for national finances.

Emphasizing that it was her own opinion, not President Joe Biden's, Yellen said there are various alternatives for avoiding situations where the Treasury

lacks the funds to pay its bills.

In January, the U.S. government ran up against its legal borrowing limit

PSEi

PAKISTAN

PHILIPPINES -

of \$31.381 trillion, and the Treasury Department began implementing "extraordinary measures" to avoid missing payments on its bills. It's a predicament that has occurred nearly 80 times since 1960, she said. The Treasury Department has warned the U.S. could default as soon as June 1 if there is no deal.

"Personally, I think we should find a different system for deciding on fiscal policy," Yellen said when asked about the issue. Congress could repeal the debt ceiling or handle it differently. The

11-05-2023

president could decide to raise the debt ceiling and inform Congress, which could vote to override that decision, and the president could veto that, and it would take a supermajority of two-thirds of Congress to override the veto.

Congress votes on taxes and on government spending and "those decisions imply a path of deficits," Yellen said. Bills come due because of those decisions and that makes the Treasury responsible for paying for goods and services already contracted.



U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen takes questions from journalists during a press conference, at the G7 meeting of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, at Toki Messe in Niigata, Japan, Thursday, May 11, 2023. (AP)

#### **Market** Movements

Change Closing pts +0.02 29,126.72 - KSE 100 41,325.63 +0.61

6,675.46 11,392.78

- EGX 30

Change Closing pts -0.12 3,568.83 17,270.69 -1.28

Business

#### **The Conversation**

**EGYPT** 

#### 'It's going to keep getting worse'

### Debt ceiling impasse: Fed rate hikes are already forcing US to spend 'record amounts' on payments of interest

#### By Gerald P. Dwyer

Clemson University

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

onsumers and businesses aren't the only ones feeling the pain of higher borrowing costs because of Federal Reserve rate hikes. Uncle Sam is, too. The U.S. government spent a record US\$232 billion in interest payments on its debt in the first quarter of 2023, over 50% more than a year ago and over three times what it paid in the same period of 2003. That comes as the Fed lifted interest rates a whopping 5 percentage points beginning March 2022, including

a quarter point on May 3, 2023. As an economist, I am concerned that the effect of higher interest payments on the government's budget is being ignored - even as the debate over raising

the debt ceiling puts a spotlight on the growing national debt. Higher interest payments mean the federal government will either have to lower spending, raise taxes or issue more debt to service its obligations. And financing interest payments by issuing more debt could be a particularly poor choice - sooner or later, the bill will come due.

The national debt - the amount the federal government borrows to balance the budget - increases when spending is greater than revenue and accumulates over time. As a general rule, it rises over time because of increases in spending, revenue and the deficit.

Inflation, which recently has run at the fastest pace since the 1980s, tends to increase government spending, as well as revenue and deficits. As a result, the dollar value of government debt increases in times of inflation. Debt also tends to grow as the economy gets bigger - although this is not inevitable, as policymakers could choose to balance the government's budget.

In this way, total government debt has climbed over the years - by the end of 2022, it was 10 times larger than it was in 1990. It currently stands at \$31.4 trillion dollars and represents more than 120% of the nation's gross domestic product. GDP is the total annual amount of goods and services produced by a country and often is used to judge whether debt is high or low.

Since 1990, government debt has more than doubled relative to the size of the economy, indicating that servicing debt could be quite a bit more of an issue than it once was. But how concerning are these numbers? After all, it is not as if the government debt has to be paid off every year.

Government borrowing has some similarities to a person paying for an expensive item with a credit card, with the actual amount due to be paid off over an extended period. Just as with purchases on credit, interest is applied - and can add to the overall outlay. The federal government is different from consumers, though; it need not pay off its debt for the foreseeable future.

In terms of interest payments, the U.S. has been fortunate in recent years. Historically low interest rates since the 2008 financial crisis have held down interest payments. And just as low interest rates encourage would-be homeowners, for example, to take out a larger mortgage, they have also made it much more attractive for the federal government to borrow money to pay for whatever Congress and the administration want to finance.

But then came 2022. Soaring inflation, which reached levels not seen in 40 years, meant an end to the days of near-zero interest rates.

To restrain inflation, the Fed raised rates seven times in 2022 and on three more occasions in 2023, taking the base rate from near zero to a range of 5% to 5.25% as of May 2023. On May 3, the Fed signaled it may take a pause as the economy slows and a banking crisis continues to brew.

Not all government debt, however, carries these current higher interest rates. Just as with typical U.S. mortgages, much of the government debt bears the interest rate applied when it was taken on. The difference is, unlike homeowners, the government does not pay off its debt. Instead, it rolls over old debt into new debt - and when it does so, it takes on whatever the interest rate is when the debt is rolled over. And when this happens and interest rates have risen, the cost of servicing the overall debt goes up.

The federal government's interest expense has only begun to reflect the higher interest rates. The average rate the U.S. paid in the first quarter of 2023 was 2.7% - that's the most in over a decade, and it's almost certainly going to continue to climb throughout 2023.

As for the debate over the debt ceiling, Republicans are trying to make it about the state of the nation's finances, but months ago they ruled out addressing the most significant pieces of the national debt: Social Security and Medicare. And their plan, as passed by the House, wouldn't actually cut spending much since it would freeze spending at last year's levels - still higher than before the COVID-19 pandemic.

Meanwhile, Democrats, in my view, are acting as if it's business as usual by not negotiating. And their proposal to raise taxes to reduce the deficit is very unlikely to pass the Republican-controlled House.

It may all sound a little worrying, especially amid talk of a recession. It is as if the interest on your credit card or mortgage suddenly jumped at a time when you were facing a possible cut in wages.

But there are some reassuring economic projections as well. Inflation declined substantially in the second half of 2022 and has fallen further in 2023 to 4.9% as of April.

And there is good reason to think that interest rates of 4% - or even less - are in the U.S.'s future for 2024 and beyond, as well as in the Federal Reserve projections. Whether there will be a "soft landing" in the economy - that is, a slowdown that avoids a recession - is not so obvious. While it is not inevitable, many indicators point to a recession in 2023.

Either way, the days of the federal government borrowing trillions of dollars at near-zero interest rates to finance extravagant spending are over for the

#### The Conversation

#### Political, economic might at stake

### US 'debt default' could trigger dollar's collapse

#### **By Michael Humphries**

**Touro University** 

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

Congressional leaders at logger-heads over a debt ceiling impasse sat down with President Joe Biden on May 9, 2023, as the clock ticks down to a potentially catastrophic default if nothing is done by the end of the

Republicans, who regained control of the House of Representatives in November 2022, are threatening not to allow an increase in the debt limit unless they get spending cuts and regulatory rollbacks in return, which they outlined in a bill passed in April 2023. In so doing, they risk pushing the U.S. government into default.

It feels a lot like a case of déjà vu all over again.

Brinkmanship over the debt ceiling has become a regular ritual - it happened under the Clinton administration in 1995, then again with Barack Obama as president in 2011, and more recently in 2021.

As an economist, I know that defaulting on the national debt would have real-life consequences. Even the threat of pushing the U.S. into default has an economic impact. In August 2021, the mere prospect of a potential default led to an unprecedented downgrade of the the nation's credit rating, hurting America's financial prestige as well as countless individuals, including retirees.

And that was caused by the mere specter of default. An actual default would be far more damaging.

Possibly the most serious consequence would be the collapse of the U.S. dollar and its replacement as global trade's "unit of account." That essentially means that it is widely used in global finance and trade.

Day to day, most Americans are likely unaware of the economic and political power that goes with being the world's unit of account. Currently. more than half of world trade - from oil and gold to cars and smartphones - is in U.S. dollars, with the euro accounting for around 30% and all other currencies making up the balance.

As a result of this dominance, the U.S. is the only country on the planet that can pay its foreign debt in its own currency. This gives both the U.S. government and American companies tremendous leeway in international trade

No matter how much debt the U.S. government owes foreign investors, it can simply print the money needed to pay them back - although for economic reasons, it may not be wise to do so. Other countries must buy either the dollar or the euro to pay their foreign debt. And the only way for them to do so is to either to export more than they import or borrow more dollars or euros on the international market.

The U.S. is free from such constraints and can run up large trade deficits - that is, import more than it exports - for decades without the same consequences. For American companies, the domi-

nance of the dollar means they're not as subject to the exchange rate risk as are their foreign competitors. Exchange rate risk refers to how changes in the relative value of currencies may affect a company's profitability.

Since international trade is generally denominated in dollars, U.S. businesses can buy and sell in their own currency, something their foreign competitors cannot do as easily. As simple as this sounds, it gives American companies a tremendous competitive advantage.

If Republicans push the U.S. into default, the dollar would likely lose its position as the international unit of account, forcing the government and companies to pay their international

bills in another currency.

The dollar's dominance means trade must go through an American bank at some point. This is one important way it gives the U.S. tremendous political power, especially to punish economic rivals and unfriendly governments.

For example, when former President Donald Trump imposed economic sanctions on Iran, he denied the country access to American banks and to the dollar. He also imposed secondary sanctions, which means that non-American companies trading with Iran were also sanctioned. Given a choice of access to the dollar or trading with Iran, most of the world economies chose access to the dollar and complied with the sanctions. As a result, Iran entered a deep recession, and its currency plummeted about

President Joe Biden did something similar against Russia in response to its invasion of Ukraine. Limiting Russia's access to the dollar has helped push the country into a recession that's bordering on a depression.

No other country today could unilaterally impose this level of economic pain on another country. And all an American president currently needs is

# **Bank of England raises UK interest** rates to the highest level since '08

LONDON, May 11, (AP): The Bank of England raised interest rates to their highest level since late 2008 as it continues to combat stubbornly high inflation in the U.K.

The decision on Thursday by the bank's nine-member Monetary Policy Committee to lift its main interest rate by a quarter of a percentage point to 4.5% was widely anticipated in financial markets. The increase was its 12th in a row. Just two members of the panel voted to keep interest rates unchanged.

Like other central banks around the world, the Bank of England has sought to keep a lid on inflation, which over the past year has been fueled by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. That sent energy prices soaring, a development that then led to price increases across a wide array of goods and services.

The Bank of England started raising interest rates in late 2021 from a low of 0.1% in order to keep a lid on price rises that were first largely stoked by bottlenecks resulting from the lifting of coronavirus lockdown restrictions and subsequently by Russia's war in Ukraine. Higher interest rates help lower inflation by making it more expensive for households and businesses to borrow, meaning they potentially spend less, thereby reducing upside demand pressure on prices.

The bank, which is tasked with keeping inflation at around 2%, said that inflation would likely halve from current levels to around 5% by the end of this year. Inflation will inevitably fall as the year-on-year energy price comparisons diminish.

Though the energy price backdrop will help lower inflation, the bank said food prices have stayed higher for longer than expected, partly because of Russia's war in Ukraine and poor harvests in some European countries. As a result, it said inflation is expected to decline less rapidly this year than previously thought.

The interest rate hike will pile more pressure on borrowers, particularly those who have mortgages that track the bank's headline rate. Many homeowners will be cushioned from the recent increases because they fixed their mortgages when interest rates were ultra-low during the coronavirus pan-

However, those whose fixed rate terms expire over the coming months will face much higher borrowing rates when they look to lock in new deals.





From left: Bank of England's Deputy Governor, Monetary Policy Ben Broadbent, Governor Andrew Bailey, Head of Media and Stakeholder Engagement Katie Martin and Deputy Governor, Markets and Banking Dave Ramsden attend a press conference at the Bank of England, London, Thursday May 11, 2023. (AP)

#### Asian shares mixed in choppy trading

### Stocks dip following inflation data

NEW YORK, May 11, (AP): Wall Street is slipping Thursday, weighed down by a sharp drop for The Walt Disney Co. and flaring fears about the health of some U.S. banks. The S&P 500 was 0.3% lower in afternoon trading. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 265 points, or 0.8%, at 33,266, as of 12:28 p.m. Eastern time, while the Nasdaq composite was 0.1% higher.

Disney was one of the heaviest forces dragging down the market. It dropped 8.3% after it said it lost streaming subscribers in the U.S. and Canada last quarter, surprising analysts. That was despite its earnings and revenue for the latest quarter roughly matching Wall Street's forecasts.

Some banks beaten down by the industry's mini-panic were also under heavy pressure again, and PacWest Bancorp dropped 25.5% after saying it saw 9.5% of its deposits leave last week. It said the majority of the flight occurred in two days after news reports said the bank was talking with potential investors and partners, raising worries for its customers.

Investors have been hunting for the next possible victim after high interest rates helped lead to three high-profile U.S. bank failures since March.

Also falling was Peloton Interactive, which dropped 8.9%. It's offering free seat posts for its original model bikes after recalling 2.2 million of them. The assembly can break while someone's riding it. Helping to offer some support for

the overall market was a report that showed inflation at the wholesale level was a bit cooler last month than economists expected. It followed a report from the prior day that showed inflation at the consumer level was also behaving largely as forecast.

The reports bolstered expectations on Wall Street that the Federal Reserve will hold off on hiking interest rates again at its next meeting in June. That would be the first time that's happened in more than a year.

The Fed has been hiking rates at a furious pace to get the worst inflation in decades under control. Inflation has come down from its peak last year, but high rates have also sent prices for investments tumbling, helped caused turmoil for the banking industry and slowed the economy enough that many investors are preparing for a recession later this year.

#### Asia

Asian shares were mixed in choppy

trading Thursday after a report showed evidence that inflation in the United States was cooling, even if it remains too high.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 dipped nearly 0.1% in afternoon trading to 29,102.25. Australia's S&P/ ASX 200 slipped 0.1% to 7,249.00. South Korea's Kospi added 0.1% to 2,499.99. Hong Kong's Hang Seng lost 0.4% to 19,693.89, while the Shanghai Composite was little changed, inching up less than 0.1%

Concerns about the Chinese economy remain a major focus, especially for the Asian region, with the latest cause for worry coming from trade data released Tuesday.

In energy trading, benchmark U.S. crude rose 70 cents to \$73.26 a barrel. Brent crude, the international standard, added 75 cents to \$77.16 a barrel.

#### Currency

In currency trading, the U.S. dollar was little changed at 134.24 Japanese yen, down slightly from 134.28 yen. The euro cost \$1.0980, down from

#### Japan's SoftBank sinks into 2nd year of losses

Japanese technology investor Soft-Bank Group reported Thursday a loss of 970 billion yen (\$7 billion) for the fiscal year that just ended - the second year in a row of red ink.

Tokyo-based SoftBank Group Corp. racked up a 1.7-trillion-yen (\$13-billion) loss the previous fiscal year.

The latest results came from massive losses on its investments, called the SoftBank Vision Fund, amid a global plunge in technology shares.

The gains from transactions in Chi-

nese e-commerce giant Alibaba were not enough to offset the investment losses, the company said in a state-

Sales for the fiscal year, which ended in March, rose 6% from the previous fiscal year to 6.57 trillion yen (\$49

SoftBank invests in a sprawling array of companies, including Uber, DoorDash, T-Mobile and Arm. But the value of its holdings declined during various economic uncertainties,

including the U.S. banking crisis and Russia's invasion of Ukraine, according to SoftBank.

The company, which was the first to offer the Apple iPhone in Japan, said it will review its investment decisions more carefully and reduce debts, repeatedly emphasizing the word "defense" in its earnings presentation.

Softbank also promised to monetize some of its investments, saying it's planning an initial public offering of

#### Italy's antitrust watchdog probes Apple

Italy's antitrust authority is probing allegations that Apple is abusing its dominant position in the app market, thwarting competition, officials said Thursday.

The authority alleges that Apple's privacy policy for third-party developers is more restrictive than the one applied to its own apps, using language that discourages tracking.

In addition, the antitrust authority alleges that outside developers also face restrictions in the quality of data provided by Apple regarding the effectiveness of

Delaware judge refuses to dismiss Facebook shareholder suit

advertising, impacting revenues in favor of Apple's own apps.

The authority said the data is essential in outlining the appeal of the app to potential advertisers. "The presumed discriminatory conduct by Apple can cause a drop in advertising proceeds by third-party developers, in favor of its own commercial division," as well as impeding competition on the Apple app market, it said.

The technology company, based in Cupertino, California, did not immediately respond to a request for comment. (AP)

#### Bard to be available to all in over 180 countries

### Google giving its dominant search engine an Al makeover

MOUNTAIN VIEW, Calif., May 11, (AP): Google on Wednesday disclosed plans to infuse its dominant search engine with more advanced artificial-intelligence technology, a drive that's in response to one of the biggest threats to its long-established position as the

internet's main gateway. The gradual shift in how Google's search engine runs is rolling out three months after Microsoft's Bing search engine started to tap into technology similar to that which powers the artificially intelligent chatbot ChatGPT, which has created one of Silicon Valley's biggest buzzes since Apple released the first

iPhone 16 years ago. Google, which is owned by Alphabet Inc., already has been testing its own conversational chatbot called Bard. That product, powered by technology called generative AI that also fuels ChatGPT, has only been available to people accepted from a waitlist. But Google announced Wednesday that Bard will be available to all comers in more than 180 countries and more languages beyond English.

Bard's multilingual expansion will

begin with Japanese and Korean before adding about 40 more languages.

Now Google is ready to test the AI waters with its search engine, which has been synonymous with finding things on the internet for the past 20 years and serves as the pillar of a digital advertising empire that generated more than \$220 billion in revenue last

"We are at an exciting inflection point," Alphabet CEO Sundar Pichai told a packed developers conference in a speech peppered with one AI reference after another. "We are reimagining all our products, including

More AI technology will be coming to Google's Gmail with a "Help Me Write" option that will produce lengthy replies to emails in seconds, and a tool for photos called "Magic Editor" that will automatically doctor

pictures. The AI transition will begin cautiously with the search engine that

serves as Google's crown jewel. The deliberate approach reflects the balancing act that Google must negotiate as it tries to remain on the cutting edge while also preserving its reputaDOVER, Del., May 11, (AP): A Delaware judge on Wednesday refused to dismiss a shareholder lawsuit alleging that Facebook officers and directors violated both the law and their fiduciary duties in failing for years to protect the

privacy of user data. Vice Chancellor J. Travis Laster rejected arguments that the complaint should be dismissed because the plaintiffs did not first demand that Facebook's board take legal action before

tion for delivering reliable search results - a mantle that could be undercut by artificial intelligence's penchant for fabricating information that sounds au-

The tendency to produce deceptively convincing answers to questions - a phenomenon euphemistically described as "hallucinations" - has already been cropping up during the early testing of Bard, which like Chat-GPT, relies on still-evolving generative AI technology.

demand would be futile because there is reasonable doubt that a majority of the relevant Facebook board members, many with close personal and busi-Google will take its next AI steps through a newly formed search lab where people in the U.S. can join a waitlist to test how generative AI will be incorporated in search results. The

filing litigation themselves. Under

Delaware law, shareholders must

make such a demand or demonstrate

that doing so would be futile because

a majority of directors were self-inter-

ested, lacked independence or faced a

Laster agreed with the plaintiffs that

substantial likelihood of liability.

tests also include the more traditional links to external websites where users can read more extensive information about queried topics. It may take several weeks before Google starts sending invitations to those accepted from the waitlist to test the AI-injected ness ties to Mark Zuckerberg, would be willing to confront the CEO and founder of the company now known as Meta Platforms Inc., over its privacy failures.

Meta has said in filings with securities regulators that it believes the lawsuit is without merit.

In refusing to dismiss the lawsuit, the judge noted that he was required to accept the allegations in the complaint, which he described as "encyclopedic

The AI results will be clearly tagged

as an experimental form of technol-

ogy and Google is pledging the AI-

generated summaries will sound more

factual than conversational - a distinct

contrast from Bard and ChatGPT,

which are programmed to convey

more human-like personas. Google is

building in guardrails that will prevent

the AI baked into the search engine

from responding to sensitive questions about health - such as, "Should I give Tylenol to a 3-year-old?" - and finance

isolated lawbreaking, what we don't have are immaterial violations. ... This is a case involving alleged wrongdoing on a truly colossal scale."

and specific" as true for purposes of

on notice of the law breaking, and who

either affirmatively went along with it

or consciously disregarded it," Laster

said. "What we don't have is a little

lawbreaking, what we don't have is

"It tells a story of directors who were

ruling on the motion.

matters. In those instances, Google

will continue to steer people to authoritative websites. Google isn't predicting how long it will be before its search engine will in-

clude generative AI results for all comers. The Mountain View, California, company has been under intensifying pressure to demonstrate how its search engine will maintain its leadership since Microsoft began to load AI into Bing, which remains a distant second

# **Europe is leading the world in** building guardrails around Al

Legislative proposal heads towards passage

LONDON, May 11, (AP): Authorities around the world are racing to draw up rules for artificial intelligence, including in the European Union, where draft legislation faced a pivotal moment on Thursday.

A European Parliament committee voted to strengthen the flagship legislative proposal as it heads toward passage, part of a yearsiong effort by Brussels to draw up guardrails for artificial intelligence. Those efforts have taken on more urgency as the rapid advances of chatbots like Chat-GPT highlight benefits the emerging technology can bring - and the new perils it poses.

Here's a look at the EU's Artificial Intelligence Act:

how do the rules work?

The AI Act, first proposed in 2021, will govern any product or service that uses an artificial intelligence system. The act will classify AI systems according to four levels of risk, from minimal to unacceptable. Riskier applications will face tougher requirements, including being more transparent and using accurate data. Think about it as a "risk management system for AI," said Johann Laux, an expert at the Oxford Internet Institute.

What Are The Risks?

One of the EU's main goals is to guard against any AI threats to health and safety and protect fundamental rights and values.

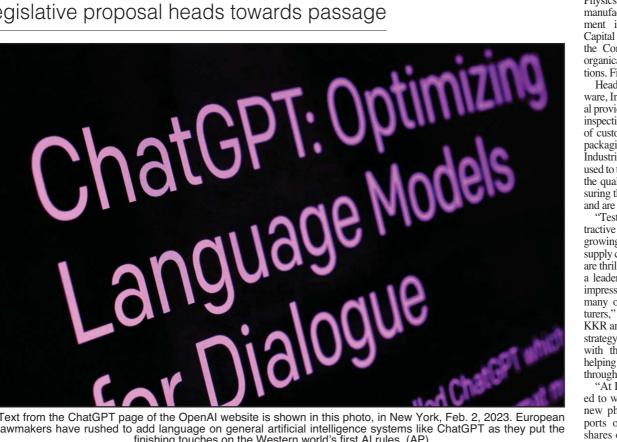
That means some AI uses are an absolute no-no, such as "social scoring" systems that judge people based on their behavior. Al that exploits vulnerable people including children or that uses subliminal manipulation that can result in harm, such as an interactive talking toy that encourages dangerous behavior, is also forbidden.

Lawmakers beefed up the proposal by voting to ban predictive policing tools, which crunch data to forecast where crimes will happen and who will commit them. They also approved a widened ban on remote facial recognition, save for a few law enforcement exceptions like preventing a specific terrorist threat. The technology scans passers-by and uses AI to match their faces to a database.

The aim is "to avoid a controlled society based on AI," Brando Benifei, the Italian lawmaker helping lead the European Parliament's AI efforts, told reporters Wednesday.

'We think that these technologies could be used instead of the good also for the bad, and we consider the risks to be too high."

AI systems used in high risk categories like employment and education, which would affect the course of a person's life, face tough requirements



Text from the ChatGPT page of the OpenAI website is shown in this photo, in New York, Feb. 2, 2023. European lawmakers have rushed to add language on general artificial intelligence systems like ChatGPT as they put the finishing touches on the Western world's first Al rules. (AP)

### Helion announces world's 1st fusion energy purchase deal with Microsoft

EVERETT, Wash., May 11, (BUSINESS WIRE): Helion Energy (Helion) today announced an agreement to provide Microsoft electricity from its first fusion power plant. Constellation will serve as the power marketer and will manage transmission for the project.

Assembled electromagnetic coils that will be used in Helion's 7th fusion prototype, Polaris.

The plant is expected to be online by 2028 and will target power generation of 50 MW or greater after a 1-year ramp up period. The planned operational date for this first of its kind facility is significantly sooner than typical projections for deployment of commercial fusion power.

The development of a commercial fusion power facility is a crucial step in the transition to a sustainable energy future and will not only help Microsoft to achieve its goal of being carbon negative by 2030, but will also support the development of a new clean energy source for the world.

"This collaboration represents a significant milestone for Helion and the fusion industry as a whole," said David Kirtley, CEO at Helion. "We are grateful for the support of a visionary company like Microsoft. We still have a lot of work to do, but we are confident in our ability to deliver the world's first fusion power facility.

Helion, a privately held clean energy company committed to creating a new era of zero-carbon electricity through fusion, has been advancing its fusion technology for more than a decade. The company has previously built six working prototypes and was the first private fusion company to reach 100-million-degree plasma temperatures with its sixth fusion prototype. The company is currently building its seventh prototype, which is expected to demonstrate the ability to produce electricity in 2024.

such as being transparent with users and putting in place risk assessment and mitigation measures. The EU's executive arm says most AI systems, such as video games or spam filters, fall into the low- or no-risk category.

What about chatgpt? The original 108-page proposal barely mentioned chatbots, merely requiring them to be labeled so users know they're interacting with a machine. Negotiators later added provisions to cover general purpose AI like ChatGPT, subjecting them to some of the same requirements as high-risk systems.

One key addition is a requirement to thoroughly document any copyright material used to teach AI systems how to generate text, images, video or music that resembles human work. That would let content creators know if their blog posts, digital books, scientific articles or pop songs have been used to train algorithms that power systems like ChatGPT. Then they could decide whether their work has been copied and seek redress.

Why are the eu rules so impor-

The European Union isn't a big player in cutting-edge AI development. That role is taken by the U.S. and China. But Brussels often plays a trendsetting role with regulations that tend to become de facto global standards.

"Europeans are, globally speaking, fairly wealthy and there's a lot of them," so companies and organizations often decide that the sheer size of the bloc's single market with 450 million consumers makes it easier to comply than develop different products for different regions, Laux said.

### **Vast Announces the Haven-1 and Vast-1 Missions**

LONG BEACH, Calif., May 11, (AP): Vast, a pioneer in space habitation technologies, announced today their plans to launch the world's first commercial space station, called Haven-1. Scheduled to launch on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket to low-Earth orbit no earlier than August 2025, Haven-1 will initially act as an independent crewed space station prior to being connected as a module to a larger Vast space station currently in development. The mission will be quickly followed by Vast-1, the first human spaceflight mission to Haven-1 on a SpaceX Dragon spacecraft. The vehicle and its fourperson crew will dock with Haven-1

for up to 30 days while orbiting Earth. Vast also secured an option with SpaceX for an additional human spaceflight mission to Haven-1.

This press release features multimedia. View the full release here: https://www.businesswire.com/news/ home/20230510005348/en/

This represents the first time in his-

tory that a commercial space station company has both a contracted launch for its space station and a visiting human spaceflight mission.

"Vast is thrilled to embark on this journey of launching the world's first commercial space station, Haven-1, and its first crew, Vast-1," said Jed McCaleb, CEO of Vast.

#### **Definitive agreement signed**

### KKR seeks to acquire Industrial Physics from Union Park Capital

NEW YORK, May 11, (AP): KKR, a leading global investment firm, has announced the signing of a definitive agreement under which investment funds managed by KKR will acquire Industrial Physics (or the "Company"), a leading manufacturer of testing and measurement instruments, from Union Park Capital ("UPC"). KKR plans to support the Company in its continued growth organically and through add-on acquisitions. Financial terms were not disclosed.

Headquartered in New Castle, Delaware, Industrial Physics is a trusted global provider of highly technical testing and inspection equipment used by thousands of customers across food and beverage, packaging and other diversified markets. Industrial Physics' leading products are used to test, measure, inspect and validate the quality of products and samples, ensuring that they are made to specification and are safe for end users.

"Testing and measurement is tractive market that is poised to continue growing as focus on product quality and supply chain transparency intensifies. We are thrilled to invest in Industrial Physics, a leader in this space, that has built an impressive portfolio of brands used by many of the world's leading manufacturers," said Brandon Brahm, Partner at KKR and Co-Head of KKR's Ascendant strategy. "We look forward to working with the Industrial Physics team and helping the company reach new heights through organic growth and M&A.'

"At Industrial Physics, we are excited to work with KKR as we enter this new phase of our growth. KKR supports our employee-first culture and shares our vision for building a scaled testing and measurement platform that continually invests in growth and innovation to even better serve the needs of customers around the world," said Jim

Neville, CEO of Industrial Physics. Following the close of the transaction, Industrial Physics plans to implement KKR's broad-based employee ownership program, which will make all employees owners of the Company alongside certain investment funds managed by KKR. This strategy is based on the belief that employee engagement is a key driver in building stronger companies. Since 2011, KKR has awarded billions of dollars of total equity value to over 50,000 nonmanagement employees across nearly 30 companies. Last year, KKR joined more than 20 organizations in becoming a founding partner of Ownership Works, a nonprofit created to support public and private companies transi-

tioning to shared ownership models. Industrial Physics marks the third investment for KKR's Ascendant Strategy, which invests in middle market business es in North America as part of KKR's Americas Private Equity platform. Other investments in the Ascendant strategy include Alchemer and 123Dentist, and a commitment to fund a new executive-led platform designed to acquire and build businesses in the Testing, Inspection, and Certification industry.

The transaction is expected to close in Q3 2023, subject to customary conditions. Dechert served as legal counsel to KKR.

Industrial Physics is the world's leading test and inspection partner protecting the integrity of the biggest brands across the globe. The Company manufactures and markets materials testing instruments for measuring physical and analytical properties of plastics, barrier films, paper, pulp, foil, ink, coatings, corrugated materials, cans, medical devices, and consumer electronic products. For more information, visit www.industrialphysics.com.

KKR is a leading global investment firm that offers alternative asset management as well as capital markets and insurance solutions. KKR aims to generate attractive investment returns by following a patient and disciplined investment approach, employing worldclass people and supporting growth in its portfolio companies and communities. KKR sponsors investment funds that invest in private equity, credit and real assets and has strategic partners that manage hedge funds. KKR's insurance subsidiaries offer retirement, life and reinsurance products under the management of Global Atlantic Financial Group. References to KKR's investments may include the activities of its sponsored funds and insurance subsidiaries. For additional information about KKR & Co. Inc. (NYSE: KKR). please visit KKR's website at www. kkr.com and on Twitter @KKR\_Co.

#### **Austria bans social media sensation** 'TikTok' from gov't-issued phones

VIENNA, May 10, (KUNA): Austria banned popular social media application, TikTok, from government issued phones, as announced by Interior Minister Gerhard Karner Wednesday.

Following the cabinet's weekly meeting, Karner told the press that the ban is promoted by security concerns, adding that a number of countries including the US and France as well as the European Commission have already adopted similar measures. Karner explained that public employees, including government officials and politicians, are still able to use the app but have to do so on their own private devices.

The Chinese-owned application has amassed a large following of youths as its users amount to more than one billion active user, most of whom aged less than 30 years old.



TikTok CEO Shou Zi Chew testifies during a hearing of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, on the platform's consumer privacy and data security practices and impact on children, Thursday, March 23, 2023, on Capitol Hill in Washington. Lawmakers introduced a raft of bills to either ban TikTok or make it easier to ban it after the March House hearing with Chew. (AP)

#### Emirates sees highest-ever profit in 2022

Long-haul carrier Emirates saw its most-profit year ever in 2022, earning \$2.9 billion after bouncing back from the coronavirus pandemic shutting down global aviation, the airline announced Thursday.

The carrier's revival comes as Dubai, which owns the airline, has seen property prices skyrocket and people flood into the city-state in the United Arab Emirates as it lifted pandemic restrictions quickly and welcomed Russians fleeing

Moscow's war on Ukraine.

Emirates' annual report revenue for the carrier at \$29 billion in 2022, up 81% from 2021's figures of \$16 billion. That drastic swing comes after the airline reported a \$1.1 billion loss in 2021.

The city-state, one of seven hereditarily ruled, autocratic sheikhdoms that make up the UAE, provided Emirates a nearly \$4 billion bailout in the depths of the pan-

Even today as travel has

bounced back, the carrier still has some of its double-decker Airbus A380s still parked, awaiting me-

chanics to be able to fly again. "We had anticipated the strong return of travel, and as the last travel restrictions lifted and triggered a tide of demand, we were ready to expand our operations quickly and safely to serve our customers," Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, the chairman and chief executive of Emirates, said in a statement. (AP)

#### Dubai airport sees over 21.2m passengers in Q1 '23

Dubai International Airport had over 21.2 million passengers pass through its terminals in the first quarter of the year, potentially nearing numbers it saw before the coronavirus pandemic grounded air traffic around the

The Dubai airport, the home of the long-haul carrier Emirates, is the world's busiest for international travel and serves as a bellwether for the global aviation

industry. "DXB's performance in the first quarter has exceeded our

expectations and reflects the strong growth in demand that we are continuing to see across our key markets," Paul Griffiths, CEO of Dubai Airports, said in a statement, using its three-letter airport code.

With China further easing travel restrictions and Saudi Ărabia lifting all pandemic restrictions

for the yearly hajj pilgrimage, Dubai International Airport likely will see millions more passengers come through the key East-West transit point.

The airport said Tuesday it had increased its 2023 travel forecast by over 5 million passengers to reach 83.6 million. The airport saw its most-ever passengers in 2018 just before the pandemic, when it served 89.1 million passengers. (AP)

#### **Economic recession fears in US, EU**

### Oil prices reverse all gains from OPEC+ cut decision in April

#### By National Bank of Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, May 11: Oil prices retraced their early April gains to end the month slightly lower on recession fears and entrenched inflation. They fell further in early May on underwhelming macroeconomic data from China and the OECD. Looking ahead, OPEC+'s surprise production cut of more than 1 mb/d from May onwards should tighten the market significantly in 2H23, allied to rebounding Chinese consumption. We expect prices to firm from cur-

Oil prices closed lower in April as economic recession fears in the US and EU dominated sentiment. International benchmark Brent crude ended the month at \$79.5/bbl (-0.3% m/m; -7.4% ytd), reversing all the gains that followed OPEC+'s production cut announcement from early April amid intensifying economic headwinds. Local marker Kuwait Export Crude (KEC), in contrast, closed the month at \$80.9/bbl, up 2.0% m/m (-1.3% ytd) in April.

Earlier in April, Brent rallied by more than \$7.5/bbl to a high of \$87.0/bbl in the wake of the announcement by several OPEC+ members including Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the UAE that oil production would be voluntarily cut by around 1.2 mb/d from May until the end of 2023. Russia, in turn, promised to complement these cuts by extending its own 500 kb/d cut from March to the end of the year, despite any meaningful drop in its export volumes, as shown by tanker tracking data. These moves by OPEC+ members were ostensibly a response to a softening global economy, still reeling from turmoil in the US banking sector and weighed down by tighter global monetary policy amid stubbornly high inflation.

The global economic growth forecast this year was trimmed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in its April World Economic Outlook (-0.1% pts to 2.8%), citing higher interest rates and heightened risk of financial system turmoil. Underwhelming economic readings in the US, particularly GDP, retail sales and jobs also added to headwinds, while in China manufacturing unexpectedly contracted in April, according to the official PMI. These developments as well as more recent concerns about the US defaulting on its debt in the absence of congressional approval to raise the debt ceiling were behind oil's tumble to a fresh year-low of \$72.3/bbl in early May. Moreover, refining margins for petroleum products such as diesel, a key gauge of industrial activity and transportation, have also signaled some weakness in the Far East, amid sub-optimal demand and stock builds.

Compounding matters and stoking volatility has been the decline in oil market liquidity. Open interest (the number of outstanding Brent futures and options contracts) declined by 4.7% w/w to 2.15m contracts by 2 May, while money manager net length continued to retreat as speculators increased positions on prices falling ('shorts') amid palpable bearish sentiment.

#### Consensus

Nevertheless, the consensus among energy agencies and analysts is that global oil demand will eventually accelerate in the second half of the year, led mainly by China and other non-OECD countries. Despite the near-term softness, Chinese GDP growth in 1Q23 actually surprised on the upside at 4.5% y/y, and both the International Energy Agency (IEA) and OPEC see China as the impetus for their improving oil demand forecast through the rest of the year. (Chart 3.) They left their demand growth forecasts (annual average) unchanged for 2023 at 2.0 mb/d and 2.3 mb/d, respectively in their April oil

On the supply side, OPEC+'s surprise output reduction will likely deepen the anticipated supply shortages in 2H23, with the result that oil supply will likely start undershooting oil demand before the end of the current quarter. Based on IEA oil demand and non-OPEC crude projections and assuming OPEC+ cuts are adhered to for the rest of the year and there is no meaningful increase in output by members currently under-producing relative to their targets, we see the supply deficit widening and implied stock draws of as much

The buildup in global oil inventories over the last year could, however, cushion some of this expected tightness. According to OPEC, commercial OECD oil stocks stood at 2.8 billion barrels in February (+237 mb y/y), 18 mb over the five-year average.

OPEC secondary sources showed OPEC-10 production in March falling by 79 kb/d to 24.4 mb/d on broad-based declines in members' production but especially Angola, which saw its output fall by 6% (-65 kb/d to 1.0 mb/d) due to field maintenance. Among non-OPEC members, according to S&P Global, Russia's crude production retreated by 260 kb/d (-3.0% m/m) to 9.6 mb/d after instigating its own voluntary production cut, though March's drop is only around half of the volume Russia said it would pare back. Total production among OPEC+ members subject to quotas therefore fell to 37.7 mb/d in March, with the supply shortfall extending to 2.3 mb/d.

In Kuwait, official sources showed crude production relatively unchanged month-on-month in March at 2.68 mb/d, now only 2 kb/d above its OPEC+ quota. Kuwait has also agreed to cut output voluntarily by 128 kb/d from May, bringing its production to a target level of 2.55 mb/d. In order to reconcile the reduction in crude production with the need to ramp up more valuable refined products exports to a diesel-short European products market from the nearly fully operational Al-Zour refinery— the third and final crude distillery unit (CDU) is due online this quarter—Kuwait will likely redirect crude intended for export to Al-Zour instead. An unintended shutdown in the facility's first CDU in early April did temporarily halt exports, though.

Outside of OPEC+, US crude production reached 12.3 mb/d by the end of April, up 200 kb/d so far in 2023, according to weekly US Energy Information Administration data (EIA) data. The EIA expects US crude oil output to average 12.5 mb/d this year and 12.8 mb/d in 2024, with annual gains of 657 kb/d and 211 kb/d, respectively, coming amid elevated oil prices and a fundamentally tighter oil market that is spurring upstream oil investment. However, forecasts may not play out entirely that way, with the number of active US oil rigs continuing to trend lower. By 5 May, oil rig counts had fallen to 588 (-4.8% ytd), their lowest level in almost a year.

The outlook for the oil market and prices in 2023 remains highly uncertain amid a myriad of negative and positive risk factors. While the outlook for the next couple of months remains weighed down by demand-impacting macroeconomic concerns, specifically OECD recession fears and lagging Chinese consumption growth, in the second half of the year, supply-side pressures stemming from OPEC+ production cuts will increasingly come to the fore. Allied to expectations of increased oil consumption over the summer months and especially in China and the Far East, the market is expected to flip from a surplus to a deficit, with the result that prices should begin to firm quite a bit from current levels.

#### **A&M** teams up with LocalEyes

### Twelve and Etihad partner to advance sustainable jet fuel

BERKELEY, Calif., May 11: Carbon transformation company Twelve and Etihad Airways, the national carrier of the United Arab Emirates, has announced a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to collaborate on advancing E-Jet

® fuel, Twelve's sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) made from CO 2 and renewable energy, and plans to work towards an international demonstration flight and a supply roadmap that supports Etihad's sustainability strategy. Northstar.vc, a boutique investment firm specializing in supply chain technology and fintech, facilitated the partnership discussions.

Twelve and Etihad will work to accelerate production and use of Twelve's E-Jet fuel, a low carbon jet fuel (or e-fuel) produced by a powerto-liquids process leveraging the company's carbon transformation technology. As part of the agreement, the two companies will collaborate on a supply roadmap that helps meet growing demand for SAF for the Etihad network and on expanding the footprint of SAF in the global market.

"We are honored to partner with Etihad to work toward a supply of drop-in jet fuel made from air, not oil,' said Twelve co-founder and CEO Nicholas Flanders. "Our E-Jet fuel allows airlines like Etihad to reduce emissions by up to 90% with their existing aircraft fleet, which will be critical to achieving the United Nations' 2050 net-zero emissions target in aviation.'

#### Strategy

"Etihad Airways is working hard on its sustainability strategy and deploying a range of initiatives across the spectrum of sustainability to achieve that," said Mohammad Al Bulooki, Chief Operating Officer at Etihad Airways. "Collaborating with sustainable aviation fuel makers like Twelve, to advance products like E-Jet fuel, is

an important part of that drive." Tested and validated by the US Air Force, Twelve's E-Jet fuel is produced using their carbon transformation technology, which uses only renewable energy and water to transform CO 2 into critical chemicals and materials conventionally made from fossil fuels, and in partnership with Emerging Fuels Technology. With up to 90% lower lifecycle emissions compared to conventional fossil-based fuels, E-Jet fuel is a drop-in synthetic fuel that works seamlessly with existing aircraft and faces no constraints on feedstock, offering the best viable long-term solution to address emissions in the aviation industry. Transitioning to E-Jet fuel not only reduces reliance on fossil fuels, but also reduces particulate emissions from aviation and decreases impacts on neighboring

communities. "We drive meaningful change towards decarbonizing global supply chains and support the aviation industry in its journey towards a more sustainable future," said Amir Karimpour, Managing Partner at northstar.vc. "Echoing our ethos of being a strategic value-add investor, we are thrilled to foster the partnership between Etihad Airways and Twelve," said Erol Suesler, Partner at northstar.vc.

In July 2022, Twelve announced a collaboration with Alaska Airlines and Microsoft to advance production and use of E-Jet fuel, and to work towards a US commercial demonstration flight utilizing their E-Jet fuel. In March 2022, Shopify, one of the largest corporate purchasers of long-term carbon removal, announced the first purchase of E-Jet fuel through the company's Sustainability Fund.

Etihad Airways, the national airline of the UAE, was formed in 2003 and quickly went on to become one of the world's leading airlines. From its home in Abu Dhabi, Etihad flies to passenger and cargo destinations in the Middle East, Africa, Europe, Asia, Australia and North America. Together with Etihad's codeshare partners, Etihad's network offers access to hundreds of international destinations. In recent years, Etihad has received numerous awards for its superior service and products, cargo offering, loyalty programme and more.

Etihad sees tackling the climate crisis as the most important issue of our time and was named the Airline Ratings Environmental Airline of the Year 2022. Through strategic partnerships with major global aviation brands and OEMs and other innovators, Etihad is relentless in its pursuit of industry decarbonisation.

Twelve is the carbon transformation company, a new kind of chemical company built for the climate era. We make essential products from air, not oil. Our groundbreaking technology eliminates emissions by transforming CO 2 into critical chemicals, materials and fuels that today are made from fossil fuels. We call it carbon transformation, and it fundamentally changes how we can address climate change, reduce emissions and reverse the carbon imbalance. Reinventing what it means to be a chemical company, we're on a mission to create a climate positive world and a fossil free future through the power of chemistry. Learn more at www.twelve.co.

As a boutique venture capital firm, we invest in firms that are at the forefront of innovation and are committed to advancing sustainable solutions. We partner with disruptive technology companies that are accelerating the energy transition and are dedicated to creating a more sustainable future for generations to come

#### Also:

RIYADH: Ash & Maple Management (A&M), a leading global management consulting firm, announced its strategic alliance with LocalEyes, a distinguished Local Content and Economic Participation consulting firm head-quartered in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. A&M, a Zurich-based global management consulting firm, addresses cli-ents' complex business challenges Growth Strategy, through Organization, Board & Executive Search, Performance & Culture, and Localization practices.

This key acquisition fortifies A&M's presence in the Middle East, augmenting its capacity to serve global multinational corporations operating in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, requiring local content, economic offset, and localization consulting.

LocalEyes is a consulting firm specializing in local content, localization, and economic offset strategies for multinational clients across sectors such as Healthcare, Pharmaceuticals, Industrial Manufacturing, Defense & Aerospace, Natural Resources, and Information Technology.



Japanese Finance Minister Shunichi Suzuki, (second right), delivers an opening speech at the start of the G-7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Meeting at the Toki Messe convention center in Niigata, Japan, Thursday, May 11. (AP)

Stalemate over debt crisis tops agenda

### **G7** finance chiefs talk Ukraine support and seek ways to spur global economy

NIIGATA, Japan, May 11, (AP): Financial leaders of the Group of Seven advanced economies are discussing ways to support Ukraine and pressure Russia to end the war as they meet in Japan starting Thursday.

Ukraine's Finance Minister, Serhiy Marchenko, was participating online in the first session of the G-7 talks in Niigata, a port city on the Japan Sea coast.

US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said the G-7 nations "will stand with Ukraine for as long as it takes" to end the conflict. The leaders will be mulling ways to prevent Russia and other countries from circumventing sanctions against Moscow for its invasion, Japanese Finance Minister Shunichi Suzuki told reporters.

"We have taken a wave of actions in the past few months to crack down on evasion. And my team has traveled around the world to intensify this work," Yellen said.

The war and its toll on the global economy, debt crises in developing countries and a stalemate in Washington over the national debt are topping the agenda of the three days of talks by finance ministers and central bank governors of G-7 countries and others invited to attend.

Despite the wide range of topics due for consideration, from climate change to debt relief to digital currencies, the standoff over the US debt ceiling and a potential default loomed as a major potential threat to the global economy.

Speaking before the closed-door meetings began, Yellen said one of her priorities was to emphasize the importance of resolving the crisis.

"A default is frankly unthinkable," she told reporters. "America should never default. It would rank as a catastrophe."

Japan's central bank governor, Kazuo Ueda,

If the United States defaults on its debt, "it will become a big move and a big problem, and I think that the Fed alone, for example, may not be able to counteract it," said Ueda, who took the helm of the Bank of Japan last month.

He said he trusted the U.S. government would do its best to avoid such a situation.

US President Joe Biden said Wednesday that he and congressional leaders had a "productive" meeting Tuesday on trying to raise the nation's debt limit. They will meet again Friday to try to avert the risk as soon as June 1 of an unprecedented government default if lawmakers in the divided Congress don't agree to raise the debt ceiling.

#### Hopeful

Biden said he was "absolutely certain" that the country could avert a default. Yellen also said she was "very hopeful" the problem can be resolved

Yellen also will be seeking to reassure her counterparts over recent bank failures that have raised worries over risks for the global financial system.

She said Biden's "historic" investments in modernizing US infrastructure were a step toward improving the resilience of an economy whose reliance on global supply chains was sorely tested during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We are taking a broad range of individual and joint actions to bring down inflation, sustain growth, and help mitigate the impact of external shocks, including to developing countries," she

But she added that, "even as we face downside risks, I believe that the global economy remains in a better place than many predicted six months

The Federal Reserve said in a report this week that US banks raised their lending standards for business and consumer loans in the aftermath of

three large bank failures that were in part brought on by the central bank's sharp increases in interest rates to beat down inflation that surged to fourdecade highs after the pandemic.

The Fed surveyed 65 US banks and US branches of 19 foreign banks in late March and early April, well after Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank collapsed in early March, touching off the latest round of bank turmoil. First Republic Bank failed earlier this month in the second-largest bank failure in US history. Rate increases are meant to slow lending and borrowing but can overshoot their goal, tipping the economy into recession. Moves by banks to further limit lending could further squeeze businesses and consumers.

Inflation has remained stubbornly high. Consumer prices in the United States rose 0.4% in April, up sharply from a 0.1% rise from February to March, and measures of underlying inflation stayed high, a sign that further declines in inflation are likely to be slow and bumpy even though the annual increase of 4.9% was the smallest in two

Other G-7 economies are contending with even higher surging prices, obliging their central banks to raise interest rates that went to record lows in the early days of the pandemic.

G-7 financial leaders met just a month ago, in Washington during the annual meeting of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund. There, they reiterated their commitment to helping economies cope with the impact of the war in Ukraine, to help heavily indebted countries resolve their financial vulnerability, fortify global health systems and help tackle climate change.

The G-7 consists of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States. Other invitees to the meetings in Niigata include the European Union, IMF and World Bank, and the finance ministers of Brazil, Comoros, India, Indonesia, South Korea and Singapore.

#### **NerdWallet**

#### Not as simple as staying home

### Cost & caregiving: Can seniors afford to age in place?

#### **By Kate Ashford**

Most older adults ages 50 to 80 say it's important to stay in their homes for as long as they can, according to the 2022 National Poll on Healthy Aging from the Institute for Healthcare Policy and Innovation at the University of Michigan. But only 1 in 3 said their home "definitely" has the features needed to allow them to age

Aging in place isn't as simple as just staying home - you must consider the costs, including those for agerelated home renovations, home maintenance and caregiving. Some costs may be covered by Medicare if you meet certain requirements, but most will be fully out of pocket.

"We know that about 90% of aging individuals want to age in place, but there are a number of aspects they have to consider," says Jill McNamara, senior director of enterprise operations at Care.com. From grab bars to yard upkeep, here's what you must evaluate.

#### Renovate

Staying in your home usually means making modifications so you can live in it safely. Many homes in the US were built in the post-war period, "when the country was young and virile and the lifespan was shorter," says Louis Tenenbaum, founder of the HomesRenewed Resource Center, a nonprofit site for research into the economics of aging in place.

You'll want to think about the bathroom, the entryway and the bedroom, says Kathleen Cameron, senior director of the National Council on Aging's Center for Healthy Aging. That includes things like grab bars and a walk-in shower in the bathroom, a ramp or widened doorway if needed for home access, and a bedroom on the main floor. If you rent, you'll want to find out if your landlord would be amenable to making these sorts of

Costs will depend on what you need done and where you live. Nationally, a midrange bathroom remodel averages about \$25,000, according to Remodeling magazine - although updating just a few features will cost less. Building a wheelchair ramp will run about \$1,000 to \$3,300, according to Angi, a site for finding service professionals.

These are just starting points. For someone considering these changes, "find occupational therapists or physical therapists to do a thorough home assessment and to identify what changes might be necessary for someone to age in place," Cameron says.

#### **Maintain your home**

Even if you can step into the shower safely, you still may have a lawn to maintain, a kitchen to clean and a boiler that needs a kick every winter. Landscaping maintenance can run \$100 to \$300 a month, according to HomeGuide, a site for finding local home service providers. In addition, a single housecleaning can cost \$75 to \$380, depending on the size of your home.

Consider, too, that if you own your home, you may need a plumber or a handyperson - things will break and you'll need repairs done. So it's not just about whether you can safely live in your house, Tenenbaum says, but also whether you can hire the services you need.

Melissa Brennan, a certified financial planner in Plano, Texas, remembers a neighbor who managed all his home maintenance tasks as he got older, including hiring a landscaping company and having his roof replaced and foundation repaired. "He lived independently and happily until his death because he knew his limitations and adapted accordingly," she says.

#### in-nome care

As you age, you may need help with bathing or getting dressed, or you may need help with cooking or grocery shopping. A home health aide averages about \$27 an hour, according to the 2021 Cost of Care Survey from Genworth, an insurance company. If you needed five hours of care per day, you'd be spending about \$4,000 a month.

"I think most people aren't aware of how much inhome care can actually cost," McNamara says. "And also, what's going to pay for it? Because most people think, 'Oh, as I age, I'll have Medicare.

While Medicare may cover home health care as part of a limited, prescribed regimen by your doctor - including physical and occupational therapy - it doesn't cover an extended period of home health care or companion care.

Your local area agency on aging might be able to help you find services that can help, such as transportation services or Meals on Wheels. "Understand what the options are locally," Cameron says, "for someone who truly wants to stay in their home as long as possible." (AP)

Supplements slow down aging pace

# **NOVOS** debuts longevity product line

NEW YORK, May 11: NOVOS, a leading provider of longevity supplements designed to promote healthy aging and extend the human lifespan, has announced its official launch after the completion of a successful beta and introductory phase. After four years of rigorous testing and formulating, NOVOS is now unveiling its line of science-backed, patent-pending supplements for consumers that aim to slow down the pace of aging by targeting its root causes.

Founded by longevity expert Chris Mirabile, with the help of globally accredited longevity and aging scientists from Harvard Medical School, MIT, and the Salk Institute, NOVOS is the first company to provide solutions that simultaneously target the 12 hallmark causes of aging. The company has gone through multiple thirdparty research studies to assess the impact of its supplements on longevity and healthy aging. In in-vitro human cell studies, NOVOS supplements were shown to reduce DNA damage from irradiation by up to 77% and inhibit cellular senescence. 73% of human subjects from an in-vivo case study saw a decrease in their biological pace of aging after incorporating the supplements into their dietary routines, and 0% saw an acceleration.

The company's three-pronged approach gives consumers access to biological testing, scientifically-tested formulas, and extensive educational content to surpass the life expectancy norm by improving their overall health. NOVOS' longevity solutions include:

NOVOS Core: The patent-pending, foundational powdered formula features 6.9 grams of 12 active longevity ingredients (including Calcium Alpha-Ketoglutarate, Glycine and Fisetin) can be mixed into beverages and is the first and most studied formula that targets the 12 hallmarks of aging to promote longevity, appearance, cognition, and energy over time

NOVOS Boost: Made of high-purity, microcrystalline nicotinamide mononucleotide (NMN), the capsules feature a powerful longevity ingredient that can boost energy, metabolism, and DNA repair via NAD+

NOVOS Age: World-class epigenetic age tests, including a third generation (latest) test that measures the pace of epigenetic aging, as well as biological age, and telomere length to help users understand how their lifestyle changes impact their longevity

"The foundation of NOVOS was built to unlock access to resources that educate people about long-term health, the impact lifestyle habits have, and the solutions needed to maximize and push the boundaries of human longevity," said Chris Mirabile, Founder & CEO of NOVOS. "After a tumultuous health journey in my teenage years, which forced me to start thinking about my mortality at a young age, I pivoted my priorities and dedicated my life to health, wellness, and biological research. I ultimately founded NOVOS to convert those key findings, push physiological boundaries, and provide information that will contribute to altering the concept of human aging."

#### Lifespan

With the boom in interest around expanding the human lifespan, the longevity and anti-senescence industry is expected to reach \$44 billion by 2030. While the cost of longevity solutions had previously been perceived as expensive and inaccessible, NOVOS offers a number of options that are either affordable or free, to demonstrate the accessibility of extending one's life. In addition to its flagship supplements and epigenetic age tests, NOVOS' Facial Age Test is a free, AI-powered facial age tool that measures one's perceived age, and skin health markers, based on facial data collected from over 12 million people, and provides guidance for improving these results. As a Public Benefit Corporation (PBC), NOVOS is committed to educating consumers about healthy living, regularly publishing Ph.D. and M.D.-authored articles about lifestyle choices that impact wellness, aging, and overall health.

As NOVOS looks ahead to developing new products to slow the pace of aging, the company has invested in key development and medical research areas to further support its mission to increase the human life expectancy far beyond what is already perceived. Recent comSafe, and effective treatment sought

### Nagasaki University presents trial data on lactis strain plasma use in COVID patients

TOKYO, May 11: Nagasaki University presented the results of a specified clinical trial on patients with COVID-19 using Lactococcus. lactis strain Plasma\*1 (L.lactis Plasma, a postbiotic), researched and developed by Kirin Holdings Company, Limited (Kirin Holdings). The results of this research was presented at the 63rd Annual Scientific Meeting of the Japanese Respiratory Society on Sunday, April 30. Nagasaki University and Kirin Holdings have jointly filed a patent application for the findings of this specified clinical trial.

Since December 2019, COV-ID-19 infections have repeatedly caused pandemics, infecting 676.57 million people worldwide and killing 6.88 million (as of March 10, 2023). With the emergence of Omicron variants, the number of cases in Japan has increased, and the COVID-19 has become a more familiar infectious disease. Although SARS-CoV-2 vaccines have introduced widely and patients with mild illnesses account for a large proportion of the affected population, only a limited number of drugs are available in patients with mild illnesses who are not at risk of developing severe illnesses, and treatment is mainly based on symptomatic therapy. Therefore, there is eagerly awaited for an easily accessible, safe, and effective treatment for COVID-19 in the community.

L. lactis strain Plasma was discovered by Kirin in 2010 as a lactic acid bacteria that activates plasmacytoid dendritic cells (pDC), which are a leader of the immune system. Previous basic studies showed that L.lactis Plasma stimulated pDC to have a first-line defense to viral infectious diseases. Previous clinical studies have also shown that L.lactis Plasma stimulated pDC and suppress the onset of an illness from influenza virus, rotavirus, and dengue. These scientific evidence of its immune function brought L. lactis Plasma registered as the first\*4 Food with Functional Claims in Japan on August 2020.

Based on the results of Kirin Holdings' research on L. lactis Plasma, Nagasaki University, as a research institute with significant achievements in the field of infectious diseases, interested in L. lactis strain Plasma which may effect in relieving symptoms in patientis with COVID-19, and has decided to conduct a specified clinical trial from December 2021.

#### Research

Since December 2021, Kirin Holdings has been engaged in a specific clinical research project led by Dr. Kazuko Yamamoto, a lecturer at the Department of Respiratory Medicine, Nagasaki University Hospital (currently a professor and chair at the Division of Infectious Diseases, Respiratory and Gastroenterological Medicine (First Department of Internal Medicine), University of the Ryukyus Graduate School of Medicine). This is a multicenter, double-blinded, randomized controlled trial conducted at Nagasaki University Hospital as a core facility. The efficacy and safety of 14 days oral intake of 4 hard capsules containing L. lactis Plasma (400 billion L. lactis Plasma in total) or 4 hard capsules without L. lactis Plasma (placebo) was to be evaluated\*5 by having 50 patients with COVID-19 in each group.

**Specified Clinical Trial Results** 1. Change in subjective symptom overall score (primary endpoint)

The results of an overall score analysis of seven subjective symp-

toms (Cough, Shortness of breath, fatigue, Headaches, Anosmia and Dysgeusia, Anorexia, and Chest pain) on a 4-point scale (0 points: not affected, 1 points: little effect, 2 points: affected, 3 points: severely affected) showed no difference between the two groups.

2. Anosmia and Dysgeusia (secondary endpoints)

The percentage of patients who scored 0 (not affected) for smell and taste dysfunction among subjective symptoms were high in the L. lactis strain Plasma group compared to placebo group after day 9.

3. Percent change in blood pDC (secondary endpoint)

While the placebo group showed a significant decrease in % pDC in the blood during COVID-19 clinical course, the L. lactis strain Plasma group maintained % pDC in the blood.

4. Percent change in SARS-CoV-2 viral load (secondary end-

The L. lactis strain Plasma group showed a significant reduction of SARS-CoV-2 viral load at day 4 of treatment whereas placebo group showed reduction at day 8.

5. Safety and adverse events No critical adverse events of

safety were observed in this study. Although this study did not show an effect on the primary endpoint,

the subjective symptom total score, these results suggested that maintained pDC by the intake of L. lactis strain Plasma may have resulted in an early reduction of SARS-CoV-2 and early recovery of smell and taste dysfunction.

Nagasaki University and Kirin hope that L. lactis Plasma will become one of the new treatment or adjunctive care to patients with mild COVID-19.

pany additions include the appointment of Diogo Barardo, Ph.D., previously of Professor Brian Kennedy's National University of Singapore's Center for Healthy Longevity, as Head of Research and Development to oversee formulations, scientific studies, and machine learning. NOVOS has established a Medical Advisory Board, in addition to its six-member Scientific Advisory Board, to further balance the scientific team with clinical medical experience. Dr. Robert Lufkin, Adjunct Clinical Professor of Radiology at the Keck School of Medicine of USC (former Professor of Radiology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA) and author of over 200 peer-reviewed scientific papers and 14 books, is the founding member.

With these new leadership appointees, NOVOS will continue to expand its efforts of empowering people to live longer, healthier lives by translating the latest scientific advances into accessible products, and achievable

NOVOS was founded in 2018 by antiaging and longevity expert Chris Mirabile with a team of esteemed longevity and aging scientists dedicated to unlocking access to knowledge and products that address the 12 hallmarks of aging. The company's breakthrough product line and scientific developments have been linked to fostering healthy aging with evidence that it can contribute to improvements in human longevity through formulations, tests, and guidance. As a Public Benefit Corporation, NOVOS actively contributes to nonprofit organizations, such as the Life Extension Advocacy Foundation (LEAF) as well as accredited university labs that are catalyzing the uncovering of breakthrough discoveries in anti-senescence and longevity. The company also provides the latest insights and information about the aging process for free, uniting people to live longer, healthier, and more youthful lives.







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### Scorsese to stir Cannes again, 47 years after 'Taxi Driver'

#### By Jake Coyle

When Martin Scorsese premieres his latest film, "Killers of the Flower Moon," at the Cannes Film Festival on May 20th, it will return Scorsese to a festival where he remains a key part of its fabled

Scorsese premiered his masterpiece of urban alienation, "Taxi Driver," in Cannes in 1976. Its debut was one of the most fevered in Cannes history, drawing boos and some walkouts for the violence in Scorsese's tale of the disillusioned New York cab driver Travis Brickle (Robert De Niro). The playwright Tennessee Williams, then the jury president, condemned the film.

"Films should not take a voluptuous pleasure in spilling blood and lingering on terrible cruelties as though one were at a Roman circus,'

Yet "Taxi Driver" nevertheless won Cannes' top honor, the Palme d'Or. Having heard of Williams' disapproval, Scorsese and company had already flown home, with dashed hopes of any big award.

"I got a call from (publicist) Marion Billings around five in the morning saying, 'You've won the Palme d'Or," Scorsese later recalled to The Hollywood Reporter. "We thought we might get screenplay or best actor for De Niro, so it was very surprising.

"Taxi Driver" wasn't Scorsese's first time in Cannes. Two years earlier, he had premiered his breakthrough feature, "Mean Streets," in Directors Fortnight, a selection of films typically from up-and-coming

directors that plays outside Cannes' main stage, the Palais des Festival. "Cannes was the international platform for 'Mean Streets,' a film I didn't think would even get distributed," Scorsese said in a 2018 Cannes talk commemorating the film's debut.

"My visit was almost the best time, in terms of anonymity. And trying very hard to change that!" he said. "I was able to go from table to table on the Croisette and meet actors, directors, and so many others. It was still a period of discovery, not just for new filmmakers but older, neglected filmmakers."

#### Relationship

Between "Mean Streets" and "Taxi Driver," Cannes played a pivotal role in announcing Scorsese's arrival as a major filmmaking talent. He has ever since maintained a close relationship with the festival, though it's become rarer for Scorsese to launch a film there.

"Killers of the Flower Moon," his much-awaited adaptation of the David Grann bestseller, is his first new film to premiere in the Cannes official selection since "After Hours" in 1986. That film, a darkly comic nocturnal New York escapade, won Scorsese best director.

His latest, which Apple, in partnership with Paramount Pictures, will open in theaters Oct. 6, isn't playing in competition in Cannes. Festival Director Thierry Frémaux, in announcing this year's lineup, said he urged Scorsese to put it into competition for the Palme d'Or but was

"Killers of the Flower Moon," with a runtime beyond three hours, is about a series of murders of Native Americans in 1920s Oklahoma and the FBI investigation that followed. The cast includes Leonardo DiCaprio, Robert De Niro, Lily Gladstone, Jesse Plemons, Cara Jade

Myers, JaNae Collins, Jillian Dion and Tantoo Cardinal. In between, Scorsese has often attended Cannes in other capacities. He was president of the jury in 1998 that chose Theo Angelopoulos' "Eternity and a Day" for the Palme. He also chaired the Cinéfondation

jury in 2002. And Scorsese has regularly been connected with other films at Cannes, either as an executive producer (for, among others, Joanna Hogg's two-part "The Souvenir") or to unveil newly restored classics by the Film Foundation, the film preservation nonprofit he founded. This year, the Film Foundation, with the Walt Disney Co., will debut a stored "Spellbound," Alfred Hitchcock's 1945 thriller.

Before a Cannes screening in 2009 of Film Foundation's screening of Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger's 1948 masterpiece "The Red Shoes," Scorsese said restoration only matters if people see the

"The more audiences see these films, the more they want to see other films like them, and then what happens is the audience changes which means the movies that are being made change," Scorsese said. "There is an audience for special movies, and good movies, for a different way of looking at the world - and not just blockbusters." (AP)

#### **Variety**



This image released by Apple TV+ shows Michael J. Fox in a scene from the documentary 'Still: A Michael J. Fox Movie.' (AP)

#### Film

Docu recounts 'a man of good cheer'

#### **NEW YORK: Oprah Winfrey's** latest book project is one she In 'Still,' Fox movingly tells his story helped write. Winfrey has teamed with the author, educator and Atlantic columnist Arthur C. Brooks on "Build the Life You Want: The Art and Science of By Jake Coyle

"I started reading Arthur Brooks" column 'How to Build a Life' during the early days of the pandemic," Winfrey said in a statement released Wednesday by Portfolio, a Penguin Random House imprint. "I found myself happily anticipating each week's lesson, which turned

out to be a recipe for growing forward. When I discovered he taught happiness at Harvard, I wanted to extend that to the rest of us." Brooks, who teaches a "Leadership and Happiness" class at Harvard, said in a statement that he had long admired Winfrey, who last year praised his bestseller

"From Strength to Strength" and

interviewed him for her "Super

Soul" podcast.

"As a social scientist, I look at the data and evidence on what leads to the greatest happiness, while Oprah knows how to reach people at the most important critical points in their lives," he said. "This book will introduce readers to the incredible science of happiness, based on the best research available." (AP) 

**NEW YORK:** Fired Fox news host Tucker Carlson said Tuesday that he will be putting out a "new ver-

sion" of his program on Twitter. Carlson made his announcement in a three-minute video posted on the social media site, as part of a denunciation of media. He called Twitter that last big remaining platform that allows free speech.

"We'll be bringing a new version of the show we've been doing for the last six and a half years to Twitter," he said. "We'll bring some other things, too, which we'll tell you about. But for now we're just grateful to be here.'

He offered no other details, and a message to his lawyer, Bryan Freedman, was not immediately returned.

It's unclear what these plans mean for his remaining contract with Fox; typically television companies include a no-compete clause when someone leaves the air. A

Getting Happier," to be published Sept. 12 by Portfolio Books. 've always liked Michael J. Fox and always will. I suspect most people feel the same way. That's surely partly because, as Marty McFly in

"Back to the Future" and Alex P. Keaton in "Family Ties," Fox was a fixture of so many childhoods. But there's also a way that Fox remains forever boyish a charming pipsqueak, a plucky kid with a touch less confidence than he lets on. His sheer geniality and universal appeal has remained indomitable, even in the face of a degenerative brain disorder.

"I'm a cockroach," Fox says in Davis Guggenheim's glossy, entertaining and often affecting documentary, "Still: A Michael J. Fox Movie."

In Guggenheim's film, Fox recounts his life, career and arduous battle with Parkinson's disease, with which he was diagnosed at age 29. The documentary, debuting Friday on Apple TV+, does this through candid on-camera interviews with Fox along with narration read by the actor.

And while there's footage here of home movies, much of Fox's life story unspools on screen. Along with bits of reenactment, Guggenheim uses clips of Fox's film and TV series to illustrate his off-screen life.

And this is surprisingly effective, in part because Fox's screen presence has always been so genuine. Actors aren't the parts they play but I think they always exude something innate about themselves. And more than that, a surprising amount of Fox's life has really happened in front of cameras. He met his wife, Tracy Pollan, on "Family Ties"; she played a love interest. His first symptoms came during the filming of "Doc Hollywood." And for years after Fox's diagnosis, he masked his increasing tics on "Spin City" by fidgeting with props.

But dramatizing Fox's life like this can also feel like a shallow gimmick. Instead, the most memorable images in "Still" are those of a present-day Fox in frame, speaking straight into the camera. The effects of Parkinson's are visible but so is the jaunty, self-deprecating actor we've always known. After the continual mussing with his still-handsome head of curls, Fox begs the primpers to stop. "At at certain

point, it is what it is," he says. Again, it's hard to shake the feeling that the Fox

we see on screen is the real him. "Still" frames Fox's story, maybe a little too neatly, as an arc from headlong movement to stillness. Fox's rags-to-riches rise in Hollywood was meteoric and head-spinning. The Alberta-born actor landed "Family Ties" while penniless and negotiated from the payphone of a Pioneer Chicken. From there on, it was movie deals, women and Ferraris.

The diagnosis knocked Fox sideways. The doctor, he recounts, laid out the odds: "You lose this game." But after a period of heavy drinking, Fox says the disorder, despite sending tremors through his body, made him more present, stiller. Pollan and their children are surely a big reason for that. Fox is never so endearing as when he's extolling the level-headedness of his wife: "I could be the King of England and she would be her. I could be Elvis and she would be her.'

"Still" finally makes you realize that even Fox's likability can be a burden. Being widely beloved while suffering through debilitating pain is another layer to his Parkinson's journey, one rarely so intimately observed. When Guggenheim follows him out of his Upper East Side apartment in Manhattan, the difficulty Fox has just walking is as apparent as his abiding will to remain a man of good cheer. After a stumble near a fan on the sidewalk, Fox brightly jokes: "Nice to meet you. You knocked me off my feet!"

"Still: A Michael J. Fox Movie," an Apple TV+ release is rated R by the Motion Picture Association for language. Running time: 94 minutes. Three stars out of four.

#### Also:

LOS ANGELES: After successfully doing the rounds

in theaters, "Air" is finally making its debut on Prime Video on Friday, May 12. The film, directed by Ben Affleck and written by Alex Convery, tells the origin story of the Air Jordan sneaker and how Nike's then-struggling basketball department defied the odds and signed rookie Michael Jordan in an unprecedented deal. It's the first time Affleck has directed his pal Matt Damon, who plays Nike executive Sonny Vaccaro, and it's the first film from their joint company Artists Equity. They brought in a starry cast, including Viola Davis as Michael Jordan's mother, Deloris, as well as Jason Bateman, Chris Tucker, Chris Messina and Marlon Wayans, and it has been widely praised for its well-told story — smart, adult and solidly entertaining.

**NEW YORK:** Clint Eastwood is getting back in the

director's chair The "Unforgiven" and "Gran Torino" filmmaker is set to direct the legal drama "Juror No. 2" for his longtime studio, Warner Bros., a person close to the production who requested anonymity because she wasn't authorized to comment publicly confirmed

The film will be Eastwood's first since 2021's neo-Western "Cry Macho," which also marked his return to the screen as an actor. With production on "Juror No. 2" to begin in June, Eastwood will be 93 when he steps on set.

Nicholas Hoult and Toni Collette are in early talks to potentially star in the film, written by Jonathan Abrams, about a murder trial wherein a juror discov-

ers he may have played a role in the victim's death. In an interview in 2014 with The Associated Press, Eastwood, said the reason for his career longevity

was that "I never let the old man in." you tell yourself, 'I'm too old to do that' - bulls---.

"There are so many different stories to tell out there," said Eastwood. "You can be 21 or 81. ... If You're not too old to do anything." (AP)

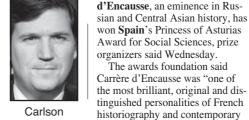
Fox spokeswoman didn't immediately return a call for comment.

Axios reported on Tuesday that Carlson's lawyers sent a letter to Fox accusing the network of fraud and breach of contract. (AP)

MADRID: Ninety-three-year-old

French historian Hélène Carrère





organizers said Wednesday. The awards foundation said Carrère d'Encausse was "one of the most brilliant, original and distinguished personalities of French

In a note, the panel of judges

European thought."

added that her work "probably constitutes the greatest substantive contribution that has been made in recent decades to the knowledge of the Soviet Union and Russia, one of the essential issues for understanding the contemporary world. Born Hélène Zourabichvili in Paris on July 6, 1929, of a Georgian father and a mother of Russian-German origin, Carrère d'Encausse grew up in an emigrant family with aristocratic ancestors from which she learned the Russian history, literature and language. She later opted for French nationality and became Carrère d'Encausse after marriage. (AP)

### People & Places

### Music

#### **Debut new album**

### Ukraine's Jamala to 'sing' for Eurovision

LONDON, May 11, (AP): Jamala and the orchestra were supposed be onstage, but they were sheltering

Warnings of shelling and missile attacks had them below ground at the Kyiv Opera House instead of getting ready to perform for an audience.

The Ukrainian singer was at the venue to debut a selection of songs from her new album "Qirim" - a collection of Crimean Tatar tracks that was years in the making.

Musicians, sound engineers and lighting technicians were sheltering with her, waiting for the air raid threat to pass.



Jamala

said, speaking in the UK the following week. And the show did go on, if a

little late.

"It's not normal, but, you know, it's our life. It's our everyday life in Kyiv," Jamala

"For me, it was really important sign for the whole world that despite of everything, we are fighting our front-line war, (for) our culture, our heritage, for our history," she said of the

concert in Kyiv on Friday. 'Oirim' expands on the connection Jamala felt with her heritage when she performed a song about her ancestors at the 2016 Eurovision Song Contest. She won the competition that year in Stockholm with "1944," which is about the deportation of Crimean Tartars by Soviet dictator Josef Stalin.

In May of that year, nearly 200,000 Crimean Tatars - who at the time accounted for about a third of the Crimean population - were deported to the steppes of Central Asia, 3,200 kilometers (2,000 miles) to the east. Stalin had accused them of collaborating with the Nazis - a claim widely dismissed as false by historians. An estimated half of them died in the next 18 months of hunger and harsh conditions.

While lot of groups sing in English at Eurovision in hopes of reaching a bigger audience, Jamala took the top prize by singing in a foreign language that would be familiar in only small pockets of the world.

#### Connect

"It was for the very first time that the world had listened (to) Crimean Tatar language. And all (the) Turkic world was so happy because it was the first time the Turkic language won in Eurovision," she recalled.

She had been warned that the song was too dramatic, that audiences wouldn't connect with the pain of the deportation or with her family's history.

"But I said, 'No, if people feel that it's true, that they feel it's so pure and honest, they believe me. And it happened.

A similar pursuit of purity drove the album that is set for release this week.

Jamala dove deeper into the customs of her ancestors, looking for songs to represent different areas of the Crimean Peninsula, which Russia seized from Ukraine in 2014 in a move that most of the world regards as illegal.

She became part detective, part music historian as she puzzled together melodies and stories from folk-

"I didn't expect to find these treasures when I started this project," she said. "It's like a diary, very personal stories.'

One of the characters on the album is Alim Aidadmakh, a Robin Hood-type figure who fought injustice and stood up for the poor.

His story nearly wasn't told at all. All the recordings, including Jamala's vocals and the musicians' tracks, were thought to have been lost in Kyiv after Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine early last year.

Luckily, sound producer Sergei Krutsenko was able to rescue the work of the more than 80 musicians who had worked virtually from all over the region in 2021, to bring the 14 tunes that make up "Qirim" to life.

After decades of dedication to this project and the near miss, how does Jamala feel now it's available for people to listen to?

Î'm happy because it's happened, because it's really hard work with the whole team. But I'm sad because even in Crimea, you can't listen this streaming because it's banned. Because Crimea is still occupied by Russia.'

The singer spoke to The Associated Press from Liverpool while rehearsing to perform the album in its entirety for the first time with the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra, as part of this year's Eurovision celebra-

Ukrainian band Kalush Orchestra won last year's song contest, which gave Ukraine the right to host this year's competition. Because of Russia's war, that was deemed unsafe and the UK is hosting the event

Ahead of Saturday's final, Jamala dismissed the idea that politics influences how judges and the public vote at Eurovision, suggesting that it's more about

"If people feel this sympathy to you," she says.

"They (are) going to vote for you."

And she still believes deeply in the importance of the international contest.

"For us, it's a huge opportunity to say again and again, people listen. We are fighting for our freedom, for our rights to live in our home, to sleep in our beds, listen to us," Jamala explains.

"And for everyone, for every country, it's really the only one contest in the world, honestly, when you can show through the three minutes - it's only three minutes - you can show your culture, your thoughts, your stories, everything. It's magic."

**CHANHASSEN, Minn.:** The late pop superstar **Prince** is being honored in Minnesota as the state renames a seven-mile stretch of highway after him, one that runs past his Paisley Park home and recording studio.

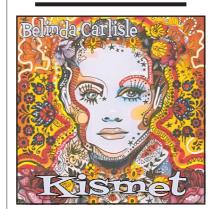
Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz used purple ink on Tuesday to sign the bill dedicating the roadway formerly known as Minnesota Highway 5. Now, the path through in the Minneapolis suburbs of Chanhassen and Eden Prairie will be called the Prince Rogers Nelson Memorial Highway.

Purple road signs will soon go up along the highway declaring the new name, paid for by Prince's friends and fans.

The governor described Prince as a "global icon" and "creative genius." Waltz and other lawmakers toured the cavernous rooms at Paisley Park which showcase sleek guitars and a purple piano from the artist's career. The sights and sounds of Prince performing under shimmering lights add to the atmos-



Beyoncé performs at a Get Out the Vote concert for Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton at the Wolstein Center in Cleveland, Ohio, Nov. 4, 2016. Tens of thousands of fans descended upon the Swedish capital of Stockholm to celebrate the opening show of Beyonce's new world tour on Wednesday, May 10. (AP)



This cover image released by BMG shows, 'Kismet', a five-track EP by Belinda Carlisle. (AP)



**Brooks** 



Zeman

#### **Variety**

LOS ANGELES: Jacklyn Zeman, who played Bobbie Spencer for 45 years on ABC's "General Hospital" has died at

Zeman died after a short battle with cancer, her family confirmed Wednesday. News of her death was first announced by the show's executive producer, Frank Valentini.

"I am heartbroken to announce the passing of our beloved Jackie Zeman," he wrote on Twitter. "Just like her character, the legendary Bobbie Spencer, she was a bright light and a true professional that brought so much positive energy with her work." ABC Entertainment and "General

Hospital" also released a statement stating, "Jacklyn Zeman has been a beloved member of the General Hospital and ABC family since she originated the iconic role of Bobbie Spencer over 45 years ago. She leaves behind a lasting legacy for her Emmy-nominated portray al of the bad girl turned heroine and will always be remembered for her kind heart and radiant spirit. We are devastated by the news of her passing, and send our deepest condolences to Jackie's family, friends and loved ones.

Zeman first joined "General Hospital" in 1977 as Barbara Jean, who went by Bobbie, and was the feisty, younger sister of Anthony Geary's Luke Spencer. Zeman grew to regard Geary as family off camera. "I'm probably closer to him than I would be a real-life brother," she told co-star Maurice Benard last year on his YouTube series "State of Mind."

Bobbie had worked as a teen prostitute and given up a baby for adoption but had managed to turn her life around and become a nurse at General Hospital. Zeman's portrayal of Spencer was a spirited, upbeat woman who was as sweet as pie but who also had a sense of self. She didn't suffer fools and had no problem revoking the niceties if she believed it were warranted. (AP)

FRISCO, Texas: It'll be a new experience for  $\boldsymbol{Garth\ Brooks}$  when he steps onto the stage Thursday at the Academy of Country Music Awards - it's his first time hosting an awards show.

Co-host **Dolly Parton** will be there to help him out if he needs it - not that either showed any worry in a recent interview. "We've got a script that will go by just for guidance and time for the show, but I doubt very seriously that we'll stick to it too close," Parton said.

"It's fun for me as a fan because I've always loved this woman from distance, but we've never got to work like this before. So trust me, ... whether the show goes on the air or not, I'm having the

### Music

#### Warren, Carlisle reunite after decades apart

### Beyoncé opens 'Renaissance' tour

STOCKHOLM, May 11, (AP): Tens of thousands of fans descended upon the Swedish capital of Stockholm to celebrate the opening show of Beyoncé's new world tour on Wednes-

"Renaissance" is the superstar's first solo tour since 2016 and shares the namesake of her 2022 dancecentric album, the success of which landed Beyoncé at the top of the Grammy throne as the ceremony's

most decorated artist in history. Fans who had complained in recent months about the lack of music videos for "Renaissance" hits were in for a treat Wednesday as video projections and animations took center stage. The rapid succession of costume changes and decor shifts was baffling. The singer played on interactions between a digital and physical world where robotic devices make space for weird silver moon rovers or an inflatable horse. Even Queen Bey herself morphs into a cybernetic character. Seems confusing? It was.

Yet despite the impressive scale of the stage set, some moments still felt intimate. Beyoncé expressed heartfelt gratitude to fans for traveling from afar to witness her perform. She reached for songs spanning across her two-decade career, kicking off the show with "Dangerously in Love," the title track of her 2003 first solo album, moving through 2011 female empowerment anthem "Run the World (Girls)" and dishing up a good selection of hits from "Renaissance" itself.

Wednesday's show sold out the 46,000 tickets available; and if the audience's reaction was anything to go on, the rest of the tour will be a hit. Beyoncé will make stops at more than 40 cities including London, Paris, Barcelona and Toronto before wrapping up the tour Sept. 27 in New Orleans.

Appropriate for an album called "Kismet," the reunion of songwriter Diane Warren and singer Belinda

best time on the planet," Brooks said.

Singer-songwriter **HARDY** enters

Thursday's show as the leading nominee,

Carlisle happened by chance.

Warren, who has penned global hits such as "I Don't Want to Miss a Thing" for Aerosmith and "Un-Break My Heart" for Toni Braxton, was minding her own business in Los Angeles at a coffee shop when a stranger walked up to her.

He introduced himself as the son of Carlisle, lead singer of the Go-Go's, the most successful all-female rock band of all time who later became a solo artist with hits like "Heaven Is a Place on Earth."

For Warren, it was a bit of a shock. She didn't know Carlisle had an adult son and the two women hadn't been in touch for decades. But it was a fortuitous meeting, too. Warren had a great new song - "Big, Big Love" - that she'd just written and was looking for the perfect singer.

"Then when I ran into Belinda's son, Duke, I was like, Oh, wow. 'Big, Big Love' - Belinda! Oh, my God. Get her on the phone right now," Warren recalls.

#### **Favorite**

The result of that chance meeting is "Kismet," a five-track EP that includes "Big Big Love" and reunites Warren and Carlisle, who first worked together in 1987 for Carlisle's second solo album, "Heaven on Earth."

"There's no like weirdness, no uncomfortable. It's just very, very easy," says Carlisle of working again with Warren. "It's effortless. It's kind of scary how effortless it is.'

Warren, who wrote "I Get Weak" back in the '80s for Carlisle, agrees: "Belinda Carlisle is one of my favorite artists ever," she says. "Belinda sounds better than she ever has.'

That's not to mean there weren't some nerves as the two artists reunited for a recording session that included "Big Big Love," an anthem with slices of '80s synth, a huge Warren hook and strong vocals from Carlisle.

"You never know about what

the song of the year category. One of the

songs he's up for is "Wait in the Truck,"

his duet with Lainey Wilson, who is

you're going to hear. So, of course, it's always like, 'What if I don't like it? What if it's not for me?' But I went in there and I heard it for the first time, and I freaked out," says Carlisle.

The two women then put together the EP with some songs Warren had in her trunk and some ones written specifically for Carlisle, like "If You Go." The album title came easily: "The meaning is something that's meant to be. So this was meant to

Carlisle sprinkled a few of the songs into her setlist during a recent tour of the United Kingdom and felt a reaction to Warren's upbeat, uplift-

"I could tell they're hungry for this kind of music. They want to escape and they want to be uplifted. And I think the combination of Diane and myself certainly has the potential to do that."

The singer will add them to her US tour, which kicks off July 1 in Georgia and takes her to Wisconsin, Illinois, Ohio, Massachusetts, New York, Nevada and California. "Kismet" may not be the end of

the women's collaboration. Over a Zoom call - interrupted at one point by Warren's ringtone (a slice of "Big Big Love," naturally) - they plotted a return to the studio. "I had such a great time, and I

was really bummed out when it was over," says Carlisle. Responded Warren: "I've got some great songs kind of sitting on the side for you. They still marvel at the way their

reunion came about and the heroic role Carlisle's son played at Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf. "If he didn't go up to Diane that day, this would never have happened," says Carlisle. "Isn't it weird? Or, like, he came

an hour later or didn't go that day?' asks Warren. To which Carlisle adds even more mystery: "And he never goes to that coffee shop, either. He never goes there. So the whole thing is very strange."

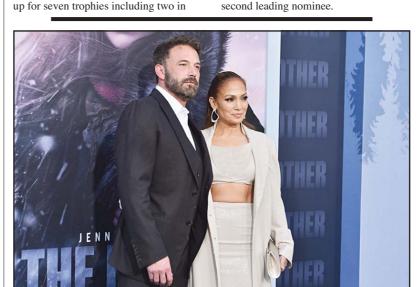
He's also a nominee as a songwriter for Morgan Wallen's "Sand in my Boots." The country superstar won't perform as planned due to a vocal cord

injury that's halted his tour. The night could end with reigning entertainer of the year Miranda Lambert extending her lead as the most decorated artist in ACMs history. She's up for entertainer of the year along with Carrie Underwood, Chris Stapleton, Jason Aldean, Kane Brown, Luke Combs and

Wallen. Two nominees are already winners: Hailey Whitters and Zach Bryan have won best new artist honors.

Performers will include some of country's biggest names, including Carly Pearce, Keith Urban, Brandy Clark, and Mickey Guyton along with a special performance from British pop star Ed Sheeran. The show streams on Amazon Prime beginning at 8 p.m. Eastern from the Ford Center at the Star in Frisco,

Parton will perform "World on Fire," a song from her new rock album. Performances are a hallmark of the ACMs, which often pair artists who might not normally perform together. 'They're so frickin' cool and I love them," Brooks said. (AP)



Ben Affleck, (left), and Jennifer Lopez arrive at the Los Angeles premiere of 'The Mother,' Wednesday, May 10, at Westwood Regency Village Theater. (AP)

#### Health

#### **Hope for allergic tots**

### Skin patch for peanut allergy shows promise

WASHINGTON, May 11, (AP): An experimental skin patch is showing promise to treat toddlers who are highly allergic to peanuts - training their bodies to handle an accidental bite.

Peanut allergy is one of the most common and dangerous food allergies. Parents of allergic tots are constantly on guard against exposures that can turn birthday parties and play dates into emergency room visits.

There is no cure. The only treatment is for children 4 and older who can consume a special peanut powder to protect against a severe reaction.

The patch, named Viaskin, aims to deliver that kind of treatment through the skin instead. In a major test with youngsters ages 1 to 3, it helped those who couldn't toler-

ate even a small fraction of a peanut to eventually safely eat a few, researchers reported Wednesday.

If additional testing pans out, "this would fill a huge unmet need," said **Dr. Matthew Greenhawt**, an allergist at Children's Hospital Colorado who helped lead the study.

About 2% of US children are allergic to peanuts, some so severely than even a tiny amount can cause a lifethreatening reaction. Their immune Greenhawt system overreacts to peanut-containing foods, triggering an inflammatory cascade that causes hives, wheezing or worse. Some young-

life and carry rescue medicine to stave off a severe reaction if they accidentally ingest some In 2020, the Food and Drug Administration approved the first treatment to induce tolerance to peanuts -- an "oral immunotherapy" named Palforzia that children ages 4 to 17 consume daily to keep up the protection. Aimmune Thera-

sters outgrow the allergy but most must avoid peanuts for

peutics' Palforzia also is being tested in toddlers. France's DBV Technologies is pursuing skin-based immunotherapy as an alternative way to desensitize the body

#### **Protein**

The Viaskin patch is coated with a small amount of peanut protein that is absorbed into the skin. A daily patch is worn between the shoulder blades, where toddlers can't pull it off.

In the new study, 362 toddlers with peanut allergy first were tested to see how high a dose of peanut protein they could tolerate. Then they were randomly assigned to use the Viaskin patch or a lookalike dummy patch every day.

After a year of treatment, they were tested again and about two-thirds of the toddlers who used the real patch could safely ingest more peanuts, the equivalent of three to four, researchers concluded.

That compares to about a third of youngsters given the dummy patches. Greenhawt said they likely include children who are outgrowing the allergy.

As for safety, four Viaskin recipients experienced an allergic reaction called anaphylaxis that was deemed related to the patch. Three were treated with epinephrine to calm the reaction, and one dropped out of the study.

Some youngsters also accidentally ate peanut-containing foods during the study, and researchers said allergic reactions were less frequent among the Viaskin users than those wearing the dummy patches. The most common side effect was skin irritation at the patch site.

The findings were published in the New England Journal

The results "are very good news for toddlers and their families as the next step toward a future with more treatments for food allergies," Dr. Alkis Togias of the National Institutes of Health, which wasn't involved with the study, wrote in an accompanying editorial.

Togias cautioned that it's too early to compare oral and skin treatments, but pointed to data suggesting each might have different pros and cons - raising the possibility that oral therapy might be stronger but also cause more side effects.

DBV Technologies has struggled for several years to bring the peanut patch to market. Last month the company announced the FDA wants some additional safety data for toddlers, and a separate study already is tracking longer treatment. A study of 4- to 7-year-olds also is underway. 

Birth control pills: A panel of federal advisers voted Wednesday to back a drugmaker's request to sell a kind of birth control pills over-the-counter, clearing the way for the Food and Drug Administration to approve the first sale of oral contraception on US store shelves without a prescription later this year.

The unanimous vote follows a two-day joint meeting of two FDA committees to weigh a submission by the Perrigo subsidiary HRA Pharma, for their proposed Opill brand

Opill is made up of norgestrel, a kind of "progestin-only" birth control pill that was first approved as safe and effective to be prescribed by doctors in the 1970s. This is different from birth control pills that are largely prescribed today, which are newer "combined" formulations that also use es-

The committees had been asked to discuss and vote over whether there was "adequate information to conclude" that the benefits of making norgestrel tablets available over-thecounter outweigh the risks of consumers taking them without a doctor's supervision.

Ahead of the meeting, Perrigo told investors Monday it was expecting the FDA could decide on approval of overthe-counter Opill within the next three months. If approved, Opill could be rolled out as early as the end of this year, a company executive said.

"FDA's approval of Opill for over-the-counter use would address a key unmet need for contraceptive access, be a groundbreaking expansion for women's health nationwide and a step forward toward ensuring people can have improved access to contraception without unnecessary barriers," said Perrigo's Frederique Welgryn in a statement following the vote.

While the panel's vote is not binding, the FDA says the expert input plays a key role in helping agency reviewers sort through tricky questions posed by drug company submissions. Advisers had wrestled with a range of concerns voiced by the FDA's reviewers with Perrigo's request, including around whether a key study might need to be re-run. Several participants in a study designed to simulate over-

the-counter use of Perrigo's drug reported taking dozens or even hundreds more pills than they were dispensed to take. "This finding of improbable dosing in this study is really quite extraordinary. This is not something we see in a typi-

cal actual use study. And the results have to be incredibly extreme to show up in this kind of a study," the FDA's Theresa Michelle told the panel. Almost a third of study participants reported taking far more tablets than they were supposed to receive, a result that

results from the study by Perrigo's contractor. "You really have to wonder about what happened with the other two-thirds if they also over reported, but just not to the

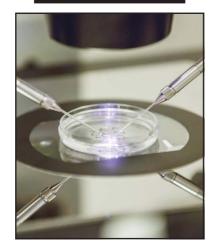
the FDA worried cast doubt over the validity of all of the

extent where we could pick up on it," said Michelle. But FDA officials also acknowledged the stakes riding on their looming decision, especially as women face grow-

ing hurdles in trying to access contraceptives or abortion



This undated image made available by the National Human Genome Research Institute shows the output from a DNA sequencer. The much-heralded Human Genome Project was a huge milestone for science, but most of that genetic blueprint came from one man from Buffalo, N.Y. On Wednesday, May 10, 2023, scientists announced they have sequenced the genomes of 47 people from around the world, allowing scientists to be able to look at what's normal and what's not across people and learn more about what genes do and what diseases genetic problems may cause. (AP)



An embryologist works on a petri dish at the Create Health fertility clinic in south London, Thursday, Aug. 14, 2013. Britain's fertility regulator said the first babies created using an experimental technique combining DNA from three people have been born, in an effort to prevent the children from inheriting rare genetic diseases. (AP)

#### Discovery

'Deeper study of sea turtles': A US agency has agreed to an in-depth environmental study into whether dredging a Georgia shipping channel in the spring and summer would threaten rare sea turtles nesting on nearby beaches - a review demanded by conservationists who sued to stop the project.

Georgia conservation group One Hundred Miles moved to dismiss its lawsuit against the Army Corps of Engineers after the agency announced that it would voluntarily conduct the study. The group sued in December, asking a US District Court judge to order the Corps to produce such a report.

"The Corps has now committed to what we've asked for, to go back and review the science," **Catherine Ridley**, a One Hundred Miles vice president, said. "The science is clear: Spring and summer dredging puts Georgia's sea turtles and

decades of conservation progress at risk.' Environmentalists and the Army Corps have battled since 2021 over the agency's plan to end a policy that for three decades has prohibited the dredging of accumulated sand and mud from harbors in Georgia and the Carolinas during the nesting season for sea turtles. Governor of Georgia is Brian Kemp.

In place since 1991, the seasonal limits are intended to protect sea turtles from being killed and maimed by the vacuum-like suction pumps of hopper dredges during the warmer months, when female turtles are most abundant near Southern beaches. Conservationists credit that policy with helping threatened and endangered turtle species begin a fragile rebound.

The Army Corps said in a statement Monday that it is undertaking the fuller environmental study to "ensure robust public, agency, and stakeholder engagement" as well as "full evaluation of the impacts that this action may have to the human and natural environment." The agency is responsible for keeping shipping channels clear of accumulated sediments to ensure safe passage for ships

SKorea to lift 'mandate': South Korea will drop its COVID-19 quarantine requirements and end testing recommendations for international arrivals starting next month after the World Health Organization declared the end of the global

health emergency. In lowering the coronavirus alert level from "critical" to plainly "alert" starting June 1, health authorities will also lift mask mandates in pharmacies and small clinics but will continue require mask wearing in large hospitals and long-term care facilities and other medical venues with high infection risks.

The decision was announced during a meeting attended by President Yoon Suk Yeol, where he thanked the country's medical workers and said it was "delightful that people are getting their normal lives back after three and a half

He said his government will take steps to improve the country's capacity to deal with future pandemics, including providing stronger support for vaccine developments and expanding international coop-

#### Health

### Hope to prevent inheriting rare genetic diseases

### 1st babies born using DNA from 3

LONDON, May 11, (AP): Britain's fertility regulator on Wednesday confirmed the births of the UK's first babies are standard wing an experience babies created using an experimental technique combining DNA from three people, an effort to prevent the children from inheriting rare genetic diseases

The Human Fertilization and Embryology Authority said fewer than five babies have been born this way in the UK but did not provide further details to protect the families' identi-ties. The news was first reported by the

Guardian newspaper.

In 2015, the UK became the first country to adopt legislation regulating methods to help prevent women with faulty mitochondria - the energy source in a cell - from passing defects on to their babies. The world's first baby born using the technique was reported in the US in 2016.

The genetic defects can result in disuch as muscular a lepsy, heart problems and intellectual disabilities. About one in 200 children in Britain is born with a mitochondrial disorder. To date, 32 patients have been authorized to receive such treatment.

For a woman with faulty mitochondria, scientists take genetic material from her egg or embryo, which is then transferred into a donor egg or embryo that still has healthy mitochondria but had the rest of its key DNA removed.

The fertilized embryo is then transferred into the womb of the mother. The genetic material from the donated egg comprises less than 1% of the

child created from this technique. "Mitochondrial donation treatment offers families with severe inherited mitochondrial illness the possibility of a healthy child," the UK fertility regulator said in a statement Wednesday. The agency said it was still "early days" but it hoped the scientists involved, at Newcastle University, would soon publish details of the treat-

#### **Treatment**

Britain requires every woman undergoing the treatment to receive approval from the Human Fertilization and Embryology Authority. The regulator says that to be eligible, families must have no other available options for avoiding passing on genetic disease.

Many critics oppose the artificial reproduction techniques, arguing there are other ways for people to avoid passing on diseases to their children, such as egg donation or screening tests, and that the experimental methods have not yet been proven safe.

Others warn that tweaking the genetic code this way could be a slippery slope that eventually leads to designer babies for parents who not only want to avoid inherited diseases but to have taller, stronger, smarter or better-looking children.

Robin Lovell-Badge, a stem cell expert at the Francis Crick Institute, a biomedical research center in London, said it would be critical to monitor the babies' future development.

"It will be interesting to know how well the (mitochondrial donation) technique worked at a practical level, whether the babies are free of mitochondrial disease and whether there is

### **'DNA project' gives researchers** diverse genome for comparison

NEW YORK, May 11, (AP): For two decades, scientists have been comparing every person's full set of DNA they study to a template that relies mostly on genetic material from one man affectionately known as "the guy from Buffalo."

But they've long known that this template for comparison, or "reference genome," has serious limits because it doesn't reflect the spectrum of human diversity.

"We need a really good understanding of the variations, the differences between human beings," said genomics expert Benedict Paten of the University of California, Santa Cruz. "We're missing out."

Now, scientists are building a much more diverse reference that they call a "pangenome," which so far includes the genetic material of 47 people from various places around the world. It's the subject of four studies published Wednesday in the journals Nature and Nature Biotechnology. Scientists say it's already teaching them new things about health and disease and should help patients down the

Paten said the new reference should help scientists understand more about what's normal and what's not. "It is only by understanding what common variation looks like that we'll be able to say, Oh, this big structural variation that affects this gene? Don't worry about it." he said.

A human genome is the set of instructions to build and sustain a human being, and experts define a pangenome as a collection of whole genome sequences from many people that is designed to represent the genetic diversity of the human species. The pangenome is not a composite but a collection; scientists depict it as a rainbow of stacked genomes, compared with one line representing the older,

single reference genome.

The Human Pangenome Project builds upon the first sequencing of a complete human genome, which was nearly completed more than two decades ago and finally finished last year. Paten, a pangenome study author and project leader, said 70% of that first reference genome came from an African American man with mixed African and European ancestry who answered an ad for volunteers in a Buffalo newspaper in 1997. About 30% came from a mix of around 20

people.

The pangenome contains material from 24 people of African ancestry, 16 from the Americas and the Caribbean, six from Asia and

one from Europe.

Although any two people's genomes are more than 99% identical, Paten said "it's those differences that are the things that genetics and genomics is concerned with studying and understanding."

It may take a while for patients to see concrete benefits from the research. But scientists said new insights should eventually make genetic testing more accurate, improve drug discovery and bolster personalized medicine, which uses someone's unique genetic profile to guide decisions for preventing, diagnosing and treating disease.

'The Pangenome Project gives a more accurate representation of the genome of people from around the world," and should help doctors better diagnose genetic conditions, said clinical genetics expert Dr. Wendy Chung at Columbia University, who was not involved in the research

If someone has a variation in a certain gene, it could be compared to the rainbow of references.

Study author Evan Eichler of the University of Washington said researchers will also learn more about genes already linked to problems, such as one tied to cardiovascular disease in African

"Now that we can actually sequence that gene in its entirety and we can understand the variation in that gene, we can start to go back to unexplained cases of patients with coronary heart disease" and look at them in light of the new knowledge, he said. Eichler is paid by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, which also supports The Associated Press's health and science department.
University of Minnesota plant ge-

netics expert Candice Hirsch, who wasn't involved in the research but has closely followed the effort, said she expects many discoveries to flow from it. Until now, "we really have only been able to scratch the surface of understanding the genetics that underlies disease," she

any risk of them developing problems later in life," he said in a statement.

Scientists in Europe published research earlier this year that showed in some cases, the small number of abnormal mitochondria that are inevitably carried over from the mother's egg to the donor's can reproduce when the baby is in the uterus, which could ultimately lead to a genetic disease.

Lovell-Badge said the reasons for such problems were not vet understood and that researchers would need to develop methods to reduce the risk. Previous research assessing another technique to create babies from three

people, including an egg donor, found that years later the children were doing well as teenagers, with no signs of unusual health problems and good grades in school.

Doctors in the US were the first to announce the world's first baby using the mitochondria donation technique. after the treatment was conducted in Mexico.

eration.

South Korea has been requiring sevenday quarantines for virus carriers. While the mandate will be lifted from June 1, health officials will continue to recommend people to isolate for five days if they test positive for the virus, the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency said. Travelers had been advised to take PCR tests within three days after arriving





will also be lifted. Youngmee Jee, KDCA's commission-

in the country, but that recommendation

er, downplayed worries that virus measures were being loosened too quickly, saying that the country's COVID-19 situation was stabilizing, partially because of high vaccination rates and immunity gained through infections during previous waves of the virus. (AP)

#### **Capitals in deep trouble**

### Chennai capitalizes on slow pitch to beat Delhi by 27 runs

CHENNAI, India, May 11, (AP): Chennai Super Kings capitalized on a slow pitch through its pace and spin to beat



Chennai Super Kings' Ravindra Jadeja bowls a delivery during the Indian Premier League cricket match between Delhi Capitals and Chennai Super Kings in Chennai, India. (AP)



Chennai Super Kings' captain MS Dhoni plays a shot during the Indian Premier League cricket match between Delhi Capitals and Chennai Super Kings in Chennai, India. (AP)

**MLB Results/Standings** 

Oakland

LA Angels

Toronto 10 inn

Tampa Bay Chicago W. Sox

.541

.472 .459 .342

.611 .526 .514

Seattle

American League

**East Division** 

21 17
icentral Division
W L
20 17
17 19
17 20
13 25
11 27
West Division
W L

Central W 20

9 13

NY Yankees

Houston Philadelphia

Baltimore Kansas City

Tampa Bay

New York

Minnesota

Detroit Cleveland

Texas Los Angeles

Houston

Chicago

Delhi Capitals by 27 runs in the Indian Premier League on Wednesday.

Delhi never found momentum once it lost captain David Warner without scoring before it got restricted at 140-8.

Chennai, which won the toss and elected to bat, struggled in the first half but Ravindra Jadeja (21) and captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni (20) lifted the total to 167-8.

Chennai moved to No. 2 with 15 points behind table-topper Gujarat Titans (16 points). The defeat pushed Delhi to the brink of elimination from the playoff race with eight points from

vChahar struck again in the powerplay when Phil Salt (17) top-edged at mid-on and Mitchell Marsh (5) got runout in a mixup with impact player Manish Pandey as Delhi slipped to 25-3 in the fourth over.

#### **CRICKET**

Pandey and Rilee Rossouw (35) combined in a half-century stand but both batters got tied down by spinner Jadeja (1-19) and Moeen Ali (0-16) before Sri Lanka fast bowler Matheesha Pathirana (3-37) choked Delhi further with his brilliant yorkers in the latter half.

Pathirana had Pandey leg before wicket with a superb yorker in his first over and also claimed the wickets of Axar Patel and Lalit Yadav with change of pace to cap a brilliant all-round show by the home team.

Earlier, Devon Conway couldn't capitalize on some early close calls before he was trapped lbw by left-arm spinner Patel (2-27) off his first ball.

Delhi didn't go for a television referral when Khaleel Ahmed found a thin outside of Conway's bat before the left-handed opener survived lbw referral against offspinner Lalit Yadav.

Patel also accounted for the wicket of Ruturaj Gaikwad (24) in his second over and then Yadav took a splendid low onehanded return catch of Rahane off his own bowling as Delhi continued to strike with regular intervals.

Delhi looked to have contained Chennai when Ambati Rayudu (23) fell in the 17th over but Jadeja and Dhoni smashed two boundaries and three sixes between them to propel the team's total in the last

San Diego 11 inn 3

GB

6-1/2

GB

Pittsburgh

Arizona

National League

**East Division** 

Division L

17 19 21

25 Division

18

Pct

.605 .541 .514 .444 .421

Central W 21

San Francisco

### **Rangers edge Mariners to win 1st** series in Seattle in nearly four yrs



Philadelphia Phillies' J.T. Realmuto hits a run-scoring double against Toronto Blue Jays pitcher Jordan Romano during the ninth inning of a baseball game in Philadelphia. (AP)

#### Jansen becomes 7th player in major league history to earn 400 saves

SEATTLE, May 11, (AP): Marcus Semien homered and drove in a pair of runs, Dane Dunning allowed only two runs in six strong innings and the Texas Rangers beat the Seattle Mariners 4-3 on Wednesday.

Texas won its first series in Seattle in nearly four years, taking two of three from the Mariners. The last time the Rangers won a series in the Pacific Northwest was May 27-29, 2019.

The Rangers did it on the strength of their pitching. Jon Gray allowed one run over seven innings in a 2-1 victory in the series opener and Dunning posted a second consecutive solid performance since moving back into the Rangers' rotation.

Dunning (3-0) scattered six hits, struck out five and avoided any major trouble. Dunning threw five shutout innings in his first start for the Rangers last week against the Angels.

Semien's solo home run led off the third inning, when the Rangers got to Seattle ace Luis Castillo. Nathaniel Lowe and Jonah Heim both had RBI doubles later in the inning, Heim's coming with two outs. Castillo (2-1) needed 37 pitches to get out of the inning and was done after five innings. He struck out nine and allowed eight hits.

Semien added an RBI single off reliever Matt Brash in the sixth in-

Seattle's J.P. Crawford scored on an error in the first inning and had an RBI single in the fifth. Jarred Kelenic hit a two-out RBI triple in the eighth off reliever Brock Burke to pull the Mariners within 4-3. Jonathan Hernández entered and walked Eugenio Suárez but struck out Cal Raleigh on a 3-2 pitch to end a nine-pitch at-bat.

Will Smith pitched the ninth for

#### Orioles 2, Rays 1

Baltimore, Dean Kremer pitched six scoreless innings and Baltimore edged out Tampa Bay to take two of three in a series between the top two teams in the American League.

Kremer (4-1) allowed four hits and the Orioles broke through for two runs in the sixth. After allowing a single and a double. Yonny Chirinos (1-1) committed a pitch clock violation with the count 3-1 on Ryan Mountcastle. That walk loaded the bases with nobody out.

came the seventh player in major league history to earn 400 saves, pinch-hitter Raimel Tapia hit a goahead RBI double in the seventh inning, and Boston snapped a twogame skid.

year in his only season with the Braves, faced four batters for his ninth save in 10 chances.

Facing reliever Nick Anderson, Tapia drove in Jarren Duran from second to make it 3-2. The run was charged to A.J. Minter (2-4).

Clayton Kershaw won his National League-best sixth game as Los An-

geles beat Milwaukee to take the

three-game series.

Will Smith and Miguel Vargas also went deep for the NL Westleading Dodgers, who top the NL in home runs (64).

Kershaw (6-2) struck out eight batters and walked none over seven innings while allowing five hits. Besides giving up a home run to William Contreras, he allowed only one

other runner to reach second base. The Dodgers scored seven runs in five innings off Milwaukee starter Wade Miley (3-2).

#### Phillies 2, Blue Jays 1, 10 in-

**nings** In Philadelphia, Edmundo Sosa scored on Bryce Harper's hard-hit grounder in the 10th inning after Toronto shortstop Bo Bichette's throwing error and Philadelphia came back for its third consecutive

the 10th, Tim Mayza (1-1) struck out Bryson Stott before walking Trea Turner to put runners on first and second with one out. Harper lined a bouncer toward the mound and Mayza made a good play to snare it and fired to second base to set up an apparent double play. But Bichette's throw went wide of first baseman Vladimir Guerrero Jr. and Sosa just beat Guerrero's throw home while sliding headfirst into the

The Blue Jays challenged plate umpire Chad Fairchild's safe call, but replays confirmed the call on the

#### **BASEBALL**

#### Rockies 4, Pirates 3

In Pittsburgh, Jurickson Profar hit a tiebreaking RBI single in the top of the seventh inning and Colorado rallied past a struggling Pittsburgh.

Less than 24 hours after homering twice in a 10-1 rout, Profar gave the Rockies their eighth win in 10 games by lacing a Robert Stephenson (0-1) pitch into left field to score Austin Wynns. Alan Trejo had two hits and an RBI for Colorado. Randal Grichuk added a run-scoring double as the Rockies earned their third-straight series win.

Brad Hand (2-1) earned the win in relief by inheriting a bases-loaded, one-out jam in the sixth and wiggling out of it. Pierce Johnson struck out Josh Palacios with the tying run on third in the ninth to record his sixth save in as many chances.

#### Yankees 11, Athletics 3

In New York, rookie Anthony Volpe hit his first career grand slam to cap a seven-run fifth inning and New York pulled away to rout Oakland and complete their first series sweep this season.

Harrison Bader hit a three-run homer in the first inning that was upheld after a review and DJ LeMahieu added a two-run shot in the fifth. The Yankees hit nine homers in the series.

New York starter Jhony Brito allowed two runs and five hits in 4 1/3 innings. He left after Brent Rooker doubled and Jimmy Cordero (2-1) got out of a bases-loaded jam in the

#### Marlins 5, Diamondbacks 4

In Phoenix, Jesús Sánchez hit a three-run homer and started the winning rally in the ninth with a double and Miami improved to 12-0 in onerun games, the best start to a season in baseball history in that category.

Sánchez led off the ninth against Andrew Chafin (2-1) with an opposite-field double to left. Miguel Cruz ran for Sánchez and advanced to third on Jon Berti's groundout. Joey Wendle doubled down the line in left to drive in the go-ahead run.

Dylan Floro (2-1) pitched a scoreless eighth for the Marlins and A.J. Puk, the seventh Miami pitcher, finished for his sixth save.

#### Astros 5, Angels 4

In Anaheim, Cristian Javier struck out 11 over six strong innings of three-hit ball, and Houston overcame Shohei Ohtani's two-run homer in the ninth inning to beat Los Angeles.

Ohtani made things interesting with a two-run shot off Houston closer Ryan Pressly in the ninth, golfing a curveball below the zone into the right-field stands for his eighth homer following Mike Trout's leadoff single.

Anthony Rendon and Hunter Renfroe then delivered singles, but Pressly retired three straight Angels to complete his sixth save.

Houston got back-to-back outstanding starts from Framber Valdez and Javier (3-1), who allowed three runs and struck out 23 over 14 combined innings.

Griffin Canning (2-1) was chased in the fourth for Los Angeles, yielding five hits and five runs. Canning threw several of the fastest pitches of his career in this start, topping 97 mph early, but he also made a twobase error on a pickoff throw during Houston's fourth-inning rally.

#### Mets 2, Reds 1

In Cincinnati, Justin Verlander pitched seven innings of two-hit ball for his first victory with the Mets, and Pete Alonso hit his major leagueleading 13th home run as New York squeezed out a win over Cincinnati.

Brandon Nimmo had three hits for the Mets, including a go-ahead single in the fourth to help New York win for only the fourth time in 16 games. Verlander (1-1) retired 18 of the

last 19 batters he faced in his second start for the Mets after returning from a muscle strain in his upper back. He struck out seven and walked two as the Mets (18-19) snapped a three-game skid.

Adam Ottavino pitched a perfect eighth before David Robertson struck out two in a 1-2-3 ninth for his seventh save in seven opportu-

Reds right-hander Hunter Greene (0-3), in his fourth start since signing a \$53 million, six-year contract on April 17, stranded six baserunners in six innings, but he allowed just two runs on six hits with four strikeouts and a season-high four walks. He also hit a batter with a pitch.

#### Tigers 5, Guardians 0

In Cleveland, Eduardo Rodriguez struck out eight over seven innings, Javier Báez had two hits and two runs and Detroit cruised over Cleveland to win the threegame series.

Rodriguez (4-2) gave up four hits and two walks, allowing only two runners past first base in his sixth straight dominant performance. The left-hander is 4-0 with a 0.43 ERA and 41 strikeouts in 41 2/3 innings since April 12.

Báez singled, doubled and scored twice in the first three innings as the Tigers built a 5-0 lead. Andy Ibañez and Akil Baddoo each had RBI doubles, Spencer Torkelson singled in a run and Riley Greene plated another off Cleveland starter Peyton Batten-

Jason Foley and Chasen Shreve wrapped up the combined four-hitter and Detroit's fourth shutout of the season. The Tigers handed the Guardians their fifth series loss in six home series this season.

#### National 11, Giants 6

In San Francisco, Riley Adams and Lane Thomas homered, Josiah Grav pitched seven strong innings and Washington beat San Francisco in the rubber match of a three-game

Ildemaro Vargas went 3 for 5 with three RBIs, finishing a home run shy of the cycle.

Michael Conforto and LaMonte Wade Jr. homered for San Francisco.

The Nationals roughed up Giants left-hander Sean Manaea for eight runs (four earned) in 2 2/3 innings. Manaea (1-2) walked three and struck out four.

Gray (3-5) allowed two runs and five hits, walking four and striking out three. The right-hander has permitted three runs or fewer in seven consecutive starts.

#### Royals 9, White Sox 1

In Kansas City, Nick Pratto homered and Brad Keller won for the first time in nearly a month as Kansas City beat Chicago.

Keller (3-3), who leads the majors with 32 walks allowed, got into immediate trouble walking the first two batters he faced, but escaped first-inning damage with a double play and strikeout. Keller finished five innings, al-

lowing one run on three hits and four walks, striking out four to earn his first win since April 12.

The Royals batted around in the first, collecting six hits, including Pratto's two-out RBI single, grabbing a 4-0 lead while forcing Lance Lynn (1-5) to toss 37 pitches in the

### **Brazil to launch probe into match-fixing**

Pedrinho, Garcia suspended pre-emptively

WASHINGTON, May 11, (AP): Results and standings from the MLB games on Wednesday.

4-1/2

2-1/2 3 7-1/2

3-1/2

Colorado

NY Mets

Miami

Washington

Pittsburgh

Milwaukee Chicago

Cincinnat

Los Angeles

San Diego

San Francisco Colorado

Arizona

LA Dodgers Washington

SAO PAULO, May 11, (AP): Brazil will launch a national investigation into soccer match-fixing and the probe could have "international repercussions," Justice Minister Flavio Dino

said Wednesday. Dino's announcement follows a request from the Brazilian country's soccer confederation amid a sprawling state investigation that led local clubs and Major League Soccer's Colorado Rapids to suspend several footballers from its activities.

The probe of the state of Goias initially targeted matches from last season in Brazil's top flight, but has expanded into second-division matches. Prosecutors said some of the athletes were paid between 50,000 and 100,000 Brazilian reals (\$10,000 to \$20,000) to get booked or give penalties to

their rivals. Brazil's justice minister said on Twitter that the country's federal police will open a probe "due to the evidence of match-fixing in sports events, with interstate and international repercussions.

#### Change Name

I. 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.

After Dino's announcement, MLS said in a statement that one player it did not identify had been suspended from club activities due to reports on his alleged involvement with unlawful

sports gambling. The decision came hours after newspaper O Globo reported that Brazilian midfielder Max Alves of the Colorado Rapids had been named in the probe. The Colorado Rapids confirmed in a statement that the suspended footballer is a member of their squad, but did not identify him either.

#### SOCCER

Alves has not made comments about the case.

Earlier, Brazil's Athletico said on its social media channels that 20-year-old left-back Pedrinho and 22-year-old midfielder Bryan Garcia had been suspended "preemptively" until the end of the investigation by prosecutors in the state of Goias.

Fluminense Cruzeiro, and America made the same decisions about 29-yearold midfielder Richard, 23-year-old defender Vitor Mendes, and 37-year-old right-back Nino Paraiba, re-

spectively. said late Coritiba Wednesday it had reached same decisions about two of its players who were also reportedly named in the probe: 28-year-old striker Alef Manga and 29-year-old midfielder Jesus Trindade. A lawyer for both players denied they had any involvement in the scheme.

None of players have responded to a request for comment from The Associated Press. They also haven't commented on so-

cial media. Brazilian media raised concerns about the performances of many of those players in matches from the 2022 season, and added they could be targets of the "Maximum Penalty" probe that began in February.

Internacional said in a statement that midfielder Mauricio will not play against Athletico in a Brazilian Serie A match later on Wednesday after local media linked him to the scandal. The club from Porto Alegre also said it trusts the player, who denied any wrongdoing, and added that he will continue in its

Prosecutors did not confirm to the AP that these players are under investiga-But state prosecutors re-

squad.

Tuesday.

ported in a statement that 16 people will stand trial in the case, including seven other players. One of the players on

that list, Santos defender

Eduardo Bauermann, was

suspended by his club on

The AP had access to the case against Bauermann and other players, in which he shows knowledge about the scheme and involvement in it. The prosecutors' evidence alleges that the Santos defender not only exchanged text messages offering up match-fixing but also suggested in November he could bring in two of his teammates to help the scheme.

### Red Sox 5, Braves 2 In Atlanta, Kenley Jansen be-

Jansen, who had 41 saves last

Dodgers 8, Brewers 1 In Milwaukee, Freddie Freeman homered and drove in three runs and

Baltimore Orioles third baseman Gunnar Henderson throws to first for the out on Tampa Bay Rays' Christian Bethancourt during the seventh



inning of a baseball game in Baltimore. (AP)

# Maple Leafs top Panthers to avoid sweep

Oilers even series at 2-2

SUNRISE, Fla., May 11, (AP): There was an unintentional assist from one of the referees. There was a nearly flawless performance from a rookie goalie making his first playoff start. And there was no sense of panic.

Toronto is going home - for another game, not to start the offseason.

Joseph Woll stopped 24 shots in his first playoff start, Mitch Marner and William Nylander had the goals and the Maple Leafs staved off elimination by beating the Florida Panthers 2-1 in Game 4 of their Eastern Conference semifinal series Wednesday night.

Another pretty awesome chance awaits Friday, when Game 5 will be on Toronto's ice.

Sam Reinhart scored for Florida, which got 23 saves from Sergei Bobrovsky. The Panthers still lead the series 3-1, though their franchise-playoff-record six-game winning streak is now over.

Nylander was the beneficiary of an odd bounce for a power-play score in the second period, Marner scored midway through the third and Woll did the rest as he took the place of injured starter Ilya Samsonov

Woll, who turns 25 on July 12, was bidding to become the youngest Toronto goalie to have a playoff

#### **ICE HOCKEY**

shutout since Felix Potvin - then 23 - stopped 42 shots to beat Chicago 3-0 on May 9, 1995.

He was 7:47 away from pulling it off. Reinhart - who had the OT winner in Game 3 - took a quick pass from Matthew Tkachuk and found a way to just get the puck through Woll's leg pads for a power-play score, cutting Toronto's lead to 2-1. The Leafs called their time-out immediately after the goal, just to calm everyone down.

Nylander's surname is pronounced KNEE-lander,

which seemed fitting on the opening goal. Toronto went more than five full periods - 107 minutes and 46 seconds, to be exact, going back to late in the second period of Game 2 - without a power play until Florida's Eetu Luostarinen got called for high-sticking the Leafs' Michael Bunting early in the second period.

And they cashed in, thanks to the hockey gods who oversee crazy bounces.

Bunting tried dumping the puck around the net from the right-wing boards, only to have it bounce off the knee of referee Jon McIsaac as he tried to get out of the way. It skipped to the front of the net, where Nylander knocked it past Bobrovsky for a 1-0 Toronto lead.

It was the first goal of the series for Toronto's big four players of Nylander, Auston Matthews, Tavares

The score stayed 1-0 going into the third, though To-



South Korean Taekwondo Championship, Chung Byung-ha, will be concluded, which will be held at the Volleyball Association Hall in the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Complex, organized by the Kuwait Taekwondo Federation. The closing witnessed the holding of the final fights and the crowning of the winning male and female players, in addition to an artistic show by the Korean Taekwondo team. The Korean Ambassador Chung Byung-ha, President of the Kuwaiti Taekwondo Federation, Hani Al-Mershad, and members of the Board of Directors were present. For his part, the Ambassador of the Republic of South Korea, Byung-ha, praised the wonderful organization of the tournament and the work done by the working committees. Pictured are the Taekwondo Board of Directors with the Korean Ambassador.

ronto had a big chance to go up two in the final seconds of the second period. Tavares got loose down the center of the ice on a breakaway, but Bobrovsky knocked away his attempt to the stick side to keep Florida within one.

Marner made it 2-0 with 9:57 left, and the Leafs held on. They haven't been swept in a playoff series since 1980 - a best-of-five against the Minnesota North Stars - and not in a best-of-seven since Montreal ousted them in four games in 1979.

Florida has never swept a playoff series. The Panthers also haven't clinched a series on home ice since 1996.

It was the 12th career start (first in a playoff game) for Woll and the 680th for Bobrovsky (54th in a playoff game). ... With Samsonov hurt, the Maple Leafs recalled G Dennis Hildeby from the AHL's Toronto Marlies to be the team's emergency backup goalie. Matt Murray

Ryan Nugent-Hopkins had a goal and an assist as the Edmonton Oilers beat the Vegas Golden Knights 4-1 to even their second-round playoff series at two games

Nick Bjugstad, Evan Bouchard and Mattias Ekholm also scored as the Oilers built a four-goal lead in the second period. Connor McDavid had two assists and Stuart Skinner stopped 25 shots.

Nicolas Roy scored in the third period for Vegas. Adin Hill stopped 29 shots in his first NHL playoff start after playing minutes in the two previous games of the series. Game 5 of the best-of-seven series is Friday night at Las Vegas, and Game 6 will be back in Edmonton on

Golden Knights defenseman Alex Pietrangelo took a major and a game misconduct with less than 90 seconds remaining. After Leon Draisaitl shot wide of an empty net, Pietrangelo slashed the Oilers' forward across the

It capped a penalty-filled third period, with all the infractions coming in the final 10 minutes. Vegas' Chandler Stephenson and Jonathan Marchessault were assessed misconducts, along with Edmonton's Kailer Yamamoto and Evander Kane earlier in the period. Also, the Golden Knights' Nicolas Hague and the Oilers' Darnell Nurse were sent off for fighting, with Nurse also getting an instigator penalty and a misconduct. Vegas' Brett Howden also received a misconduct with 25 seconds remaining.

Bjugstad, coming off Edmonton's bench, forced a turnover by Shea Theodore in the offensive zone. When Klim Kostin missed the net, Bjugstad got the puck behind the goal line and banked a backhand off Hill's leg at 6:46 of the first period to give the Oilers

With Theodore serving a slashing minor, Bouchard earned his fourth power-play goal of the playoffs at 7:38 to double the lead. McDavid, from behind the goal line, fed Bouchard for a one-timer.

Ekholm scored his first of the playoffs with a blast from the top of the faceoff circle to beat Hill far side for a 3-0 lead with 6:30 left in the opening period.

Vegas captain Mark Stone trailed that play in pain after he went down by Edmonton's net. Stone missed 39 regular-season games after back surgery, but returned for the playoffs.

Vegas Golden Knights' William Carrier (28) and Edmonton Oilers' Evan Bouchard (2) vie for the puck during the third period of Game 4 of an NHL hockey second-round playoff series in Edmonton, Alberta. (AP)

### As Bavarians 'fight' Dortmund for title, Schalke aim to play spoilers

DUESSELDORF, Germany, May 11, (AP): Schalke, Leipzig and Cologne are the three teams standing between Bayern Munich and the Bundesliga

of upheaval ends with the trophy. Drop points and Borussia Dortmund can end the Bavarian club's decadelong record run of German champi-

Schalke is first up on Saturday and its priority is clear - avoid relegation.

The lowly league position of 15th disguises strong recent form and what might be the grittiest, most determined squad in the league.

Schalke's 3-2 win over Mainz last week had perhaps the most dramatic finish of any Bundesliga game this season, even Bayern's stunning collapse in losing 3-1 to Mainz last month. Schalke twice let the lead slip away only to seal the win with a penalty in the 12th minute of stoppage

Schalke has been especially hard to beat in recent weeks. With a team packed with free signings and loans, only three of Schalke's last 14 games have been losses and the club has already dented Dortmund's title challenge in a dramatic 2-2 draw with its local rival in March.

of other twists and turns in the title race, not least Bayern's surprise decision to fire coach Julian Nagelsmann in March and appoint Thomas Tuchel to replace him. Serge Gnabry, on indifferent form for much of the season, has been key with the opening goal in Bayern's last two games.

Dortmund is a point behind Bayern but coming off one of the most dominant wins of any team in the Bundesliga this season.

After dropping into second place following a 1-1 draw against Bochum two weeks ago, Dortmund responded by hammering Wolfsburg 6-0. The win may have been far more impressive than Bayern's scrappy 2-1 victory over Werder Bremen the day before, but there's no difference in points won.

After Bayern plays Schalke, Dortmund takes on another team which relishes upsetting the Bundesliga's big teams. Borussia Moenchengladbach is an underwhelming 10th in a season which has seen it beat Bayern 3-2 in February and Dortmund 4-2 in to the likes of Werder Bremen and Hertha Berlin.

There's pride at stake against Dortmund in the "Borussia Derby," too. A title for Dortmund would break a tie with Gladbach of five Bundesliga

#### **SOCCER**

titles since the league's founding in

"Of course you're motivated to play against Borussia Dortmund. They're one of the best teams in the league, so you're always going to be motivated to play this team, especially in their stadium with their fans," Gladbach defender Joe Scally said last week. "It's definitely going to be an exciting game. I think every time we play there's a little grit in the game between players.'

#### Espanyol desperate need of pulling off upset

### Barcelona eye first league title since Messi adiós

BARCELONA, Spain, May 11, (AP): Barcelona can clinch the Spanish league title this weekend and finally start mov-ing past the exit of Lionel Messi three years ago.

The club needs only two of the remaining 15 points in play to win its first domestic league since 2019. Its first chance at securing the title is on Sunday when it visits Espanyol.

Barcelona is 13 points ahead of Atletico Madrid, and Xavi Hernández's team holds the head-to-head tiebreaker. Real Madrid, last year's champion, is 14 points back in third and solely focused on its Champions League semifinal with Manchester City.

The last time Barcelona lifted the Liga trophy Messi was still the leader of a feared European powerhouse then coached by Ernesto Valverde. That capped a run of eight league titles in 11 seasons, among other trophies including three European Cups.

Since then, Barcelona has suffered a crippling financial crisis that led to the loss of the world's best player and a subsequent decline on the

Barcelona managed to win the 2021 Copa del Rey - Messi's last title before leaving for Paris Saint-Germain - under Ronald Koeman, but the 2019-20 and the 2021-22 campaigns ended with no silverware.



In this April 29, 2023 file photo, Betis' goalkeeper Rui Silva (left), clears the ball in front Barcelona's Robert Lewandowski during a Spanish La Liga soccer match

between Barcelona and Real Betis at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona, Spain. (AP)

To turn this around this season, the club leadership made the controversial decision to sell off part of its future television revenues, as well as other assets, in order to inject new talent such as star striker Robert Lewandowski, winger Raphinha, and defenders Jules Koundé and Andreas Chris-

Sergio Busquets is set to add to his 32 titles with Barcelona, including eight Spanish

#### SOCCER

leagues, before he ends his career at his boyhood club come season's end. The 34-yearold midfielder announced on Wednesday he will leave Camp Nou this summer.

Barcelona faces a derby at a rival in desperate need of pulling off an upset.

Espanyol is in danger of joining the already relegated Elche in the second division next season. In second-to-last place, Espanyol is three points behind Getafe, also in danger, and Valencia, which is clinging to safety.

"We know that this is a life-or-death game," Espan-yol midfielder Nico Melamed said. "We will treat this like a final."

The game will feature a duel between Lewandowski, who leads the league with 19 goals, and the competition's third-top scorer in Espanyol striker Joselu Mato with 14.

A second-half penalty earned and converted by Joselu snatched Espanyol a 1-1 draw at Barcelona in December.

But Espanyol's last win over Barcelona in any competition came in the 2018 Copa del Rey. Its last win over its mightier opponent in the league was in 2009.

Barcelona has been in control of the title race for almost two months, since beating Madrid 2-1.

If it slips against Espanyol, it will have four more chances starting against Real Sociedad in the following round.

Barcelona has 26 Spanish league titles, second to Real Madrid's 35.





MILAN, May 11, (AP): Inter Milan overpowered AC Milan early and held on to win the first leg of their Champions League semifinal derby 2-0, leaving the Nerazzurri on the brink of a return to European soccer's showpiece event for the first time since 2010. Edin Džeko and Henrikh Mkhitarvan scored two goals in three minutes to put Inter firmly in command and the visitors could have added more in a dominant first-half

"We had an extraordinary first half, the scoreline was tighter than it should have been, with what we created," Inter coach Simone Inzaghi said. "The guys were really great in managing such an

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"We have to continue like this. We know that we're just one step away from a dream that we believed in from August

The second leg is on Tuesday, in what will surely be another special European night at San Siro. The winner will face either Real Madrid or Manchester City,

"I know my team, I know my players, I know we can do better. I know Inter is a very strong team, but we're not any less." Milan coach Stefano Pioli said. "It will be a difficult night mentally for both teams, the last chance to get into "We have the chance to put them in difficulty, to score goals, to try to get this back on track ... We have to give everything we have - talent and heart - to turn around a situation that has become difficult but not impossible. Milan was missing key forward Ra-fael Leão, who hadn't fully recovered from a thigh injury sustained over the

There was an electric atmosphere at San Siro for the semifinal that had been

dubbed the "Euroderby" in Italy.

on to beat Inventus in the final

who drew their first leg 1-1.

performance.

until today.

New York Knicks' Jalen Brunson (11) drives against Miami Heat's Caleb Martin (16) during the second half of Game 5 of an NBA basketball Eastern Conference playoff semifinal in New York. (AP)

# Sports

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# Inter on brink of return to Champs League final

Nerazzurri blank Milan in 1st leg

### Qatar happier with draw after losing WC debut

DOHA, Qatar, May 11, (AP): Asian Cup host Qatar was undoubtedly happier about its draw on Thursday, six months after a

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losing debut at the World Cup it staged. Since then, former Real Madrid coach Carlos Queiroz has been appointed as coach and, as Qatar is the defending champion after winning the 2019 Asian Cup, a group containing China, Tajikistan and Lebanon should be easier to navigate.

China was to hold the Asian Cup next month, but relinquished the rights last year due to coronavirus restrictions. Qatar won a new bidding contest last October and will host the 24-team tournament in January-February. Australia will be looking to replicate its strong performances from the World Cup when it reached the second round and lost to eventual champion Argentina 2-1.

The 2015 champion Socceroos are in Group B with Uzbekistan, Syria and India. Japan and South Korea also reached the last 16 at the World Cup. Japan, which has the record of four Asian titles, was in Group D with two Southeast Asian opponents in Vietnam and Indonesia as well as 2007 winner Iraq.



Inter Milan's Nicolo Barella (left), and AC Milan's Alexis Saelemaekers challenge for the ball during the Champions League semifinal first leg soccer match between AC Milan and Inter Milan at the San Siro stadium in Milan, Italy. (AP)

Djokovic, who is a Milan fan.

The match was expected to be cagey The two clubs met in the Champions and tight but Inter got off to the perfect League last four 20 years ago - with Mistart as it took the lead in the eighth lan winning on away goals and going minute. Hakan Calhanoğlu whipped in a sixth of seven titles. Several members of those teams from 2003 were in the corner from the left and Džeko managed to get in front of Davide Calabria to stands, along with tennis great Novak hook a volley into the top right corner.

Knicks hold off Heat, cut deficit to a game

### Warriors stave off elimination, force Game

Man City lead Arsenal in title race

### **Premier League season reaches final weeks**

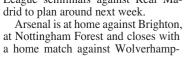
LONDON, May 11, (AP): The title race between Manchester City and Arsenal is headed to the wire. The fight for Champions League qualification has tightened up. It's surely down to two from a group of four teams for relega-

There's so much still to play for in the Premier League with only two weeks remaining.

Here's a look at the state of play at the top and the bottom: As many expected, defending champion Manchester City has produced its trademark end-of-season burst to move into first place ahead of long-time leader Arsenal, which stuttered just when a first title since 2004 was looming into view.

City coach Pep Guardiola - enjoying a 10-match winning run in the league - leads by one point with four games left,

one more than Arsenal. It's far from over, however. City has the tougher run-in, with games to come at an Everton team fighting relegation, at home against Chelsea, and then at Brighton and Brentford - two of the more surprising teams this season with good home records. City also has the second leg of the Champions League semifinals against Real Madrid to plan around next week.



If Arsenal wins its final three games, City will need three victories in its final four games to guarantee retaining the

Guardiola

It has looked for some time that Newcastle and Manchester United would secure the two automatic Champions League qualifying places behind City and Arsenal, but Liverpool's six-match winning run has made things interest-

Liverpool has climbed to fifth and is one point behind fourth-place United and three behind third-place Newcastle, having played one more game than both of them.

Liverpool likely needs to win its remaining three games - at Leicester, at home against Aston Villa and at last-place Southampton - and hope either Newcastle or United slip

up.
Newcastle finishes the season with games against Leeds, Brighton, Leicester and Chelsea, and probably requires two wins to get into the Champions League for the first time since 2002-03.

United appears more likely to be reeled in by Liverpool, having won only one of its last four league games. United has a kind final stretch on paper, though, with three of its four matches at home (Wolverhampton, Chelsea and Ful-

ham) along with Bournemouth away. The teams finishing in fifth and sixth place will qualify for the Europa League, and they are currently Liverpool and Tottenham. Brighton is their main challenger, with Aston Villa having an outside chance, too.

With Liverpool almost assured of fifth place or higher, it should end up being a three-team shootout.

Tottenham is two points ahead of Brighton, which has five games still to play - because of various postponements during the season. Tottenham has three. Brighton has a very difficult closing stretch of games, including trips to Arsenal and Newcastle and the visit of City.

Tottenham still has Aston Villa, Brentford and Leeds to play. Villa, which is three points behind Tottenham ahead of the teams' meeting on Saturday, then plays Liverpool

The team that finishes in seventh place will secure a spot in next season's Europa Conference League.

#### **SOCCER**

Last-place Southampton is eight points from safety with three games to go and is surely going down, ending its 11-year stay in the Premier League. Relegation will be confirmed as early as Saturday if the team doesn't

Two more teams will also be demoted and three points separate Nottingham Forest in 16th and Leeds in 19th, with Everton and Leicester in between. Wins might be hard to come by for all four teams in their final three matches Leeds and Leicester occupy the two relegation berths, and might have the most difficult schedule.

Leicester, in particular, has it tough with a home game against Liverpool on Monday followed by a trip to Newcastle. The easiest game will likely be West Ham at home on the final weekend, by which time Leicester might yet be relegated.

Leeds, now under survival specialist Sam Allardyce, hosts Newcastle and Tottenham on either side of a match

Everton, which has been in the top division since 1954, climbed out of the bottom three with a surprising 5-1 win at Brighton on Monday and has games remaining against Man City, Wolves and Bournemouth.

Forest might just need one more point to be safe but even that won't be easy with matches ahead at Chelsea, at home against Arsenal and at Crystal Palace.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 11, (AP): Draymond Green loved Golden State's defensive energy against LeBron James and knows the Warriors must bring that same urgency back to Los Angeles with another chance to save this topsy-turvy season and defend their title.

They need the same focus again whether or not Lakers star Anthony Davis is clogging up the middle after he suffered a head injury in the fourth

Stephen Curry had 27 points and eight assists, Andrew Wiggins added 25 points, seven rebounds and five assists, and the reigning champion Warriors staved off elimination by beating the Lakers 121-106 in Game 5 of the Western Conference semifinals Wednesday night.

The Warriors have rallied before with this core group on the big postseason stage, becoming the first defending champion to come back from 2-0 down to beat Sacramento in the first round.

James had 25 points and nine rebounds for Los Angeles. Davis added 23 points and nine rebounds but went to the locker room late after getting hit in the head by Kevon Looney as they fought for position in the paint on D'Angelo Russell's layup with 7:43 remaining.

Davis grabbed at his head grimacing before going to the locker room. His status for Game 6 on Friday night back in Los Angeles is unclear but coach Darivn Ham was encouraged afterward without providing details on what evaluation such as concussion testing - the big man went through once in the locker room. TNT reported Davis required a wheelchair to go to the locker room.

Austin Reaves made a 3-pointer with 5:25 to play that cut the Warriors' lead to single digits at 104-95 only for Curry to answer with five straight points, then he hit another big shot after Russell connected from deep.

Green contributed 20 points and 10 rebounds as Golden State played tough defense that led to better chances on the offensive end - just as coach Steve Kerr has challenged his team to to. Now, it's back to LA where the Lak-

ers 5-0 at home this postseason, having won eight consecutive games on their own floor since losing to the Bulls on March 26.

Golden State is trying rally from a 3-1 series deficit for only the second time in franchise history and will try to win one more to bring Game 7 back to

Chase Center on Sunday. The Warriors rallied from 3-1 down in the 2016 Western Conference finals against Oklahoma

City.
Curry beat the halftime buzzer with a 3-pointer over Lonnie Walker IV as the Warriors took a 70-59 lead. The 70 first-half points were the most Golden State in the playoffs since scoring 72 in a Game 6 first-round win over the Clippers in 2019. The last team to score 70 or more in a first half of a playoff game versus the Lakers was Phoenix with 71 in Game 4 of the 2000 second round.

#### **BASKETBALL**

Green and Wiggins took turns on James and Golden State tried to take Davis out of rhythm after he had 23 points, 15 rebounds, three steals and two assists in Game 4.

Curry shot 12 for 24 but just 3 of 11 from long range coming off his third career playoff triple-double in a 104-101 Game 4 loss.

The Warriors, who had used five lineup combinations in their initial 11 postseason games, stuck with Gary Pay-



Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry (left), shoots next to Los Angeles Lakers guard Austin Reaves during the first half of Game 5 of an NBA basketball second-round playoff series in San Francisco. (AP)

ton II for the second straight game - and it paid off.

He scored 13 points and converted a timely three-point play with 7:34 remaining to go with six rebounds.

Jordan Poole came off the bench and hit his first 3 since Game 1 late in the second quarter after going 0 for 8 the previous three games.

Klay Thompson struggled again. He went 3 for 11 in Monday's loss to mark just the eighth time in his 150 postseason games that he scored in single digits - and three of the previous seven came before Kerr became coach in 2014.

On Thursday, he missed his initial four shots and 6 of his first seven to finish with 10 - but has a history of spectacular Game 6 performances and goes back to LA with a chance to shine.

Jalen Brunson had 38 points, nine rebounds and seven assists while playing all 48 minutes in a season-extending performance, and the New York Knicks beat the Miami Heat 112-103 in Game 5 of the Eastern Conference semifinals.

The Knicks denied the Heat's first attempt to become just the second No. 8 seed to reach the conference finals and sent the series back to Miami for Game 6 on Friday night.

RJ Barrett added 26 points and Julius Randle had 24 for the fifth-seeded Knicks, who stayed alive in hopes of reaching the conference finals for the first time since 2000. They did that by getting by the Heat in seven games in the second round, a possibility that still

The Knicks built a 19-point lead in the third quarter, then hung on when the Heat finally got their 3-pointers to start falling and cut it to two with 2 1/2 minutes remaining.

Jimmy Butler had 19 points, nine assists and seven rebounds for the Heat, getting held below 25 points for the first time in this postseason. Bam Adebayo added 18 points and Duncan Robinson

The 1999 Knicks, for now, remain the only No. 8 to get to a conference finals in the current playoff format that began in 1984. They got all the way to the NBA Finals after upsetting the topseeded Heat in the first round.

The Heat used a pair of huge quarter-opening runs - 18-2 to begin the second and 23-7 in the third - to build a 73-54 lead midway through the third quarter.

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