



Assembly hopefuls lowest in decade

Frequent dissolution dampens candidatures

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh
Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 15: The number of candidates in the 2023 parliamentary election, which reached 252 including 15 women, is the lowest in the last 10 years.

This low number could be attributed to the frequent dissolution and nullification of parliaments over the years.

Following is a breakdown of the number of parliamentary candidates in the last 10 years: 418 including eight women in 2013, 454 including 15 women in 2016, 359 including 33 women in 2020 and 376 including 27 women in 2022.

Meanwhile, member of the nullified 2022 Parliament and 2023 election candi-

date Alyaa Al-Khalid called for strict enforcement of the Penal Code to deal with "media chaos and fake social media accounts."

Candidate Waleed Al-Nasser suggested withdrawing the Kuwaiti citizenship granted from 1992 till date, renewal of passports every 10 years, and stop all allowances granted to citizens for the country to save a huge amount which will be used to increase the minimum salary to KD3,000. He believes this will end the suffering of citizens; hence, it will no longer necessary to write off their loans.

Opinion

Elections ... Everyone is beating their own drums

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

ALTHOUGH the outcome of the upcoming National Assembly elections are yet to be known, the battle has become so intense today that everyone has revealed their faces because each party wants to prove to the people that it was the right one.

However, all candidates are missing the fact that people are no longer betting on rhetoric, but are seeking the results they are aspiring for, especially after the four successive governments revealed their inability to meet the people's demands, and parliamentarians revealed their inability to work on achieving the most basic of the people's demands.

The candidate Marzouq Al-Ghanim, who knows how to handle twists and turns in his capacity as the speaker of the National Assembly for nearly nine years, is well aware of the state's pains and the style of governments. He therefore seeks to become the National Assembly speaker as per his aspiration, or he will be in opposition, and his voice will be loud in criticism. He will be a bitter opponent of his rival in the speakership, something that the government does not want.

In this situation, there is no doubt that things will not change. There is no glimmer of hope to get out of the impasse, and for this reason, the government is required to be very bold in dealing with the challenges facing the people. It should not take the same path that it took in the past years, as it would be as if it was spinning in a vicious circle, and hence will not achieve its goal of controlling the parliament.

During the past decades, people used to view the government as the decision-maker with the capabilities of implementation. Unfortunately, it did not hear the voice of the people, but rather listened to the confusion of the advisors, which is why it appeared weak.

In this regard, the government is like the shepherd who collected some butter in a jar and hung it on the ceiling of his hut. While he was sitting one day and leaning on his stick, he started daydreaming about what he would do with the butter, how he would have a large flock, and how he would hit the wolf with his stick when it attacked the sheep. At this point, the shepherd reflexed, in an attempt to scare off the wolf in his mind, and he hit the jar and broke it. This caused the butter to fall on his face and clothes, making him wake up from his dream which went in vain. This is how the government's popularity fades away.

Indeed, this is how the Kuwaiti governments are betting on the popularity of some ministers, and not on sound planning and decision. They are floundering a lot in this matter, as they issue an order today and cancel it tomorrow, while they did not present a single populist project. Instead, it burdens people with procedures that increase the burdens of living, such as the cost for the treatment of expatriates that the citizens have to pay, closing the country to investors, its arbitrary practice in terms of physical coercion on borrowers, and other crises that it caused through its floundering decisions.

To date, we have not seen a state project or plan that can be relied upon and was accepted by the people. In fact, we often see the government drowning in an inch of battle with the National Assembly. What is going on in the electoral arena indicates a return to the game of interpellations and non-cooperation that will lead to the dissolution or revocation of the parliament. Hence, there will be no way out of the crisis that the country is enduring from.

Because of this, what is required is a capable government that has the capabilities to manage the country according to what every citizen wishes, and a plan for a state project.

As for continuing to produce the same conflict, it only means more losses, and the state is eroding its prestige. It is unfortunate in these elections that everyone is beating their own drums.

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Day by Day

ALI bin Abi Talib, may God bless him, said: "A time will come when their youth will be blatant, their deeds will be sinful, their scholars will be hypocrites, their readers will be misguided, their young will not honor the old, and their rich will not provide for the poor."

The sage said: "I was born of a woman, I fell in love with a woman, and I married a woman, so how can I not respect women?"

What a time we live in, no one hears and no one feels the groaning of those in pain ... It is the end of time, and how many people wish and wait for that hour to come.

... Yet tomorrow is another day

Zahed Matar



A group of Arab refugees walks along a road from Jerusalem to Lebanon, carrying their belongings with them on Nov. 9, 1948. The group was driven from their homes by attacks in Galilee. (AP)

Newswatch

KUWAIT CITY: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received on Monday a letter of invitation directed towards His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to attend the 32nd Arab Summit to be held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on May 19.

During the reception at Bayan Palace, Saudi Ambassador to Kuwait Prince Sultan bin Saad Al-Saud handed the invitation letter from Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz to His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal. (KUNA)

PARIS: Kuwait on Monday called on the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to make all efforts to ensure the implementation of the organization's decisions and commitments towards educational and cultural institutions in Palestine and Sudan.

This came in a speech by Kuwait's Permanent Representative to UNESCO, Ambassador Dr. Adam Al-Mulla, in the 216th session of the Executive Council held at the UNESCO headquarters in the French capital, Paris. (KUNA)

KUWAIT CITY: The Central Bank of Kuwait announced on Monday the allocation of issuance of bonds and tawarruq valued at KD 340 million (about USD 1.1 billion).

In a statement carried by Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), the bank said that the value of the first issuance amounted to KD 240 million (about USD 792 million) for six months with a return rate of 4.375 percent. (KUNA)

KUWAIT CITY: Kuwait and Saudi Arabia's national carriers agreed on Sunday to code-share on international routes, further expanding a long-standing agreement signed between the two airlines, just as the busy summer travel season gets underway. The deal aims to strengthen the already vibrant relations between the two airlines, Kuwait Airways CEO Maan Rzougi said in a statement, pointing out that the Kuwaiti national carrier operates six daily flights to the kingdom as part of its itinerary. (KUNA)

UN commemorates 'Nakba'

For the first time, the United Nations will officially commemorate the flight of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians from what is now Israel on the 75th anniversary of their exodus - an action stemming from the U.N.'s partition of British-ruled Palestine into separate Jewish and Arab states.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas is headlining Monday's U.N. commemoration of what Palestinians call the "Nakba" or "catastrophe."

Riyad Mansour, the Palestinian U.N. ambassador, called the U.N. observance "historic" and significant because the General Assembly played a key role in the partition of Palestine.

"It's acknowledging the responsibility of the U.N. of not being able to resolve this catastrophe for the Palestinian people for 75 years," Mansour told a group of U.N. reporters recently.

He said "the catastrophe to the Palestinian people is still ongoing." The Palestinians still don't have an independent state, and they don't have the right to return to their homes as called for in a General Assembly resolution adopted in December 1948.

Israel's U.N. ambassador, Gilad Erdan, condemned the commemoration, calling it an "abominable event" and a "blatant attempt to distort history." He said those who attend will be condoning antisemitism and giving a green light to Palestinians "to continue exploiting international organs to promote their libelous narrative."

The General Assembly, which had 57 member nations in 1947, approved the resolution dividing Palestine by a vote of 33-13 with 10 abstentions. The Jewish side accepted the U.N. partition plan and after the British mandate expired in 1948, Israel declared its independence. The Arabs rejected the plan and neighboring Arab countries launched a war against the Jewish state.

The Nakba commemorates the estimated 700,000 Palestinians who fled or were forced from their homes in 1948. (AP)



Supporters of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan listen to news outside AKP (Justice and Development Party) headquarters in Istanbul, Turkey, Sunday, May 14, 2023. Turkey's presidential election will be decided in a runoff, election officials said Monday, after incumbent Recep Tayyip Erdogan pulled ahead of his chief challenger, but fell short of an outright victory that would extend his increasingly authoritarian rule into a third decade. The May 28 second-round vote will determine whether the strategically located NATO country remains under the president's firm grip or can embark on a more democratic course promised by his main rival, Kemal Kilicdaroglu. (AP)

Sudanese in flight uncertain of return

ASWAN, Egypt, May 15, (AP):

The café outside Aswan station was full of Sudanese families, surrounded by luggage and waiting for the train to Cairo, the next leg in their arduous journey escaping violence that has torn apart their country and overturned their lives.

Aswan, the Egyptian city closest to the border with Sudan, has become a way station for tens of thousands of Sudanese fleeing fighting between Sudan's military and rival paramilitary force. The displaced arrive exhausted after days on the chaotic roads. Now, they must figure out how to navigate a future that is suddenly uncertain, with no idea when they will be able to return home.

At Aswan's Nasser café, a Sudanese university professor Naglaa al-Khair Ahmed was still stunned by the sudden explosion of violence on April 15, after escalating tensions between Sudan's two top generals.

"We never imagined that verbal skirmishes would end up with war," she said. "We didn't expect that a decision (to go to) war was so easy to take."

She was heading to the Egyptian capital Cairo with her elderly father and her daughter. Her husband had remained behind in their home city of Omdurman, which neighbors the capital, Khartoum.

"I was crying the whole way" out of Sudan, she said, wiping away her tears, "I kept telling myself, 'I will return. Certainly, I will return very soon.'" She has no idea when - "one month, maximum," she said hopefully.

More than 76,000 Sudanese and over 5,000 other nationals have crossed into Egypt since the fighting began, according to the Egyptian government. The U.N. refugee agency says it expects the number to reach 350,000. The influx has slowed in the past week, but Sudanese refugees still keep coming as fighting continues.

Sudan's army and the rival group, known as the Rapid Support Forces, or RSF, are holding

negotiations in the Saudi port city of Jeddah. But those who fled don't know when it will be safe to return, scarred after spending days trapped in their homes amid constant gunfire, explosions and the sound of warplanes.

Many of those arriving in Egypt have, at least for now, money for housing or onward travel to Europe or the Gulf states. It's a harder struggle for thousands of poorer Sudanese coming across the border.

At the Aswan train terminal and a bus station in the nearby village of Karkar, Egyptian and Sudanese volunteers welcomed the refugees with hot meals and water.

Mohamed Yahia, a Sudanese man who has worked as a day laborer in Aswan since 2020, handed over his apartment to a distant relative and her three daughters. He moved with his wife and young son to a small house he's renting for the time being in Karkar.

"They are poor, and her husband was not with them," the 29-year-old said of his guests. "We all - Sudanese and Egyptians - break bread with anyone arriving here."

Gassem Amin, a Sudanese filmmaker living in Egypt since 2016, has been in Aswan for the past three weeks helping out. He joined other volunteers who help newly arrived Sudanese arrange housing, book tickets to further destinations, or get medical care.

Amin said a "black market" has arisen, selling bus and train tickets and renting furnished rooms to Sudanese at inflated prices. His group buys hundreds of tickets from the terminal each morning and gives them to Sudanese trying to get to Cairo or Alexandria. They pass on the cost to those who can pay. The poor get the tickets for free. The group also helps the displaced find affordable rooms.

Ahmed, the university professor, said that when fighting first broke out, she thought it would be brief. Instead, it quickly engulfed Khartoum and Omdurman.

Prayer Timings

Fajr 03:27 Asr 15:20
 Sunrise .. 04:56 Maghrib .. 18:33
 Zohr 11:44 Isha 20:00

Local

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

Weather

Expected weather for the next 24 hours:

By Day: Hot and partly cloudy with light to moderate variable wind to southeasterly wind with speeds of 08-30 km/h.

By Night: Mild with light to moderate southeasterly wind to light variable wind with speeds of 06-26 km/h and some high clouds will appear.

Station **Max Exp** **Min Rec**
 Kuwait City 37 28

| | | |
|----------------|----|----|
| Kuwait Airport | 39 | 27 |
| Abdaly | 40 | 22 |
| Jahra | 40 | 25 |
| Salmiyah | 36 | 27 |
| Ahmadi | 35 | 29 |
| Nuwaisib | 38 | 24 |
| Wafra | 40 | 25 |

Kuwait important strategic, logistics partner: US officer

Arifjan and Buehring camps hold contest for best battalion

KUWAIT CITY, May 15: The American forces in Kuwait organized a competition to select the best battalion in the US Central Army. The competition, which included participants from the Arifjan and Buehring camps, was held from May 6 to May 11 in the training field in Adeira area, reports Al-Anba daily.

The competition started with a total of 14 teams of US forces in the two camps, each consisting of 5 participants, and five of these teams reached the final qualifiers.

It included arduous and violent qualitative tests aimed at enhancing the combat efficiency of the soldiers and exploring their capabilities in various military fields, physical fitness rates, and their ability to carry out tactical tasks and solve problems, as well as the use of the latest modern technologies in the battlefield to confront any emergency aggression.



Brian Disick

Staff Sergeant Brian Disick of the US Army Central in Kuwait, who was in charge of the competition, praised Kuwait for hosting the American forces.

He expressed his happiness with the facilities provided by Kuwait to the American forces, which he described as complete and excellent.

Staff Sergeant Disick said, "Kuwait is an important strategic and logistical partner, and we are very happy to be in this country. We do not have any difficulties or problems. Everything is going well."

He spoke about the nature of his mission in Kuwait, which he started three years ago, explaining that, "The objective behind holding such competitions is to spread the spirit of competition between the soldiers and the different battalions in order to achieve the best possible readiness to face any emergency and discover the maximum limits of their capabilities. These competitions challenge their physical and mental capabilities and their ability to work together."

Staff Sergeant Disick highlighted the importance of ensuring that all battalions participating in the competition pass all difficulties and challenges, and are proficient in using all equipment such as radio and wireless devices, which they must have experience with.

He expressed his happiness that the participating battalions reached the final qualifiers, affirming that such

competitions are taking place among the ranks of the American forces only so far, and that the Kuwaiti forces do not participate in them.

Staff Sergeant Disick said, "We hope our Kuwaiti friends will participate in this competition in the future, as they are a strategic partner for us."

He indicated that the aim of the competition, other than the aforementioned, is to qualify the winning battalion to participate in the US Army General Command competition to select the best battalion, which will be held in the state of South Carolina in August.

Meanwhile, the Senior Adviser appointed to the US Army Central Chief Sergeant Jacinto Garza said, "The best battalion competition tests the ability of the various battalions in the US army to carry out general military tasks and field exercises by putting them in the face of realistic and difficult scenarios that challenge their capabilities and require double physical effort and require work in the spirit of one team."

The winning battalion in the competition will represent the central command in the main competition organized by the US Army General Command to choose the best battalion next August."

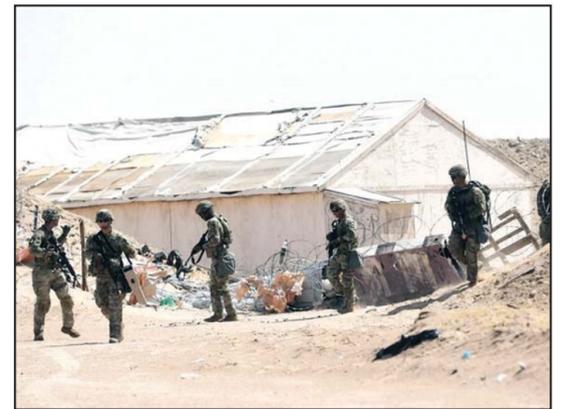
In a statement issued after announcing the result of the winning battalion in the competition, Chief Sergeant Garza affirmed that the competition for the best military division in Kuwait focuses on building the capabilities of the non-commissioned officer.

He stressed that success in the army depends on the junior commanders who are empowered to make decisions.

Chief Sergeant Garza said if they can share their training model effectively, it will help in making the Kuwaiti army better, adding, "A good team respects each other, cares for each other, and trusts each other."

Chief Sergeant Garza explained that, "The competition focused on the small teams that fight and win the battles of our country. A total of 14 teams consisting of 70 soldiers were pressed hard both physically and mentally, and were tested on the use of weapons, land navigation, medical first aid, squad tactical proficiency and capabilities (from 5 to 10 soldiers), physical endurance and fitness, and strategic understanding of the army's role in the Middle East and around the world."

The winning team was the Charlie Company's 116-2 Combined Arms Battalion, led by Staff Sergeant Joshua Hutchins.



Top and above: Pictures taken during the joint exercise.

Photos by Rizk Taufiq

'Aim for digital society'

'Kuwait 2035 Vision' goals targeted

KUWAIT CITY, May 15: Fitch Solutions, a credit ratings agency, stated that the technology company BMI recently determined the value of information and communication technology infrastructure projects in Kuwait at a value of USD 27.6 billion, as part of the bidding stages to implement the "New Kuwait 2035" vision, reports Al-Anba daily.

It indicated that the long-term development plan for Kuwait aims at transforming the country into a digital society, and will lead to spending USD 17.6 billion on digital transformation between 2022 and 2027.

In its report, the agency highlighted the importance of integrating advanced information and communication technology, such as the Internet, automation, cloud services, and smart city solutions in infrastructure projects.

It stressed the importance of pursuing partnership between the public and private sectors in these areas, indicating that Kuwait hosted major companies in the field of technology, such as Oracle, Microsoft and Google Cloud.

The report explained that the "Oracle" project in Kuwait, worth USD 250 million, aims to integrate and maintain the medical information system for military health care in the country, and to enhance medical services in the country.

At the same time, Microsoft obtained approval to provide cloud computing services in Kuwait, which supports the country's digital transformation agenda.

Google Cloud has also formed a strategic alliance with the government to present a roadmap for digital transformation through government entities and major state-owned companies, in addition to investing in opening a modern cloud area in the country.

The Microsoft Summit, held in May 2022 in partnership with the Central Agency for Information Technology, was aimed to communicate with a wide range of private and public companies, and government agencies to accelerate the transformation of Kuwait into a smart government. The summit presented technologies that work through computing to help the government increase future opportunities and improve electronic services in the public sector.

In January 2023, the Public Authority for Roads and Transportation (PART) in Kuwait issued a tender for consulting services for the first phase of the national railway network. This could include advanced technologies, such as the Internet to improve its operations and maintenance.

Also, Aegis announced it will provide project management and consulting services to develop the smart city of Mutlaa area with integrated cloud services, advanced digital applications, and the Internet.

Fitch Solutions' report concluded by stating that the participation of major technology players and significant investments in infrastructure projects in Kuwait underscores the country's commitment to diversifying its economy and transforming its society into a digital one by strengthening public-private partnerships and focusing on digital transformation. Kuwait is well positioned to achieve the ambitious goals set out in the 2035 vision.

Other Voices

Al-Askari and colonialism

Ahmad alsarraf

Colleague Adel Badawi (Al-Nahar Al-Kuwaiti) conducted a lengthy interview with Professor Suleiman Al-Askari, on April 26, 2023, in which he touched on many issues and concerns.

What caught my eye in the valuable interview was what the military professor, the educational expert, and the director of the Arab Center for Educational Research for the Gulf states mentioned, that the reason for the backwardness of the education systems in the Gulf and Arab countries, which depend on indoctrination and reception from top to bottom and "rejection of criticism," is the persistence of a culture of domination.

The Ottoman Empire, which occupied us for about 400 years, and despite our liberation from it more than 100 years ago, we lived during it under colonial Western domination, which in turn exploited the "Salafi thought" in confronting the enlightenment movements and the development of education, to keep our country on the path of ignorance and backwardness, until now, there has been a rational movement to build a mass culture that gets rid of the ideology of colonialism, revealing that in Kuwait there are societal forces, including representatives and politically influential blocs, that oppose the development of education and seek to keep Kuwait as it is to maximize their gains.

On the other hand, there are organized and professional gangs targeting our students, seeking to destroy the educational process in exchange for money, expressing his astonishment at the extent of cheating in education, stressing at the same time that we must not tolerate cheaters, cancel all their exams and fail them and ask them to repeat the year.

This requires ministerial stability, which is absent and negatively affecting, not only in education, but in achievement in any institution, indicating that there are many studies, but we need a decision and a rapid implementation mechanism to stop the deterioration of the educational system!

I do not disagree with the majority of what was stated in the

interview, but placing the blame on colonialism for our educational backwardness, in the past hundred years, contains some bias that may need clarification!

It is known that the first universities, schools, and colleges were established in our countries by foreign parties, during the colonial period from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries; most notably the American University of Beirut (1866), which sought to provide modern education for students in the region. Then came the University of Cairo (1908), which was established by the British "colonial" government in Egypt, and its goal was initially focused on providing training for the colonial administration, but it soon opened up to society.

France also established in Algeria a network of schools and colleges to promote the French language and culture among the local population, and its goal was to "French" education. Then AUC was founded (1919) by American benefactor Charles A. Watson for a noble purpose! Then came the Syrian National University (1923), which was founded by France to train civil servants loyal to the French administration.

This was followed by the Lebanese American University (1924), and the University of Baghdad, which was founded in 1956 with American assistance. All these educational institutions were opposed by the people, especially by the senior clergy. Even the existence of the printing press in our countries was almost forbidden, and for several reasons.

The development of education in the Arab world was not without challenges, which were mostly due to us, such as insufficient funds allocated to it, and failure to compensate for the shortage of qualified faculty members. Political instability and conflicts in the majority of our countries contributed to disrupting the education movement, and this forced experts to flee their homes.

And let us not forget in this rush to address the fact that the establishment of the Mubarakiya School, the first in this country, was carried out with the effort and funding of the people after the ruler Sheikh Mubarak Al-Sabah refused to contribute to its financing.

The permanent tension, from its day until today, between traditional values and the requirements of education and modern life played a devastating role in the delay in education.

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KUNA photo

A view of the third round of political consultations at the level of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs between Kuwait and Japan.

Trade, investment discussed

Kuwait, Japan hold political consultations' third session

TOKYO, May 15, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait and Japan held on Saturday the third session of political consultations at the level of officials of both countries' foreign ministries.

Assistant Foreign Minister for Asian Affairs Ambassador Samih Hayat led the Kuwaiti side, while Assistant Foreign Minister and Director-General of the Middle Eastern and African Bureau Nagaoka Kansuke chaired the Japanese side.

Speaking to KUNA, the Kuwaiti official hailed the meeting as having been held in a friendly atmosphere, where both sides shared the same views on several issues.

He added that these significant consultations would continue at a faster pace in the coming stage in the context of implementing agreements pertinent to bilateral cooperation between the foreign ministries of Kuwait and Japan.

He cited the fruitful outcomes of the current meetings as clear-cut evidence of deep relations between Ku-

wait and Japan, based on firm friendship and mutual trust as well shared commitment to broadening bilateral cooperation in all fields.

During the third session of political consultations, both sides discussed a set of regional and international developments, mainly Middle East and Northeast Asia.

They also looked into a comprehensive strategic partnership in the economic, trade, investment, health, cultural, scientific, technical, academic domains, in addition to renewably energy, oil and petrochemicals.

Ambassador Hayat arrived in Tokyo earlier on Thursday on an official visit to head the Kuwaiti delegation at the third session of political consultations between the Japanese and Kuwaiti foreign ministries.

Ambassador Hayat delivered on Friday a written message from the Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to his Japanese counterpart Yoshimasa Hayashi.



KUNA photo
First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and Acting Minister of Defense Sheikh Talal Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah during the drug bust.

Minister supervises huge drug bust

Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and Acting Minister of Defense Sheikh Talal Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah supervised the seizure of a huge quantity of drugs in addition to 5

unlicensed firearms and live ammunition two days ago.

The minister commended the anti-narcotics' personnel for their tireless efforts.

'Poison Control Center aims to reinforce health system'

600 poisoning cases dealt with



Photo by KEL team
The great dotted eagle.

Great 'dotted eagle' goes back to Russia

KUWAIT CITY, May 15, (KUNA): The great dotted eagle journeyed back to Russia from Kuwait, a journey taken seven times over the course of three years, reported Kuwait Environment Lens team on Wednesday. The team's treasurer Omar Al-Sayed Omar told Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that the eagle transits in Kuwait during fall and winter, and flies back to Russia in spring and summer.

This eagle, indicated Al-Sayed Omar, is the first bird to have a tracker device attached to it, making the three-year experiment the first of its kind. Al-Sayed Omar dubbed the findings of the study miraculous as it found that the bird departs from a singular point from southern Russia at a specific time, crosses thousands of kilometers and arrives at a singular point and a specific time in Kuwait, in Al-Jahraa nature reserve.

The team tracked a number of the vultures to ascertain migratory lines, examine causes of endangerment, and save the beasts from extinction. The experiment was supported by Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) and overseen by the Environment Public Authority.

The study also aimed to include university students to engage them in real life studies, that could be contributed to international organizations.

KUWAIT CITY, May 15: The head of the Kuwait Poison Control Center, Dr. Abdul Latif Al-Oumi said the center provides consultations and treatment plans for all workers in the health sector who take care of patients, who suffer from drug or chemical poisoning, or who are exposed to snake bites, scorpions and other toxins, through the hotline of the center that operates 24/7 throughout the year, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Al-Oumi indicated that the center includes specialized doctors, pharmacists and nurses who are trained on approved protocols for dealing with poisoning cases, noting that the Kuwait Pharmaceutical Society contributed to the success of the launch of the center, as it organized and encouraged the training of pharmacists in the training courses organized by the center, hoping that they will continue to cooperate with the center to monitor poisons to contribute to the scientific development of all medical staff and pharmacists in particular.

He pointed out that the center, since the beginning of this year and even before its opening last week, during the trial period, dealt with about 600 different poisoning cases, including cases related to carbon monoxide inhalation during the spring camps.

The most prominent cases handled by the Kuwait center include dietary supplements taken incorrectly, poisoning by some preparations and chemicals, poisoning by narcotics or radioactive substances, toxins of heavy metals, poisonous plants and mushrooms, bites of snakes, scorpions and some marine organisms.

The Secretary-General of the Kuwait Pharmaceutical Society, Ali Hadi, confirmed that the establishment of the Center in Kuwait is one of the important goals of the society, as it supported its establishment due to its importance and vitality in dealing with cases exposed to drug or chemical poisoning, etc.

He indicated that the society participated in training elite pharmacists with scientific courses within Kuwait and abroad, to develop their capabilities in managing the center, in cooperation with Dr. Abdul Latif Al-Oumi.

He stated that the center is expected to contribute to the development of the level of health services, by providing it with the most important requirements, medicines and medical equipment necessary for that, pointing to the association's readiness to train any additional numbers of pharmacists in the future.

Bonus disbursed: Acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Eng Maha Al-Asousi has confirmed the disbursement of the excellent job performance bonus for 11,519 employees who met the conditions set by the Civil Service Commission (CSC), reports Al-Anba daily.

Al-Asousi added the ministry is currently finalizing the list of employees with absences and those who will be confirmed to be deserving of the bonus will be paid soon.

The minister stressed that the bonus is the right of all regular and distinguished employees, indicating the ministry spares no effort in completing the disbursement process as soon as possible.

the Public Authority for Minors Affairs (PAMA) Dr Amer Al-Ratam has stressed the need to intensify efforts in the mechanization and digitization of work procedures and services; especially since the number of beneficiaries reached about 50,000 by the end of 2022, reports Al-Qabas daily.

In a statement to the press during his recent visit at the authority, Al-Ratam confirmed the launching of 46 electronic services through the website of PAMA and 36 through the government application (Sahl) to ease procedures for beneficiaries.

Meanwhile, acting Director General of PAMA Hamad Al-Barjas affirmed that the authority's officials and employees are aware of the important role they play. He said they are keen on implementing comprehensive development plans to meet the needs of beneficiaries and keep pace with State plans in line with the directives of PAMA's Board of Directors and government.

Al-Barjas added that despite the challenges the authority faced as a result of health, political and economic developments in recent years which reflected negatively on the markets; it achieved good financial results and continues to develop services provided remotely through the website and Sahl application, or in its headquarters and branches in different parts of the country.

been completed through the coordinated efforts of the Public Prosecution and Ministry of Interior, reports Al-Qabas daily quoting reliable sources.

Sources disclosed the enforcement authorities are now preparing to implement the amnesty decree. Sources said this step was taken after the concerned authorities received the file. Sources added the necessary legal steps have been taken to release those covered by the amnesty, indicating the Council of Ministers approved the list of beneficiaries and then submitted it to the political leadership.

Bid to arrest illegals: The Operations Department at Jahra Security Directorate has launched a massive security campaign in Abdally farms in coordination with the tripartite committee tasked to track down those who violated Residency and Labor laws and those wanted by law for involvement in criminal cases, reports Al-Anba daily.

This campaign resulted in the arrest of 105 expatriates of various nationalities proven to have violated the Residency and Labor laws, in addition to three persons wanted by law for committing different crimes.

Call to expedite work: Minister of Justice, Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and Chairman of the Board of Directors of

diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'Are all parents satisfied with teachers in Kuwait?'

"THE number of Kuwaiti teachers is about 90,000, only a third of them are men. They constitute an important electoral bloc, so the importance of their social and political role during the electoral campaign period is echoed. Candidates often promise to review their monthly bonuses and allowances. This is without mentioning or questioning whether teachers in Kuwait are playing the educational role expected of them," columnist **Dr Hamid Al-Hamoud** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

"Although the level of education is affected by factors such as the curriculum, school administration, and the home environment, the teacher is the most important of these influencing factors, as the distinguished teacher is able to a large extent to bridge other gaps in the educational process. And since the level of education suffers from continuous deterioration, we have the right to ask: 'Does a teacher really play the role that he should?'"

"In this very humble educational atmosphere, how many of its reasons are due to the fact that the teacher does not do his duty? If the teacher has a right, then talk about this right doubles during election campaigning, so why do we ignore the right of the student and the rights of the parents?"

"The Teachers Association is the syndicate that defends the rights of teachers. Is there a need to form a syndicate that defends the rights of parents so that their children have the appropriate academic atmosphere, in which their children receive the appropriate education and skills?"

"We realize that the responsibility for the deterioration of education in Kuwait is greater than the responsibility of the teacher, but the teacher bears a large part of the reason, and the teacher bears part of the corruption of the educational process."

"It has been proven that some teachers are partners in the spread of the phenomenon of cheating in schools. And the results of the high school exams last year, in which more than 49% of the students scored an average of 90%, which is more shameful than something to be proud of, especially since universities suffer from the level of students admitted to them due to political pressures or to achieve commercial profits."

"In order to measure the extent of society's satisfaction in Kuwait with the role played by the teacher, I resorted to a questionnaire via Twitter, and asked: What is the extent of the teacher's interest in Kuwait in raising the scientific level of the student? Seven percent answered that it is a high interest, 19% said its interest is medium, and 74% that its interest is low, which reflects the formation of a negative view of the teacher's role in Kuwaiti society."

"It seems that this impression is not a result of the children's failure, but rather a result of the deterioration of parents' confidence in the efficiency of the educational process. Many of them realize that their children do not deserve the grades they receive, because they know closely their educational level."

"This is despite the fact that the subject of grades affects the behavior and goals of students wherever they are, but it constitutes a broader area in the mind of students in Kuwait, which affects the motivation of learning, and increases the possibility of a student resorting to cheating."

"This, and care must be taken in evaluating the teacher, especially that which depends on the student's first impression of the teacher, which usually becomes the parents' impression of the teacher, as the student is the main source of parents' judgment of the teachers, so successive parental interviews of the teacher are more appropriate."

"Parents, wherever they are, meet their vision of what they expect from the ideal teacher, whether it be behavioral or scientific. In a research published on www. indeed.com, published on March 23, 2023, under the title "How can I be a good teacher?", Jami Birt - the educational expert - presents eight characteristics of a good teacher."

"They are to be effective in setting goals for himself and his students; to be clear in the way he communicates with his students, and to know when to speak, and when to leave the conversation to the student; to be an example for the student, which the student may recognize through the student's interest in how the teacher spends his free time; adaptation and flexibility, which are evident from the teacher's ability to communicate with students who come from distinct backgrounds, whether scientific or class; to attend his lessons, to raise the efficiency of the learning process, and for the student to feel that; reflection and reflection on what has been achieved and what has not been achieved, which aim at self-evaluation and review of what has been accomplished; that the teacher himself be a student in life, considering that continuous education is a necessity to achieve professionalism and excellence in education and to transform the educational process into a process that adds happiness to the student."

"With these qualities that are desired to be available in the teacher, they may seem ideal, but they are necessary to measure them, or to make them a reference."

"This, and I spoke to more than one educational leader, mentor and professor, and found that they share parents' complaints about the low level of education in Kuwait, which is mainly due to the teacher's level. They

believe that the job of the teacher has been attractive to those who have no desire for education due to its relative material advantages, since the implementation of the cadre of teachers in 2011.

"The problem of the cadre system - as I see it and the educational specialists see it - is that it equates the teachers of physics and the Arabic language on the one hand, and the kindergarten teacher on the other."

"It also puts all teachers on the same level. An educational supervisor at the Ministry of Education informed me that the level of many Kuwaiti teachers who are employed by education from graduates of the College of Basic Education are below the required level, and they are not subject to a selection interview or an exam. More than one former minister had stated that the ministry was obliged to accept graduates of the College of Basic Education, even though they were below the level."

"However, is there a way out that will eventually lead to raising the level of teachers now and in the future? The privileges granted to those who do not deserve it cannot be revoked, but the spirit of competition can be spread among the teachers themselves, and the level of those wishing to join this profession can be verified in the future, through the professionalization of education. What is meant by insulting education?"

"Teaching profession means that the teacher's profession has standards and foundations, in addition to a university degree. The latter is not sufficient to qualify for work as a teacher, although it is necessary. Apprenticeship requires scientific and behavioral training, and then obtaining a certificate from an independent body. This is a profession certificate that qualifies you to teach a subject at a particular school level."

Also:

Last week, First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and Acting Minister of Defense Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled promoted 762 officers of the Ministry of Interior to the rank of "brigadier general." Before that, Al-Khaled promoted 405 deans in the Ministry of Defense," columnist **Tarek Hamadeh** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

On this occasion, I congratulate all those who have been promoted. Personally, I believe that many of my brothers, the former and current leaders of the Ministry of Interior agree with me that good tidings will befall this generation of officers and they are more fortunate, and the promotions are an affirmation of the interest and follow-up of our wise leadership, represented by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad, and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad, may God protect and preserve them, and the Prime Minister His Highness Sheikh Ahmed Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

In his speech to the employees of the ministries of Defense and Interior, Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled was keen to raise their morale and grant them all their rights stipulated by the law, especially promotion, according to the controls, conditions and timings established in this regard.

In the past, the numbers of officers holding the rank of major general and brigadier general were very limited.

Mostly it was awarded to people over fifty years old, and now we have a generation of young people and sufficient numbers of officers in various ranks to set the most wonderful examples of sacrifice, giving and serving our dear country, and to preserve its security and stability in light of great challenges and successive crises in the world.

The abundance of officers - brigadiers general and majors general give the higher leadership in the ministry the opportunity to select the best competencies for leadership positions and, accordingly, all promoted officers are required to work and implement the orders issued to them in any position, so here is our wise leadership that did not fail to grant them all their rights defined by the law.

Therefore there is no room for complacency or negligence in any tasks assigned to them.

Personally, I do not think that the recent promotions are a prelude to granting privileges in exchange for early retirement.

Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled is credited with applying principles and organizing promotions regulations that apply to everyone without any connections or favoritism, and in a way that contributes to preparing a second row of young security leaders who can assume responsibility with full efficiency.

Promotions of officers is not the end of the line, but it is a prelude and a new impetus towards doing more for the security of the homeland and consolidating the principle of law for everyone, whatever it may cost.

Also, the officers who are promoted have great responsibilities towards protecting the security of the homeland and ensuring the safety of citizens, residents and everyone who lives on this good land.

At last all appreciation to the First Deputy Prime Minister for the decisive position on the position adopted by officials in the Philippine government by setting illogical conditions for their workers to come to the country.

A message to everyone that Kuwait will not be harmed by stopping any nationality that causes any transgression, and just as Kuwait is committed to laws and does not interfere in the affairs of others, treatment must be reciprocal, otherwise we have the mechanisms to ensure a strong and effective response. May God protect Kuwait from all harm."

— Compiled by Mai Elsoukary

News in Brief

Military driving license: First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and acting Minister of Defense Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled issued a decision on granting a military driving license to the military personnel, so they can drive police cars and military motorcycles, reports Al-Anba daily.

Article One of the decision states that Article 101 of Ministerial Resolution 76/81 shall be amended as follows:

Article 101 (bis): Soldiers employed in the Ministry of Interior shall be granted a military driving license to drive police cars and military motorcycles only. The license is renewed every three years; provided the bearer continues to work in the ministry, in addition to passing the ministry's motor driving course.

Drivers working in the Ministry of the Interior shall be granted a military driving license to drive heavy police vehicles only. The license is renewed every two years, provided the holder continues to work in the ministry.

Article Two of the decision mandates the undersecretary to implement the decision, which takes effect on day of its publication in the Official Gazette.

Amnesty file completed: The amnesty file for those convicted in the Shammar Tribe by-election case has

41 expats held in Khaitan raid

KUWAIT CITY, May 15: Personnel from the General Administration of Residence Affairs Investigation Department during a campaign on illegal residents and criminals have arrested 41 violators of the residence and labor law of various nationalities in Khaitan, reports Al-Rai daily.

All those arrested have been referred to the concerned authorities.

Meanwhile, the General Administration of Residence Affairs Investigation, represented by the Joint Tripartite Committee Department, managed through sudden inspection campaigns in Abdali, Wafra, Kabd, and Salem area in the Salmiya region and arrest 219 violators of the residence and labor laws, reports Al-Rai daily.

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Performance features music of Spain

Spanish guitar-violin duo performs at Kuwait National Library

KUWAIT CITY, May 15: The Spanish Embassy in Kuwait, in collaboration with the National Council for Culture Arts and Letters organized a very special guitar and violin performance by Armando Orbón and Lorena Fernández at the National Library of Kuwait, Sunday evening.

The performance by duo of Orbón and Fernández featured the music of Spain and its influence on the music of the Americas as a fusion of two worlds and cultures creating an indelible memory and sensation much like that of the distant sound of horses galloping in the night. Armando Orbón brings to Kuwait this time a duo with an excellent artist, the violinist Lorena Fernández, both from the beautiful land of Asturias in the north of Spain, far and very different from where most Kuwaitis spend their time in Spain, at the Mediterranean Costa del Sol.

Council

The event was attended by Mohammed Al Jassar, Acting Secretary General of the National Council for Culture Arts and Letters, Mohammed Mussaed Al Zamel, Head of Arts and Letters at the National Council, representatives from the National Library of Kuwait, ambassadors and members of the Diplomatic Corp in Kuwait.

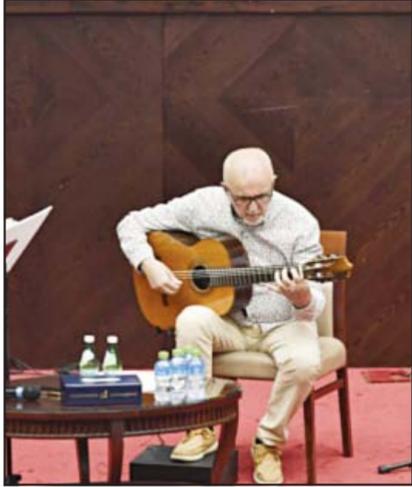
In his address to the distinguished gathering, the Spanish Ambassador to Kuwait HE Miguel Jose Moro Aguilar said the embassy is deeply honored to be here tonight at the wonderful premises of the National Library of Kuwait to present a new cultural activity for our Kuwaiti friends as an effort to strengthen the



The Spanish duo on violin and guitar



HE Miguel Jose Moro Aguilar addressing the gathering



Armando Orbón playing guitar



A view of the audience

cultural links between our nations.

Speaking of the artistes, the Spanish envoy said, Armando Orbón studied with the legendary Maestro Regino Sainz de la Maza. He has received awards from numerous institutions in America and Spain, and has spread Spanish music throughout more than 100 countries.

Intellectuals

He has collaborated with musicians and intellectuals such as Joan Pàmies, Diego "El Cigala" or Emilio Ribera, among others. He has performed in many places, such as the National Theater of Havana, the Abu Dhabi Grand Auditorium, Saint Patrick's Cathedral in NYC and the Mohamed V Theater in Rabat.

Of Lorena Fernández, he said, she is a music and violin teacher; founder and member of the Orquesta de los Adioses (Castroville), organizing and participating as a performer and soloist at the Spectamus Festival (Salinas).

She has participated in the recording of soundtracks for films and short films, as the candidate for the Goya Awards and winner in several film festivals, La mujer del hatillo gris, starring María Botto, El refugio del mal, Félix Cábés's score or El corazón delator, starring Paul Naschy. She has composed Vocalise, We are one helping everyone (Comenius project), Cuadros Vivos and La niña de la nube, written by Paco Abril. Collaborator as a music critic in La Nueva España, and she runs the educational section El Recreo in Cadena SER.

THE GUEST SHOW
 Guest: **Sara Akbar**
 CEO, Oilserv Kuwait
 Director: **Anees Backer**
 Listen on EPISODE 123
 18/05/2023 @ 10am & 10pm
 93.3fm and 963am
 Radio Kuwait International English Station

The Guest Show poster.

TGS presents Sara Akbar

The Guest Show (TGS) is deeply honored to present Sara Akbar, one of Kuwait's living legends.

Sara Akbar has proved that ambition, competence and determination do not come with gender labels.

An inspiring role model, Sara Akbar's life is a fascinating narrative of the determination of a Kuwaiti woman to contribute to her country's success and development.

A chemical engineer by training, Sara Akbar is internationally famous in the oil and gas industry.

In 1991, when the skies above Kuwait were darkened by the oil well fires, she was the only woman in Kuwait's Wild Well Killers Team re-

sponsible for dousing the fire. After the liberation of Kuwait, she left the public sector and founded Kuwait Energy, a multinational, independent, oil & gas exploration company.

At present, she is the CEO of Oilserv Kuwait, an independent oilfield service company focused on the Middle East & North Africa.

Ms Akbar is a remarkable woman. I call her the 'Iron lady of Kuwait' because of her heroism, wisdom, bravery, and leadership. Her story finds mention in the textbooks of Kuwaiti children, who hopefully will be inspired by her. Tune in to her remarkable story this Thursday.

4 steps help establish joint-stock companies in just 24 hours: MoCI

Ministry of Commerce cuts online red tape

KUWAIT CITY, May 15: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry announced the restructuring and simplification of the procedures for establishing joint-stock companies in the ministry's automated system has now been reduced to just 24 hours after the procedures have been cut down to just four steps unlike the previous 17 steps which took about 60 days to complete, reports Al-Jarida daily.

This is in line with the "New Kuwait 2035" vision and supporting the leadership to revitalize the economy. The ministry said this comes upon the directives of the Minister of Commerce and Industry, Muhammad Al-Aiban.

The sources explained that this step will support the growth and competitiveness of the local business environment, since the ministry has approved a number of developmental measures to achieve a qualitative leap in completing the course of clearing transactions of the joint-stock companies.

The ministry emphasized that this step also contributes to accelerating the business activity and providing an attractive environment for local and international investors, in line with the government's plans to transform Ku-

wait into a regional and commercial hub to attract investors.

The ministry added that the simplification of the procedures for establishing joint-stock companies came as a result of coordinating the complementary efforts between the various sectors of the ministry concerned with enhancing the competitiveness of the business environment locally and to improve the country's positions in economic performance indicators with advanced steps and are moving forward.

Procedures

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has shortened online procedures for establishing shareholding companies.

The ministry said in a statement on Sunday that the procedures have been cut from 17 steps to only four, doable within 24 hours instead of 60 days as was the case previously.

Simplifying the procedures for establishing the shareholding companies came in coordination with various divisions of the ministry tasked with boosting competition in the domestic business sector.

The statement affirmed the approach to cut red tape regarding all services provided by the department.

Among the facilitated steps is acceptance of a founder's criminal record provided by the criminal evidence department of the Ministry of Interior and link-up with the Ministry of Justice to document A contract electronically.



KUNA photo (KPC) CEO Sheikh Nawaf Saud Al-Sabah and Shell CEO Wael Sawwan sign the memorandum of understanding.

Accord implies no financial liabilities

KPC, Shell ink MoU to exchange expertise

KUWAIT CITY, May 15, (KUNA): Kuwait Petroleum Corporation and the international Shell energy company have signed a memo for exchanging know-how and expertise in various divisions of the fossil fuel sector.

The KPC said in a statement on Saturday that the memorandum of understanding (MoU) was inked as part of the approach by the corpo-

ration and its subsidiary companies to benefit from top international companies in the oil and gas industries.

The accord implies no financial liabilities, the statement said.

The MoU was signed, last Wednesday, by the KPC Deputy Chairman and CEO Sheikh Nawaf Saud Al-Sabah and Shell CEO Wael Sawwan.

Invention of Electromagnetic Cells

Kuwait's Eng. Al-Shehab wins gold at ITEX exhibition

KUALA LUMPUR, May 15, (KUNA): Kuwaiti engineer Jenan Al-Shehab won gold medal of the 34th edition of the International Exhibition for Invention, Innovation and Technology (ITEX) on Friday.

Al-Shehab took the gold for her invention of (Electromagnetic Cells) at the two-day Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia event that kicked off yesterday.

Al-Shehab is part of the GCC General Secretariat delegation to the exhibition.

Voicing pride and joy over the win, Al-Shehab told KUNA that her invention would help charge electronic devices remotely, lessening dangers of electric faults, while lending an aesthetic ambience to public and private places.

Al-Shehab was nominated by a specialized team of arbitrators at the Patent Office of the GCC general secretariat to represent Kuwait in ITEX.

This is her eighth participation in international exhibitions, where she had won several gold medals in competitions in such expos, in addition to an officer badge from the Eu-



KUNA photo Engineer Jenan Al-Shehab

ropean Union and the International Commission for Officers and Supervisors (Science and Innovation) for her electromagnetic cells invention.

ITEX is an annual exhibition initiated by the Malaysian Invention and Design Society (MINDS) in 1989, featuring the best innovations, promote inventions, technologies, as well as commercial exchange and

expertise in the field of science and knowledge.

The 34th edition of the International Exhibition for Invention, Innovation and Technology (ITEX) kicked off on Thursday in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia for two days.

This year's edition witnesses a Kuwaiti participation, engineer Jenan Al-Shehab, as part of the General Secretariat of the GCC delegation.

The exhibition was inaugurated by the Malaysian Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation, Shang Lih Kang, in the presence of Kuwait Ambassador to Malaysia Rashed Al-Saleh, alongside the ambassadors of the GCC countries in Malaysia.

In a statement for KUNA, Ambassador Al-Saleh expressed his joy for Al-Shehab's participation and displaying her invention (Electromagnetic Cells), saying that this participation is considered a motive for other Kuwaiti engineers to prove their competence and their creative abilities.

On her part, Jenan Al-Shehab said that she was nominated by a specialized team of arbitrators at the Patent

Office of the GCC general secretariat to represent Kuwait in the ITEX 2023 exhibition.

She noted that this is her eighth participation in international exhibitions where she had won several gold medals in competitions in such expos, in addition to an officer badge from the European Union and the International Commission for Officers and Supervisors (Science and Innovation) for her electromagnetic cells invention.

She pointed out that the electromagnetic cells invention is a system that transfers energy wirelessly, which can be used in charging and operating electronic devices without wires or cables to reduce electrical contacts and adds an aesthetic look to halls.

The International Invention, Innovation and Technology Exhibition (ITEX) is an annual exhibition initiated by the Malaysian Invention and Design Society (MINDS) in 1989 that features the best innovations, promote inventions, technologies, commercial exchange and expertise in the field of science and knowledge.

KUNA Development Center holds training program on media skills

KUWAIT CITY, May 15, (KUNA): The KUNA Center for the Development of Media Skills started Sunday a training program entitled "Media and Social Media Skills".

The program, presented by Dr. Abdullah Badran from KUNA and runs from 14-18 May, focuses on introducing the media, its functions and importance, how to appear be-

fore a camera, plan and launch media campaigns, how to deal with crises, and enhance the skills of writing press releases.

This center is concerned with increasing the skills of professional journalistic work, improving media content, and bringing theory and practice closer in the field of writing media materials.



KUNA's training course on media skills

KUNA photo



Brink's team pose during the medical camp.

Over 550 people benefit from event

Brink's Kuwait organizes free medical camp for its employees

KUWAIT CITY, May 15: Ensuring safety and security for our employees is essential to maintaining a culture of trust, inclusion, and engagement. At Brink's, we continuously enforce the duty of care for our employees as they are the heart of every organization. Committed to our sustainable development goals and as a distinguished signatory of the United Nations Global Compact, Brink's Kuwait organized a Free Medical Camp with the theme "Health is Wealth" for its employees on 05th May 2023 at their employee accommodation, and as part of Brink's celebration of its Values Day.

A total number of 550+ employees, male and female, benefited from this medical camp. The medical camp included tests for Blood Pressure, Blood Sugar, and Cholesterol from Kuwait Heart Foundation and Pharmacia as well as consultation



for ENT, Cardiology, Internal Medical, General Surgery, Oncology, Gynecology, Radiology and Orthopedics

by specialized doctors from the Indian Doctors Forum. This event was attended and joint-



Photos from the event.

ly coordinated with the support of the generous teams of local medical practitioners from The Indian Doc-

tors Forum Kuwait, Kuwait Heart Foundation, and volunteers from Pharmacia Kuwait. With around

2,700 employees at present, Brink's Kuwait, a joint venture between Al Mulla Group and Brink's Company, is the leading integrated security solutions provider in Kuwait specializing in cash management services, manned guarding services, and electronic security systems. Among many of its fundamental security, health and safety initiatives, this medical camp activity aims at encouraging employees to take responsibility in adopting a healthy lifestyle, safe practices and seeking regular medical consultation whenever possible.

Brink's Kuwait represented by the medical camp committee of organizers are pleased to have accomplished this event successfully with the collaborative efforts and generosity of our sponsors and volunteers from IDF, Kuwait Heart Foundation and Pharmacia Kuwait.



Photos from the event.

Assima Mall project wins award

ACI-Kuwait Chapter holds Annual Awards banquet

By Mujahid Iqbal

KUWAIT CITY, May 15: The Kuwait Chapter of American Concrete Institute (ACI-KC) held its Annual Awards function on Tuesday, 9th May 2023 at Palms Hotel and Spa. Her Excellency the Minister of Public Works, the event's Chief Guest, was represented by Eng. Eman Ahmad Al Omar, Assistant Undersecretary for Governmental Center for Testing, Quality Control, and Research Sector.

During the well-attended grand event, ACI-Kuwait Chapter presented two prestigious annual awards, one for a deserving project and the other for a distinguished personality for service to the engineering profession.

The event started with a welcome address by the current President of the ACI-Kuwait Chapter, Azizz Mamuji. Then, speaking on behalf of the Minister of Public Works, Eng. Eman Ahmad Al Omar emphasized the Ministry's commitment to supporting the construction industry in Kuwait.

The award formalities commenced after Dr. Khalidoun Rahal, a Director of the Chapter, gave a brief overview of the Chapter's activities.

The Award of Excellence 2022 was given to the Assima Mall and Tower project. Azizz Mamuji gave a brief presentation about the project in which he explained that



President of the ACI-Kuwait Chapter, Azizz Mamuji

the project was selected for being an innovatively and sustainably designed mixed-use urban centre landmark development, that combines sophisticated structural and concrete engineering with aesthetic grace.

The award was given to the Developers, of Salhia Real Estate Company, and the trophy was received by the Chairman, Ghazi Alnafisi. On behalf of the design and supervision consultants, PLP Architecture of England and PACE of Kuwait, the award was collected by Tarek Shuaib, CEO of PACE. Ahmadiyah Contracting and Trading Company were recognized as the General Contractor and Main Concrete Supplier, and their award was received by the CEO, Elie Hani.

Mamuji then announced the honoree of the Award of Achievement 2022. The award was posthumously bestowed on the late Hamad Thunayan Alghanim, founder of Dar Gulf Consult. He was honored for his lifetime dedication and commitment to the engineering profession in Kuwait, for promoting ethical standards in professional practice, and for selfless service to humanity. The award was received by his wife, Ms. Laila Alghanim.

ACI-Kuwait Chapter is a non-profit professional organization, affiliated with American Concrete Institute International of USA. The Chapter's essential objective is to develop and share technical knowledge and information for improving the quality of concrete and related construction practices in Kuwait. This is done through technical seminars, training courses, conferences, publications, webinars, and other informative activities.

YMCA Kuwait conducts annual ecumenical quiz competitions

KUWAIT CITY, May 15: YMCA Kuwait conducted its 8th Ecumenical Quiz competitions at The Light House Church (TLC) in the NECK compound. Twelve teams from various Churches/ Congregations participated in the competitions. The portion for the competitions was selected from the book of The Acts of the Apostles and Book of Hebrew, from the Bible. The Convener for the event was Dr. Sunny Andrews. The Quiz Mistress was Ms. Susan Andrews, who is a winner of the Bible Quiz conducted by Campus Crusade for Christ in 2009. The event was supported by a technical team headed by Joji B John and Sam John done with excellent planning.

The event started with opening prayer

by Pastor Titus Varghese. Manoj Parinamam, General Secretary of YMCA Kuwait welcomed the team and the gathering followed by the Presidential address by CA. Mathew Varkey. The Quiz was officially inaugurated Fr. Dr. Biju Parackal, Asst. Vicar of the Indian Orthodox Church. The following teams won the ever rolling trophies sponsored by three individuals. 1st Prize: Church of God, Kuwait, 2nd Prize: IPC Ahmadi, 3rd Prize: St. Gregarious Indian Orthodox Church (Maha Edavaka), Kuwait. All the 12 participants were given special medals as well as Certificates as a token of their participation. Vote of thanks was proposed by Mathews Mammen, Vice-President of YMCA Kuwait.



A group photo of the winners.

Nintex to establish a regional office in Saudi Arabia

Nintex, the global standard for process intelligence and automation, today announced plans to establish a regional office in Saudi Arabia.

With over 80 customers in Saudi Arabia and 300 across the MENA region, Nintex has already established a strong presence in the region. This positions these organisations well to make a significant impact on the ambitious Vision 2030 initiative, where Saudi Arabia aims to transform its economy by promoting innovation, diversification, and private sec-

tor growth.

"We are excited to establish our office in Saudi Arabia and actively contribute to the country's ambitious plans for digital transformation under Vision 2030," said Ayman El-Hattab, Nintex VP, Emerging Markets. Nintex, through its process intelligence and automation solutions, will support nation-wide initiatives such as the National Industrial Development and Logistics Program (NIDL) and the National Transformation Program (NTP), as well as various digital transformation pro-

grams in the country.

Today, Nintex is working closely with customers like the Public Investment Fund and the National Water Company of Saudi Arabia, as well as many others, to help them transform their processes and innovate faster with digital technology.

The new office in Saudi Arabia will allow Nintex to better serve its existing customers in the Upper Gulf region and reach new customers who are looking for process intelligence and automation solutions. The company plans to hire local

employees to support and grow its operations in the region.

"By partnering with public and private sector organisations, we see incredible potential. Nintex is excited to be part of the growth of Saudi Arabia's vibrant and prosperous regional economy," said El-Hattab.

Media Contact Laetitia Smith
laetitia.smith@nintex.com
About Nintex Nintex is the global standard for process intelligence and automation. Today more than 10,000

public and private sector organisations across 90 countries turn to the Nintex Process Platform to accelerate progress on their digital transformation journeys by quickly and easily managing, automating, and optimising business processes. Learn more by visiting www.nintex.com and experience how Nintex and its global partner network are shaping the future of Intelligent Process Automation (IPA).

Product or service names mentioned herein may be the trademarks of their respective owners. (PRNewswire)

Market Movements

15-05-2023

| | Change | Closing pts | | Change | Closing pts |
|--------------------|--------|-------------|--------------------|--------|-------------|
| JAPAN - Nikkei | +0.81 | 29,626.34 | UAE - DFM | -0.95 | 3,525.43 |
| PAKISTAN - KSE 100 | +0.55 | 41,716.26 | PHILIPPINES - PSEi | -0.84 | 6,523.15 |
| | | | SAUDI - Tadawul | -1.04 | 11,230.20 |
| | | | EGYPT - EGX 30 | -1.34 | 17,135.55 |

Business

High inflation likely to keep hurting

Europe's outlook for economic growth brightens – a little

FRANKFURT, Germany, May 15, (AP) – The European Union's executive body raised its economic growth forecast, saying Europe had dodged a winter recession that was feared amid an energy crisis but warning that stubbornly high inflation is likely to keep hurting the economy by sapping people's ability to spend.

The outlook for the 20 countries using the euro currency improved to growth of 1.1% this year from 0.9% in the previous predictions in February, the European Commission said in its spring forecast Monday.

The European economy "is holding up remarkably well in the face of Russia's aggression against Ukraine," said commission Executive Vice President Valdis Dombrovskis in a statement.

Europe had faced expectations of a winter energy catastrophe after Russia cut off most supplies of natural gas to the continent amid the war in Ukraine. Prices surged to record highs for gas needed to heat homes, generate electricity and power

factories – spurring painful spikes in consumer prices.

A mad scramble to line up new sources of natural gas – through more expensive supplies of liquefied gas coming by ship – along with a mild winter and reduced use helped Europe get through the winter without a major energy crisis.

Dombrovskis, however, cautioned that "core inflation remains persistently high, which could erode people's purchasing power, slow investment growth and impede access to credit."

Core inflation excludes volatile food and fuel prices and is considered a better measure of price pressures in the economy than the overall figure, which reached an annual 7% in April.

Europe's economy faces persistent challenges from spikes in consumer prices and rising interest rates that the European Central Bank is using to try to return inflation to the bank's target of 2%. The economy barely scraped out 0.1% growth

in the first three months of the year.

Higher borrowing costs for consumers and businesses have been reducing the availability of loans for home purchases or business investment and shrinking the demand for loans.

An additional challenge comes from recent turmoil mostly affecting banks in the U.S., where three financial institutions have collapsed in recent months.

While European officials say their banks are not directly exposed to the U.S. troubles, increased scrutiny of bank finances from regulators and shareholders may make banks even more reluctant to lend.

Banks are the chief sources of financing for companies in Europe, in contrast to the U.S. where financial markets supply the bulk of credit.

The European Commission's economic growth forecast for next year was raised to 1.6% from 1.5% in the earlier projection.

Raising the debt limit

Biden, congressional leaders likely to meet today for talks

REHOBOTH BEACH, Del., May 15, (AP) – President Joe Biden and congressional leaders will likely resume talks on Tuesday at the White House over the debt limit as the nation continues to edge closer to its legal borrowing authority with no agreement in sight.

The meeting was initially supposed to be Friday, but was abruptly postponed so staff-level talks could continue before Biden and the four congressional leaders huddled for a second time.

Administration and congressional officials said Sunday that a meeting has not been finalized, although Tuesday was the likeliest option. Biden was returning to Washington on Monday and is scheduled to leave for the Group of Seven summit in Japan on Wednesday.

Biden on Sunday did not detail much progress in the talks, but said he remained hopeful that an agreement could be reached with Republicans to avoid what would be an unprecedented debt default, which could trigger a financial catastrophe.

"I remain optimistic because I'm a congenial optimist," Biden told reporters while out for a bike ride in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. "But I really think there's a desire on their part as well as ours to reach an agreement. I think we'll be able to do it."

Aides said talks had continued throughout the weekend. But at least publicly, there was little indication that either the White House or House Republicans had budged from their initial positions. Biden has called on lawmakers to lift the debt limit without preconditions, warning that the nation's borrowing authority should not be used to impose deep spending cuts and other conservative policy demands.

"We've not reached the crunch point yet," Biden told reporters Saturday before flying to his beach home. "There's real discussion about some changes we all could make. We're not there yet."

Biden did signal over the weekend that he could be open to tougher work requirements for certain government aid programs, which Republicans are proposing as part of the ongoing discussion. He has said he will not accept anything that takes away people's health care coverage.

"I voted for tougher aid programs that's in the law now, but for Medicaid it's a different story," he said. "And so I'm waiting to hear what their exact proposal is."

Administration officials said the talks among staff had so far been

productive after Biden and the leaders – House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries of New York, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York and Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky – ended their first meeting last Tuesday without a breakthrough.

The president described that Oval Office session as "productive" even though McCarthy said later he "didn't see any new movement" toward resolving the stalemate. White House and congressional aides have been in talks since Wednesday.

"The staff is very engaged. I would characterize the engagement as serious, as constructive," Lael Brainard, head of the White House's National Economic Council, said on CBS' "Face the Nation."

McCarthy has insisted on using the threat of defaulting on the nation's debts to wrangle spending changes, arguing that the federal government can't continue to spend money at the pace it is now. The national debt now stands at \$31.4 trillion.

An increase in the debt limit would not authorize new federal spending. It would only allow for borrowing to pay for what Congress has already approved.

The Treasury Department has said the government could exhaust the ability to pay its bills as early as June 1. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office gave a similar warning Friday, saying there was a "significant risk" of default sometime in the first two weeks of next month.

But federal estimates still remain in flux.

The CBO noted Friday that if the cash flow at the Treasury and the "extraordinary measures" that the department is now using can continue to pay for bills through June 15, the government can probably finance its operations through the end of July. That's because the expected tax revenues that will come in mid-June and other measures will give the federal government enough cash for at least a few more weeks.

"Ultimately the stakes are, the United States has never defaulted on its debt," Wally Adeyemo, the deputy treasury secretary, said on CNN's "State of the Union" on Sunday. "And we can't."

And Rep. Michael McCaul, R-Texas, told ABC's "This Week": "I think defaulting is not the right path to go down. So I am an eternal optimist."

He added, "this is always a game we play, every Congress, you know, in daring each other to jump off the cliff. It's a dangerous game."

GCC: Joint efforts for railway project

RIYADH, May 15, (KUNA) – Secretary General of the GCC Jassem Al-Budaiwi said the states Council, Secretariat, and the Gulf Railways Authority are commencing efforts to complete their works to link the railway project between GCC countries in order to showcase the new innovation in the region.

The Secretariat General on Monday noted the statement came during Al-Budaiwi's participation in the GCC Railway Conference held between the 15th and 16th of this month in Abu Dhabi with the partaking of a number of transportation authority's decision makers, along with chiefs and CEO's of major rail operators from across the region.

Al-Budaiwi also assured GCC Council members are keen on joint effort works to accomplish the railway plan in all its active sectors, while also pointing that willful paces have been accounted for to enable a cooperative endeavor for such a ven-

ture.

Strategic planning is the aim of this preparation phase in order to facilitate a proper link between all nations involved in the railway project, directing the outcomes to positively impact the inter-trade exchange and freedom of transportation for GCC citizens and residents, while also taking into consideration the joint investments which should be contributing to the promotion of economic integration.

Al-Budaiwi added, the council will be looking forward to these ventures with the promising tangible results, as some member states have already finished parts of the project within their territories.

"It is in this context that I am pleased to congratulate and thank the UAE for accomplishing their construction of the railway tracks with Saudi Arabia", said Al-Budaiwi delightfully pleased by these efforts.



A person walks in front of an electronic stock board showing Japan's Nikkei 225 index at a securities firm Monday, May 15, 2023, in Tokyo. Asian shares were mostly lower Monday, dogged by renewed worries over a possible recession and the risk of a default on the U.S. national debt. U.S. futures and oil prices also fell. (AP)

Wall Street is mixed ahead of updates on US shoppers

Asian markets, oil lower as recession fears darken outlook

NEW YORK, May 15, (AP) – Wall Street is drifting Monday ahead of reports that will show how much a slowing economy is hurting what's prevented a recession so far: solid spending by U.S. households.

The S&P 500 was virtually unchanged in its first trading after closing out a second straight down week. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was edging down 19 points, or 0.1%, to 33,280, as of 11 a.m. Eastern time, while the Nasdaq composite was 0.1% higher.

Some of the sharper moves came from companies announcing takeovers of rivals, including a 6.3% drop for energy company Oneok after it said it's buying Magellan Midstream Partners. Magellan jumped 15.5%. But the larger market was relatively quiet as several concerns continue to drag on Wall Street.

Chief among them is the fear of a recession hitting later this year, in large part because of high interest rates meant to knock down inflation. But concerns are also rising about cracks in the U.S. banking system and the U.S. government's inching toward a possible default on its debt as soon as June 1, which economists warn could be catastrophic.

So far, a resilient job market has helped U.S. households keep up their spending despite all the pressures. That in turn has offered a powerful pillar to prop up the economy. On Tuesday, the government will show how much sales at retailers across the country grew last month.

Several big retailers will also show how much profit they made individually during the first three months of the year, including Home Depot on Tuesday, Target on Wednesday and Walmart on Thursday.

They're among the few companies left who have yet to report their results for the start of the year. The majority of companies in the S&P 500 have topped expectations so far, though the bar was

set particularly low for them coming in. S&P 500 companies are still on track to report a drop of 2.5% in earnings per share from a year earlier. That would be the second straight quarter they've seen profit drop, according to FactSet.

As earnings reports slide out of the spotlight, the U.S. government's debt-ceiling negotiations are showing in. The federal government is risking its first-ever default if Congress doesn't raise the credit limit set for federal borrowing.

Democrats and Republicans are arguing about whether an increase should be tied to cuts in government spending, and talks are continuing.

Most of Wall Street expects the two sides to come to a deal after loudly complaining about it, simply because the alternative would be so disastrous for both sides. U.S. Treasuries form the bedrock of the global financial system because they're seen as the safest possible investment on the planet.

But one worry is that politicians may not feel much urgency to come to an agreement until financial markets shake sharply to convince them of the importance.

"A debt default may not be the most likely scenario, but any prolonged debate or unexpected development has

the potential to trigger higher volatility," said Chris Larkin, managing director, trading and investing, at E-Trade from Morgan Stanley.

In the bond market, Treasury yields rose after taking a brief dip following another discouraging report on the U.S. manufacturing industry. A survey of manufacturers in New York state plunged by much more than economists expected.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury climbed back to 3.50%, up from 3.46% late Friday. It helps set rates for mortgages and other loans.

The two-year Treasury yield, which more closely tracks expectations for the Fed, ticked up to 4.00% from 3.99%.

High interest rates have meant particular pain for some smaller- and mid-sized banks. Customers are leaving to park their deposits in money-market funds and other options that are paying higher yields. High rates are meanwhile knocking down the value of investments that banks made when rates were lower.

The pressures have already caused three high-profile bank failures since March, and Wall Street has been on the hunt for other potential weak links.

Several were holding a bit steadier Monday after dropping sharply last

week. PacWest Bancorp. rose 7.5% after losing 21% last week, for example.

Asia

Asian shares were mostly lower Monday, dogged by persisting worries over a possible recession and the risk of a default on the U.S. national debt. U.S. futures and oil prices also fell.

Shares in Thailand fell after the country's main opposition parties easily bested other contenders in an election result that fulfilled many voters' hopes in a chance for change after nine years under a former coup-leading general. The SET was down 0.8% in early trading.

This week will bring major updates on the Chinese and Japanese economies. China's faltering rebound from disruptions caused by limits on travel and other activities during the COVID-pandemic has raised worries that it won't provide the sort of growth needed to offset slowdowns in other major economies.

"The sharp moderation in China's economic surprise index since the start of the month suggests that economic data are turning in less optimistic than before, which puts some doubts on markets' reopening bets," Yeap Jun Rong, a market analyst at IG, said in a commentary.

Tokyo's Nikkei 225 bucked the regional trend, gaining 0.8% to 29,611.52.

Oil

In other trading Monday, U.S. benchmark crude oil gave up 47 cents to \$69.57 per barrel. It lost 83 cents on Friday to \$70.04 per barrel.

Brent crude, the pricing basis for international trading, shed 53 cents to \$73.64 per barrel.

Currencies

The U.S. dollar rose to 136.21 Japanese yen from 135.69 yen on Friday. The euro was trading at \$1.0858, up from \$1.0854.



A person walks in front of an electronic stock board showing Japan's Nikkei 225 and New York Dow indexes at a securities firm Monday, May 15, 2023, in Tokyo. (AP)



An image showcasing the interior design of the Salmiya branch of Joe & The Juice.

Joe & The Juice expands presence in Kuwait

In less than two months since Joe & The Juice's successful debut in Kuwait, Ali Abdulwahab Al Mutawa Commercial Co. (AAW) today announced the opening of Kuwait's second "Joe & The Juice" store as part of its rapid expansion strategy in the country.

Located in Salmiya's Argan Square, the new store sits in the middle of Kuwait's central shopping district, across from the American University of Kuwait, and designed to be a meeting place for students and a healthy pitstop for shoppers. Joe's enthusiastic juic-

ers are ready to bring the distinctive Joe experience to more people in Kuwait, and can't wait to start serving its delicious, nutritious, and healthy menu to customers.

Joe & The Juice is a globally-renowned health and nutrition cafe offering healthy and nutritious foods and beverages in a trendy and creative in-store experience. From fresh juices to artisanal coffee, the Joe & the Juice menu features fine and fresh ingredients that are expertly crafted to nourish and delight taste buds. Joe & The Juice was founded in Copenhagen, Denmark, and has expanded

to over 300 locations, including newly opened branches in the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar. The coffee shop offers a trendy and inviting atmosphere where customers can enjoy a variety of juices, coffee, and healthy food options.

For more information about Ali Abdulwahab Al-Mutawa Commercial Co. (AAW), please visit: www.aaw.com

For any business inquiries and press information, please contact: Nour Samawi – Bensirri Public Relations – 0096599981334 – nour@bensirri.com

Commercial Real Estate Company 'Al Tijaria' makes a net profit of KD 2,158,898 in Q1 of '23

KUWAIT CITY, May 15: Abdulfatah M.R. Marafie - Chairman of The Commercial Real Estate Company "Al-Tijaria" has stated that the business outcome of the company for the financial period which ended on 31.03.2023, resulted in achieving net profits of KD 2,158,898 (Kuwaiti Dinar Two Million one Hundred fifty eight thousand eight hundred ninety eight).

According to the financial results of the first quarter of 2023, Marafie stated that there was a stability in the investment properties operating revenues, growth in the Hotel operating revenues and improve in the as-

sociates & investment performance compare to same period for last year. In spite of the negative impact of increasing the cost of financing as a result of increasing CBK discount rate. While the return on average shareholders' equity amounted to % 0.74, and a return on capital %1.17, and the consolidated return on the total as-



M.R. Marafie

sets 0.49%. Marafie also emphasized that the company continues implementing and developing its strategies in accordance with the current circumstances in order to achieve the desired goals including sustainable growth and enhance shareholders rights and ensure the strength of the financial position by focusing on the growth of operating profits and increasing the company's cash flows.

Al Tijaria is following its conservative investment strategy, which emphasizes on careful oversight of the economic situations in Europe and the United States while maintaining a diversified real estate and investment

portfolio in terms of size, nature, and geographical allocations. Mr. Marafie highlighted the importance of this approach, stating, "As a company, we recognize that a prudent investment strategy is essential for long-term growth and success, with a focus on resilient and sustainable investment portfolio".

Responsibility

Mr. Marafie added that the company has held several CSR events during the first quarter of 2023 in order to enhance its vital role in the field of social responsibility and its keenness to implement the principles of cor-

porate governance. The Commercial Real Estate Company concluded its annual Esrahaqat Amal Event "Shining Hope" Festival and Exhibition for the special needs titled "Building Hope Together... Share Their Joy With Us". With this celebration a fruitful partnership resulted between private and governmental schools along with Public Benefit Associations to take part in raising the awareness and Help people with disability to integrate into the community.

The "Plant a tree in my country" campaign, took place in Boulevard Park under the slogan of "We want it green and such activities would mo-

tivate and raise the awareness of the individuals about its importance and benefits toward Kuwait.

To conclude, Mr. Marafie expressed his deepest gratitude and appreciation to all shareholders, Board of Directors and employees for their efforts, continuous support, and hard work for reaching the goals and objectives. He also emphasized that the Commercial Real Estate Co. devotes all its resources to achieving its future vision based on its potentials and capabilities in order to achieve maximum profit for shareholders.

Abdulfatah M. R. Marafie
Chairman

Erth happy to expand ties with Accor

Accor and Erth Real Estate to open three 'new' luxury hotels in Riyadh

RIYADH, May 15, (PRNewswire): Accor, a world-leading hospitality group, in partnership with Erth Real Estate Company, today announced that it will open three new hotels in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as part of a new master planned development project. The forthcoming luxury hospitality community will include a 230-key Raffles hotel, a 250-key Sofitel Serviced Residence, and a 60-villa MGallery resort, all set to open by 2027. The multifaceted community will also include office towers, residential towers, and retail space, all built around a centrally located garden area.

Erth Real Estate Company, the premium real estate developer across Saudi Arabia, is the owner and developer of the 4.2 billion Saudi Riyal mixed-use project at Al Yasmin District and has signed with Accor for hotel management within the two towers of this development. Accor will provide hotel management services and support from several brands within its world-leading brand portfolio.

Raffles Riyadh and Sofitel Extended Stay at Al Yasmin District, both located at King Fahad Road intersecting with King Salman Road and Al Olaya Street, will reside within sparkling glass, 34-storey and 42-storey towers - creating an iconic presence in the city's skyline. The towers, which will enjoy convenient 18-minute access to King Khalid International Airport by car, will have a clear view of KAFD, New Murabba, Avenues Mall, SAB Tower and Tamkeen Tower. Ample green space, including lush gardens, will also surround both buildings. MGallery Resort Riyadh, only 20 minutes away from Riyadh city center, will be developed in the Al Waseel district, where some luxury private resorts are located, and will be situated in a wadi surrounded by date farms. With 60 low-rise villas, it will be an ideal attraction for families and guests looking for a break from the busy city center and immersion into a vibrant neighborhood of Riyadh.

Speaking at the signing event, Saud Abdullah Al Rajhi, the Group Managing Director of Erth Real Estate stated: "The company's vision of becoming a preferred real estate brand in Saudi Arabia is fully aligned with leading first-class projects that meet market expectations and unleash the economic potential of the Kingdom. Therefore, Erth is pleased to expand its relationship with Accor by adding new assets to our hospitality portfolio."

"As part of Accor's ultra-luxury division, Raffles is honored to soon open a second destination in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, particularly in Riyadh," said Omer Acar, CEO Raffles & Orient Express. "As a brand that is highly selective of the destinations where we choose to develop, we are confident that vibrance and growth surrounding the city of Riyadh is the perfect location to offer our guests the true Raffles experience - one that is celebrated, authentic, and renowned for its legendary service. We look forward to welcoming new guests and those returning as family to Raffles Riyadh."

"On behalf of both the Sofitel and MGallery brands, we are delighted to contribute to a diverse community of luxury hospitality choices for business and leisure visitors, particularly those who wish to settle in and stay a little longer to enjoy the dynamic energy of the cosmopolitan city of Riyadh," said Maud Bailly, CEO Sofitel, MGallery & Emblems. "As an ambassador of French culture around the world, Sofitel will

bring the art-de-vivre that has been so successful at our two other Sofitel destinations in the Kingdom. Guests will also have the chance to discover the culture and a vibrant neighbourhood at the new MGallery, with the property providing sumptuous resort style villas and the luxury of feeling of a home away from home."

Erth's new luxury hotels in Riyadh are being imagined by some of the world's top designers. The lead architect is Foster + Partners, a global studio for sustainable architecture, urbanism, engineering, and design, founded by Norman Foster in 1967. With offices across the world, the practice works as a single entity that is both ethnically and culturally diverse. Additional consultants will provide expertise on spa, art, technology, and food & beverage.

Erth's relationship with Accor started a few years ago with a prestigious development in the region - Raffles Hotel and Residences Jeddah - which consists of two towers. In one tower, a world-class luxury hotel; in the other, a stunning set of exclusive private residences, unlike anything Jeddah has known before, set against a rich backdrop of Hejazi culture and tradition.

Since the announcement of Saudi Arabia Vision 2030, Erth and Accor have both played a key role in the development of tourism through several existing and upcoming projects in key locations across the Kingdom. Accor has been present in Saudi Arabia for more than 20 years and has contributed to the development of the Holy destination of Makkah, counting over 9,000 rooms with direct access to the Haram.

Within the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Accor currently operates 42 properties (16,000+ rooms) and has a robust development pipeline of 34 properties which will add approximately 7,000 rooms to the Group's portfolio by 2027. Properties expected to arrive in the Kingdom in 2023 include the much-anticipated Raffles Jeddah, Fairmont Ramla Serviced Residences Riyadh, Sofitel Riyadh, Movenpick Waad Al Shamal-Turaif and Novotel Makkah Thakher City Residences. Among its Saudi Arabia portfolio, Accor is leading the way with positive hospitality experiences and environmentally sound development and operational practices. The new master-planned community in Riyadh will be developed with ethical, social, and environmental engagement that will contribute to a healthier environment while delivering value to its stakeholders, including the guests of the three new luxury hotels.

Accor is a world leading hospitality group offering experiences across more than 110 countries in 5400 properties, 10 000 food & beverage venues, wellness facilities or flexible workspaces. The Group has one of the industry's most diverse hospitality ecosystems, encompassing more than 40 hotel brands from luxury to economy, as well as Lifestyle with Ennismore. Accor is committed to taking positive action in terms of business ethics & integrity, responsible tourism, sustainable development, community outreach, and diversity & inclusion. Founded in 1967, Accor SA is headquartered in France and publicly listed on Euronext Paris (ISIN code: FR0000120404) and on the OTC Market (Ticker: ACCYY) in the United States. For more information, please visit www.group.accor.com or follow us on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram and TikTok.

Growing your share of 'Kanz' is now easier with online opening

Burgan extends its digital transformation efforts

KUWAIT CITY, May 15: Burgan Bank announced that all customers can now open its signature saving and draw account, Kanz, in just less than a minute using the Burgan Bank Mobile application. This comes as part of the Bank's comprehensive digital transformation strategy, which aims to facilitate and enhance the customers' banking experience using Burgan's suite of digital products and services available on Burgan Online.

Designed as a dual saving and draw account, Kanz promises Burgan customers higher chances of winning the account's periodical draws the more that they save. The draw prizes range between KD 2,000 for monthly draws, KD 500,000 for semi-annual draws, and KD 1,500,000 for the annual draw. This innovative account is designed to enable customers to grow their financial portfolio and build a solid financial foundation for their future and their families.

Commenting on the Burgan Mobile account opening feature, Mr. Deniz Devrim Cengiz, Group Chief Digital Banking Officer at Burgan Bank, said: "Advanced technologies and smart digital solutions are no longer the next great frontier - instead, they continue to define our everyday reality and the quality of life we are able to lead. That's why we spare no effort in coming up with digital products and services that aim to enable our customers to fulfill their banking needs wherever they are and whenever convenient for them. Being able to open a Kanz account in less than a minute is but a drop in the sea of digital solutions that customers can enjoy on Burgan Online."

Complementing Mr. Deniz words, Mr. Naser Al Qaisi, Chief of Retail Banking at Burgan Bank, said: "Customers' needs are ever-changing, but some staple needs remain the same - such as the need for financial stability and security, and a saving scheme that enables customers to keep up with the growing daily demands. At Burgan Bank, we tailor our solutions and innovations to our customers' staple and changing needs, ensuring higher trust, confidence, and fulfillment."

Kanz Account is an innovative solution that empowers parents to invest in their children's financial future. By opening a Kanz Account, parents can encourage their children to save money while also giving them the opportunity to win one of the rewards. It is designed to help children develop the habit of saving from an early age and cultivate a sense of responsibility towards money. With Kanz Account, parents can rest assured that they are taking the first step towards securing their child's financial future.

In addition to the Kanz account, Burgan offers a range of accounts that aid customers in their pursuits, such as the AIRateSalary Account, Qmiles Qatar Airways Credit Cards, and many other products that customers can financially benefit from.

As a trusted financial partner, Burgan Bank remains committed to providing its customers with innovative and enabling financial solutions that help them fulfill their needs and aspirations. This comes as part of the Bank's social responsibility goal of raising its community's financial literacy and awareness through Personal Finance



Mr. Naser Mohammed Al Qaisi



Mr. Deniz Devrim Cengiz



A view of the Rafa Nadal Academy.

Official launch of 'Tamdeen Pro League' for tennis

The Rafa Nadal Academy, a first of its kind world-class tennis academy in the Middle East, announced that it will be hosting the "Tamdeen Pro League" for tennis under the patronage of Tamdeen Group, in collaboration with the Kuwait Tennis Federation and with the participation of various tennis clubs. "Tamdeen Pro League" aims to attract the best professional tennis players to showcase their skills, while instilling a competitive and exciting atmosphere for attending fans. The matches will be held at the internationally certified courts of Shaikh Jaber Al Abdullah Al Jaber Al Sabah International Tennis Complex.

The "Tamdeen Pro League" is the first of its kind tennis tournament in Kuwait and includes competitive matches for male athletes. The first match of the league will start on May 23rd and will continue for seven months with the final "Masters" match in December 2023 with a total prize pool of KD 50,000.

Mohammed Mostapha Al-Marzouq - GM of Tamdeen Sports, said,



Mohammad Moustapha Almarzouq

"We are excited to launch the "Tamdeen Pro League", an event that we envision to be one of the most prominent sports events held in Kuwait. This initiative further builds on Tamdeen's ongoing commitment to support and nurture the tennis scene in Kuwait, while simultaneously encouraging and promoting the professional aspect of the sport. This tournament serves as a platform for talented players to showcase their skills and

unearth new talents. We eagerly anticipate welcoming the finest tennis players from Kuwait to compete in this league."

The "Tamdeen Pro League" is one of several initiatives organized by the Rafa Nadal Academy for tennis in Kuwait, in collaboration with the Kuwait Tennis Federation, to launch a robust series of professional tennis competitions for all age groups in the country. These activities serve as a cornerstone for the upcoming open 2023 tournament in Kuwait.

The league is also an integral part of Tamdeen Group's broader commitment as a leading mixed-use property developer in Kuwait to support and contribute to various national development projects. With a visionary outlook, Tamdeen Group seeks to elevate the visibility and engagement in tennis competitions within the region, cultivating the growth of future Kuwaiti tennis champions. The tournament is expected to attract a large audience comprised of tennis enthusiasts, as well as sports fans from across Kuwait.

Management (PFM) tools and consultancy.

About Burgan Bank
Established in 1977, Burgan Bank is currently the third-largest bank by assets in Kuwait. From its earliest days, the Bank has significantly focused on the corporate and financial institution

sectors, in addition to diversifying its offering to cater to its growing retail and private banking customer base.

Burgan Bank has majority-owned subsidiaries, collectively known as the "Burgan Bank Group", in the MENAT region. This Group is supported by one of the largest branch networks

across the region and includes: Gulf Bank Algeria - AGB (Algeria), Tunis International Bank - TIB (Tunisia), and the fully owned Burgan Bank Turkey. Furthermore, Burgan Bank has a presence in the UAE through its corporate office, Burgan Financial Services Limited.



Photos from the event.



LuLu Exchange expands network with 33rd branch at Khiran Mall

LuLu Exchange – one of Kuwait’s most trusted names in cross-border payments and currency exchange, launched its new branch in the popular tourist destination of Al Khiran today. The new branch at Khiran Mall was inaugurated by Mr. MA Yusuf Ali, Chairman and Managing Director of LuLu Group International.

It is the company’s 33rd branch in the country, and the 279th globally

under LuLu Financial Holdings. The branch will offer remittances and foreign exchange services to the residents of the region, as well as the many tourists who frequent the region.

Speaking post the inauguration, Mr. Adeb Ahamed, MD, LuLu Financial Holdings said, “Kuwait is a key market for us at LuLu Financial Holdings, and the opening of our new branch is in line with our vision to bring our network

closer to the people of Kuwait. As a responsible financial services provider, we aspire to combine the benefits of our physical network with our digital payments app Lulu Money and create meaningful experiences for our customers. The Al Khiran region is one of the most commercially active areas in Kuwait and we are delighted to open a new branch here which will enable us to enhance our capabilities among a wider cross-section of society.”

Arabian Business magazine lists Zain Kuwait CEO for second consecutive year

Al Roudhan among region’s most inspiring women leaders

KUWAIT CITY, May 15: Zain, Kuwait’s leading digital service provider, announces that Chief Executive Officer Eaman Al Roudhan was featured among the region’s 50 most inspiring women leaders list for the second consecutive year. The listing was announced by Arabian Business, the region’s premier business magazine, to highlight Al Roudhan’s pivotal role in cementing Zain’s position as one of the most leading and innovative digital enablers in the Kuwaiti market.



Eaman Al Roudhan

Arabian Business, one of the region’s most reputable business magazines, presents this annual list to shed light on the top female leaders whom efforts contribute to the progress and growth of the most vital industries in the Middle East and North Africa markets.

Eaman Al Roudhan was featured in this list for the second consecutive year to shed light on the pivotal

role she played in putting forth and executing Zain’s comprehensive digital transformation strategy, entering the 5G era, empowering busi-

ness sectors, strategically partnering with the public sector under the New Kuwait 2035 vision, enabling SMEs, and other strategic roadmaps that cemented the company’s position as one of the Kuwaiti private sector’s biggest leaders in the past years.

Every year, Arabian Business recognizes the Middle East’s most inspiring female businesswomen who create an impact, use their influence and experience, and show ambition to make their mark in the region’s markets. The magazine selects 50 business leaders from tens of thousands of deserving individuals, including entrepreneurs, NGO directors, and top executives from across industries and sectors.

Eaman Al Roudhan was appointed CEO of Zain Kuwait in December 2015. A results-focused telecommunications executive, Al Roudhan has over 26 years of experience spent in various executive management and

leadership roles within Zain Kuwait as well as several Zain Group affiliates. Prior to her appointment as CEO, Al Roudhan was the Chief Regulatory Officer of Zain Group.

Successful

Al Roudhan’s successful career at Zain started in the Kuwait operation, where she launched the first mobile prepaid service in the country and the region, which went on to dominate the country’s mobile services customer base.

As Zain expanded across the region, Al Roudhan’s responsibilities also grew from 2003 onwards as she was an active participant in the start-up teams in several Zain operations across the Middle East, namely Bahrain, Iraq, Lebanon, and Saudi Arabia.

Al Roudhan continued to play a key role in the transformation of Zain, building operational teams

and establishing solid foundations for business units across all major telecommunications sectors including Intelligent Networks, product & service development, strategy and business planning, roaming, wholesale and carrier business, as well as regulatory affairs.

After assuming the role of CEO in December 2015, Al Roudhan led a number of vital projects that shaped a new period in Zain’s history, most notably the commercial launch of fifth generation wireless technology (5G) in June 2019, where Zain became the first operator to offer 5G technology in the GCC region via the Kuwaiti market with nationwide coverage. In addition, Al Roudhan led the signing of the smart meters project with the Ministry of Electricity and Water, which is considered one of the largest projects in Kuwait’s ICT sector and proved to be a testament to the country’s efforts to

catalyze the uptake of e-government services and digital transformation.

Throughout her years at Zain, she has also orchestrated numerous strategic alliances with international and regional operators, lead teams and developed resources across technology, commercial, strategy, wholesale, and regulatory affairs.

Eaman Al Roudhan is a member in a number of international standards and regulatory affairs bodies such as the GSMA Arab World regional interest group and the GSMA Chief Regulatory Officer Group (CROG). She holds a BSc in Electronics and Telecommunications Engineering from Kuwait University and has attended programs at Tokyo Institute of Technology (TIT) and executive programs at Harvard Business School. Al Roudhan is also currently a member of the Advisory Board at the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS).



A photo from the event.

Guide and train youth

Gulf Bank contributes to 2 workshops for students

KUWAIT CITY, May 15: As part of its various initiatives to embed the principles of sustainability in society, and as part of its strategic partnership with INJAZ Kuwait, Gulf Bank concluded two workshops for high school and university students, with the aim of supporting youth and preparing them for the future work environment.

Kuwait English School (KES) hosted an Innovation Camp workshop for beginners, with the participation of about 100 students, in an atmosphere full of enthusiasm to find innovative solutions to challenges using analysis, creativity and teamwork.



Al-Attar

The trainers, who were volunteers from Gulf Bank, guided these students to complete their assignments and encouraged them to think about achieving their career goals.

As for the second, Kuwait College of Science and Technology (KCST) hosted a workshop entitled “How do I start?”, where about 40 students participated in three different training courses. The courses were led by volunteers from Gulf Bank, covering various topics such as: Writing CV’s, the art of conducting interviews, and all they need to know about the internship period.

On this occasion, Assistant Manager of Corporate Communications, Maysoun Sabah Al-Attar, said: “The various workshops organized by INJAZ Kuwait with Gulf Bank staff volunteers, contribute to supporting and developing the skills of young people at high school and university levels. We do this to ensure the preparation of these students for the post-graduation stage of their lives, making them more confident to enter the labor market.”

Al-Attar mentioned that this is part of Gulf Bank’s continuous efforts to implement the principles of social sustainability. As such workshops give great importance to youth empowerment and help achieve the Bank’s 2025 strategy and Kuwait Vision 2035

objectives – youth are considered to be the pillar of creative human capital.

Gulf Bank’s successful partnership with INJAZ has led to a variety of successes in 2022 – where the Bank contributed to training 8,830 local high school and university students from both genders, through 14 international training programs. More than 50 volunteers from Gulf Bank also participated in the various training activities provided by INJAZ Kuwait.

Gulf Bank’s vision is to be the leading Kuwaiti Bank of the Future. The Bank is constantly engaging and empowering its employees as part of an inclusive and diversified workplace in recognition of every employee’s role in delivering customer excellence and serving the community at large. With its extensive network of branches and innovative digital services, Gulf Bank is able to give its customers the choice of how and where to conduct their banking transactions, all while ensuring a simple and seamless banking experience.

Gulf Bank is committed to maintaining robust developments in sustainability at environmental, social and governance levels through diverse sustainability initiatives, strategically selected to also benefit the Bank both internally and externally. Gulf Bank supports Kuwait Vision 2035 “New Kuwait” and works with various parties to achieve it.

Fair hosts more than 1,000 high school students

ABK participates in Kuwait University’s 9th annual University Admission Expo

KUWAIT CITY, May 15: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) recently participated in the Ninth Annual Admission Exhibition for high school graduates, held in Kuwait University’s Cultural Center in Al-Shadadiya from 2-5 May 2023, under the patronage of the Acting President of Kuwait University, Professor Fahad Al Dubais Al Rashidi. The fair was organized by Kuwait University and involved higher education institutions in the private sector.

The fair hosted more than 1,000 high school students on a daily basis from public and private education schools. Throughout the event, students were given the opportunity to understand the role and importance of choosing their educational future in line with their ambitions. Various seminars, workshops as well as field tours were conducted during the event period, allowing high school graduates to have a better understanding of the major that best suits their educational capabilities and preferences.

Segment

During the exhibition, ABK presented its A+ Student account, catered for the youth segment with a specific emphasis on students. Attendees were informed and presented with the benefits and features of the account of which includes an instant KD 50 cash gift upon transfer of student allowance; a free prepaid card, valid for 2 years, offering secure and convenient online shopping; in addition to a special array of discounts from restaurants and stores in Kuwait.

On this occasion, Johair Marafi, Acting General Manager of ABK’s Retail Banking Division, stated, “Our participation in the event is a reflection of the great importance of youth and high school graduates. Understanding how to start their higher education journey is of utmost importance where we wanted to be a support in making the



ABK participates in KU Ninth Annual University Fair

right decision. As such, we decided to use this opportunity to educate attendees on the Bank’s various products and services, particularly our A+ Student account.”

Marafi emphasized that the A+ Student account offerings make it an ideal choice for high school graduates and university students alike. She said, “The Bank prioritizes providing ongoing customer satisfaction through the provision of valuable promotions with a wide range of business partners. I therefore encourage students to open an A+ Student account to avail the exciting benefits catered to meet their lifestyle. I have no doubt that it will be a positive first step to enjoying a unique

banking journey with ABK.”

ABK aspires to continue developing offers that meet the Bank’s objectives of providing banking and financial products and services that cater to all segments of Kuwait’s society. Furthermore, the Bank takes every opportunity to promote a culture of saving, which is especially important for younger audiences.

Marafi concluded by inviting everyone to follow the Bank’s social media accounts to remain updated on the latest marketing initiatives, promotional campaigns, and offerings throughout the year.

Since its establishment in 1967, ABK has progressed to become one of the leading Kuwaiti banks in the region that

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

For more information about ABK’s products and services, please follow the Bank’s Instagram account @ abk_kuwait, visit eahli.com, contact Ahlan Ahli 1 899 899 or visit one of the Bank’s branches across Kuwait.

Kuwait Finance House announces AIRabeh draw winners

KUWAIT CITY, May 15: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) announced the winners of the AIRabeh draw with 20 customers winning cash prizes worth KD1,500 each for the 15th and 16th weeks of 2023.

The winners of KD 1,500 are: Rawan Al-Kandari, Faisal Al-Azmi, Mohammad Al-Rasheedi, Hussain Al-Sayegh, Ahmed Haridy, Hamad Al-Qattan, Humoud Al-Mohammad Naser Al-Hubaini, Suhailah Al-Fandi, Safeyah Hasan, Ahmad Al-Enezi, Saad Al-Enezi, Naser Al-Mutawaa, Abrar Al-Dosari, Tareq Al-Omairi, Ali Al-Haifi, Ali Al-Daihani, Mohammad Al-Otaibi, Ebrahim Al-Kharraz,

Nwayer Al-Rasheedi. The AIRabeh campaign provides prizes and draws that offer customers several chances of winning “weekly,



The campaign visual.

monthly and quarterly”. The campaign crowns 536 winners throughout the year.

The draw took place under the supervision of a representative from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The campaign is part of KFH’s ongoing efforts to offer exceptional products and services that meet customers’ aspirations, enhance the Bank’s leadership in the local and global markets, as well as reflect its excellence in offering innovative banking solutions as per the highest quality standards.

The AIRabeh account is a salary account available to customers wishing to transfer their salaries and manage

their personal accounts. Customers can open AIRabeh account in any of KFH branches in Kuwait, or through the Bank’s online channels. The account can be opened in the Kuwaiti Dinar and is targeted for customers wishing to transfer their salaries and manage their personal accounts. Salary transfer is a prerequisite for customers to enter the draw provided that the transfer of salary to AIRabeh account is constant.

Regarding the terms and conditions of the prizes and draws, a customer is able to deposit 3 salaries during the 3 months prior to the draw, and the minimum balance of the account should not be less than KD 50 at the end of each

month during the 3 months prior to the draw. Ten draws take place on a weekly basis for amount of K.D 1,500 for 10 winners each, 1 KG of KFH gold will be drawn monthly for one winner and K.D 25,000 for one winner every quarter, reaching a total number of 536 winners during the year.

KFH is keen to further meet customers’ requirements and aspirations and their increasing needs as well as offer innovative and modern services, therefore achieving customer satisfaction, which is one of the fundamentals at KFH. The Bank has achieved a qualitative shift in the level of financial services by utilizing technology.

The Conversation

Meditation practices build strength

Mindfulness and self-compassion can improve mental health

By Rachel Goldsmith Turow
Seattle University

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

Mindfulness and self-compassion are now buzzwords for self-improvement. But in fact, a growing body of research shows these practices can lead to real mental health benefits. This research - ongoing, voluminous and worldwide - clearly shows how and why these two practices work.

One effective way to cultivate mindfulness and self-compassion is through meditation.

For more than 20 years, as a clinical psychologist, research scientist and educator, I taught meditation to students and clinical patients and took a deep dive into the research literature. My recent book, "The Self-Talk Workout: Six Science-Backed Strategies to Dissolve Self-Criticism and Transform the Voice in Your Head," highlights much of that research.

I learned even more when I evaluated mental health programs and psychology classes that train participants in mindfulness and compassion-based techniques.

Mindfulness means purposefully paying attention to the present moment with an attitude of interest or curiosity rather than judgment.

Self-compassion involves being kind and understanding toward yourself, even during moments of suffering or failure.

Both are associated with greater well-being.

Motivation

But don't confuse self-compassion with self-esteem or self-centeredness, or assume that it somehow lowers your standards, motivation or productivity. Instead, research shows that self-compassion is linked with greater motivation, less procrastination and better relationships.

I didn't like meditation - the specific practice sessions that train mindfulness and self-compassion - the first time I tried it as a college student in the late '90s. I felt like a failure when my mind wandered, and I interpreted that as a sign that I couldn't do it.

In both my own and others' meditation practices, I've noticed that the beginning is often rocky and full of doubt, resistance and distraction.

But what seem like impediments can actually enhance meditation practice, because the mental work of handling them builds strength.

For the first six months I meditated, my body and mind were restless. I wanted to get up and do other tasks. But I didn't. Eventually it became easier to notice my urges and thoughts without acting upon them. I didn't get as upset with myself.

After about a year of consistent meditation, my mind seemed more organized and controllable; it no longer got stuck in self-critical loops. I felt a sense of kindness or friendliness toward myself in everyday moments, as well as during joyful or difficult experiences. I enjoyed ordinary activities more, such as walking or cleaning.

It took a while to understand that anytime you sit down and try to meditate, that's meditation. It is a mental process, rather than a destination.

Just having a general intention to be more mindful or self-compassionate is unlikely to work.

Most programs shown to make meaningful differences involve at least seven sessions. Studies show these repeated workouts improve attention skills and decrease rumination, or repeated negative thinking.

They also lessen self-criticism, which is linked to numerous mental health difficulties, including depression, anxiety, eating disorders, self-harm and post-traumatic stress disorder.

Meditation is not just about sustaining your attention - it's also about shifting and returning your focus after the distraction. The act of shifting and refocusing cultivates attention skills and decreases rumination.

Trying repeatedly to refrain from self-judgment during the session will train your mind to be less self-critical.

Reflects

An interconnected group of brain regions called the default mode network is strikingly affected by meditation. Much of this network's activity reflects repetitive thinking, such as a rehash of a decadeslong tension with your sister. It's most prominent when you're not doing much of anything. Activity of the default mode network is related to rumination, unhappiness and depression.

Research shows that just one month of meditation reduces the noise of the default mode network. The type of meditation practice doesn't seem to matter.

A common misconception about mindfulness is that it's simply a way to relax or clear the mind. Rather, it means intentionally paying attention to your experiences in a nonjudgmental way.

Consider meditation the formal part of your practice - that is, setting aside a time to work on specific mindfulness and self-compassion techniques.

Cultivating mindfulness with meditation often involves focusing on paying attention to the breath. A common way to start practice is to sit in a comfortable place and bring attention to your breathing, wherever you feel it most strongly.

At some point, probably after a breath or two, your mind will wander to another thought or feeling. As soon as you notice that, you can bring your attention back to the breath and try not to judge yourself for losing focus for five to 10 minutes.

When I was just getting started meditating, I would have to redirect my attention dozens or hundreds of times in a 20-to-30-minute session. Counting 10 breaths, and then another 10, and so on, helped me link my mind to the task of paying attention to my breathing.

The most well-established technique for cultivating self-compassion is called loving-kindness meditation. To practice, you can find a comfortable position, and for at least five minutes, internally repeat phrases such as, "May I be safe. May I be happy. May I be healthy. May I live with ease."

When your attention wanders, you can bring it back with as little self-judgment as possible and continue repeating the phrases. Then, if you

FDI summit to highlight sustainable dental practices for a greener future

GENEVA, May 15: FDI World Dental Federation (FDI) announced its highly anticipated virtual Summit on Sustainability in Dentistry, taking place on World Environment Day, 5 June.

Following the tremendous success of its Sustainability in Dentistry initiative over the past two years, FDI is proud to host this virtual summit as part of the project's second phase. The summit promises to deliver captivating case studies, innovative ideas, and research projects, all dedicated to reducing the environmental impact of dentistry. Attendees can also look forward to a virtual display of poster abstracts and a bursary fund designed specifically for participants from low-income countries.

"The strides we have made through this initiative are truly commendable, particularly the development of the Consensus Statement on Environmentally Sustainable Oral Healthcare," stated Prof. Ihsane Ben Yahya, FDI President. "I am excited to continue our journey towards sustainability to ensure a healthy future for our patients, our profession and our planet."

Since its launch in 2021, the project has successfully united key stakeholders, all dedicated to the shared goal of implementing sustainable solutions for a greener future and improving the environmental impact of dentistry. This includes leading figures from industry, health professionals, academic experts, legislative authorities and dental associations. This initiative has already gained significant momentum, to date 265 dental practices have shown their commitment to sustainable practices through registering for the Sustainability toolkit and 125 stakeholders from the oral healthcare supply chain have signed the Pledge for Sustainable Dentistry.

Impact

In the new project phase, supported by Dentsply Sirona, Haleon, Sunstar, Colgate, and SDI Limited, dental professionals will gain access to valuable educational tools and resources to make a positive impact on the environment and society.

"As a founding member of the Sustainability in Dentistry partnership with FDI, Dentsply Sirona leverages its knowledge and resources

like, offer the same well wishes to other people or to all beings.

Every time you return your focus to your practice without judging, you're flexing your mental awareness, because you noticed your mind wandered. You also improve your capacity to shift attention, a valuable anti-rumination skill, and your nonjudgment, an antidote to self-criticism.

These practices work. Studies show that brain activity during meditation results in less self-judgment,

Meeting to share 'innovative ideas'

Firm expands its global network

TVM Healthcare opens office in Riyadh, KSA

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia, May 15: TVM Capital Healthcare, a global specialist healthcare private equity firm operating in emerging markets, announced the opening of a new office in the capital of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The purpose of the new office is to advise the group and its portfolio companies as they grow their operational footprint in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), the largest market in the region. Establishing this local office comes after TVM Capital Healthcare successfully expanded its portfolio company Cambridge Medical and Rehabilitation Center from the UAE to KSA in the year 2019. With establishing this new presence, TVM Capital Healthcare expands its global network already spanning the US, Europe, MENA and Southeast Asia, adding local healthcare advisory and operating expertise to its international team. The local office presence shall focus on supporting portfolio companies financed by TVM Capital Healthcare's growth capital funds to complement the region's healthcare system, help fulfill demand for currently underserved healthcare verticals, and improve access to quality healthcare services locally.

Orhan Osmansoy, Managing Partner of TVM Capital Healthcare and Director of the new office commented: "Saudi Arabia today provides excellent growth opportunities for the specialist healthcare sector, which is our key expertise. We have been active in Saudi Arabia for a

long time, but our new presence in Riyadh enables us to expand and deepen our local relationships and interact even more closely with investors, regulators, our peers in the industry, and entrepreneurs in the Kingdom. Saudi Arabia is the economic powerhouse in the region, and we are looking forward to supporting the Government's Health Sector Transformation Program as outlined in the Vision 2030."

Solutions

Othman Abahusseini, Operating Partner at TVM Capital Healthcare, Director of the new office based in Riyadh, added: "The Health Sector Transformation Program aims to make the local health sector more comprehensive, effective and integrated, based on the health needs of the individual and society at large. I am looking forward to working with all stakeholders to bring top notch healthcare solutions using our global presence and network, closer to patients and their families in our country."

TVM Capital Healthcare is an emerging markets-focused healthcare private equity firm with investment teams based in Dubai and Singapore. TVM Capital Healthcare is also present in Munich, Boston, Ho Chi Minh City, and now Riyadh. The firm invests expansion and growth capital in healthcare companies with a focus on specialized and tech-enabled healthcare services, digital health solutions and platforms, as well as manufacturing companies in pharmaceuticals,

medical devices, and diagnostics. Investment and operating partners as well as a strong group of Senior Advisors have long-standing international track records in healthcare and life sciences investing, active board work, contributions to strategy development and implementation, governance and ESG, healthcare M&A, initial public offerings and deep healthcare operations experience. The firm partners with local Middle Eastern and Southeast Asian management teams to build domestic or regional sector champions and selectively backs companies from Europe or North America for expansion into the firm's target geographies.

TVM Capital Healthcare's investment and operating approach combines strong commercial value creation and returns with responsible investing and a comprehensive ESG framework to build impactful, sustainable and well-governed companies, delivering excellent healthcare services, with continued growth and job creation, in a fair and diverse workplace.

TVM Capital Healthcare is a UN PRI signatory since 2015, a longstanding member of GPCA, a member of 2X Global, a signatory of Ethical Principles in Healthcare (EPIHC) and Investors for Health (I4H), initiatives of the International Finance Corporation of the World Bank (IFC), promoting healthcare growth and ethical principles in healthcare to build transparent and resilient health systems.

to advance sustainability in the dental industry. By reducing its environmental impact and creating valuable resources for dental professionals, Dentsply Sirona is committed to a brighter future through its BEYOND sustainability strategy," explained Erania Brackett, SVP, Customer Experience & Orthodontic Aligner Solutions, and Head of Sustainability at Dentsply Sirona.

"The Consensus Statement on Environmentally Sustainable Oral Healthcare provides the clarity needed to allow us all to move forward with purpose and conviction. Haleon is proud to be part of the Sustainability Summit where we can all learn, share and make positive practical steps to change the industry for the better," reaffirmed Gareth Rudduck, Head of Conscious Consumption for

Oral Health at Haleon. "Sunstar is fully committed to ESG management to contribute to the well-being of people around the world and the earth's sustainability, so we're thrilled to join FDI's initiative and work collectively to build a greener future for dentistry," expressed Christine Truillet, Executive Officer, Global Marketing, Oral Care Category at Sunstar.

meditation and loving-kindness meditation reduce self-criticism, which leads to better mental health, including lower levels of depression, anxiety and PTSD. After an eight-week mindfulness program, participants experienced less self-judgment. These changes were linked with decreases in depression and anxiety.

One final point: Beginning meditators may find that self-criticism gets worse before it gets better. After years or decades of habitual

self-judgment, people often judge themselves harshly about losing focus during meditation. But once students get through the first few weeks of practice, the self-judgment begins to abate, both about meditation and about oneself in general.

As one of my students recently said after several weeks of mindfulness meditation: "I am more stable, more able to detach from unhelpful thoughts and can do all of this while being a little more compassionate and loving toward myself." (AP)

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Ukrainian duo defiant after Russian strike on hometown

LIVERPOOL, England, May 15, (AP) — Liverpool cleaned up from the Eurovision Song Contest on Sunday, as Sweden celebrated victory and Ukraine remained defiant after a night of Russian bombardment, including a strike on the hometown of the country's competitors.

Electronic duo Tvorchi represented Ukraine at the spectacular pancontinental pop competition on Saturday night, coming sixth of the 26 finalists with "Heart of Steel," an anthem to the country's resilience inspired by the siege of the Azovstal steelworks in Mariupol.

Air raid sirens sounded across Ukraine as the contest was underway in Liverpool, and Ukraine's military said a barrage of Russian drones and missile strikes left dozens wounded. One strike hit Ternopil, home city of Tvorchi in western Ukraine.

Ternopil was attacked again on Sunday morning, Ukraine's State Emergency Service said. Civilian buildings and cars were damaged; there was no immediate information on victims.

"Ternopil is the name of our hometown, which was bombed by Russia while we sang on the Eurovision stage about our steel hearts, indomitability and will," the duo of Andrii Hutsuliak and Jeffery Kenny posted on Instagram late Saturday.

"This is a message for all cities of Ukraine that are shelled every day. Kharkiv, Dnipro, Khmelnytskyi, Kyiv, Zaporizhzhia, Uman, Sumy, Poltava, Vinnytsia, Odesa, Mykolaiv, Chernihiv, Kherson and all others. Europe, unite against evil for the sake of peace! Glory to Ukraine!"

Russia, a longtime Eurovision participant, was kicked out last year over its invasion of Ukraine.

Swedish singer Loreen won the contest with her power ballad "Tat-

too," at a colorful, eclectic music competition clouded for a second year by the war in Europe. Britain hosted Eurovision on behalf of Ukraine, which won last year but couldn't take up its right to hold the event because of the war.

The sights and sounds of Ukraine ran through the show, starting with an opening film that showed 2022 Eurovision winners Kalush Orchestra singing and dancing in the Kyiv subway, with the tune picked up by musicians in the U.K. — including Kate, Princess of Wales, shown playing the piano.

Kalush Orchestra said Sunday that the participation of Kate, who is married to Britain's Prince William, "shows the depth of support the UK has for Ukraine and helps us highlight to the world what our country is going through."

"It also shows impressive piano skills and we would definitely like to invite her to tour with us if she would like to pursue a new career in (a) hip hop folk band?!" Kalush Orchestra said.

Spectacle

The folk-rap band kicked off Saturday's show in person, emerging onstage in the Liverpool Arena on a giant pair of outstretched hands, accompanied by massed drummers. It was one of several Ukrainian acts to perform during the almost four-hour show.

Now in its 67th year, Eurovision bills itself as the world's biggest music contest — an Olympiad of party-friendly pop. Competitors each have three minutes to meld catchy tunes and eye-popping spectacle into performances capable of winning the hearts of millions of viewers.

Loreen's anthem of intense love had been the bookies' favorite. She faced a strong challenge from Finnish singer Käärijä, a wildly energetic performer whose rap-pop party anthem "Cha Cha Cha" came second.

Loreen, 39, who previously won Eurovision in 2012, said becoming only the second person to take the crown twice left her "seriously overwhelmed." Ireland's Johnny Logan was the first double winner, in the 1980s. Sweden's victory is the country's seventh, matching Ireland's record.

The win gives Sweden the right to host next year, the 50th anniversary of Sweden's first Eurovision triumph — ABBA's 1974 victory with "Waterloo."

The contest came down to a nail-biting finish between Loreen, who won the jury vote of music professionals across Europe, and Käärijä, who was the runaway winner in voting by the viewing public.

The Finn acknowledged that he was disappointed.

"Of course, to be honest, it feels bad. What I was looking for was a win," Käärijä told Finnish media outlets in Liverpool. "You of course have to be proud of this performance. A cool performance with a Finnish song. I've got a slightly sad feeling. But life goes on. It's not that serious. You've got to move on with life."

Käärijä was the undoubted star of Eurovision, and the insistent chorus of "Cha Cha Cha" is likely to be heard on dancefloors across Europe this summer.

Mae Muller, representing host country Britain, came second-last — a far cry from 2022, when the UK's Sam Ryder finished second behind Ukraine.

Music

Variety



This image released by Universal Pictures shows Vin Diesel, (left), and Daniela Melchior in a scene from 'Fast X.' (AP)

Film

Stakes high for summer movie season

Indy, Barbie, 'Fast X' zooming to theaters

LOS ANGELES, May 15, (AP) — The stakes are always high in the summer movie season.

But even in a schedule that has heavyweights like Indiana Jones, Ariel, Ethan Hunt and Dominic Toretto vying for box office supremacy, the biggest, funniest showdown is happening on July 21. On that fateful Friday, cinephiles will be faced with a difficult choice: Christopher Nolan's "Oppenheimer" or Greta Gerwig's "Barbie"?

The "Barbieheimer" showdown is, naturally, a bit silly. First, it's entirely possible to see two new movies in one weekend. Second, while opening weekends are important, they're also not everything. In 2008, "The Dark Knight" debuted on the same weekend as "Mamma Mia!" and both went on to be major successes.

But it has inspired the kind of feverish, half-serious, half-joking discourse online that no marketing can buy, with memes, jokes, bets and Highlander references galore every time either film drops a new advertisement. There were even a few hours in April when the internet panicked that the beach-off was canceled (it wasn't). And before you go googling, the Highlander jokes are not about that film's disastrous 1986 box office run, but instead the enduring "there can only be one" line.

The summer movie season always begins before actual summer. This year it kicks off on May 5 with the release of Disney and Marvel's "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3" and runs through Labor Day. Since "Jaws," the summer season has been the most important for the moviemaking industry and typically accounts for around 40% of a year's domestic box office, according to data from Comscore. Pre-pandemic, that usually meant more than \$4 billion in ticket sales. Last year hit \$3.4 billion.

But the industry is feeling optimistic. Last summer, only 22 films released on over 2,000 screens. This year there are 42, the same as in 2019, spanning every genre. And, it seems, every studio has re-prioritized theatrical releases over direct-to-streaming.

There are movies based on comic characters ("The Flash," "Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse"), toys ("Transformers: Rise of the Beasts"), racing games ("Gran Turismo") and theme park rides ("Haunted

Mansion"); Action adventures ("Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny," "Mission: Impossible — Dead Reckoning"); Family friendly fare ("Elemental," "Harold and the Purple Crayon"); Documentaries ("Still: A Michael J. Fox Movie," "Stephen Curry: Underrated"); And a starchy Wes Anderson movie ("Asteroid City.")

And it's not just the superhero films getting wide releases and large format screens. Disney's live-action "The Little Mermaid" will have a 3D IMAX version, a laser version and a Dolby one all available when it opens in theaters on May 26.

Musicals

Director Rob Marshall was no stranger to technically ambitious movie musicals but "The Little Mermaid," starring Halle Bailey as the teenage dreamer, put him to the test trying to stage a photorealistic underwater musical.

"As complicated as it is as it was, my goal was never to let the technical part of it lead it," said Marshall, who has been at work since 2018. "I really wanted to make sure that the story and the characters led it."

Even in the throes of the pandemic, Marshall was confident that "The Little Mermaid" was too big to end up as a streaming offering.

"I'm actually glad that we waited until 2023 when officially the pandemic is over," he said. "It feels like people are returning to the theaters."

On quite the opposite spectrum, indie darling Nicole Holofcener has in her three decades of directing movies grown used to getting smaller releases for her films. So it came as a surprise when A24 told her they wanted to go wide on Memorial Day weekend for "You Hurt My Feelings."

Her latest is an insightful New York-set comedy about what happens to a relationship when Julia Louis-Dreyfus' character accidentally overhears her therapist husband (Tobias Menzies) confessing that he doesn't like her book. It debuted to raves at Sundance earlier this year.

"I think A24 felt like, 'Oh, this could cross over. This doesn't have to be an indie movie,'" Holofcener said. "But I've never had a movie release like that. I'm excited but also anxious. I hope it works out. You know,

it's safe when you release a movie in like six theaters."

A24 is also giving a wide release to another Sundance sensation, Celine Song's wistful and romantic directorial debut "Past Lives," starring Greta Lee as a woman considering the other path her life may have taken. It opens June 2.

Big budget spectacles like "Fast X," the penultimate movie in the \$6 billion franchise led by Vin Diesel, are more typical summer fare. But even well-oiled vehicles like "Fast" run into their own problems and for this film, franchise veteran Justin Lin made the surprising decision to step away from directing while filming was already underway.

French director Louis Leterrier had been talking to Universal about directing a "Fast" film for years, but he never expected his shot to come in the form of a 2 a.m. phone call.

He got the script, read it twice before meeting with producers at 6 a.m. and later that day was on a plane to London to get "Fast X" back on track during a chaotic week where they'd lost a director and a location: Montenegro. Instinct kicked in and after a week, he'd found his rhythm. And he's already signed on for the 11th.

"No 'Fast and Furious' movie is the same, but this is quite different," Leterrier said. "Because we're nearing the end we're able to take big swings with character and story. There will be some major changes. We're going to have to say goodbye to characters we love. And Jason Momoa's character is really an agent of chaos."

Closing out the summer, on Sept. 1, is Sony's "The Equalizer 3," which reunites director Antoine Fuqua with Denzel Washington and takes his character Robert McCall to Italy's Amalfi coast.

"It will be nice to see a man of color in a story that's more international," Fuqua said. "We normally see the James Bonds doing the international films. And there's something about Denzel that feels right in Italy."

Comedies are also back in a big way this summer, with films like "No Hard Feelings," "About My Father," "Strays" and "Joy Ride." Adele Lim's movie about four Asian American girlfriends on a trip to China, coming to theaters.

Continued on Page 12

Features

ARABO TIMES

TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2023

LOS ANGELES: Several new movies infiltrated theaters nationwide this weekend, from a lighthearted trip to Italy with **Jane Fonda, Candice Bergen, Diane Keaton and Mary Steenburgen** to a **Ben Affleck**-fronted detective thriller. The two top spots were once again claimed by Marvel and Mario, however.

In its second weekend, "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3" added \$60.5 million from North American theaters, according to studio estimates on Sunday. That's a slim 49% drop from its opening, which is rare for big superhero films that tend to be front-loaded and have big second weekend drops of 60% or more. As the smallest Marvel drop since the beginning of the pandemic, it also answers the "superhero fatigue" question that some floated last weekend. Including \$91.9 million from international showings, "Vol. 3" has already grossed over \$528.8 million worldwide.

Second place went to "The Super Mario Bros Movie" with \$13 million in its sixth weekend, bringing its domestic grosses just shy of \$536 million. Families with younger children have had almost no other options at the theaters since Mario entered the picture, resulting in repeat viewings and its continued dominance at the box office, where it is still playing in 3,800 locations domestically. Globally, it's at \$1.2 billion.

With **Chris Pratt** in the leading positions of chart-topping movies, as Star Lord in "Guardians" and the voice of Mario, debates have ensued about how much of the draw is star power versus brand power.

It was an especially crowded weekend for new movies, opening both wide and limited in all genres and of all qualities.

"The second weekend in May is very notable, traditionally speaking, because it bridges the gap between a big summer kickoff movie ("Guardians 3") and the next big blockbuster ("Fast X)," said **Paul Dergarabedian**, senior media analyst for Comscore. "Everyone in the business knew Guardians would dominate the weekend but it provided an opportunity for a lot of movies to get out there that hit that sweet spot between two behemoths."

"Book Club: The Next Chapter" fared the best on the charts with \$6.5 million from 3,508 locations.

The sequel, released by Focus Features on Mother's Day weekend, reunites the cast with director **Bill Holderman** and his co-writer **Erin Simms**. Audiences were heavily female (77%), Caucasian (59%) and over 45 (66%) and the hope is that there will be a Mother's Day boost and decent holdover for the \$20 million production. Older audiences



Keaton

Fonda

typically don't rush out on opening weekend. The first film opened to \$13.5 million in 2018 and went on to gross over \$104 million.

Robert Rodriguez's "Hypnotic," meanwhile, is bombing. The mystery starring Affleck as a detective whose daughter is missing cost a reported \$65 million to make. It went into the weekend

with poor reviews (32% on Rotten Tomatoes) and limited marketing from distributor Ketchup Entertainment, and earned just \$2.4 million from 2,118 locations.

Other mid-level releases failed to make a big splash, including Charlie Day's Hollywood satire "Fool's Paradise," which earned \$443,140 from 784 locations, and

the anime-inspired "Knights of the Zodiac," which made only \$535,000 from 586 theaters.

"BlackBerry," **Matt Johnson's** well-reviewed portrait about the rise and fall of the beloved smartphone starring **Glenn Howerton** and **Jay Baruchel**, got off to a bumpy start with \$473,000 from 450 theaters. (AP)

People & Places

Film

Comedies are back

'Equalizer 3' reunites Washington & Fuqua

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Seth Rogen produced "Joy Ride," which already has a 100% on Rotten Tomatoes going into its June 23 release.

"There's not a lot of people even aspiring necessarily to make a big, raucous, wild, crowd-pleasing R-rated comedy these days and it's such a joyous experience when those things work," Rogen said. "Some people would argue that big R-rated comedies don't take the swings they used to anymore. I would tell them to go see this movie."



Rogen

Rogen is also the driving engine behind a new animated Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles movie, "Mutant Mayhem" (Aug. 4) which he shepherded since the beginning as a producer, co-writer, voice actor and general Ninja Turtles enthusiast.

Years ago he wrote a kind of joke tweet about how the "teenage" part of the mutant ninja turtles was the most interesting aspect of the characters and one that had been largely ignored by the movies. But it stuck in his head and eventually inspired this film which combines action-adventure and coming of age. The animation was even inspired by the "reckless energy" of scribbling in a notebook during school.

Theaters

Rogen cast himself as Bebop, opposite John Cena's Rocksteady and called on a host of funny friends and actors to round out the cast. Ice Cube is Superfly, Ayo Edebiri is April. Paul Rudd is Mondo Gecko. Rose Byrne is Leatherhead, Hannibal Buress is Genghis Frog and Jackie Chan is Master Splinter.

"What's really cool is that we did pretty much all the recording sessions in big groups. We had some with eight people at the same time," Rogen said. "It brings so much life and energy to it."

He's also felt the gaze of the business returning to theaters.

"Hollywood seems to be embracing this idea again, that movies can do well in theaters, but actually movies only do really well on a streaming service if they already were in the theater," Rogen said. "The cultural cachet you get from being in a theater is irreplaceable."

Greta Lee cried through her first reading of Celine Song's "Past Lives," out June 2. The writer-director had written a deeply personal story about childhood friends, and possible soulmates, who reconnect in New York decades later. Nora's in a relationship but wondering "what if" in this achingly romance.

"Telling a love story from that point of view felt so radical to me," Lee said. "It read so quiet, but I was struck by how cosmic it was too. It's connective. It's universal. It's just about life and how short life is and how do we reconcile this."

Lee, a stylish chameleon with comedic chops, has always made the most of every scene she's in, whether it's cooing "Sweet Birthday Baby" hundreds of times to Natasha Lyonne in "Russian Doll," frustrating Marni as Soojin in "Girls" or telling the divas of "The Morning Show" the hard truth. But Nora would be something different.

"There is a hiding in plain sight-ness in character work, with costume or the way people talk," Lee said. "This felt so emotionally X-rated to me, so brutally exposing in a way. It was utterly terrifying."

Fans of "Cobra Kai" know Xolo Maridueña as Miguel Diaz, but the Los Angeles native is about to get a much bigger platform as the star of the new DC Comics movie "Blue Beetle" (Aug. 18). Maridueña plays Jamie Reyes, one of the highest profile Latino comic book characters.

Transition

"As a Mexican American playing a Mexican American, there's a lot of pride that comes with representing your community in a positive light," he said. "It was a little nerve wracking trying to encompass a culture in a movie. But we have like 40 Latinos who we get to show their perspectives."

It's a year of transition as he awaits the spotlight and says goodbye to "Cobra Kai," which is in its final season. But even with the higher profile, Maridueña joked that he's still going to have to clean up for his dog.

French actor Pom Klementieff has been dreaming about being in a "Mission: Impossible" movie for years. In fact, she would even write the words "Mission: Impossible" in her stunt training schedule.

"I wanted to manifest it," she said. "I'm crazy like that."

She also made the smart move of telling her agency, who put her name forward when director Christopher McQuarrie started looking for a new actor with fighting skills.

"I was ready for it," she said. "I just punched and kicked hard. I was like, 'let's go.'"

The specifics of her character are still under wraps, but from trailers and teases it's clear she gets a chance to go head-to-head with Tom Cruise's Ethan Hunt. The film hits theaters on July 12.

But first, she and her fellow "Guardians of the Galaxy" are closing a chapter with "Vol. 3," out Friday.

Her turn as Mantis may have made her famous in Marvel households, but she's also loved being able to "hide behind her antenna."

"Right now, a lot of people don't actually recognize me, which is an amazing position to be in because I get to work with great people but I also can have just a private life," she said. "But I know that could change. I have to get ready for that."



This image released by Sony Pictures shows Denzel Washington in a scene from Columbia Pictures' 'The Equalizer 3.' (AP)

Television

'A feel-good show'

Gadsby returns with a stand-up 'love letter'

NEW YORK, May 15, (AP) — Hannah Gadsby's new Netflix special illustrates a different side of the comedian that fans may not expect - a happier one.

"It's a lighter show," Gadsby tells The Associated Press of "Something Special" show. "It's more positive. It's expressing a happiness I don't think I had done in earlier Netflix specials."

The comedian kicks it off with good news - "I got married. I know! It's nice" - and then promises viewers a change of pace from previous sets: "This is going to be a feel-good show because I believe I owe you one."

Gadsby, who uses the pronoun they, is in many ways going back to the style of comedy they employed before exploding to fame with the special "Nanette" in 2018, which had deeply affecting stories of violence, homophobia, misogyny and shame.

"It's much more difficult to do comedy around a positive theme. Nobody is really that pleased watching someone be happy," they said. "It's a real risky show. I'd say this is riskier than 'Nanette.'"

The new hourlong stand-up special recorded at the Sydney Opera house in Australia explores marriage, sudden fame, parenting styles, cultural differences and life with autism.

"In every one of my shows, I'm always talking about where I am a particular moment in my life," they say in the interview. "I really want people to not know what I will do next, because therefore I am not under the pressure of delivering something."

Asked if they're a little like Adele albums, in that they preserve a moment in time, Gadsby laughs. "Yeah, I'm much better at being happier than she is. That's a little joke."

It's still a typically Gadsby set, with personal observations and sud-

den quick-thrust political critiques, culminating in a climax at the end in which they draw together many of the jokes that have been talked about.

If there is a motif this time, it is rabbits. The critters are part of two tent-pole stories, one involving an ex-girlfriend and another their wife. Paper bunnies decorate the stage.

Gadsby calls it a "love letter" to their wife, Jenney Shamash, an American producer. Their relationship deepened during the pandemic, and Shamash now lives in Australia with Gadsby and their two dogs, Douglas and Jasper.

"Part of what I like to do on stage is I want other people to love what I love. For someone on the spectrum, it can be really lonely," Gadsby says. "It's only been in recent years that I've learned how to make lasting connections through the diagnosis and confidence and things like that. So I thought that was worth sharing."

Section

In one section, Gadsby admits they were ill-prepared for fame, illustrated by a story of giving a very non-diplomatic reaction to getting a birthday gift from Jodie Foster.

Of fame onstage, Gadsby says: "Don't expect it, that's gross. But just on the off chance you find yourself famous, you'd better be prepared. Because I wasn't and I made a dog's breakfast of it."

Gadsby is one of those people who doesn't believe suffering is needed to make good art and notes they don't need to generate any more since there's plenty to mine from their past.

"If I need to suffer in order to be a world-class comic, I don't care much to be a world-class comic. That seems like too high a price," they say.

"Something Special" builds from "Douglas," where Gadsby revealed their diagnosis of high-functioning autism. The new show gives viewers

a glimpse of how Gadsby sometimes misunderstands social queues and intentions.

Asked in the interview, they say the diagnosis has been freeing, in a way. It means Gadsby doesn't worry about understanding everything, conserves more energy and offers a bit more control.

"Understanding it has helped. It has given me the confidence to understand my framing of things, which I think has made writing easier," they say. "Now I feel like I have a lot more control. I'm not scrambling to be normal anymore, whatever that means."

Fans who adore Gadsby's revolutionary take on art history - a large portion of "Nanette" called out the inexcusable behavior of art's most towering figures like Pablo Picasso - will find more of that at an exhibition they organized at the Brooklyn Museum this summer.

The show, coming as 2023 marks the 50th anniversary of the artist's death, is titled "It's Pablo-matic: Picasso According to Hannah Gadsby," it promises a new look at the Cubist's legacy "through a critical, contemporary and feminist lens" and an audio tour by Gadsby.

"I knew this year was just going to be an overload of people salivating over Picasso without really interrogating his problematic contribution to the idea of genius," Gadsby says. "This is less about Picasso and more about how we talk about very, very fallible men who we refuse to see as that once they're geniuses."

If there's something that connects both the Netflix special and the Brooklyn exhibit, it's the nature of fame. Both Gadsby and Picasso have had brushes with it but reacted so very differently.

"I think what we're really discovering, when fame and success meets a damaged soul, then they become this monster," they say. "I just don't think you have to be a monster to be an artist or to be great."

Others have slammed mainstream Japanese media for long being silent, suggesting they feared retaliation and losing access to the talent pool. (AP)

ENID, Okla: Sometimes a wrong call can really get your goat.

Police in Enid, Oklahoma at first walked slowly and cautiously through the grassy, wooded area of a farm seeking the source of faint cries in the distance.

"That's a person," one of the officers said to the other on a video that has been widely shared from a Facebook post by the police department in the city about 70 miles (113 kilometers) northwest of Oklahoma City. The distressing noise that sounded like human cries for help escalated as officers David Sneed and Neal Storey began running to help who they thought was perhaps a person trapped under farm equipment.

Instead, it was a goat.

"That's a goat? ... from a long distance it sounds it sounds like help," Sneed asked through laughter.

"The farmer said he had two male goats in the barn, and he took one out and he wasn't happy," according to police spokesperson Cass Rains.

Now the town and the police department are enjoying the tale of the rescue that wasn't.

All in all, as the department wrote: "You really can't say it was that baad of a call." (AP)



Australian comedian Hannah Gadsby poses for a portrait in Los Angeles on Dec. 10, 2018. (AP)



Fujishima



Okamoto

Variety

TOKYO: The head of a major Japanese boys-group talent agency has released a YouTube video apologizing for the sexual abuse allegedly perpetrated by her predecessor and promised to prevent a recurrence.

Allegations against Johnny Kitagawa, a powerful figure in Japanese entertainment and the founder of Johnny & Associates, have been tossed around for more than 20 years, although he was never charged with crimes. He died in 2019.

The allegations resurfaced as a hot topic of scrutiny after BBC News did a special earlier this year, focusing on several people who said they were sexually abused.

"More than anything, I apologize very deeply to the victims," said a solemn Julie Keiko Fujishima, bowing four times during a one-minute video released late Sunday.

The scandal has served as a wake-up call for Japan's lagging fight against sexual harassment. A consumer boycott has begun against Johnny's, as the company is also known, making for an extensive list, as dozens of the "tarento," or "talent," appear in various advertisements. A petition drive expressing outrage has collected thousands of signatures.

Fujishima apologized for the "disappointment and worries" fans must be feeling. In an additional written statement, she stressed she had not known of any wrongdoing, although acknowledging that was no excuse. Compliance teams and counseling have been set up, she said, while stopping short of lining up an outside third-party investigation.

According to the allegations, Kitagawa asked fledgling singers and dancers, many of them children, to stay at his luxury home. When he told one of them to go to bed early, everyone knew "it was your turn."

That kind of testimony from musician Kauan Okamoto, appearing at the Foreign Correspondents Club in Tokyo last month, raised the level of criticism against Johnny's. Okamoto was the first accuser who appeared before reporters under his real name to share his story and be photographed.

He had been part of the backup group Johnny's Jr, which also worked as a talent pool for Johnny & Associates. The company has under its wing some of Japan's top actors.

Fujishima recently met with Okamoto.

She could not say with certainty whether his allegations were accurate or not. But she sees people are alleging abuse, and such a thing "should never happen again."

"We are barely getting started, but he has given us an opportunity to change," she said.

Okamoto's reaction to his first meeting

with Fujishima, whom he called "Julie san," was overwhelmingly positive. It was like talking to a mom, he added. He understood she was genuinely sorry but had privacy and legal concerns.

Some critics said Fujishima's apology was not sufficient, the company should hold a news conference, and she should resign to take responsibility.



Kate Winslet, (right), Mia Threapleton, (centre) and Dominic Savage pose with Single Drama award for I Am Ruth, in London, Sunday, May 14. (AP)

Climate

Lessen climate change

NYC towers turning to 'carbon capture'

NEW YORK, May 15, (AP): From the outside, the residential high-rise on Manhattan's Upper West Side looks pretty much like any other luxury building: A doorman greets visitors in a spacious lobby adorned with tapestry and marble.

Yet just below in the basement is an unusual set of equipment that no other building in New York City - indeed few in the world - can claim. In an effort to drastically reduce the 30-story building's emissions, the owners have installed a maze of twisting pipes and tanks that collect carbon dioxide from the massive, gas-fired boilers in the basement before it goes to the chimney and is released into the air.

The goal is to stop that climate-warming gas from entering the atmosphere. And there's a dire need for reducing emissions from skyscrapers like these in such a vertical city. Buildings are by far the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions here, roughly two-thirds, according to the city buildings department.

New York state's buildings also emit more air pollution than any other state's.

So building owners must make dramatic cuts starting next year or face escalating fines under a new city law. About 50,000 structures - more than half the buildings in the city, are subject to Local Law 97. Other cities such as Boston and Denver followed suit with similar rules.

As a result, property managers are scrambling to change how their buildings operate. Some are installing carbon capture systems, which strip out carbon dioxide, direct it into tanks and prepare it for sale to other companies to make carbonated beverages, soap or concrete.

They see it as a way to meet emissions goals without having to relocate residents for extensive renovations. In this case, the carbon dioxide is sold to a concrete manufacturer in Brooklyn, where it's turned into a mineral and permanently embedded in concrete.

Emissions

"We think the problem is reducing emissions as quickly as possible," said **Brian Asparro**, chief operating officer of CarbonQuest, which built the system. "Time is not on our side, and this type of solution can be installed quickly, cost-effectively and without a major disruption."

Yet critics, many of them representing environmental groups, say building managers should be going much further: They argue that to achieve meaningful reductions in emissions, buildings should be significantly upgraded and switched to renewable-powered electricity instead of continuing to burn fossil fuels. They also express concerns about the safety of storing large amounts of carbon dioxide, an asphyxiant, in a densely populated community.

It's still unclear whether carbon capture technology will even be recognized by New York City as a qualifying emissions reduction; the city has yet to decide. Asparro and others are trying to persuade city officials to accept it.

In the basement of the Upper West Side apartment building, two hulking 500-horsepower boilers rumble, burning natural gas and releasing carbon dioxide. The boilers, which are expected to last another 10 or 20 years, produce roughly half the building's emissions, Asparro said.

The other half of the emissions that, in the city's view, the building is responsible for, are those generated at the power plants where the building gets its electricity. The carbon capture system, Asparro said, is trapping about 60% of the boilers' emissions. All told then, including the electricity to power the system, it's reducing the building's emissions by roughly 23%.

The carbon dioxide and other gases are diverted from the chimney and piped into a room where a few parking spaces have been repurposed to house the carbon capture system. The gases flow over a special material that separates out the carbon dioxide. Then it's compressed and cooled to minus-10 degrees Fahrenheit (minus-23 Celsius), turning it into liquid that's then stored in tanks. That process takes energy, and capturing carbon dioxide does increase the building's electricity use, but overall the system is still reducing the building's emissions.

More pipes lead to spigots outside the building, where a truck pulls up once or twice a week to load up with liquefied CO2. The truck carries it through city streets and across a bridge to Brooklyn, where it's sold to a concrete manufacturer.

Carbon capture technology has existed on an industrial scale for decades, used by oil and gas companies and some manufacturing plants to capture climate-warming carbon dioxide and either sell it, or use it to wrestle more oil from underground.

But now a handful of green tech companies and building owners are trying for the first time to deploy this technology on a much smaller scale on residential buildings. New York City's law requires buildings exceeding 25,000 square feet to reduce emissions. In Minnesota, Radisson Blu Mall of America, a hotel, has installed a system that captures carbon dioxide that's eventually used to make soap.

Building owners that can afford to pay for carbon capture equipment do receive some federal tax breaks for installing the systems. There are other incentives available to help update buildings, according to NYC Accelerator, a program that helps homeowners and property managers find ways to reduce emissions.

Energy

To reduce energy use, the apartment building also has computerized motors, fans and pumps, LED lighting and battery storage, said Josh London, senior vice president at Glenwood Management Corp., which manages the building. The company plans to install carbon capture systems in five other buildings this year.

Without action, similar high-rise buildings could face fines of nearly \$1 million annually starting in 2030, Asparro estimated.

Nearly 70% of New York City's large buildings have steam boilers that run on natural gas or oil, according to NYC Accelerator. Many have heating systems more than a half-century old, and often they're under-maintained, said Luke Surowiec, director of building decarbonization at ICF, a consulting firm which manages NYC Accelerator.

"Our buildings are very old and inefficient, and that's the reality," Surowiec said. "There are a ton of opportunities that haven't been realized."

Over in Brooklyn, the floor rattles and shakes as yellow machines churn at Glenwood Mason Supply Company Inc., a concrete maker unrelated to Glenwood Management Corp. Grey blocks rattle down a conveyor line under a din of metal gears and motors. Somehow, birds have moved in and fly between towering piles of blocks.

It's into this clamor that a truck delivers the liquefied carbon dioxide collected at the Manhattan apartment building. Then, using equipment provided by a company called CarbonCure, the liquid carbon dioxide is compressed and turned into a solid.

As concrete ingredients churn in a structure resembling a pizza oven, the carbon dioxide, now essentially dry ice, flows in like a mist. The carbon dioxide reacts with calcium ions in cement, one of the ingredients of concrete. This forms calcium carbonate, which becomes embedded in the concrete.

Once carbon dioxide is in that mineral state, it's secure and it won't be released unless it's heated to about 900 degrees Celsius (1652 degrees Fahrenheit), said Claire Nelson, a geochemist who specializes in carbon capture at Columbia Climate School.



Asparro



Brian Asparro, chief operating officer of CarbonQuest, stands in a production room where liquid carbon dioxide is converted from a byproduct of a natural gas fired water boiler to a salable industrial product, Tuesday, April 18, 2023, in New York. New York is forcing buildings to clean up, and several are experimenting with capturing carbon dioxide that is emitted, cooling it into a liquid and mixing it into concrete where it turns into a mineral. (AP)



This photo provided by Lion Guardians shows the male lion named 'Loonkiito' in Amboseli National Park, in southern Kenya on Feb. 20, 2023. One of Kenya's oldest wild lions, Loonkiito, 19, was killed by herders and the government has expressed concern as six more lions were speared at another village on Saturday, May 13, bringing to 10 the number killed the previous week alone. (AP)



Malonza



Jinaro

Discovery

'Dr Deep Sea' sets record: An underwater researcher broke a record for the longest time living underwater at ambient pressure this weekend at a Florida Keys lodge for scuba divers.

Dr Joseph Dituri's 74th day residing in Jules' Undersea Lodge, situated at the bottom of a 30-foot-deep lagoon in Key Largo, wasn't much different than his previous days there since he submerged March 1.

He ate a protein-heavy meal of eggs and salmon prepared using a microwave, exercised with resistance bands, did his daily pushups and took an hour-long nap.

The previous record of 73 days, two hours and 34 minutes was set by two Tennessee professors -- Bruce Cantrell and Jessica Fain -- at the same location in 2014.

But Dituri isn't just settling for the record and resurfacing: He plans to stay at the lodge until June 9, when he reaches 100 days and completes an underwater mission dubbed Project Neptune 100.

The mission combines medical and ocean research along with educational outreach and was organized by the Marine Resources Development Foundation, owner of the habitat.

"The record is a small bump and I really appreciate it," said Dituri, a University of South Florida educator. "I'm honored to have it, but we still have more science to do."

His research includes daily experiments in physiology to monitor how the human body responds to long-term exposure to extreme pressure.

"The idea here is to populate the world's oceans, to take care of them by living in them and really treating them well," Dituri said.

The outreach portion of Dituri's mission includes conducting online classes and broadcast interviews from his digital studio beneath the sea. During the past 74 days, he has reached over 2,500 students through online classes in marine science and more with his regular biomedical engineering courses at the University of South Florida.

While he says he loves living under the ocean, there is one thing he really misses.

"The thing that I miss the most about being on the surface is literally the sun," Dituri said. "The sun has been a major factor in my life - I usually go to the gym at five and then I come back out and watch the sunrise." (AP)

Herders kill 10 lions: One of Ken-

The Conversation

New study in mice shows how brain learns new rules

Cognitive flexibility vital for daily life

By Vikas Sohal, University of California, San Francisco and Kathleen Cho, Inserm

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

Being flexible and learning to adapt when the world changes is something you practice every day. Whether you run into a new construction site and have to reroute your commute or download a new streaming app and have to relearn how to find your favorite show, changing familiar behaviors in response to new situations is an essential skill.

To make these adaptations, your brain changes its activity patterns within a structure called the prefrontal cortex - an area of the brain critical for cognitive functions such as attention, planning and decision-making. But which specific circuits "tell" the prefrontal cortex to update its activity patterns in order to change behavior have been unknown.

We are a team of neuroscientists who study how the brain processes information and what happens when this function is impaired. In our newly published research, we discovered a special class of neurons in the prefrontal cortex that may enable flexible behavior and, when they malfunction, may lead to conditions such as schizophrenia and bipolar disorder.

Inhibitory neurons dampen the activity of other neurons in the brain. Researchers have traditionally assumed they send their electrical and chemical outputs only to nearby neurons. However, we found a particular class of inhibitory neurons in the prefrontal cortex that communicate across long distances to neurons in the opposite hemisphere of the brain.

We wondered whether these long-range inhibitory connections are involved in coordinating changes in activity patterns across the left and right prefrontal cortex. By doing so, they might provide the critical signals that help you change your behavior at the right moment.

To test the function of these long-range inhibitory connections, we observed mice performing a task that required them to learn a rule to receive a reward and then later adapt to a new rule in order to continue receiving the

reward. In this task, mice dug in bowls to find hidden food. Initially, the smell of garlic or the presence of sand within a bowl might indicate the location of the hidden food. The specific cue associated with the reward would later change, forcing the mice to learn a new rule.

We found that silencing the long-range inhibitory connections between the left and right prefrontal cortex caused the mice to get stuck, or perseverate, on one rule and prevented them from learning new ones. They were unable to change gears and learn that the old cue was now meaningless and the new cue signaled food.

We also made surprising discoveries about how these long-range inhibitory connections create behavioral flexibility.

Synchronize

Specifically, they synchronize a set of "brain waves" called gamma oscillations across the two hemispheres. Gamma oscillations are rhythmic fluctuations in brain activity that occur roughly 40 times per second. These fluctuations can be detected during many cognitive functions, such as when performing a task that requires holding information in your memory or making different movements based on what you see on a computer screen.

Though scientists have observed the presence of gamma oscillations for many decades, their function has been controversial. Many researchers think that the synchronization of these rhythmic fluctuations across different brain regions doesn't serve any useful purpose. Others have speculated that synchronization across different brain regions enhances communication between those regions.

We found a completely different potential role for gamma synchrony. When long-range inhibitory connections synchronize gamma oscillations across the left and right prefrontal cortex, they seem to also gate communication between them. When mice learn to disregard a previously established rule that no longer leads to a reward, these connections synchronize gamma oscillations and seem to stop one hemisphere from maintaining unneeded activity patterns in the other.

In other words, long-range inhibitory connections seem to stop input from one hemisphere from "getting in the way" of the other when it is trying to learn something new.

For example, the left prefrontal cortex can "remind" the right prefrontal cortex about your usual route to work. But when long-range inhibitory connections synchronize these two areas, they also seem to shut off these reminders and enable new patterns of brain activity corresponding to your new commute to take hold.

Finally, these long-range inhibitory connections also trigger long-lasting effects. Shutting off these connections just once caused mice to have trouble learning new rules several days later. Conversely, rhythmically stimulating these connections to artificially synchronize gamma oscillations can reverse these deficits and restore normal learning.

Long-range inhibitory connections play an important role in cognitive flexibility. The inability to appropriately update previously learned rules is one hallmark form of cognitive impairment in psychiatric conditions such as schizophrenia and bipolar disorder.

Research has also seen deficiencies in gamma synchronization and abnormalities in a class of prefrontal inhibitory neurons, which includes the ones we studied, in people with schizophrenia. In this context, our study suggests that treatments that target these long-range inhibitory connections may help improve cognition in people with schizophrenia by synchronizing gamma oscillations.

Many details of how these connections affect brain circuits remain unknown. For example, we do not know exactly which cells within the prefrontal cortex receive input from these long-range inhibitory connections and change their activity patterns to learn new rules. We also do not know whether there are specific molecular pathways that produce the long-lasting changes in neural activity. Answering these questions could reveal how the brain flexibly switches between maintaining and updating old information and potentially lead to new treatments for schizophrenia and other psychiatric conditions. (AP)

ya's oldest wild lions was killed by herders and the government has expressed concern as six more lions were speared at another village on Saturday, bringing to 10 the number killed last week alone.

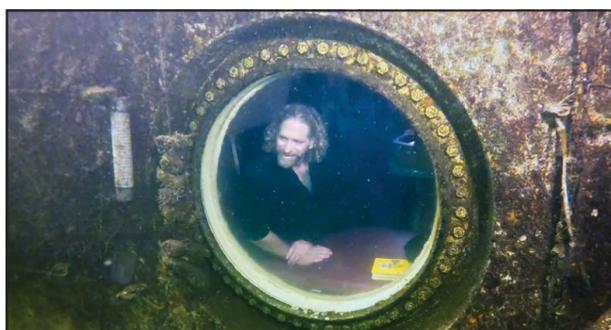
The male lion named Loonkiito was 19 years old and was described as frail

by Kenya Wildlife Service spokesperson **Paul Jinaro**, who said it wandered out of the Amboseli national park into a village in search of food.

Six other lions from the same national park were speared by herders after they killed 11 goats in Mbirikani area, Kajiado county. The deaths brought to 10 the

number of lions killed by herders last week in escalated human-wildlife conflict that has worried the government.

Tourism minister **Peninah Malonza** met locals in Mbirikani area on Sunday and urged them not to spear wandering lions and to instead reach out to the wildlife service. (AP)



In this photo provided by the Florida Keys News Bureau, diving explorer and medical researcher Dr. Joseph Dituri peers out of a large porthole, Saturday, May 13, at Jules' Undersea Lodge positioned at the bottom of a 30-foot-deep lagoon in Key Largo, Fla. On Saturday, Dituri broke a record for the longest time living underwater at ambient pressure, his 74th day of a planned 100-day mission living submerged in the Florida Keys. The previous underwater habitation record of 73 days, two hours and 34 minutes was set by two professors from Tennessee in 2014 at the same location. Dituri's underwater mission, dubbed Project Neptune 100, was organized by the Marine Resources Development Foundation and combines medical and ocean research along with educational outreach. (AP)

World's oldest dog marks bday: The world's oldest dog recently celebrated his 31st birthday, according to the Guinness Book of World Records.

Bobi, a purebred Rafeiro do Alentejo, a breed of Portuguese dog, celebrated during a party Saturday at his home in the rural Portuguese village of Conqueiros, where he lived his entire life.

More than 100 people attended the "very traditional" Portuguese party, owner Leonel Costa said.

Local meats and fish were served to up to 100 guests, with extra for Bobi, who only eats human food. A dance troupe also performed with Bobi participating in one of their routines.

Costa has owned several old-aged dogs in the past, including Bobi's mother, Gira, who lived to the age of 18. However, Costa said he never imagined any of his dogs would reach their 30s.

"We see situations like this as a normal result of the life that they have, but Bobi is one of a kind," Costa said.

One of the biggest contributing factors to Bobi's longevity is the "calm, peaceful environment" in which he lives, according to Costa. (AP)

SPORTS

Kolkata beats Chennai in IPL

Bangalore routs Rajasthan for 59

CHENNAI, India, May 15, (AP): Kolkata Knight Riders rode on half centuries from its captain Nitish Rana and Rinku Singh to beat Chennai Super Kings by six wickets in the Indian Premier League.

Royal Challengers Bangalore earlier routed Rajasthan Royals for 59, the third-lowest IPL cricket score, to secure a comprehensive 112-run victory at Jaipur.

Rana, dropped on 18, went on to score an unbeaten 57 off 44 balls and Singh (54) smashed his third half century of the season before getting run out as Kolkata strolled to 147-4 with nine balls to spare.

Chennai got squeezed for 144-6 on a slow surface with spinners Sunil Narine (2-15) and Varun Chakravarthy (2-36) doing most of the damage after captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni won the toss and chose to bat first.

The play to bring Chakravarthy in the powerplay earned Kolkata the key wicket of Ruturaj Gaikwad (17), and Ajinkya Rahane (16) also holed out at long off while going for a big hit against the spinner in the eighth over.

Devon Conway top-edged a pull against Shardul Thakur and got dismissed for 30 off 28. Shivam Dube (48 not out off 34) did the bulk of the scoring in the latter half of the

innings, but Kolkata kept the scoring rate well under-par through pace and spin.

Deepak Chahar continued his sublime form with the new ball and picked up three wickets in the powerplay as Kolkata was reduced to 33-3 in the fifth over. Jason Roy and Venkatesh Iyer both got caught at short third man while going after Chahar, and Rahmanullah Gurbaz was brilliantly caught by running Tushar Deshpande at deep point.

Rana and Singh then combined in a 99-run stand - the biggest fourth-wicket stand against Chennai in the IPL at home -- as the game swayed in Kolkata's favor. Matheesha Pathirana couldn't hold onto a catch at deep square leg that could have dismissed Rana on 18 before Singh was finally run out with only 13 required for victory.

Chennai stayed at No. 2 with 15 points and is in a strong position to make the play-offs with the top four advancing. Kolkata, seventh with 12 points, needs to beat Lucknow Super Giants in its last league match and hope other results go in its favor.

Bangalore's left-arm fast bowler Wayne Parnell (3-10) struck three times in the pow-

CRICKET

erplay while spinners Michael Bracewell (2-16) and Karn Sharma (2-19) choked Rajasthan further before its innings ended at 59 in just 10.3 overs.

Captain Faf du Plessis (55) continued his run of superb form this season by smashing his seventh half century and Glenn Maxwell made 54 off 33 balls in Bangalore's total of 171-5 after du Plessis read the slow pitch perfectly and elected to bat after winning the toss.

Anuj Rawat provided a perfect finish by hitting an unbeaten 29 off 11 balls, smashing fast bowler KM Asif for two sixes and a boundary off the final three balls.

"It was really good, we needed it (the win), in terms of the NRR," du Plessis said. "Today was really good for the team and I am sure everyone will be extremely motivated for the next two matches." The victory moved Bangalore to No. 5 in the table with 12 points and also gave its net run-rate a massive boost. Rajasthan's abject batting in a crucial league game pushed it into a tight corner with 12 points and only a game in hand.

Harper ejected, Freeland pitches Rockies past Phillies on birthday



Los Angeles Dodgers' Max Muncy hits out to San Diego Padres first baseman Jake Cronenworth during the fifth inning of a baseball game in Los Angeles. (AP)

Dodgers complete three-game sweep of Padres

DENVER, May 15, (AP): Philadelphia Phillies star Bryce Harper was ejected for charging Colorado's dugout, and Kyle Freeland dominated for six innings on his 30th birthday in the Rockies' 4-0 win Sunday.

Harper appeared to respond to Colorado reliever Jake Bird, who clapped a hand against his glove and said something in the direction of the Philadelphia dugout after the last out of the top of the seventh.

Harper was initially restrained by Rockies catcher Elias Diaz, then Phillies third base coach Dusty Wathan prevented the two-time NL MVP from entering a group of players and coaches gathered near the first-base line.

Bird was also ejected. Phillies manager Rob Thomson had been thrown out the previous inning after arguing with plate umpire Ryan Willits over a called third strike on Kyle Schwarber. Philadelphia's season-high five-game winning streak was stopped.

Colorado has won nine of 13 following an 8-20 start. Freeland (4-4) allowed four hits and struck out eight.

Aaron Nola (3-3) gave up four runs in seven innings.

Dodgers 4, Padres 0

In Los Angeles, Tony Gonsolin and four relievers combined on a three-hitter. Mookie Betts launched a two-run homer and Los Angeles blanked San Diego to complete a three-game sweep for its fifth straight victory.

Gonsolin (1-1) allowed two hits over five innings, struck out six and walked one in lowering his ERA to 1.42 in the Dodgers' third shutout of the season. Miguel Vargas had a two-run double in the sixth after Brent Honeywell replaced Ryan Weathers (1-2), who was recalled from Triple-A El Paso to make his fourth start this season.

San Diego scored just four runs in the series. The Padres have lost five in a row and seven of eight.

Rays 8, Yankees 7

In New York, Taylor Walls broke a fifth-inning tie with a grand slam off Albert Abreu, and Tampa Bay held off New York to gain a four-game split.

Aaron Judge ended the game with a 399-foot flyout that Jose Siri caught in front of the center-field wall, giving Jason Adam his fifth save. Down 3-0, the Yankees went ahead in the third on two-run homers by Oswaldo Cabrera and Anthony Rizzo off Zach Eflin (5-1).

New York center fielder Harrison Bader made a sensational catch that limited Randy Arozarena to a tying sacrifice fly against Clarke Schmidt (1-4).

Blue Jays 6, Braves 5

In Toronto, Danny Jansen hit a two-run single in the ninth inning and Toronto rallied past Atlanta to complete a three-game sweep.

With the Blue Jays trailing 5-4, Vladimir Guerrero Jr. thought he tied the game to begin the ninth, pumping his fist as he watched his deep drive to right field. But Guerrero was held to a single when the ball hit the wall.

Toronto loaded the bases with two outs before Jansen singled off Raisel Iglesias (1-1), driving in Guerrero and Matt Chapman.

Ozzie Albies hit a two-run homer, and Ronald Acuña Jr. and Kevin Pillar each added a solo shot for the Braves, who have lost nine straight to Toronto.

Nate Pearson (1-0) worked one

inning for the win.

Cardinals 9, Red Sox 1

In Boston, Nolan Arenado and Andrew Knizner each hit a two-run homer, and St. Louis routed Boston to complete a three-game sweep.

Paul DeJong added a solo shot and Arenado drove in four runs for the Cardinals, who won for the sixth time in seven games since an eight-game losing streak. Their previous two wins came on ninth-inning rallies against closer Kenley Jansen at Fenway Park.

Lars Nootbaar had three hits and scored three times for St. Louis. Miles Mikolas (2-1) pitched six innings of one-run ball.

Corey Kluber (2-5) gave up four runs and seven hits in five innings as the Red Sox lost for the fifth time in six games.

It was the first series sweep this season for St. Louis (16-25), which owns the NL's worst record. Arenado homered over the Green Monster once in each game of the series.

Pirates 4, Orioles 0

In Baltimore, Mitch Keller struck out a career-high 13 in his second straight outstanding start, and Pittsburgh blanked Baltimore to win for only the second time in 13 games.

The Pirates avoided a sweep after dropping the first two games of the series. Keller (5-1) allowed four hits in seven innings and did not walk a batter. Colin Holdeman and David Bednar pitched out of trouble to close it out.

Ji Hwan Bae had a two-run single. Kyle Gibson (4-3) gave up four runs in five innings for the Orioles.

Astros 4, White Sox 3

In Chicago, Yainer Diaz hit his first major league home run to back rookie Hunter Brown (4-1), who allowed three runs in 5 2/3 innings and tied his career high with eight strikeouts. Houston won for the fourth time in five games.

Yordan Alvarez hit a two-run double in the first, advanced on shortstop Tim Anderson's throwing error and scored on Kyle Tucker's sacrifice fly as the Astros built a 3-0 lead. Diaz homered off Lucas Gilolito (2-3) in the fourth.

Ryan Pressly pitched a 1-2-3 ninth for his seventh save.

Guardians 4, Angels 3

In Cleveland, Josh Naylor hit a three-run homer off Carlos Estevez in the eighth, his third go-ahead homer in three days in that same inning. Angels starter Patrick Sandoval (3-2) had held the Guardians to five hits in 7 2/3 innings.

James Karinchak (1-4) got one out in the eighth, retiring pinch-hitter Mike Trout on a drive to center knocked down by the wind. Emmanuel Clase gave up Shohei Ohtani's two-run single in the ninth before retiring Brandon Drury for his 14th save as the Guardians won the series.

Rangers 11, Athletics 3

In Oakland, Adolis Garcia dou-

bled against Austin Pruitt (0-1) to start an eight-run eighth inning capped by his second grand slam this season as Texas took three of four in the series.

Garcia had three hits and five RBIs. He has 10 homers and leads the majors with 42 RBIs.

Oakland dropped to a major league-worst 9-33 and is on pace finish 35-127. The game drew 7,793 to the Coliseum, the finale of a four-game series that totaled 25,547.

Texas led 3-1 on Robbie Grossman's two-run homer and Garcia's RBI single before Shea Langeliers hit a two-run homer in the seventh off Jonathan Hernandez (1-1).

Diamondbacks 2, Giants 1

In Phoenix, Lourdes Gurriel Jr. drove home Christian Walker with a double in the ninth inning, lifting Arizona over San Francisco.

The Diamondbacks won three of four in the series and improved to 23-18.

Walker started the winning rally with a walk against reliever Tyler Rogers (0-3).

Michael Conforto opened the scoring with a homer for San Francisco in the fourth. Josh Rojas had an RBI double for Arizona in the fifth.

Miguel Castro (2-1) got the win with a scoreless ninth, striking out two.

Nationals 3, Mets 2, Completion of suspended game

Mets 8, Nationals 2

In Washington, Max Scherzer pitched five steady innings in his return from neck spasms and New York finally broke loose for eight runs in the fifth to beat Washington.

Slumping outfielders Starling Marte and Mark Canha both had two hits and two RBIs during New York's biggest inning this season.

After losing 3-2 hours earlier in the completion of a game suspended Saturday because of rain, the \$355 million Mets (20-21) improved to 6-14 in their last 20.

The 38-year-old Scherzer (3-2) allowed one run and two hits against his former team, striking out six and walking two. He threw 83 pitches and lowered his ERA to 4.88. The three-time Cy Young Award winner was scratched from his scheduled start last Tuesday in Cincinnati due to neck spasms.

Jake Irvin (1-1) took his first major league loss, permitting a career-high six runs in 4 2/3 innings.

In the completion of Saturday's game, suspended in the third inning after a rain delay that lasted 3 hours, 56 minutes, Nationals center fielder Alex Call made a pair of outstanding defensive plays in the ninth to

preserve a 3-2 win.

CJ Abrams broke a 2-all tie in the seventh with a home run off Dominic Leone (0-1). Kyle Finnegan notched his eighth save.

Call also made a nice running catch for the final out of the seventh to back Hunter Harvey (2-0), who pitched 1 2/3 hitless innings.

Tigers 5, Mariners 3

In Detroit, Riley Greene had three hits, Javier Báez drove in two runs and Detroit beat Seattle to prevent a three-game sweep.

With the bases loaded in the seventh inning, Mariners reliever Matt Brash hit Nick Maton on the foot with a pitch to force in the go-ahead run. Brash then walked Andy Ibanez, making it 5-3.

Akil Baddoo knocked in the tying run for the Tigers with an RBI double in the sixth.

Jason Foley (1-1) pitched a scoreless seventh and Alex Lange struck out two in a hitless ninth for his seventh save. He whiffed Teoscar Hernandez with two on to end it.

Gabe Speier (1-1) took the loss.

Twins 16, Cubs 3

In Minneapolis, Trevor Larnach hit a three-run homer, Joey Gallo

BASEBALL

connected for the second straight game and Louie Varland pitched 6 1/3 solid innings as Minnesota routed Chicago.

Varland (1-0) earned his second career win in his ninth major league start for his hometown Twins, who won their second consecutive series. They posted season highs in runs and hits (18) for the second game in a row after Saturday's 11-1 victory against the Cubs.

Larnach, in his second game since being recalled from Triple-A to replace injured Max Kepler, hit his fourth homer of the season as part of a seven-run third.

Marcus Stroman (2-4) gave up six runs in 2 2/3 innings, his shortest outing that wasn't cut short due to injury or weather since 2018. Christopher Morel and Seiya Suzuki homered for Chicago, which has lost five of seven.

Marlins 3, Reds 1

In Miami, Bryan De La Cruz doubled twice and singled, and Miami avoided a three-game sweep against Cincinnati. Activated from the injured list before the game, Garrett Cooper had two hits and drove in a run for the Marlins, who snapped a five-game home skid.

Cooper's RBI double and De La Cruz's run-scoring single in the seventh broke a 1-all tie. Garrett Hampson doubled against Kevin Herget (1-1) to lead off the inning.

Tanner Scott (3-1) pitched a scoreless seventh and Dylan Floro closed for his second save.

Brewers 9, Royals 6

In Milwaukee, Christian Yelich homered in the first inning and scored on a bizarre play as part of Milwaukee's seven-run outburst against Kansas City in the third.

Brice Turang added a three-run shot and Mike Brosseau also homered as the NL Central leaders completed a three-game sweep.

Kansas City's Salvador Perez homered for the second straight day. Bobby Witt Jr. had a homer and a two-run double, and Hunter Dozier also went deep. The Royals have homered in 13 straight games for the longest active streak in the majors.

Jordan Lyles (0-7) allowed seven runs on four hits and three walks in 2 1/3 innings. Eric Lauer (4-4) struck out six and permitted two runs and two hits over 5 1/3 innings in his first relief appearance since 2021.



Chennai Super Kings' Ajinkya Rahane plays a shot during the Indian Premier League cricket match between Kolkata Knight Riders and Chennai Super Kings in Chennai, India. (AP)

MLB Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, May 15, (AP): Results and standings from the MLB games on Sunday.

| Team | W | L | Pct | GB | Team | W | L | Pct | GB |
|------------|----|---|------|----|---------------------|----|----|------|----|
| Cleveland | 4 | 1 | .738 | — | Texas | 11 | 9 | .550 | 3 |
| Pittsburgh | 4 | 4 | .500 | — | St. Louis | 9 | 10 | .476 | 1 |
| Tampa Bay | 8 | 5 | .615 | — | Washington | 7 | 10 | .412 | 2 |
| Detroit | 5 | 5 | .500 | — | NY Mets 1st game | 2 | 2 | .500 | — |
| Toronto | 6 | 5 | .545 | — | Miami | 3 | 3 | .500 | — |
| Houston | 4 | 6 | .400 | — | Colorado | 4 | 4 | .500 | — |
| Milwaukee | 9 | 4 | .692 | — | LA Dodgers | 4 | 4 | .500 | — |
| Minnesota | 16 | 3 | .842 | — | Arizona | 2 | 2 | .500 | — |
| | | | | | San Francisco | 0 | 0 | .000 | — |
| | | | | | Washington 2nd game | 2 | 2 | .500 | — |

| American League | | | | | National League | | | | |
|------------------|----|-----|------|--------|------------------|----|-----|------|-------|
| East Division | | | | | East Division | | | | |
| W | L | Pct | GB | Team | W | L | Pct | GB | Team |
| Tampa Bay | 31 | 11 | .738 | — | Atlanta | 25 | 15 | .625 | — |
| Baltimore | 26 | 14 | .650 | 4 | Philadelphia | 20 | 20 | .500 | 5 |
| Toronto | 24 | 16 | .600 | 6 | Miami | 20 | 21 | .488 | 5-1/2 |
| New York | 23 | 19 | .548 | 8 | New York | 20 | 21 | .488 | 5-1/2 |
| Boston | 22 | 19 | .537 | 8-1/2 | Washington | 17 | 23 | .425 | 8 |
| Central Division | | | | | Central Division | | | | |
| W | L | Pct | GB | Team | W | L | Pct | GB | Team |
| Minnesota | 23 | 18 | .561 | — | Milwaukee | 23 | 17 | .575 | — |
| Cleveland | 19 | 21 | .475 | 3-1/2 | Pittsburgh | 22 | 19 | .537 | 1-1/2 |
| Detroit | 18 | 21 | .462 | 4 | Chicago | 19 | 21 | .475 | 4 |
| Chicago | 14 | 28 | .333 | 9-1/2 | Cincinnati | 18 | 22 | .450 | 5 |
| Kansas City | 12 | 30 | .286 | 11-1/2 | St. Louis | 16 | 25 | .390 | 7-1/2 |
| West Division | | | | | West Division | | | | |
| W | L | Pct | GB | Team | W | L | Pct | GB | Team |
| Texas | 25 | 15 | .625 | — | Los Angeles | 26 | 16 | .634 | — |
| Houston | 21 | 19 | .525 | 4 | Arizona | 18 | 23 | .436 | 3 |
| Los Angeles | 21 | 20 | .512 | 4-1/2 | San Diego | 19 | 22 | .463 | 7 |
| Seattle | 20 | 20 | .500 | 5 | San Francisco | 17 | 23 | .425 | 8-1/2 |
| Oakland | 9 | 33 | .214 | 17 | Colorado | 17 | 24 | .415 | 9 |

Change Name

I, HUSAINY holder of Indian Passport No. Z2809171 having permanent address Durgapur, Rajasthan 314025 residing in Kuwait at present, hereby declare that henceforth my name will be read as under Name: HUSAINY ALI MOHAMMED And Surname: JIGAR

B'desh edge Ireland to clinch ODI series

CHELMSFORD, England, May 15, (AP): Skipper Tamim Iqbal top-scored with 69 and Mustafizur Rahman took four wickets as Bangladesh edged Ireland by five runs to secure victory in a one-day international cricket series.

Bangladesh posted 274 from 48.5 overs after being

sent in to bat. Ireland was in a good position in the chase, needing 10 runs to win from the last over bowled by Hasan Mahmud before losing two wickets within three deliveries and finishing 269-9.

Bangladesh clinched the series 2-0 after winning a high-scoring second ODI by three wickets following a washed-out opening game.

Iqbal was steady at the top of the innings for Bangladesh, sharing stands of 49 for the second wicket with Najmul Hossain Shanto (35) and 70 for the third wicket with Litton Das (35) before he was caught by Craig Young off George Dockrell's bowling.

Musfiqur Rahim (45) and Mehidy Hasan Miraz (37) took up the scoring through the middle of the innings before Ireland seamer Mark Adair picked up three late wickets to return 4-40.

□ □ □

Afghanistan has named uncapped 21-year-old fast bowler Abdul Rahman in its 15-member squad for

CRICKET

next month's three-match one-day international series in Sri Lanka.

Afghanistan has already qualified for the World Cup later this year, while Sri Lanka will go through a qualifier and hope to finish among top two and qualify for the event in India.

"It's good to have a couple of young faces for the series," Mirwais Ashraf, chairman of the Afghanistan Cricket Board, said in a statement on Monday. "The buildup for the World Cup has already begun, and we are looking for every possible opportunity to build a good combination of the team and prepare them well for the event."

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Winners display their awards on the podium.



Officials look on as some of the winners celebrate.

Al Habtoor Grand Prix Season Finale 2023 – Results

DUBAI, UAE, May 15: The last event of Al Habtoor Polo Club was held on 13th May 2023, Grand Prix Season Finale - Show Jumping Competition which welcomed 185 competitors from several equestrian clubs in the country. The riders took part in six classes with jump heights ranging from 30 cm up to 120 cm.

Competition Results

Class 1 | 30 cm – 40 cm | Clear Round

| Rider | Horse | ClubPosition | Clear Round |
|-------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| Aradhana Ramgopal | Akito de traclin | Deebaj stable | Clear Round |
| Faris Al Kaabi | Freddie Wilde | Team Be Free | Clear Round |
| Lyla Ellingford | MattyAl Habtoor | Polo Club | Clear Round |
| Kaya Chabowski | Echo | Team Be Free | Clear Round |
| Mohammad | Freesom | Saddle Equestrian | Clear Round |
| Nousha Khan | Thelma des Fleuris | Al Habtoor Polo Club | Clear Round |
| Stella Granello | Ciana To Jo Po Hoeve | DPECClear Round | Clear Round |

Class 2 | 40 cm – 50 cm

| Rider | Horse | ClubPosition | 1st |
|---------------------|----------|---------------------------|-----|
| Star Sadeghi | Stardust | The Sustainable City Club | 1st |
| Hassan Khalfawi | Iforia | Supporting Units | 2nd |
| Faris Shamdeen | Gunner | Al Habtoor Polo Club | 3rd |
| Alessandra Borghesi | Dusty | Al Habtoor Polo Club | 4th |
| Yusef Tamer | Denzel | Al Habtoor Polo Club | 5th |

Class 3 | 60 cm - 70 cm

| Rider | Horse | ClubPosition | 1st |
|-----------------------|--------------|----------------------|-----|
| Hassan Khalfawi | Nimo | Supporting Units | 1st |
| Abdalla Omran Alowais | DZAHAKARTA | Al Safinat Stables | 2nd |
| Sienna Ellingford | Figaro | Al Habtoor Polo Club | 3rd |
| Lily Burns | Ennaadd | Team Be Free | 4th |
| Sofia Goncharova | Action Guide | SERC | 5th |

Class 4 | 80 cm - 90 cm

| Rider | Horse | ClubPosition | 2nd |
|-----------------------|--------------|---------------------------|-----|
| Anna Liza Cherepanova | My Star Lite | SERC1st | 2nd |
| Hassan Khalfawi | Nimo | Supporting Unit | 3rd |
| Aren Semerciyan | Elfas | Al Habtoor Polo Club | 4th |
| Shaina Dhanwani | Zuma | Team Be Free | 4th |
| Sophay Wille | Kensington | The Sustainable City Club | 5th |

Class 5 | 100 cm - 110 cm

| Rider | Horse | ClubPosition | 1st |
|---------------|------------|---------------------------|-----|
| Mysha Khan | First Lady | Al Habtoor Polo Club | 1st |
| Sophay Wille | Kensington | The Sustainable City Club | 2nd |
| Star Sadeghi | Drastore | The Sustainable City Club | 3rd |
| Imad Gharib | Sam | Mandara Club | 4th |
| Hisham Ghrieb | Ibiza | Al Habtoor Polo Club | 5th |

Class 6 | 110 cm - 120 cm

| Rider | Horse | ClubPosition | 1st |
|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|-----|
| Farhanga Sadeghi | Gazaro VDL | The Sustainable City Club | 1st |
| Kateryna Morozova | Coriolan | Furusiya Stable | 2nd |
| Mohamed Omran Al Owais | Earl Grey Des Hayettes | Al Safinat Stables | 3rd |
| Mohamed Ahmed Al Owais | Cirse Dela Tour Vidal | Al Safinat Stables | 4th |
| Mohamed Ahmed Al Owais | Carla Tonga | Al Safinat Stables | 5th |

The next season of Show Jumping Competition will begin from October 2023.



Galaxy edge Earthquakes

CARSON, Calif., May 15, (AP): Martín Cáceres and Dejan Joveljic scored second-half goals to lead the Los Angeles Galaxy to a 2-1 victory over the San Jose Earthquakes on Sunday night.

The Galaxy (2-6-3), off to the worst start in club history with six points through their first 10 matches, grabbed the lead in the 60th minute when Cáceres scored off a corner kick by Memo Rodríguez for his second goal this season.

SOCCER

Joveljic subbed into the match in the 90th minute and scored unassisted in the first minute of stoppage time to stretch the Galaxy's lead to 2-0. It was Joveljic's second netter this season.

Ajax's game at relegated Groningen was abandoned after smoke bombs were thrown onto the field on Sunday.

Groningen was relegated last weekend after drawing 1-1 with the Go Ahead Eagles, ending a 23-year stay in the top-tier Eredivisie.

Just minutes after Sunday's game began, fans started to throw fireworks onto the pitch, leading to the referee halting the match and players being taken off the field for about 15 minutes.

The game restarted but was soon abandoned after fireworks continued to be thrown.

Day ends 5-year drought

Ko back to No. 1 in women's golf

McKINNEY, Texas, May 15, (AP): Jason Day won his first PGA Tour event in five years Sunday, closing with a 9-under 62 for a one-shot victory over Austin Eckroat and Si Woo Kim at the AT&T Byron Nelson.

Day, winless in 105 starts since the 2018 Wells Fargo, took his first lead when he broke a tie at 20 under with hometown favorite Scottie Scheffler by chipping in for birdie at the par-4 12th, the second-toughest hole of the week that played as a par 5 the past two years at the TPC Craig Ranch.

Playing on Mother's Day a little more than a year after losing his mom to cancer, Day finished 23 under while ending his victory drought the week before the PGA Championship.

With the heaviest rain coming down near the end of an off-and-on rainy final round, Day put his approach at 18 inside 3 feet. Kim made a short birdie for 63 that forced Day to make his easy tap-in before Day greeted his kids and wife, who is expecting their fifth child.

Eckroat had a 65 for his best finish on the PGA Tour. C.T. Pan finished at 21-under 263 with two eagles on the back nine in a career-low 62. Scheffler finished at 20 under with a final-round 65 after a par on 18.

GOLF

Jin Young Ko regained the No. 1 ranking in women's golf by overcoming a four-shot deficit to win the Founders Cup on the first playoff hole Sunday when defending champion Minjee Lee three-putted for bogey.

In winning for the 15th time on the LPGA Tour and the second time this year, Ko closed with a 5-under 67 in tough, windy conditions. The 27-year-old South

Korean forced the playoff making a clutch downhill birdie from roughly 15 feet on No. 18 to tie for the lead.

Ko joins Lilia Vu as the only players with multiple wins on tour this year, earning \$450,000 from the \$3 million purse.

The players went back to the par 4 No. 18 at the Upper Montclair Country Club for the playoff. Both players hit the green with their second shots with Lee being about 15 feet away and closer than Ko, who had a winding putt from right to left.

Ko snuggled her birdie attempt to tap-in range and Lee went for the win, but putted it six feet past the hole, missing the par saver to the right.

Lee, who had a two-shot lead with three to play, shot 71.

Dustin Johnson overcame a triple bogey on the 10th hole Sunday by making birdie on the 18th hole to join a playoff and another birdie on the 18th to win LIV Golf Tulsa for his first win this year.

The victory was Johnson's second since he joined LIV Golf a year ago. He also won outside Boston in a three-man playoff.

This one required some clutch shots on the closing hole at rain-soaked Cedar Ridge for Johnson to take down British Open champion Cameron Smith and Branden

Grace.

Johnson, who closed with a 3-under 67, was trailing Smith (61) and Grace (65) by one shot when he hit his drive into the left rough on the 18th, partially blocked by a tree. He hit sand wedge over the corner of the tree to about 12 feet and made the birdie.

In the playoff, all three players were roughly on the same line, with Grace putting from the fringe. Grace missed to the left, Johnson holed his putt from 15 feet and Smith missed from 12 feet to the right of the hole.

Steve Stricker closed with a 7-under 65 and tied the Regions Tradition record at 265 as he ran away with his second straight championship at the PGA Tour Champions major by six strokes over Ernie Els and Robert Karlsson.

Stricker, whose late surge had pulled him into a tie with Karlsson entering the final round, continued his domination on the par-72 Founders Course at Greystone. It's his third win at the Tradition in the last five attempts - including two runner-up finishes - and gave the 56-year-old five major wins.

Doug Tewell also shot 265 in 2001 when the Tradition was held at Desert Mountain in Arizona.

His birdie putt for the outright tournament scoring record was

only about a foot off on No. 18. Doug Tewell had set the Tradition record, going 23-under in 2001.

Stricker strengthened his lead in the Charles Schwab Cup with his second victory this year, and his 13th in 55 career starts on the 50-and-older circuit.

Els closed with a 65 but never really challenged Stricker. Karlsson, who shared the 54-hole lead with Stricker, opened with a birdie but then didn't make another until the 13th hole He shot a 71.

Simon Forsström of Sweden held off countryman Jens Dantorp with a 2-under 69 for a wire-to-wire victory at the Soudal Open on Sunday.

The 34-year-old Forsström was one stroke ahead of Belgium's Thomas Detry going into the final round. Dantorp's late charge proved the main threat. Forsström did just enough with some late birdies to finish at 17-under 267, one shot ahead of Dantorp (67).

Thorbjørn Olesen of Denmark shot 66 and finished two shots behind.

Forsström, No. 429 in the world, split time last year on the Nordic Golf League and the Challenge Tour. He came through European tour qualifying school to gain his card.

Detry, hopeful of winning his national Open, shot 73 and tied for seventh.

Linn Grant of Sweden closed with a 2-under 69 for a two-shot victory over Anne Van Dam and Celine Herbin in the Jabra Ladies Open. Grant won for the fifth time on the Ladies European Tour. She is about to come back over to the LPGA Tour now that international players no longer need proof of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Chisato Iwai closed with a 7-under 65 and then won a three-way playoff over Miyuu Yamashita (66) and Akie Iwai (69) in RKB Mitsui Matsushima Ladies on the Japan LPGA.

Jin-hee Lim shot 4-under 68 for a one-shot victory in the NH Investment & Securities Ladies Championship on the Korea LPGA.



Participant in action



Jin Young Ko, of South Korea, poses for a photo with the trophy after winning the LPGA Cognizant Founders Cup golf tournament in a playoff in Clifton, N.J. (AP)

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Barcelona players celebrate after the Spanish La Liga soccer match between Espanyol and Barcelona at the RCDE stadium in Barcelona. (AP)

Sports

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Barca win league title for 1st time since '19

'Magnificent feeling'

MADRID, May 15, (AP): Barcelona won its first Spanish league title after the departure of Lionel Messi with a 4-2 victory against Espanyol on Sunday.

Robert Lewandowski scored twice to lead the Catalan club to its first league title since 2019.

The title was secured with four rounds remaining and two years after Messi left amid the club's financial struggles.

The title celebrations were short-lived, though, as players had to rush

SOCCER

into the locker room after a large group of Espanyol fans invaded the field from behind one of the goals and started running toward the Barcelona players who were singing and celebrating in the center. Security guards quickly intervened but riot police had to stand in front of the tunnel's entrance to prevent the fans from going in.

Alejandro Balde and Jules Koundé also scored for Barcelona, which now has 27 league titles, eight fewer than Real Madrid.

The victory over city rival Espanyol gave Barcelona an insurmountable 85 points from 34 matches, 14 points more than Madrid, which won 1-0 at Getafe on Saturday.

Barcelona has led since the 13th round and holds the league's best defense with 13 goals conceded - 14 better than any other club. It also has 25



Barcelona's Ousmane Dembele fails to score during the Spanish La Liga soccer match between Espanyol and Barcelona at the RCDE stadium in Barcelona. (AP)

clean sheets.

"It's a magnificent feeling, a feeling of job well done," Barcelona coach Xavi said. "This is important to give the club's project some stability. The league title shows that things have

been done the right way and that we have to stay on this path."

Barcelona won eight league titles in 11 seasons through 2019. It finished second to Madrid in 2020, then third behind Madrid and champion Atletico

in 2021. It was second to Madrid last season.

Barcelona's first title without Messi came in the Spanish Super Cup in January.

The club was yet to win a major

trophy since president Joan Laporta took action to restructure its debt and revamp the squad with players like Lewandowski, Jules Koundé and Raphinha.

Lewandowski opened the scoring

on Sunday from close range in the 11th minute after a cross by Alejandro Balde. The 19-year-old left back added to the lead nine minutes later off a pass by Pedri, scoring his first league goal with the club.



Vegas Golden Knights' Ivan Barbashev (49) and Edmonton Oilers' Mattias Ekholm (14) battle for the puck during the third period in Game 6 of an NHL Stanley Cup second-round playoff hockey series in Edmonton, Alberta. (AP)

Marchessault scores 3

Golden Knights advance to West finals

EDMONTON, Alberta, May 15, (AP): The Vegas Golden Knights are back in familiar territory in the Western Conference final.

Jonathan Marchessault scored three goals for his second career postseason hat trick as the Golden Knights beat the Edmonton Oilers 5-2 in Game 6 of their second-round series on Sunday night to reach the semifinal round for the fourth time in the franchise's six-year history.

"We're only halfway done to our goal here," Marchessault said. "We're going to keep going until our organization, we win the ultimate goal. Tonight is just one step in the right direction."

Reilly Smith and William Karlsson also scored for the Golden Knights, and Ivan Barbashev had two assists. Adin Hill finished with 39 saves in his third career playoff start.

"I've worked very hard my whole life to get to the NHL and to be here," the 27-year-old Hill said. "It's exciting being on a team that's this good and has chance to really do it all, I'm grateful and I'm excited about it."

Vegas will next face the winner of the series between Dallas and Seattle, which heads to a Game 7 on Monday night.

The Golden Knights still have half a dozen players from the team that reached the Stanley Cup Final in their inaugural season in 2017-18.

"We have a lot of older guys on the team that have been through a lot of situations," Marchessault said. "We don't panic. It's one of our strengths and it's definitely going to help in the future."

Connor McDavid and Warren Foegele scored early in the first period for Edmonton, which led 2-1 less than three minutes into the game. Stuart Skinner gave up four goals on 17 shots through two periods, and Jack Campbell stopped all four shots he faced in the third.

The Oilers fell short of returning to the conference final for the second straight year after losing to eventual Stanley Cup champion Colorado a year ago.

"It hurts," Edmonton forward Leon Draisaitl said with a shaking voice. "It's tough to find words right now. When you start a season, you're in it to win it. We're at that stage. If you don't complete that, it feels like a failure or a wasted year almost. It hurts."

Edmonton's loss officially extended the drought for a Canadian team winning the Cup to 30 years since Montreal won in 1993.

Marchessault tied the score 2-2 at 4:26 of second period as the puck redirected off a skate in front of the crease and the right wing fired it into the opening as Skinner slid across the goalmouth to try to stop him.

"A little bit of lack of execution defensively in the second period ended up really hurting us tonight," Oilers coach Jay Woodcroft said.

Marchessault then put Vegas ahead at 7:44. After a slap shot by Alec Martinez deflected into the air off Skinner's shoulder and landed on the goal line, Marchessault tapped

ICE HOCKEY

it in.

Seconds after a Vegas power play expired late in the middle period, Marchessault completed his hat trick with a 4-on-4 goal with 1:24 remaining. His wrist shot from just above the hash marks on a cross-ice feed from Alex Pietrangolo beat Skinner far side.

Leon Draisaitl, who scored 13 goals in his first eight playoff games, and McDavid were reunited on the same line in the third period in an attempt to produce more offense. The Oilers generated several chances and McDavid rang a shot off the post.

Campbell was pulled for an extra attacker with over three minutes to play in the third, but Hill and the Golden Knights stood firm.

"What was the difference? They did a lot of good things, they shut it down," McDavid said. "The third period was clinical. We still had our looks and didn't find a way to get one past him."

Karlsson sealed the win with an empty-netter in the final minute.

The Golden Knights held Edmonton's vaunted power play to one scoreless chance in the second period. The Oilers, the NHL's highest-scoring team in the regular season, was held to 10 goals over the last four games of the series.

Boston qualifies for East finals again

Tatum sets Game 7 record with 51 points as Celtics out 76ers

BOSTON, May 15, (AP): Jayson Tatum gave Boston a long-overdue fast start and followed it up with a finish the NBA had never seen before.

After struggling in back-to-back games, Tatum erupted for 51 points - the most in a Game 7 in history - and the Celtics beat the Philadelphia 76ers 112-88 on Sunday to advance to the Eastern Conference finals for the second straight year.

One game after missing 14 of his first 15 shots only to awaken in the fourth quarter in time to save their season, Tatum scored 25 in the back-and-forth first half and 17 more in Boston's 33-10 third quarter that turned a three-point lead into a runaway.

The Celtics, who lost to the Golden State Warriors in the NBA Finals last year, will face the Miami Heat in the East finals for the second straight season. Game 1 is on Wednesday in Boston.

BASKETBALL

"I was relieved just to get another chance. Our season could have been over after Game 6," said Tatum, who broke the Game 7 record of 50 points Stephen Curry set two weeks ago. "It definitely was on my mind that I had played as bad as it could get, for 43 minutes."

"We had a saying: 'It's only up from here,'" Tatum added.

Tatum added 13 rebounds and Jaylen Brown scored 25 points for Boston, which rallied from a 3-2 deficit in the series to keep alive their hopes for an unprecedented 18th NBA championship.

"You always come into a series with the expectation of how it's supposed to go," said Celtics coach Joe Mazzulla, who is in his first year as an NBA head coach after being promoted on the eve of training camp after Ime Udoka was suspended. "That's not how the playoffs are."

Tatum was subbed out of the game with three minutes left to a standing ovation from the crowd, which soon broke out in a "Beat the Heat!" chant. Miami beat Boston in six games in the 2020 East finals and the Celtics took a seven-game matchup last season.

"It's the best time of the year," Tatum said. "As a competitor, I love the opportunity."

Newly crowned NBA MVP Joel Embiid scored 15 points on 5-for-18 shooting, and Tobias Harris scored 19 for Philadelphia. The Sixers lost in the conference semifinals for the third straight year, and the fifth time in six seasons; they have not gotten any farther since reaching the NBA Finals in 2001 despite "The Process" - tanking

their way to four top-three draft picks in a row, including Embiid.

"I thought we had the right group. I really did," said Sixers coach Doc Rivers, who was on the Boston bench when the Celtics won it all in 2008. "We played great all year and this loss absolutely diminishes what we did this year in some way. ... I think this team is headed right. I thought we took another step this season. And then tonight I think we took a step backward. But that's OK. That happens, too."

Tatum started 0 for 6 in a Game 5 loss and missed 14 of his first 15 shots overall from the floor in Game 6 before making four 3-pointers in the final 4:14 to force the decisive seventh game.

He picked up where he left off, scoring Boston's first basket and 11 points in the first quarter, 14 more in the second and outscoring the Sixers on his own, 17-10, in the third. The 33-10 edge in the third was the most lopsided quarter in a Game 7 since at least 1997.

"JT just got it going and get out of that man's way," Brown said. "He got it rolling, and there's nothing they could do to stop him."

Brown began the game with the black mask he has worn since breaking a bone in his face before the All-Star break. He took it off and soon absorbed an elbow to the face from James Harden, who was assessed a flagrant foul.

Brown continued without the mask but finished the half with cotton in his left nostril. He also played with an edge, making both foul shots and following it with a steal and layup as Boston went on a 9-0 run to erase a 35-26 deficit.

Brown also dove into the Sixers bench to save a ball, then had words with the bench after Georges Niang grabbed his leg and kept him from get-



Boston Celtics forward Jayson Tatum (0) shoots at the basket as Philadelphia 76ers forward Tobias Harris (left), and guard De'Anthony Melton, behind center, defend during the second half of Game 7 in the NBA basketball Eastern Conference semifinal playoff series in Boston. (AP)

Arsenal's EPL title hopes almost over

LONDON, May 15, (AP): Arsenal's Premier League title hopes are almost over after losing 3-0 to Brighton.

Second-half goals from Julio Enciso, Deniz Undav and Peris Estupinan consigned Mikel Arteta's once long-time league leaders to a punishing defeat at Emirates Stadium.

The loss means Manchester City, which beat Everton 3-0 earlier in the day, can be crowned champions with a win against Chelsea next Sunday.

City has 85 points - four more than Arsenal - and also has a game in hand.

SOCCER

Arsenal only has two more games to play this season and the most points it can get is 87.

City needs only one more victory from the final three games to retain its title, but won't even need that if Arsenal loses against Nottingham Forest on Saturday.

Arteta admitted pre-match it was a must-win for his team and defeat came after a promising first half.

Enciso's 51st-minute header was followed by late efforts from Undav and Estupinan.

ting back on the court. Both players were given technical fouls.

Williams followed the commotion with a layup that tied the score 35-35. "Nothing like a shot to the face to wake you right up," Brown said.

Rivers is 6-10 in seventh games. The 10 defeats are five more than any other NBA coach and three more than the NHL's Mike Babcock and Bruce Boudreau. His teams are 6-16 in their last 22 chances to close out an opponent in a playoff series.

Asked if he expected to be back next year, Rivers said: "Yeah. I think I got two years left. No one is safe in our business and I get that."

Harden also could be gone if the Sixers opt for an overhaul. He has the opportunity to become a free agent this offseason.

"We've got an unfinished job. We haven't won anything and I think we've got the chance to win," Embiid said. "We've got what it takes to win."