



U.S. SHOWS OFF BUNKER BUSTER AS N-TENSION RISES Iran digs deep to beat buster's reach

Opinion

O Arab world judges read this and ponder

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

WHEN a judicial ruling is issued in the spirit of the law, and not just by dry text, then it becomes an added value and an advantage for the rest of the judges in a manner that establishes justice.

When the ruler is aware of the conditions of the people, he works as per what the reality requires, and not based on the confusions of some advisors.

The occasion for this introduction is an incident that happened years ago in one of the American counties.

An old man was brought before a judge on charges of stealing a loaf of bread. He confessed in court to what he had done, but he justified it by saying, "I was starving, and I almost died."

The judge replied, "You know that you are a thief, and I will sentence you to pay a fine of ten dollars. I know that you do not have it because you stole a loaf of bread, so I will pay it for you."

The entire court room went silent as those witnessing the court's session saw the judge taking out ten dollars from his pocket and ordering it to be deposited in the state treasury to cover the fine of the old man.

The judge then stood up and ordered everyone in the room to pay ten dollars, accusing them of being in a town where a poor person has to steal a loaf of bread to sustain his hunger. The room contributed a total of 480 dollars which the judge awarded to the old man.

In history, there have been a significant number of cases that were handled by the judges in this manner.

For instance, the American judge Frank Caprio is known for seeking to apply the law in a humane manner, and avoiding as much as possible to impose fines and issue rulings that can cause suffering to the convicts.

He once said, if he suspected the presence of compelling circumstances in the accused or that his life was threatened, he accepts the validity of his interpretation because it cannot represent the rule of law, and judge a person for what he does not deserve.

Prior to the organization of the judiciary in the days of Harun Al-Rashid (the fifth caliph of the Abbasid Dynasty), the sheikh of the tribe was in charge of the judiciary among the Arabs. He replied on the custom and traditions prevailing among the tribes that did not know legislative authority, and on the meeting of the Arab tribes under the banner of Islam.

The Quran made the Messenger, Mohammad (PBUH) the first judge in Islam, and then authorized some of the Companions to judge, and deputized some of them in the country, but without naming them as judges.

At that time, the circumstances of the people and the country were taken into account. With the modern state and the enactment of legislation, the text became the standard of the behavior of the judiciary. Because the judge rules according to the law before him, some unfairness was found in the rulings in various Arab provinces because the judge is restricted by the text.

There are many civil cases related to the debtors who resorted to borrowing only because they fell into the clutches of need either for the medical treatment of his wife or children, or for completing the education of their children or for building a house.

Given that the law is rigid and does not think about the spirit of humanity, this is why the judiciary found some solutions through practice, including refraining from pronouncing the sentence and using the judge's spirit of law; but in most cases, it is governed by the text.

Continued on Page 5

Email: ahmed@aljarallah.com

Follow me on:



ahmedaljarallah@gmail.com

NewsWatch

KUWAIT CITY: The Kuwait Airways Corporation (KAC) has assured its customers that the partial strike planned by its employees on Monday from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. local time will not affect the passengers' movement or the airport operation.

In a statement on Sunday, the national carrier affirmed that it is coordinating with the Ministry of Interior and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation to achieve this goal.

The KAC urged its customers to abide by their flight schedules and follow up the messages sent to them on any change. (KUNA)

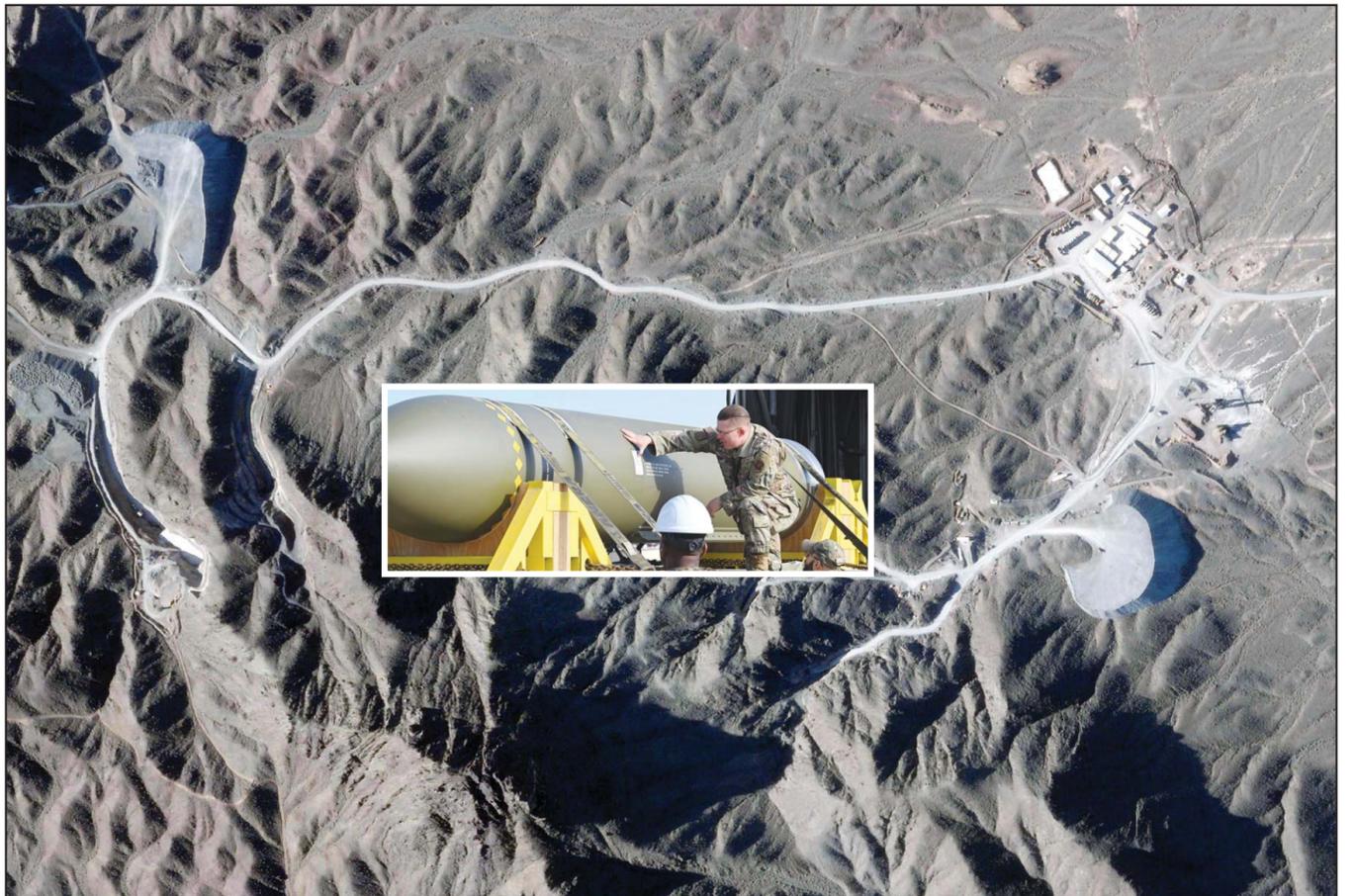
DUBAI: A house fire in Abu Dhabi killed six people and injured seven on Monday, according to the civil defense authority in the United Arab Emirates.

An investigation is underway to find out the cause of the fire which erupted in the city's Al Moazaz area.

The UAE has been grappling with a series of recent fires, exacerbated by flammable cladding materials and escalating temperatures, which can soar up to 45 degrees Celsius (113 degrees Fahrenheit) during the summer. (AP)

CAIRO: Egypt and Oman underlined Sunday the need for intensifying diplomatic efforts to resolve regional crises in a way that preserves Arab countries' and peoples' higher interests, national resources and gains.

This came during the talks held between Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi and Sultan Haitham bin Tareq of Oman in Cairo today. (KUNA)



This satellite photo from Planet Labs PBC shows construction on a new underground facility at Iran's Natanz nuclear site near Natanz, Iran, on April 14, 2023. A new underground facility at the Natanz enrichment site may put centrifuges beyond the range of a massive so-called 'bunker buster' bomb earlier developed by the U.S. military, according to experts and satellite photos analyzed by The Associated Press. Inset: In this photo released by the U.S. Air Force on May 2, 2023, airmen look at a GBU-57, or the Massive Ordnance Penetrator bomb, at Whiteman Air Base in Missouri. That U.S. bomb, designed to destroy underground sites at the height of concerns a decade ago over Iran's nuclear program, has briefly reappeared amid new tensions with the Islamic Republic. (AP)

Uranium close to weapons-grade levels

DUBAI, May 22, (Agencies): Near a peak of the Zagros Mountains in central Iran, workers are building a nuclear facility so deep in the earth that it is likely beyond the range of a last-ditch U.S. weapon designed to destroy such sites, according to experts and satellite imagery analyzed by The Associated Press.

The photos and videos from Planet Labs PBC show Iran has been digging tunnels in the mountain near the Natanz nuclear site, which has come under repeated sabotage attacks amid Tehran's standoff with the West over its atomic program.

With Iran now producing uranium close to weapons-grade levels after the collapse of its nuclear deal with world powers, the installation complicates the West's efforts to halt Tehran from potentially developing an atomic bomb as diplomacy over its nuclear program remains stalled.

Completion of such a facility "would be a nightmare scenario that risks igniting a new escalatory spiral," warned Kelsey Davenport, the director of nonproliferation policy at the Washington-based Arms Control Association. "Given how close Iran is to a bomb, it has very little room to ratchet up its program without tripping U.S. and Israeli red lines. So at this point, any further escalation increases the risk of conflict."

The construction at the Natanz site comes five years after then-President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew America from the nuclear accord. Trump argued the deal did not address Tehran's ballistic missile program, nor its support of militias across the wider Middle East.

But what it did do was strictly limit Iran's enrichment of uranium to 3.67% purity, powerful enough only to power civilian power stations, and keep its stockpile to just some 300 kilograms (660 pounds).

Since the demise of the nuclear accord, Iran has said it is enriching uranium up to 60%, though inspectors recently discovered the country had produced uranium particles that were 83.7% pure. That is just a short step from reaching the 90% threshold of weapons-grade uranium.

As of February, international inspectors estimated Iran's stockpile was over 10 times what it was under the Obama-era deal, with enough enriched uranium to allow Tehran to make "several" nuclear bombs, according to the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

President Joe Biden and Israel's prime minister have said they won't allow Iran to build a nuclear weapon. "We believe diplomacy is the best way to achieve that goal, but the president has also been clear that we have not removed any option from the table," the White House said in a statement to the AP.

The Islamic Republic denies it is seeking nuclear weapons, though officials in Tehran now openly discuss their ability to pursue one.

Iran's mission to the United Nations, in response to questions from the AP regarding the construction, said that "Iran's peaceful nuclear activities are transparent and under the International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards." However, Iran has been limiting access for international inspectors for years.

Iran says the new construction will replace an above-ground centrifuge manufacturing center at Natanz struck by an explosion and fire in July 2020. Tehran blamed the incident on Israel, long suspected of running sabotage campaigns against its program.

Tehran has not acknowledged any other plans for the facility, though it would have to introduce the site to the IAEA if they planned to declassify uranium into it. The Vienna-based IAEA did not respond to questions about the new underground facility.

The new project is being constructed next to Natanz, about 225 kilometers (140 miles) south of Tehran. Natanz has been a point of international concern since its existence became known two decades ago.

Protected by anti-aircraft batteries, fencing and Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, the facility sprawls across 2.7 square kilometers (1 square mile) in the country's arid Central Plateau.

Continued on Page 5

Bid for Baitak shares

Prosecution bails 9 on primary charges

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh
Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, May 22: The Public Prosecution has released nine individuals accused of participating in the primary election of Bani Ghanim Tribe in the Fourth Constituency, including National Assembly election candidate Badri Al-Majedi.

These individuals were allowed to post bail of KD1,000 each and their lawyer said he will submit documents to the court to prove their innocence.

Bani Ghanim Tribe had earlier nominated Al-Majedi as their candidate in the legislative election on June 6, 2023.

Meanwhile, former MP and Second Constituency candidate Khalil Al-Saleh has affirmed that he supports the demands of Kuwait Airways employees who organized a partial strike on Monday.

The employees held a partial strike for two hours to demand for salary increment and immediate payment of the Corona frontliners' incentive.

During the strike, the senior pilots warned that there will be total suspension of Kuwait Airways flights next week in case their demands are not met.

Al-Saleh urged the concerned minister to respond to the fair and legal demands of the employees, stressing that he will follow up the issue. He underscored the need to quickly address the issue, so it does not turn into a crisis. He pointed out that supporting the national carrier entails supporting the workers at Kuwait Airways and its subsidiaries.

Also:

KUWAIT CITY: The Kuwait Public Prosecution has recently requested the sale of 6.187 million shares of the former head of the Public Institution for Social Security (PIFSS), the late **Fahd Al-Raja'an** estimated at 44.67 million dinars, in Baitak, a prominent investment company, reports Al-Rai daily.

This move comes as part of ongoing efforts to address financial irregularities and recover funds related to the company's operations.

The request has been made to the Kuwait Stock Exchange, with the aim of liquidating the shares owned by Al-Raja'an to restore the financial interests of stakeholders.

The Public Prosecution is, reportedly, taking decisive action to rectify the situation and ensure the appropriate utilization of assets.

The decision to sell the shares aligns with the government's commitment to combating corruption and safeguarding the integrity of the financial market and by holding accountable those involved in financial improprieties, the Public Prosecution shows its dedication to upholding transparency and protecting rights of investors.

The move is expected to have a significant impact on the market, as it signals a clear message that fraudulent activities will not be tolerated.

It also reinforces the commitment of concerned authorities to maintaining a fair and secure investment environment, which is crucial for attracting both local and international investors.

GBU-57 deployed

Two bombs at Stealth base

DUBAI, May 22, (AP) "As tensions with Iran have escalated over its nuclear program, the U.S. military this month posted pictures of a powerful bomb designed to penetrate deep into the earth and destroy underground facilities that could be used to enrich uranium.

The U.S. Air Force on May 2 released rare images of the weapon, the GBU-57, known as the "Massive Ordnance Penetrator." Then it took the photos down - apparently because the photographs revealed sensitive details about the weapon's composition and punch.

The publication of the photographs comes as The Associated Press reported that Iran is making steady progress in constructing a nuclear facility that is likely beyond the range of the GBU-57, which is considered the U.S. military last-ditch weapon to take out underground bunkers.

The U.S. developed the Massive Ordnance Penetrator in the 2000s as concerns grew over Iran hardening its nuclear sites by building them underground.

The Air Force posted images of the bombs on the Facebook page for Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri. The base is home to the fleet of B-2 stealth bombers, the only aircraft that can deploy the bomb.

In a caption, the base said it had received two Massive Ordnance Penetrator bombs so a munitions squadron there could "test their performance."

It is not the first time the Air Force has published photos and videos of the bomb that coincided with rising acrimony with Tehran over its nuclear program. In 2019, the U.S. military released a video of a B-2 bomber dropping two of the bombs. The Air Force did not respond to requests for comment on why it posted - and removed - the most recent set of photos.

The latest photos revealed stenciling on the bombs that listed their weight as 12,300 kilograms (27,125 pounds). It also described the bomb as carrying a mix of AFX-757 - a standard explosive - and PBXN-114, a relatively new explosive compound, said Rahul Udoshi, a senior weapons analyst at Janes, an open-source intelligence firm.

The weight of the bomb, judging from the stenciling, shows the majority of it comes from its thick steel frame, which allows it to chew through concrete and soil before exploding. However, it remains unclear what the exact effectiveness of the weapon would be.

The Warzone, an Internet news site, first reported on the publication of the photographs. The AP contacted Whiteman Air Force Base and the Air Force's Global Strike Command with questions about the images. Within a day, the Facebook post vanished.

Udoshi said the Air Force likely took them down because they revealed too much data about the bombs. "Immediate removal from the internet without comment (or) justification means there is a potential lapse," Udoshi said.

The AP reported on Monday that satellite imagery from Planet Labs PBC reveals Tehran has been digging tunnels in the mountain near the Natanz nuclear site in central Iran. Excavation mounds at the site suggest the facility could be between 80 meters (260 feet) and 100 meters (328 feet) under the ground, according to the experts and AP's analysis.

Experts say the size of the construction project indicates Iran likely would be able to use the underground facility to enrich uranium as well - not just to build centrifuges. Those tube-shaped centrifuges, arranged in large cascades of dozens of machines, rapidly spin uranium gas to enrich it. Additional machines would allow Iran to quickly enrich uranium under the mountain's protection.

That could be a problem for the GBU-57: In previously describing the bomb's capabilities, the Air Force has said it could tear through 60 meters (200 feet) of ground and cement before detonating.

U.S. officials have discussed using two such bombs in succession to ensure a site is destroyed. But even then, the new depth of the Natanz tunnels likely presents a serious challenge.



OPINION OTHER VOICES

Literature a metaphor for immense fortitude

Meaning in Iraq's litany of death

By Renee Ragin Randall
University of Michigan

It's been just over 20 years since the United States invaded Iraq. Some Americans have largely forgotten about the invasion, despite the fact the Sept. 11 attacks that precipitated it still loom large in U.S. national memory. Even during the heart of the war in 2006, most young Americans could not find Iraq on a map.

Many Iraqis, though, have a more nuanced, deeper understanding of the country's recent history: An understanding which can be seen in their literature - and particularly in the contemporary, post-invasion literature that scholars like me study.

For the past two decades, Iraqi literature in particular has undertaken a deep excavation of its recent past, going far beyond the confines of the U.S. invasion.

Iraqi literature sometimes reflects on the dictatorship of Saddam Hussein, the Iran-Iraq war in the 1980s, and the experience of immigration to Western countries - in addition to 9/11 and the United States' 2003 invasion of Iraq following false claims of Saddam's possessing weapons of mass destruction.

In other words, while many in the U.S. have focused on Iraq through the lens of the 2003 invasion, these events are not the heart of contemporary Iraqi literature.

The short stories of Hassan Blasim and Dina Jubaili, two modern Iraqi

storytellers who have both found critical acclaim in Western media, offer a way to understand some of the literary narratives of recent Iraqi history.

Blasim, a filmmaker and writer born in Baghdad in 1973, currently lives in Finland. Jubaili, born in 1977 in Basra near the borders with Kuwait and Iran, has remained in Basra.

Their stories present the U.S. invasion and its consequences as part of a longer history of foreign occupations and internal political violence in Iraq.

This history of violence, their fiction suggests, has roots in the mid-20th century. During that time, newly independent Iraq's successive governments, and their foreign backers, attempted to chart a path forward for the country.

Blasim and Jubaili show that it is the intervening decades, as opposed to just the U.S. invasion in 2003, that have come to define modern Iraq.

In fact, several of their short stories are written about Iraq's previous wars and the dictatorship of Saddam, with no reference to the U.S. invasion. When their stories do reference the invasion, it is often as one of a litany of violent events.

Somewhat improbably, many of their stories creatively retell a broad swath of Iraqi history in just a few short pages - an undertaking that might make a historian or political scientist break out in hives.

How could one possibly reduce such complexity to a few pages?

To quote Jubaili: "There is no need to write a story with a lot of words

when the idea behind it can only sustain a few lines."

Jubaili's themes - entailing the disorientation caused by cyclical wars - seem to be summed up in a single line in one of his stories, "The Frog."

In this story, an enterprising man realizes he will turn a large profit selling frogs that he catches in Basra's Shatt al-Arab river to East Asian oil refinery workers. One day, he catches a "giant frogman" who has been living in the river since the Iran-Iraq war in the 1980s. Disoriented, the frogman panics, asking the frog catcher: "Is the war over?"

Which war, indeed? By virtue of its geographic position, Basra was at the epicenter of the eight-year war between Iraq and Iran in the 1980s.

But Iraq also experienced political revolutions in 1991, during which armed Kurdish and Shiite minorities attempted to depose Saddam. Iraq also invaded Kuwait in 1990 because of territorial ambitions. This led the United Nations to issue crippling economic sanctions for the next 13 years.

Like the frogman, the lives of Jubaili's characters are marked by many of these events.

Where Jubaili's stories are often absurd and vaguely humorous, Blasim's prize-winning short stories are hard to read. His prose unflinchingly describes all manners of violence and human suffering.

In the 2014 short story "The Hole," a man fleeing masked gunmen in Baghdad trips and falls into a deep pit. Quickly, he realizes that he is not the only person trapped there. There is another man: someone who

Continued on Page 3



Nawal Sweidan holds a photo of her missing son in Mahmoudiya, south of Baghdad, Iraq, Tuesday, March 28, 2023. Their sons were both kidnapped by extremist groups in 2014. Though active conflict in Iraq has largely subsided, many are still waiting to learn the fate of missing loved ones who disappeared during the US invasion, the subsequent civil war, or during the war against the Islamic State. (AP)

Families feel forgotten

Thousands missing from Iraq turmoil

Nawal Sweidan quietly folded her son's clothes and straightened the bedsheets in his room as she always used to do when he was out at work or at university. She still does it regularly, even though he hasn't been home for almost 10 years since he was taken away by militiamen.

Her son Safaa vanished in late July 2014. At around 1:30 a.m., just days before the holy month of Ramadan was to end and holiday celebrations were to begin, a group of men showed up at the family's doorstep and asked for Safaa, a law student and postal carrier in his early 20s.

"They told us they just wanted to question him and will return him soon," Sweidan said.

Twenty years after the 2003 U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, much of the conflict and sectarian bloodletting it unleashed has subsided. But those years left a legacy of thousands of people - or perhaps tens of thousands, like Safaa - who went missing, and their families feel forgotten as they seek answers about their loved ones' fates. As it tries to turn the page on Iraq's troubled past, the government has not established a commission to look into the missing - in part, rights workers say, because politicians are intertwined with armed groups involved in kidnappings and killings.

Sweidan's hometown, Mahmoudiya, was repeatedly an epicenter of sectarian violence over the past two decades. Situated along the main road that Shiite pilgrims take to reach the holy city of Karbala, it is a mixed town of Sunnis and Shiites. Residents say they generally coexisted before the 2003 invasion that toppled dictator Saddam Hussein.

Post-2003, it became part of the notorious "Triangle of Death" as Sunni and Shiite extremist groups targeted each other's communities with vicious killings and Sunni al-Qaida insurgents attacked American forces. Sweidan's daughter was killed in 2004 by a roadside bomb that tore through the town's marketplace.

Safaa disappeared amid another wave of sectarian reprisals and tit-for-tat kidnappings in 2014. At the time, the Islamic State group surged nearby and seized areas as close as 20 kilometers (12 miles) from Mahmoudiya, bringing a backlash from Shiite militias. Sweidan's family are Sunnis, and while Sweidan would not comment on who took her son, one relative said she believes it was Shiite militiamen.

For years, Sweidan looked through prisons across several cities and spoke to officials and whoever might give her clues. Whenever news came of prisoners being released after doing time, Sweidan would rush to the prison to see if her son was among them.

"Everywhere I looked, he just wasn't there," she said, struggling to hold back her tears. "So I've sat quietly ever since and decided to leave it in God's hands."

Sweidan's next-door neighbor, Nidal Ali, is Shiite and faces the same pain. Her son Ammar was kidnapped around the same time.

"They took him and said he will be back in five minutes," Ali said, holding a portrait of her son close to her chest. She believes his abductors were Sunni extremists. "They took six people from our area. They were all young and poor."

She, too, searched prisons and towns across the country and paid scammers who claimed they could get inside information about his whereabouts. Ammar was almost 40 when he was kidnapped, leaving behind his wife and five children. His youngest son, Mohammad, was a toddler at the time; now 11, he sat quietly next to his grandmother.

The International Committee of the Red Cross said it has received 43,293 cases of people who disappeared since 2003. Of those, more than 26,700 cases remain unresolved. That is far higher than the Iraqi government estimate of 16,000 Iraqis who have gone missing over the same

period.

The ICRC numbers include more categories of missing and are likely more accurate than the government's, said Raz Salayi, Iraq researcher at international human rights organization Amnesty International. Neither estimate includes the missing from conflicts prior to 2003, or those who disappeared into Saddam's prisons.

The Geneva-based ICRC every year continues to receive requests from families asking for help in finding missing relatives. In 2022, it received almost 1,500 new requests.

"It probably is just the tip of the iceberg and doesn't represent the real numbers of the missing," said Sara al-Zawqari, a spokesperson at the ICRC's Baghdad.

Iraqi families are not the only ones left without answers in a region where several countries have been torn apart by war and sectarian strife. The fate of over 17,000 missing during Lebanon's 1975-1990 civil war remains unknown. The Lebanese government formed a national commission in 2020, under pressure as a growing number of relatives died without learning their loved ones' fates. In Syria's conflict, now in its 13th year, families of the disappeared are urging the United Nations to open an independent inquiry into as many as 100,000 missing people.

Salayi, the Amnesty researcher, said the Iraqi government's lack of initiative towards the missing is unsurprising, given political parties' links with militias accused of kidnappings and tit-for-tat violence over the years.

"How can a government that allows perpetrators of gross human rights violations to run for office hold itself accountable?" Salayi said. "There is no logic to it."

Continued on Page 3

editor's choice



Prayer Timings

Fajr	03:21	Asr	15:20
Sunrise ..	04:52	Maghrib ..	18:37
Zohr	11:45	Isha	20:06

Local

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

Weather

Expected weather for the next 24 hours:

By Day: Hot and partly cloudy and relatively humid over coastal areas with light variable wind to light to moderate southeasterly wind with speeds of 08-30 km/h.
By Night: Rather hot and partly

cloudy and relatively humid over coastal areas with light to moderate southeasterly wind to light variable wind with speeds of 08-30 km/h.

Station
Kuwait City
Kuwait Airport

Max Exp
38
39

Min Rec
27
29

Abdaly	39	23
Jahra	42	27
Salmiyah	30	27
Ahmadi	31	27
Nuwaisib	38	28
Wafra	40	26

Cabinet confirms Eid holiday dates

KUWAIT CITY, May 22, (KUNA): The Kuwaiti Cabinet held Monday its weekly meeting, chaired by His Highness Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

After the meeting, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Dr. Khaled Al-Fadhel said:

The Cabinet touched on the results of the participation of the Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah in the Arab 32nd Summit, which was held Saudi Arabia's Jeddah.

The cabinet stressed that the State of Kuwait reaffirms its support for Arab League Council Resolution No. (8914), welcoming the final statement of the Jeddah meeting and the statement of the Amman meeting.

It also expressed hope that Syria's return to the Arab League will help end the crisis and the suffering of the Syrian people.

The Cabinet confirmed the dates for the Islamic Eid Al-Adha holiday, where state bodies nationwide will be closed starting from Arafat Day on Tuesday, June 27 until Sunday, July 2, with work resuming the following day on Monday.

Discussing current developments around the world, the cabinet condemned the storming and ransacking of the residence of the Kuwaiti military office chief in the Sudanese capital Khartoum, in addition to the Qatari embassy, slamming these incidents as "acts of aggression" that target diplomatic missions.

The Cabinet went on to urge authorities in Sudan to take appropriate measures aiming to protect diplomats in the African country, while ensuring that such incidents do not occur again.

Missing

Continued from Page 2

An Iraqi Justice Ministry official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to reporters, would say only that political tensions and sectarian sensitivities are obstacles for any state inquiry into the missing.

Sweidan, Ali and other relatives of those missing said their loved ones could be among the large numbers of people swept up in mass arrests carried out over the years in response to militant and sectarian violence. They hold out hope for answers if the government grants amnesty to those long held without charge or evidence, but the authorities have not been cooperative.

Mass graves are regularly found, but it can take years to identify remains, said al-Zawqari of the Red Cross. In a further complication, there are multiple eras of mass graves. Remains of people missing since the war with Iran in the 1980s continue to be discovered. "The more time passes, the more challenging the search becomes," she said.

There haven't been any leads about Safaa's whereabouts, but Sweidan believes that he is alive and that it's only a matter of time until they are reunited. "Sometimes, when I am asleep, I hear his voice saying 'Mama', and I wake up." (AP)

Litany

Continued from Page 2

claims to be a jinn - or genie - who fell in while fleeing persecutors during the Abbasid Caliphate, which ruled the area that is now Iraq from 750 to 1500 C.E. Also sharing the hole is the corpse of a Russian soldier from the Soviet-Finnish war, waged from 1939 to 1940.

After a few pages, a woman covered in electronics fleeing a dystopic, futuristic robot falls into the hole, as well. The hole becomes a metaphor for a chain that links "bloody fights, repetitive and disgusting" across time and space, according to the story.

History, it seems, acts as "a photocopy churning out copies" upon which are imprinted "the same face, a face shaped by pain and torment," as Blasim writes.

In another of Blasim's short stories, "The Madman of Freedom Square," a man considered insane by the people of his town narrates three generations of his family history against the backdrop of the ebbs and flows of competing 20th-century political and religious ideologies.

In the story's final lines, set in the present day, a stranger talks the unwitting narrator, "the madman of Freedom Square," into wearing an explosives-strapped vest.

Ultimately, these stories encourage readers to elevate the importance of human lives over the events that are said to define them.

This literature resists narratives of the U.S. invasion as a supposedly exceptional event. It also resists the tokenized testimonies of the survivors of the occupation: those faces that are the usual focus of media coverage, academic scholarship and political punditry in the U.S.

And even in the stories' insistence on the ever-presence of death, whether in Blasim's macabre and violent tones or in Jubaili's sometimes-humorous, sometimes-absurd ones, this literature becomes a metaphor for the immense fortitude that it takes to survive and give meaning to one's world. (AP)

Personal Bluetooth jamming eyed to prevent cheating

KUWAIT CITY, May 22: In an effort to prevent cheating in the upcoming exams, which will start on Tuesday, May 23, for the end of the current academic year for the 11th and 12th graders, the Joint Higher Committee for Monitoring Examinations in the Ministry of Education is studying the application of individual jamming facility for any Bluetooth device detected by the examination committees, after the Ministry of Health rejected the use of mass jamming device due to its health effects on students, reports Al-Rai daily.

According to an educational source, this approach is still a proposal being studied by the members of the committee, which includes representatives of some entities such as the Communications and Information Technology Regulatory Authority.

The committee has not yet decided on some of the previously proposed options, the most important of which is cutting off the Internet from the vicinity of secondary schools during the exam period.

In addition, an educational report highlighted the nature of exams in secondary schools, explaining that an academic year has four calendar periods, which are:

1. The first and third academic terms for all grades shall be as follows:

■ Their timetables are unified at the ministry level and developed by the Coordination Department - Monitoring Examinations and Student Affairs.

■ Their subjects and the preparation of their question papers are unified at the level of the educational zone. The technical guides for each subject are committed to setting the exam according to what was accomplished during the academic year in each field.

2. The second and fourth academic terms for all grades shall be

as follows:

■ Their timetables are unified at the ministry level and developed by the Coordination Department - Examination Monitoring and Student Affairs.

■ Their subjects and question papers are unified at the ministry level, where the general technical guides for each subject are committed to setting the exam according to what was accomplished during the two academic terms (the first and second for the second academic terms, and the third and fourth for the fourth academic terms).

All practical exams will take place on the date determined by the decision organizing those calendar terms.

The maximum grades for each academic field is determined by 100 marks. The minimum final grade is distributed over the academic field in the four academic terms as follows:

■ The first period (30 marks): 10 classwork - 20 exam period.
■ The second period (70 marks): 10 classwork - 60 exam period.
■ The third period (30 marks): 10 classwork - 20 exam period.
■ The fourth period (70 marks): 10 classwork - 60 exam period.

The report elaborated that the grade of the academic field at the end of the year is calculated from the result of dividing the total scores of the four academic terms by 2. The daily work score for each academic period is distributed by the specialized technical guidance by five grades for the short test and five grades for term's participation, homework and behavior.

The report highlighted the written exams for the first and third terms, which are carried out through the following:

1. Each of the exams for the first and third term shall be held on the date specified by the organizing decision.

2. Examination timetables for the first and third terms are unified at the ministry level.

Other Voices

Switch to roubles, toman

By Ahmad alsarraf

There is a global company that the whole world depends on its strength and products, and it dominates the markets of many commodities, and it enjoys the respect and confidence of the countries of the world, so it deposits its money with it, and invests in the shares of its subsidiaries, and in the bonds it issues!

The problem with this company is that its annual expenses, for decades, are greater than its income or profits, so it covers the difference by borrowing from the local or international market by issuing dollar bonds, and countries and companies accept to buy them, because of their durability and guarantee!

This company is "America." Everyone knows that it is burdened with debts of approximately 32.5 trillion dollars (32.5 + 12 zero), which accumulated as a result of the government being forced to borrow, to bridge the difference between what is collected as taxes and its obligations, so it prints new dollars to cover the obligations of its armies, and federal salaries, the cost of health insurance, pensioners' salaries, and more!

What makes the world continue to trust the dollar, invest in US bonds and stocks, and in the US economy?

It is not easy to answer this question through an article, but it can be said that the world has no choice but to "co-exist" with the current situation, as the time has not come to jump from the ship yet, especially since the tempting investment opportunities offered by this economy cannot be overlooked, and it cannot be resisted. For any country to present it, with greater risks outside the American market, neither the Chinese, who are not free, nor the multi-polar Europeans, nor the small Russian and Japanese, can replace America, with all its power, financial and military techniques, economic freedom and high transparency.

America's situation is similar to that of the rich person who spends excessively on his pleasures, at a rate higher than he earns, and yet he can pay off his debts if he accepts giving up his military "pleasures", and some of the welfare of his people, but the ballot boxes have their accounts.

There is also that "desire" that surrounds the heart of almost every individual in the world to own the green currency, as it is a safe haven, as it is accepted in the villages of China and the jungles of Africa, passing through the deserts of the Arabs, to the Amazon forests, and to the streets of Moscow, Pompeii and Beijing.

The American economy constitutes about 24% of the world's total output, meaning that what 300 million people produce constitutes a quarter of what all 8 billion people produce!

The US national product is approximately 25 trillion dollars annually (Russia is only 1.8 trillion), and these percentages in themselves are sufficient for confidence in the US economy, due to the country's richness and industrial, educational and commercial progress, its terrible reserves of everything, its unlimited scientific and cultural richness, and its ability to create inventions every day, and a series of ancient laboratories and universities.

Consequently, its problem is more "administrative" than it is an economic or industrial deficit or real environmental poverty, and a single security or trade agreement with China is sufficient to bring about the desired positive revolution. Most of these advantages, and this natural richness, were not available to the empires that preceded them, such as Britain.

America is the largest importing country and exporter of trade exchanges in the world, and it plays an important role in global investments and capital flows, and its decisions affect the global economy, and the situation will remain the same, despite the concern it poses to many to replace the dollar.

Those who are not reassured of the validity and strength of this currency have to do anything but switch to another, and they probably won't!

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

'Wanted in by-poll'

Former deputy surrenders

KUWAIT CITY, May 22: A former deputy, on whom a decision had been issued to arrest him for taking part in the by-election of the 2023 National Assembly elections from the fourth constituency primary has surrendered to the Public Prosecution, reports Al-Qabas daily quoting an informed source.

The source indicated that the Public Prosecution is continuing its investigations into the case and is expected to issue its decision against the accused after the completion of the investigations, which will begin shortly.

The Ministry of the Interior had arrested several people from the fourth constituency for taking part in the pri-

mary and referred them to the Public Prosecution a few days ago despite the continuous warnings from the concerned authorities against holding primaries that contradict the rule of law and violate equal opportunities in the electoral process.

The Public Prosecution has warned that whoever organizes or participates in by-elections or calls for holding primaries shall be punished by imprisonment for a period not exceeding 5 years and a fine of no less than 2,000 dinars and not more than 5,000 dinars. Primaries which are believed to be common choose one or more candidates to contest the election from among the members of a particular tribe or sect.

'Biometric system' activated at Kuwait's all ports of entry

'Access local centers with appointment'

Fake accounts emerge ahead of Assembly poll

By Hanan Al-Saeedi

KUWAIT CITY, May 22, (KUNA): Though technological development, especially the ones occurring during internet age, had boosted humanity's capabilities for development, there remains a dark side to progress.

Kuwait, on June 6, is scheduled to hold its 2023 National Assembly (Parliamentary) elections with many vying for a seat to become the people's representatives.

While the process of earning the voters trust is taking place, fake accounts began to pop-up on the internet and Social Media platforms distorting the democratic process in Kuwait.

Such fake accounts made it very difficult to discern between real and false information, which might cause voters some concern.

On this matter, Undersecretary for Press, Publications, and Print at the Ministry of Information Lafi Al-Subai'e told KUNA that those behind fake accounts were individuals or groups that mean harm to Kuwait and its democratic establishments.

Such accounts aim to confuse voters and turn them against their own people, he asserted.

The fake accounts are used to affect public opinion and cause controversy via posting untrue data and information.

About 95 percent of candidates have twitter accounts that could be used to look into their programs and political thought process, indicated Al-Subai'e, affirming that the best way to deal with fake accounts was not to interact with them as well as report them to the proper authorities.

On her part, member of the teaching staff at Kuwait University (KU) and head of the Kuwait Association of Information Security (KAIS) Dr. Safa Zaman went into details on how fake accounts work.

Some fake accounts use bots to gain followers and likes, making them appear legitimate to the masses, she revealed.

"Spoofing", on the other hand, is a fake personal account of a well-known individual or a celebrity used to scam people, said Dr. Zaman who affirmed that such accounts would sometimes steer controversy and cause trouble in real life.

On the election, she expressed disappointment that some accounts were being used by election rivals to taint the image of other candidates, warning that Social Media had been very effective in global politics, namely in the US, which caused in 2016 the rise of Donald Trump to the Presidency and his fall in 2020.

On how to handle fake accounts and prevent hacking, official at the Interior Ministry's cybercrime department Lieutenant Colonel Ammar Al-Sarraf said that there was a specialized unit dedicated to combating fraud whether in Kuwait or abroad.

He stressed the need to contact the 97283939 WhatsApp service to report cyber violations and acts of hacking to prevent the proliferation of fake accounts and the use of legitimately hacked accounts in spreading false information.

Rehire retirees, orders minister

KUWAIT CITY, May 22: First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and acting Minister of Defense Sheikh Talal Khalid Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah recently issued a decision to rehire 598 retired Ministry of Interior employees as non-commissioned officers and civilian workers starting Sunday, reports Al-Rai daily.

In a press statement, the Interior Ministry explained this step aims to strengthen the police force through the appointment of retirees with vast experience in the field; while giving them another chance to serve their homeland.

Minister of Social Affairs, Women and Childhood Affairs Mai Al-Baghli recently issued a decision obligating cooperative societies to allot 50 percent of their zakat - after the approval of the General Assembly - for citizens who can no longer afford to pay their debts, reports Al-Rai daily.

KUWAIT CITY, May 22: In confirmation to the article published earlier regarding the Ministry of Interior's announcement to designate four centers in addition to the border crossings to implement the biometric system, the Department of Public Relations and Security Media of the Ministry of Interior stated that, as part of the security authority's keenness to secure the border crossings with the latest security means and technologies, and in accordance with the national project to protect the country's security, the Ports and Borders Security Sector has activated the biometric system, which includes taking scans of the face and eyes and fingerprints of those entering the country through the Kuwaiti ports, reports Al-Rai daily.

The department explained that the biometric system will be applicable for everyone who are 18 years and above, according to the procedures for issuing nationality in Kuwaiti law. All individuals - citizens, residents or visitors - arriving in Kuwait through the various ports will be subject to this system.

Facilitate

In the interest of the security authority to facilitate the citizens and travelers, four centers affiliated with the General Department of Criminal Evidence have been allocated with the cooperation of the General Department of Information Systems in Jahra, Ali Sabah Al-Salem, Farwaniya and West Mishref areas. They will be open daily for 24 hours. The investigation management center will be open from 8:00am to 8:00pm to complete the biometric procedures. Biometric devices have also been provided by the General Department of Criminal Evidence at the air, land and sea border crossings.

Citizens and residents must book an appointment through the "Meta" platform, and visitors through the Ministry of Interior's website <https://meta.e.gov.kw/En/> to visit the centers designated to complete the biometric procedures (for those who wish to do it before traveling).

Travelers through all kinds of ports are allowed to leave without completing the biometric procedures, as its work is limited to arrival (when returning from travel).

Work is underway to open new sites and centers, which will be announced in the near future.

Meanwhile, ten days after its implementation, the new security system set up at the border crossings and centers designated by the Ministry of Interior is working efficiently, within the framework of the technical project aimed at controlling security and preventing the entry of wanted individuals and forgers, reports Al-Qabas daily quoting security sources.

They explained that a total of 65,000 citizens, Gulf nationals, residents and visitors have been entered in the biometric system since its launch on May 12 in all of the country's land, air, and sea entry ports. All these individuals had returned to Kuwait after traveling overseas.



Exotica
COSY & LEISURE DINING

إكزوتیکا
أجواء مميزة وخطابة

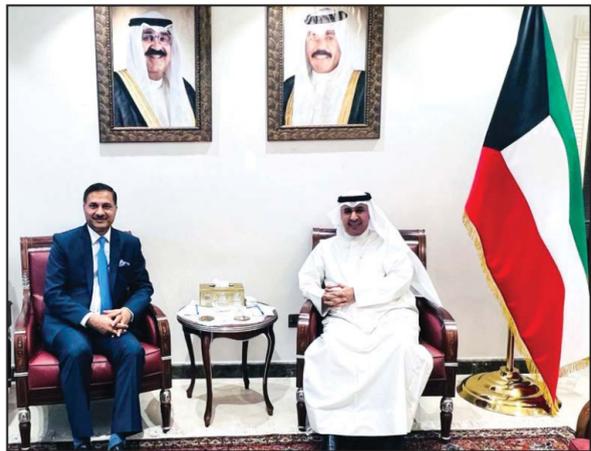
تيراس مول السامية
Terrace Mall Salmiya, overlooking Gulf Road Salem Al Mubarak Street

9222 4674 / 75 @exotica_kw

www.mughalmahal.com

Securitymen foil bid to bring-in 120 kilos hashish, opium via sea

Several held for violating labor law; foreign liquor seized



Indian ambassador during his meeting with the new Assistant Foreign Minister for Consular Affairs.

Indian envoy meets with Al-Dehani

Indian Ambassador to Kuwait HE Dr Adarsh Swaika met with the new Assistant Foreign Minister for Consular Affairs HE Aziz Al-Dehani, on Monday.

Discussions focused on various bilateral consular matters, including some of the consular issues affecting the Indian community in Kuwait.

Appointment of officials starts in govt bodies

KUWAIT CITY, May 22: The appointment of officials in various public institutions started immediately after the Civil Service Commission (CSC) issued a circular on the resumption of such procedure, reports Al-Anba daily quoting sources.

Sources disclosed: "We are preparing the files of some officials to fill up vacancies in different ministries, including the Justice and Health ministries among others. We are also reviewing the manpower demands of other institutions. The CSC procedures remain within the scope of appointments that require the approval of the

Council of Ministers."

According to sources, those appointed in the Ministry of Justice include Assistant Undersecretary for Justice Palace Affairs Sector Walid Abdullah Al-Ghanim; Assistant Undersecretary for the Courts Sector Ali Yassin Malallah; Assistant Undersecretary for Administrative Affairs, Development and Planning Sector Raya Khaled Al-Rashid; Assistant Undersecretary for the Family Affairs Sector Dr Fahd Mubarak Al-Ta'en; and Assistant Undersecretary for Administration Sector Ahmed Muhammad Al-Najim.

KUWAIT CITY, May 22: The Anti-Narcotics Department, in cooperation with the Coast Guard, thwarted an attempt by three people to smuggle 120 kilograms of hashish and a kilogram of opium via the sea, reports Al-Rai daily.

The Ministry of Interior said the accused and the seized items have been referred to the competent Directorate-General for Drugs Control

Several 'illegals' arrested: The security authorities have arrested 36 residence and labor violators from Salhiya and Sulaibiya areas and referred them to the competent authorities, reports Al-Rai daily.

The authorities have also arrested five juveniles for driving without a license and referred them to the Juvenile Prosecution. The Public Relations and Security Media Department of the Ministry of Interior said the General Department of Residence Affairs Investigation arrested the people of various nationalities, and they are being referred to the competent authority, to take the necessary legal measures against them.

Also, through security campaigns personnel from the General Administration of Residence Affairs Investigations have arrested 27 violators of the residence and labor law of various nationalities in the Salmiya area, reports Al-Rai daily.

They have been referred to the competent authorities. Meanwhile, officers from the Violation Monitoring Unit at the Residence Affairs Investigation General Department in the Interior Ministry have arrested 17 individuals in Wafra Agricultural Area for violating the Residency and Labor laws, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The department confirmed that all those arrested were referred to the concerned authorities.

In the meantime, the Public Relations and Media Department of the Directorate-General of Fire Department (DGFD) said acting on information firemen from the Al-Hilal fire center rushed to a contracting office in Block 3 in downtown Kuwait City and put out the fire.

No injuries have been reported.

Foreign liquor seized: The Operations and Patrols Department of the Hawalli Governorate Security Directorate managed to seize a person in Maidan Hawalli, in possession of 19 bottles of foreign liquor and sums of money, reports Al-Anba daily.

The General Directorate of Rescue Police also managed to seize two people in the camel area, in possession of narcotic substances.

All of them and the seized items were referred to the competent authorities to take the necessary legal measures against them.

diwaniya

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'Some sow hatred between the citizen and expatriate'

"THE Arab communities in the State of Kuwait have played and can still play a prominent role in building and developing the state, in the private and public sectors, in the economy, administration, education, and all disciplines," **Ahmed Bou Abbas** wrote for **Al-Seyassah**.

"Everyone knows how their pioneering contributions were along with the citizens in the renaissance of Kuwait in its golden ages, which attest to its progress far and wide.

"Unfortunately, we are currently reading daily about decisions that have nothing but restrictions, unfair accusations, and blame, mistakes, poor planning and management, and the lack of services in the state, as if there are no officials and corrupt people, and the expatriates are the decision makers.

"For example, when one looks at the crowded streets it looks like the decision-maker did not think about the limitations of mass transportation.

"Why there is no metro, nor the development of road capacity before the invasion and until today. Rather we heard warnings about revoking driving licenses from expatriates without realizing that there are projects, companies, and an urgent need for these licenses.

"In another decision, the decision-maker bans the entry of a certain community just because its number has increased, and did not consider that this community has technical and numerical competencies needed by the industry and trade sectors, due to its skills, and the abundance of manpower that these sectors need in various specializations.

"He did not bother to seriously hold the corrupt people accountable who bring bulk labor and the visa traders. The policy of reaction and bullying against expatriates do not work, but will harm every honest business owner who wants to rely on himself and wants to start self-employment, and in the end all of this will lead to harm to the economy, if everyone ends their private projects and goes to government jobs.

"The current policy of dealing with residents will not attract qualified and honorable people to us, as it was in the past, but rather will alienate them.

"How painful I felt for my dear brothers, the pinnacle of scientific and professional excellence, who left this country for countries that value their capabilities and competence.

"There will not be a successful and advanced country in the world that depends only on its citizens, but the reason for its progress is always civilized dealings, and attracting talents, especially those close to its cultures and religions, so that they help it in building and advancing it.

"I will not say follow the example of a neighboring country, or a developed country in Europe or Asia, but rather I will say that the advanced and pioneering State of Kuwait, which was in its golden age in the sixties and seventies of the last century, an oasis of safety and security, and an environment in which honest people resort, achieve their dreams and feel that they have an active role in their lives on this earth.

"We do not accept restrictions on them, nor is our state guilty of depriving it of their competencies, expertise, and knowledge, just because some corrupt people traffic in people.

"The worst injustice I have seen is some politicians winning by promoting the theory that expatriates are the cause of the state's backwardness and decline, and that the solution to our problems is their departure, distancing public minds from the cause, and sowing hatred between the citizen and the resident."

Also:

"Europe should reduce its dependence on the United States and avoid being dragged into a confrontation between China and America over Taiwan," French President Emmanuel Macron said in an interview on his plane after his three-day visit to China ended last April," columnist **Faisal Bin Sabt** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

"The French president warned European countries against becoming followers of America in implementing its agenda towards China and its crisis with Taiwan.

"From considering the US dollar the only currency for dealing across the world, especially after the United States used it as a weapon against countries that were previously boycotted.

"He said that Europe has increased its dependence on the United States in the fields of weapons and energy, and that they must now focus on strengthening their industries, especially defense.

"Macron also suggested that Europe reduce the consideration of the US dollar as the only currency for dealing across the world, especially after the United States used it as a weapon against previously boycotted countries.

"Macron is not the only European president who has started to bring out what is inside him. Other countries in the European Union share his opinion, the most important of which is Germany, which relies in its economy on advanced relations with China, regardless of its relationship with the United States.

"The Ukrainian crisis revealed to European countries the mistake of drifting behind the United States, especially in light of the suffocating economic crisis faced by the European Union countries.

"The French president's visit to China and what he said after the visit ended was not accepted by the American side, which is trying to limit the Sino-European rapprochement, as Republican US Senator

Marco Rubio threatened to leave Europe dealing with the Ukrainian crisis on its own without American support, and this threat may be a confirmation of what the French president targets.

"The Washington Post recently revealed, quoting leaked US documents, that a number of influential countries are taking a non-binding stance and abandoning Washington's support regarding Ukraine and China, which impedes US policy towards those files.

"The US intelligence indicates, according to the newspaper, that influential actor countries such as India, Pakistan, Egypt and Brazil do not tend to support Washington in the confrontation with Moscow and Beijing, and that these countries are unwilling to support one side against the other and seek to distance themselves from this conflict."



Bou Abbas

"The continuous tension between governmental and parliamentary authorities led to the formation of many governments and dissolution of the parliament several times, which impeded reform efforts and the implementation of projects included in work programs and development plans," columnist **Abdullah Al-Abduljader** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

"Kuwait suffered a lot over the years due to disagreements between some members of the National Assembly and the government. The implementation of government programs in the interest of the country and its citizens has been delayed, despite having the largest sovereign wealth fund in the world as a percentage of GDP and the largest oil reserve compared to the population marred by political imbalances in recent years. This has prevented the authorities from taking the necessary measures to control the rise in spending, improve the standard of living, generate non-oil revenues and diversify the economy.

"Kuwait is lagging behind other Gulf countries in diversifying economic activities and exports due to various factors — the most important of which include political interference in the economy and non-implementation of reforms and development programs due to the rapid governmental changes and administrative instability.

"All of what I mentioned above caused the suffering of the Kuwaiti people with limited and medium incomes. They relied on loans from banks and other debts, negatively affecting the social and behavioral aspects of life. You have certainly noticed that divorce, drugs, crimes and corruption cases increased. Bribery and fraud have spread even among government employees.

"Therefore, my advice to the government and the 2023 Assembly is that this is your last chance to address all the abovementioned issues. You should not repeat the differences and problems between yourselves. You must fight against corruption. The beginning of your work should be for the welfare of Kuwait and its people."

"For decades, Arabs have been living under the weight of grinding crises, some of which are due to pre-occupation, greed, external interference, internal disputes and struggles over power, money and influence," columnist **Mishari Al-Matraqa** wrote for **Al-Jarida** daily.

"Almost a third of Arab League countries are suffering due to wars and inflamed crises that have been going on for years.

"All attempts to end conflicts and divisions between people in more than one Arab country failed. The warring parties did not abide by agreements and settlements reached through regional and international mediation, so the people in these countries continue to pay the highest price.

"Wars and conflicts have exhausted many Arab countries that have been suffering from political, economic and humanitarian crises. Some Arabs devote themselves to wars using weapons, while others devote themselves to the war of words by spreading strife and polarization through the media and social media platforms. The energy of youths has been drained in failed battles.

"More than 21 million Arab children are out of school, 50 million Arabs are categorized as poor, and the people in many Arab countries could no longer address their basic living needs. You struggle to live, not to evolve."

"Whoever monitors the ongoing and accelerating events as we approach the Election Day — June 6, 2023 — may notice that some candidates are aware of the responsibility for their decision to run in the election. They have determined the intention and set their goals to take responsibility for their electoral program," columnist **Sabah Al-Anzi** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

"They prepared for the historic day in Kuwait's parliamentary wedding, and the festival of their electoral and parliamentary career. Thanks to the television and social media channels that shed light on the election arena, conduct interviews and meet candidates and voters.

"These channels shed light on the programs of candidates, so the voters can discover that some candidates raise fake slogans, along with confusion in speech, vague objectives and lack of a systematic plan or clear electoral program. They improvise with words and slogans that are far from the aspirations of the Kuwaiti street. Some voters are applauding them, so I direct my statement to them.

"O candidate and voter, I know that by making the decision to run and vote, you assumed the responsibility, and put yourself and your neck before the justice and sword of God — the One and the Omnipotent."

— Compiled by **Ahmed Al-Shazi**

albander
hotel & resort

May

Room Promotion

Weekdays (Saturday - Wednesday)	Price
Queen Cabana (2 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.	BHD 57.200/-net
2 Bedroom Chalet (4 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.	BHD 128.000/-net
Weekends (Thursday & Friday)	Price
Queen Cabana (2 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.	BHD 65.000/-net
2 Bedroom Chalet (4 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.	BHD 145.000/-net

Promo period from 1st – 31st May 2023

Terms & conditions apply

Tel: +973 17701201 - Ext. 351 | Email: reservation@albander.com | www.albander.com | @albanderhotelandresort

Ambassador Thamer along with other ambassadors accredited to the Kingdom in honor of their role during pandemic

Bahrain's FM awards Prince Salman bin Hamad Medal of Medical Merit to ambassadors

MANAMA, May 22, (KUNA): Bahrain's Foreign Minister Dr. Abdullatif bin Al-Zayani presented on Sunday Prince Salman bin Hamad Medal of Medical Merit to Kuwait Ambassador Sheikh Thamer Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah along with a number of ambassadors accredited to the Kingdom in honor of their role during the pandemic.

According to Bahrain's Foreign Ministry, the honoring was in implementation of the royal order of King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa and the directives of Prince Salman bin Hamad Al-Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to all the competent authorities to hand over the medal to the workers in the front lines from the health sector, Bahrain Defence Force, the Interior Ministry and all supportive parties.

Al-Zayani congratulated the ambassadors on receiving the Prince Salman bin Hamad for Medical Merit, hailing joint coordination

to protect citizens and residents' health.

The recipients are Jordan's Ambassador, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps in the Kingdom of Bahrain Rami Wreikat, Moroccan Ambassador Mustapha Benkhay, Saudi Ambassador His Royal Highness Prince Sultan bin Ahmed bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Deputy Omani Ambassador Dr. Mohammed bin Ali Al Balooshi, in recognition of their efforts and cooperation with the Kingdom of Bahrain during the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic.

The ambassador also expressed pride at receiving the medals, praising the efforts exerted by the Kingdom to combat the pandemic and protect citizens and residents' health.

They stressed commitment to continue joint coordination with the Kingdom of Bahrain towards serving common interests, wishing the Kingdom further development and prosperity.

DIPA approves establishment of Google Cloud services in Kuwait

Company capital KD 600,000

KUWAIT CITY, May 22: The Direct Investment Promotion Authority (DIPA) has approved the establishment of Google Cloud services to operate directly in the Kuwaiti market without the need for a local agent, reports Al-Qabas daily.

According to the decision No. 86/2023 issued by the DIPA director general, a company can be established by one person under the name of Google Cloud services, according to what was stipulated in the provisions of the companies Law No. 1/2016 and its executive regulations, and the provisions of Law No. 116/2013 for encouraging direct investment in Kuwait.

Published

Kuwait Today published the articles of incorporation of the new company wholly owned by Google Europe, the Middle East and Africa Unlimited.

The company's capital is KD 600,000. The purposes of its establishment have been identified as the following:

1. Practicing computer programming activities.
2. Providing computer, substantive and technical services.
3. Computer facility management.
4. Data processing and web hosting.
5. Providing marketing consul-



Google Cloud

based economy.

Google Cloud CEO Thomas Kurian said, "Our strategic contract supports the New Kuwait 2035 vision, which aims to transform Kuwait into a digital society and diversify its economy."

We are very proud of our contribution in bringing the latest Google Cloud technologies to Kuwait to support the country in achieving its ambitions in the field of digital transformation. Our technologies contribute to the development of a rich technological system in Kuwait, which in turn will lead to the creation of important high-skilled job opportunities for the people of the country."

Program

Google Cloud will cooperate with the Central Agency for Information Technology to launch a national skills program. This program will enhance the skills of government employees in digital technologies, advanced data analytics, machine learning, artificial intelligence, and information security solutions provided by Google Cloud.

The new strategic agreement is another significant milestone in the context of Google Cloud's expansion in the Middle East, and reflects the company's commitment to investing in the region's digital future. The new cloud region will support the government of Kuwait and other Google Cloud customers in the country to manage digital business tasks efficiently, and enable them to securely store important data.

tancy.

In January, Google Cloud announced its entry into a strategic alliance with the Kuwait government to develop a roadmap for a comprehensive digital transformation program in government agencies and key state-owned companies.

This alliance will allow the Kuwait government to benefit from Google Cloud's innovative technology and expertise in the field of data, cybersecurity, and artificial intelligence to fulfill its commitment to implement digital transformation as one of its main national priorities in the coming years.

Google Cloud will work within the framework of this strategic alli-

ance with the Kuwait government to digitize services and increase the productivity of government employees. Moreover, Google Cloud will partner with the government for implementing a number of digital transformation initiatives in the areas of health-care, education, disaster recovery, and smart living.

Google Cloud intends to establish a modern cloud area in Kuwait to meet the wide demand for its services. The new cloud computing area will support public sector institutions, businesses and startups in their digital transformation journey to contribute to achieving Kuwait's ambitions to transform into a data-



Bahrain's FM Dr. Abdullatif Al-Zayani presents Prince Salman bin Hamad Medal of Medical Merit to Kuwait Ambassador Sheikh Thamer Al-Sabah.

KD 1.450 mln annual rent

Wafra Real Estate Co to manage, maintain and operate Souq Sharq

KUWAIT CITY, May 22: The Central Agency for Tenders approved the request of the Ministry of Finance to contract directly with Wafra Real Estate Company to manage, maintain and operate Souq Sharq at an annual rent of 1.450 million dinars, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Relevant sources indicated that the development of the state's real estate properties receives great government attention in order to achieve the maximum possible benefit from it, to be an essential tributary of revenues in the general budget, and push it

towards the second place after oil revenues.

The Ministry of Finance has confirmed work to prepare the way for offering a number of projects in a competitive public bid by the Authority for Partnership Projects between the public and private sectors, according to Law No. 116 of 2014 soon, in confirmation of the principle of equal opportunities and allowing qualified companies to contribute and develop in raising the quality of the state's commercial real estate facilities and enhancing the return on the state's real estate.

135 companies partake in Expo

Baytak Construction Expo kicks off in Kuwait Int'l Fairground in Mishref

KUWAIT CITY, May 22 (KUNA): 'Baytak' Construction Exhibition kicked off Monday at Kuwait International Fair Grounds in Mishref with more than 135 local and global companies participating.

In a statement to KUNA, Marketing and Merchandise CEO of Kuwait International Fair Company Basma Al-Duhaim said that the (A to Z) Expo attracts major national and international construction companies in this sector, in addition to the participation of many designers.

The event brings together participants and exhibitors under one platform to display the latest trends in the building and construction sector, interior design, furniture and home accessories, as well as holding daily lectures for visitors, she added.

Al-Duhaim also pointed out that the main objectives of the expo lie in presenting a comprehensive set of effective and innovative solutions to construction challenges, in addition to offering a range of offers and discounts to consumers.



Part of media coverage of crises training program.

Course continues until May 25th

KUNA Development Center holds course on 'crises media' coverage

KUWAIT CITY, May 22, (KUNA): Kuna's Media Development center organized a training course on the media coverage of crises and incidents. The course began on May 21 and continues until the 25th.

The program, taught by consultant and media trainer Mohammad Al-Saleem,

aims to provide trainees with the necessary skillsets to cover news in times of crises, urgent news, as well as deliver special reports on economic, political or health crises and so on. It also sets out to prep trainees for navigating fieldwork, evaluating dangers and presenting composed and accurate coverage.

0 Arab world

Continued from Page 1

Hence, mitigating reasons were found, but they were not enough, as it leads to an increase in the suffering of the debtors because physical coercion such as seizure and habeas corpus, travel ban, and referral to prison pushes the convict to violate the law, and thus increases his suffering in search for work in order to pay what he owes and to continue living.

In this matter, it becomes the duty of the ruler, in his capacity as the custodian of society who looks after the affairs of the state and monitors the implementation of laws through those whom he appointed to perform this duty, to work on urging legislators to develop laws in accordance with the living conditions in the country. Hence, in many cases when the judge who finds himself before a dilemma, he has the text of the law and can take into consideration the humanitarian situation.

For example, years ago, physical coercion against debtors was something that some could benefit from, by implementing "seizure and habeas corpus" against the debtor at the end of the week and bringing them to court on the first working day. The judge found it difficult to reconcile the humanitarian condition with the law, and so he resorted to discretion. However, when the law is clear, as it is in force in various countries of the world, that civil cases do not restrict a person's freedom, then everyone can fulfill what they owe through diligence and work.

From here begins the task of the ruler to impose his will on everyone, especially those who are interested in enacting legislation based on a humanitarian basis, like the way it happened in the story of the judge and the thief of the loaf of bread.

Iran digs

Continued from Page 1

Satellite photos taken in April by Planet Labs PBC and analyzed by the AP show Iran burrowing into the Kuh-e Kolang Gaz La, or "Pickaxe

Mountain," which is just beyond Natanz's southern fencing.

A different set of images analyzed by the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies reveals that four entrances have been dug into the mountainside, two to the east and another two to the west. Each is 6 meters (20 feet) wide and 8 meters (26 feet) tall.

The scale of the work can be measured in large dirt mounds, two to the west and one to the east. Based on the size of the spoil piles and other satellite data, experts at the center told AP that Iran is likely building a facility at a depth of between 80 meters (260 feet) and 100 meters (328 feet). The center's analysis, which it provided exclusively to AP, is the first to estimate the tunnel system's depth based on satellite imagery.

The Institute for Science and International Security, a Washington-based nonprofit long focused on Iran's nuclear program, suggested last year the tunnels could go even deeper.

Experts say the size of the construction project indicates Iran likely would be able to use the underground facility to enrich uranium as well - not just to build centrifuges. Those tube-shaped centrifuges, arranged in large cascades of dozens of machines, rapidly spin uranium gas to enrich it. Additional cascades spinning would allow Iran to quickly enrich uranium under the mountain's protection.

"So the depth of the facility is a concern because it would be much harder for us. It would be much harder to destroy using conventional weapons, such as like a typical bunker buster bomb," said Steven De La Fuente, a research associate at the center who led the analysis of the tunnel work.

The new Natanz facility is likely to be even deeper underground than Iran's Fordo facility, another enrichment site that was exposed in 2009 by U.S. and other world leaders. That facility sparked fears in the West that Iran was hardening its program from airstrikes.

Such underground facilities led the U.S. to create the GBU-57 bomb, which can plow through at least 60 meters (200 feet) of earth before detonating, according to the

American military. U.S. officials reportedly have discussed using two such bombs in succession to ensure a site is destroyed. It is not clear that such a one-two punch would damage a facility as deep as the one at Natanz.

With such bombs potentially off the table, the U.S. and its allies are left with fewer options to target the site. If diplomacy fails, sabotage attacks may resume.

Already, Natanz has been targeted by the Stuxnet virus, believed to be an Israeli and American creation, which destroyed Iranian centrifuges. Israel also is believed to have killed scientists involved in the program, struck facilities with bomb-carrying drones and launched other attacks. Israel's government declined to comment.

Experts say such disruptive actions may push Tehran even closer to the bomb - and put its program even deeper into the mountain where airstrikes, further sabotage and spies may not be able to reach it. "Sabotage may roll back Iran's nuclear program in the short-term, but it is not a viable, long-term strategy for guarding against a nuclear-armed Iran," said Davenport, the nonproliferation expert. "Driving Iran's nuclear program further underground increases the proliferation risk."

Also:

BRUSSELS: The European Union Foreign Affairs Council decided Monday to impose sanctions on an additional five individuals and two entities responsible for "human rights violations" in Iran.

The new listings include "the current commander of the Tehran Police Relief Unit of Iran's Law Enforcement Forces **Salman Adinehvand**, spokesman of the Iranian Police, **Saeed Montazer Al-Mahdi** and the secretary of the Supreme Council of Cyberspace of Iran, **Seyyed Mohammad Amin Aghamiri**," the Council said in a statement.

It also includes "the public prosecutor of **Sirjan, Mohsen Nikvarz**, and Deputy Supervisor of Public Spaces of the Public Security Police **Nader Moradi**."

Furthermore, the Council has also listed the "IRGC Cooperative

Foundation, which is the body responsible for managing the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' investments, and the Student Basij Organization (SBO)."

EU sanctions now apply to a total of 216 individuals and 37 entities in Iran. They consist of an asset freeze, a travel ban to the EU and a prohibition to make funds or economic resources available to those listed.

Today's package of listings follows the previous seven adopted by the Council on 17 October, 14 November, and 12 December 2022, 23 January, 20 February, 20 March and 24 April 2023.

DUBAI: Iran's president on Monday appointed a new official to take over the post of secretary of the country's Supreme National Security Council, replacing the longtime powerful official **Ali Shamkhani** after becoming implicated in a recent spy scandal.

President **Ebrahim Raisi** issued a decree replacing Shamkhani who has faced persistent corruption allegations - which he denied - as well as scrutiny because of close ties with a British-Iranian man hanged on spying charges earlier this year in Iran.

Shamkhani was a key player in negotiations with the West over Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers. He was also in office during the years of tensions that followed then-President Donald Trump's 2018 decision to unilaterally withdraw America from the accord.

The decree, reported by the state-run IRNA news agency, offered no explanation for the change. In a message on Twitter on Sunday night, as rumors about his position circulated, Shamkhani cryptically posted a verse by the 14th century Persian poet **Mohtasham Kashani**.

His replacement, a Revolutionary Guard figure, will take over as Iran faces continued economic pressure from Western sanctions, challenges following months-long protests over the death of Mahsa Amini - who died while in custody of Iran's morality police - and a recent de-escalation with Iran's Gulf Arab neighbors, particularly Saudi Arabia.

DOUBLE DEAL FROM PIRELLI!

GET UP TO **50** KD. **ALSHAYA GIFT CARD**

+

25% OFF

• 50 KD. Gift Card on the Purchases of 4 Tires
• 20 KD. Gift Card on the Purchases of 2 Tires

BEHBEHANI TIRE CENTER CO. 1847300 www.behbehantire.com PIRELLI POWER IS NOTHING WITHOUT CONTROL



Photos from the event.

Indian School Of Excellence holds school parliament – investiture ceremony

“Great leaders don’t set out to be a leader. They set out to make a difference. More than the role it is always about the goal.”

The momentous day of the very first School Parliament investiture ceremony of ISEK, dated May 11, dawned to bestow responsibilities on the deserving young, talented elected leaders of the school to lead their school with their commitment, confidence and competence.

The school held the ceremony with great fervor. It

was the occasion when the young students were all prepared to don the mantle of leadership and discharge the responsibilities entrusted to them by the school. The purpose of the school parliament is to instill leadership characteristics in students and to give them the sense of being an important and vital part of the administrative body.

The proud moment of the first ever elected leaders commenced with the traditional March past, where the newly appointed leaders led the procession.

The members of School Parliament were introduced by the school parliament advisor and the chief guest, Dr. Muzammil Mustafa Mugloo, and the Director, Mrs. Shery Dennis, bestowed the sash and badge on the newly elected panel of parliamentarians.

The Director, Mrs. Shery Dennis, administered the oath to the newly elected school parliament. The members were congratulated for their preparedness to take up the responsibilities entrusted to them. She addressed the gathering with her words of wisdom and

motivated the newly appointed leaders to play their roles to the best of their abilities.

The chief guest, Dr. Muzammil Mustafa Mugloo emphasized on Mahatma Gandhi’s famous quote, “Be the change you want to see in the world” and advised the student leaders to be a leader themselves to show commitment towards their responsibilities.

The Vice Principal, Mrs. Bismitha Shamsudheen, expressed heartfelt gratitude to everyone who graced the occasion.

Students showcase technical skills

AUK secures top rankings in ‘Datathon Competition’

KUWAIT CITY, May 22: The American University of Kuwait (AUK) students and staff participated in the Datathon competition organized by Gulf Bank, Coded, and Injaz Kuwait. Participants had the opportunity to explore and analyze large data sets, develop innovative data models, and present compelling visualizations to communicate their findings.

Students Abdulrahman AlKhalidi, Yousef Damerji, and Maya Raed Abdin from the College of Business and Economics (CBE) secured 4th place in the Visualization track. They exhibited outstanding skills in transforming complex data into intuitive, accessible visual representations.

Eng. Afsah Abdullah from the Office of Research and Grants (ORG) secured 5th place amidst 38 teams in the modeling track, showcasing her abilities in predictive modeling and statistical analysis.

AUK assistant professor of management and assistant director of ORG, Dr. Ahmad Al-Saber, commented on the success of the event as the teams’ supervisor, “We are immensely proud of our students’ and staff achievements and look forward to their future

endeavors. We extend our sincere thanks to Gulf Bank, Coded and Injaz Kuwait for organizing the Datathon competition, providing an excellent platform for students to hone their skills and gain invaluable experiences.”

The Fancy DataVis Prize was awarded to Abdulrahman AlKhalidi, Yousef Damerji, and Maya Raed Abdin for creating the most visually impressive, innovative, and effective representation of data. They outperformed competitors from various global institutions, showcasing a compelling blend of creativity, technical skills, and a deep understanding of data visualization principles.

This accomplishment serves as a testament to AUK’s dedication to fostering talent in the area of data science and analytics.

The American University of Kuwait (AUK) is an independent, private, equal opportunity, and coeducational liberal arts institution of higher education. The educational, cultural and administrative structure, methods and standards of AUK are based on the American model of higher learning. The language of instruction is English.



Group photo of participants with Dr. Ahmad Al-Saber.



Group photo of participants during competition.



Photos from the event.

‘Discipline is key factor to become a role model’

ICSK Junior organizes Annual Investiture Ceremony with pomp and dignity

KUWAIT CITY, May 22: “Leadership is all about service not only to the school but to the society at large.”

With this thought, the ICSK Junior family organized its Annual Investiture Ceremony on 11th May, 2023. The ceremony was held with pomp and dignity in the school premises. It was on this day, the newly elected student council was bestowed with the responsibility of leading their school with compassion, commitment and competence.

The Chief Guest for the function, the President of Indian Doctor’s Forum-Kuwait, Dr. Diwakara Chaluviah, escorted

by the senate members, was welcomed by the audience with a standing ovation and a huge round of applause.

Principal- ICSK Junior, Mrs. C. Sheeja welcomed the chief guest lauding him for his stellar contribution to society since 1994. He was presented a bouquet and a memento as a mark of appreciation. The principal in her address congratulated the members of the newly elected Student Council. She advised them to imbibe the spirit of service and to strive hard to do their best for the school and for the society, saying that leadership means service. She further accentuated them to embrace their duties with humility, perseverance

and loyalty.

The programme started with the readings from the Holy Quran followed a prayer song, thought, lamp lighting ceremony and a short cultural programme.

The student were all ears as the names of the student council was called out for the induction ceremony, who marched on stage to take their positions. The chief guest pinned the badges and the principal then administered the oath to all the office bearers making them realize the need to take all the duties entrusted to them, very seriously and ethically.

The Chief Guest addressed the gathering by first con-

gratulating everyone on bagging the posts, making them realize the gravity of their responsibilities and emphasizing that discipline is the key factor to become a role model. Dr. Diwakara was overwhelmed to share memories of his school days.

On behalf of the entire team of office bearers, the school president proposed the vote of thanks and pledged to devote and dedicate his team towards the zenith of success. He expressed gratitude to all for their efforts that led to the smooth functioning of the Investiture Ceremony. The programme concluded with the singing of the National Anthem.

	Change	Closing pts		Change	Closing pts				
UAE	-	DFM	+0.13	3,549.30	PAKISTAN	-	KSE 100	-0.99	41,203.50
JAPAN	-	Nikkei	+0.90	31,086.82	PHILIPPINES	-	PSEi	-0.66	6,620.83
					SAUDI	-	Tadawul	-0.11	11,329.19
					EGYPT	-	EGX 30	-0.57	16,764.41

Business

'Everything feels a bit crazy right now in this economy'

Biden gets low ratings on economy, guns, immigration in poll

WASHINGTON, May 22, (AP): As President Joe Biden embarks on his reelection campaign, just 33% of American adults say they approve of his handling of the economy and only 24% say national economic conditions are in good shape, according to a new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

Public approval of Biden's handling of the economy remains low in a time of high inflation, a difficult housing market and concerns about a potential U.S. government debt default. American opinion is also gloomy about Biden's efforts on gun policy and immigration, with only 31% saying they approve of the president's performance on those hot button issues. Overall, 40% say they approve of the way Biden is doing his job, similar to where his approval rating has stood for much of the past year and a half.

Zoie Mosqueda, 24, who does not identify with any political party, said her family is ready to buy their first home but with the average mortgage interest rate hovering around 6.9%, that goal, at least for now, is out of reach.

The woman from West Texas said she also has been frustrated with Biden's handling of gun policy and said he's fallen short on his campaign promise to implement a fairer immigration policy.

A recent spate of mass shootings around the country, including this month's shooting at an Allen, Texas mall that left eight victims dead and seven others wounded, has left her wishing that Biden and lawmakers in Washington would do more to address the scourge of gun violence.

Even among Democrats, the poll finds only about half approve of his handling of immigration and gun policy.

"Everything feels a bit crazy right now in this economy," Mosqueda, a mother of two who works at a boutique and is looking to open her own business, said in explaining her disapproval of Biden's performance. "My older daughter is in school now, and I just worry that this lack of gun policy stuff could affect her."

Biden returned late Sunday from a visit to Hiroshima, Japan, for the annual G7 summit where the global economic impact of Russia's invasion in Ukraine was front-and-center.

The summit was shadowed by the Biden administration's negotiations with Republican lawmakers to raise the U.S. borrowing authority to prevent a default in

early June that could have severe impact on the global economy. Before departing for Japan, Biden canceled scheduled stops in Papua New Guinea and Australia so he could return to the U.S. to focus on the debt limit talks.

"It would be a total catastrophe for the country if they don't agree to do something," said Bob Vought, a retired auto parts warehouse manager in St. Petersburg, Florida. He said he strongly disapproves of Biden's handling of the economy.

Vought, who lives on his Social Security benefit, said inflation is taking a toll on his personal finances.

The Biden administration oversaw two of the bigger Social Security cost-of-living adjustment in recent decades, with a 5.9% increase that took effect in 2022 and 8.7% in 2023. But Vought said that's not enough to keep up with a rental increase at the trailer park where he lives with his father and the rising costs of food and other basic necessities.

Vought, an independent who typically votes Republican but voted for Biden in 2020, said he's also been frustrated by the "out of control" rise in illegal crossings by migrants at the U.S. southern border.

In the 2022 budget year, which ended in September, agents apprehended immigrants a record 2.38 million times at the southern border.

Coronavirus restrictions implemented under President Donald Trump, which were known as Title 42, allowed border officials to turn away migrants to help stop the spread of COVID-19. The restrictions recently ended.

While Title 42 was used to deny asylum more than 2.8 million times, it carried no legal consequences, which encouraged repeat attempts by migrants to enter the United States. Border Patrol agents returned to post-pandemic immigration laws on May 11 that impose stiffer penalties on migrants who enter the U.S. without permission than the emergency health order did.

Despite his frustrations with Biden, Vought said he'd probably vote for the Democrat again if Trump wins the Republican nomination.

"I agree with about half of Trump's policies but I think the guy is a liar and is so arrogant," Vought said. "If those were the only two candidates ... I'd have to still vote Biden."

John Billman, 79, of Chapel Hill, North Carolina, said Biden doesn't get enough credit for passage of the \$1 trillion infrastructure bill and \$280 billion CHIPS Act

aimed at boosting the U.S. semiconductor industry, or the historically low unemployment rate. The unemployment rate stands at 3.4%.

Billman, who approves of Biden's performance, said he feels the political conversation has become even more toxic since the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection at the U.S. Capitol.

"Since January 6, there are so many that seem incredibly angry at the government, that think the government and Biden are only doing bad things," Billman said. "I mean an infrastructure bill? It's a bad thing? I have relatives who I respect and love and are intelligent people who say, 'I hate Biden.' I can understand disagreeing with him but how can you hate Biden? It's scary."

Biden underperforms on the economy even among Democrats: 61% approve of him on the issue, compared with 75% for his job overall. Democrats feel even more down about the current condition of the nation's economy, though they continue to be more likely than Republicans to say the country is headed in the right direction (36% vs. 7%) or to rate the economy as good (41% vs. 7%).

Some Democratic respondents who approve of the president's performance said they felt flummoxed by life in post-pandemic America and what often seems like a total abandonment of bipartisanship in Washington.

Karen D'Andrea, 64, a Democrat from Port Lucie, Florida, was among the millions of Americans who lost their jobs at the beginning of the pandemic. She was able to land a new job at a tech startup, but was recently laid off as that sector is going through some of the most significant cost cutting since the Great Recession.

"I think people with the same mindset as me feel our best days are behind us," said D'Andrea, who approves of Biden's performance but believes the country is moving in the wrong direction. "Republicans like to say they want to make America great again. I think things can be wonderful now, but we got to work together."

□ □ □

The poll of 1,680 adults was conducted May 11-15 using a sample drawn from NORC's probability-based AmeriSpeak Panel, which is designed to be representative of the U.S. population. The margin of sampling error for all respondents is plus or minus 3.4 percentage points.



A currency trader works near the screens showing the foreign exchange rates at a foreign exchange dealing room in Seoul, South Korea, Monday, May 22, 2023. Asian shares mostly drifted higher Monday as investors fretted whether the United States government would be able to reach a deal to avoid a federal default. (AP)

Asian shares mostly rise

Wall St is mixed ahead of talks to avoid U.S. default

NEW YORK, May 22, (AP): Stocks are moving tentatively Monday, as Wall Street waits to see whether a pivotal meeting in the afternoon will help the U.S. government avoid a potentially disastrous default on its debt.

The S&P 500 was 0.1% higher after coming off its best week since March. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 118 points, or 0.4%, at 33,309, as of 12:44 p.m. Eastern time, while the Nasdaq composite was 0.4% higher.

The stock market is near its highest level since August, but it's been mostly drifting within a tight range for weeks as several big worries weigh. The biggest near-term risk is the possibility of a U.S. default, something that could occur as soon as June 1.

That's when Washington could run out of cash to pay its bills, unless Congress allows it to borrow more. Because Treasuries are seen as the safest investment on Earth, economists and investors say a default would likely trigger a recession for the economy and deep pain for financial markets.

President Joe Biden and House Speaker Kevin McCarthy are set to meet in the afternoon about raising the debt limit. Talks so far have been start-and-stop, with stocks rallying in the middle of last week on hopes that a deal may be progressing, only to falter Friday when negotiations hit a roadblock. Talks continued through the weekend.

Another worry that's hung over the market is the strength of the U.S. banking system, which has begun to crack under the weight of much higher interest rates. Three big U.S. failures have shaken confidence since March, and investors have been on the lookout for the next possible weak link.

Much scrutiny has been on PacWest Bancorp. Its stock rose 14.8% after it said it agreed to sell a portfolio of real-estate construction loans with about \$2.6 billion in principal still outstanding to Kennedy Wilson, among other assets.

PacWest is one of the smaller and mid-sized regional banks that Wall Street highlighted in its hunt for the next possible bank to suffer a drop in confidence. Other banks collapsed after depositors pulled their cash all at once to create debilitating runs. PacWest's stock is still down 73% for the year so far.

Elsewhere on Wall Street, Micron Technology dropped 2.3% as tensions over security worsen between China and the United States. China's government said on Sunday Micron's products have unspecified "serious network security risks" that could affect national security. It told users of sensitive computer equipment to stop buying Micron products.

Meta Platforms rose 1.7% after shaking off news that European regulators hit it with a record \$1.3 billion privacy fine. Meta called the decision flawed and unjustified. It said it would appeal.

Meta has been on a tear this year, more than doubling so far in 2023 already. Other Big Tech companies have

also had powerful leaps, much stronger than the rest of the market.

But that split in performance, which has kept the overall S&P 500 resilient when many stocks are weakening, is worrying some market watchers. It's left the index looking historically top heavy, meaning its performance is more dependent on just a couple handfuls of stocks than it's been in decades.

Europe

Global shares mostly drifted higher Monday as investors fretted over whether the United States government would be able to reach a deal to avoid a federal default.

France's CAC 40 inched down less than 0.1% in early trading to 7,489.72, while Germany's DAX slipped 0.1% to 16,261.45. Britain's FTSE 100 gained 0.3% to 7,780.30.

Asia

Asian shares mostly drifted higher Monday as investors fretted whether the United States government would be able to reach a deal to avoid a federal default.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 gained 0.9% to finish at 31,086.82. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 slid 0.2% to 7,263.30. South Korea's Kospi gained 0.7% to 2,554.97. Hong Kong's Hang Seng plunged 1.7% to 19,779.38, while the Shanghai Composite edged up 0.4% to 3,295.07.

Markets are closely watching a pivotal meeting set for later in the day at the White House between President Joe Biden and House Speaker Kevin McCarthy on the debt ceiling. A default on the U.S. debt would almost surely cause a recession in the American economy, which would have damaging effects on global economies.

"It seems pretty likely that a full-fledged deal will be reached before early June, but the timing is hard to predict," Stephen Innes, managing partner at SPI Asset Management, said of the U.S. efforts to avoid a potentially disastrous default on its debt.

"While negotiation strategy and political incentives imply a last-minute deal, we will soon find out if it's baked beans or lobster during the Memorial Day holiday."

Data for machinery orders in Japan for March, released Monday, highlighted a slowdown in the world's third-largest economy, with the key indicator falling 3.9% for the second-straight month of declines. But analysts think a recovery is coming during this quarter, as domestic manufacturing gradually rebounds from the various negative effects related to the pandemic.

Oil

In energy trading, benchmark U.S. crude lost \$1.00 to \$70.55 a barrel. Brent crude, the international standard, fell 88 cents to \$74.70 a barrel.

Currencies

In currency trading, the U.S. dollar stood unchanged at 137.88 Japanese yen. The euro cost \$1.0820, up from \$1.0808.

Damage from a US 'debt default' could affect the global economy

'No corner of the globe will be spared'

WASHINGTON, May 22, (AP): If the debt crisis roiling Washington were eventually to send the United States crashing into recession, America's economy would hardly sink alone.

The repercussions of a first-ever default on the federal debt would quickly reverberate around the world. Orders for Chinese factories that sell electronics to the United States could dry up. Swiss investors who own U.S. Treasuries would suffer losses. Sri Lankan companies could no longer deploy dollars as an alternative to their own dodgy currency.

"No corner of the global economy will be spared" if the U.S. government defaulted and the crisis weren't resolved quickly, said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics.

Zandi and two colleagues at Moody's have concluded that even if the debt limit were breached for no more than week, the U.S. economy would weaken so much, so fast, as to wipe out roughly 1.5 million jobs.

And if a government default were to last much longer - well into the summer - the consequences would be far more dire, Zandi and his colleagues found in their analysis: U.S. economic growth would sink, 7.8 million American jobs would vanish, borrowing rates would jump, the unemployment rate would soar from the current 3.4% to 8% and a stock-market plunge would erase \$10 trillion in household wealth.

Of course, it might not come to that. The White House and House Republicans, seeking a breakthrough, concluded a round of debt-limit negotiations Sunday, with plans to resume talks Monday. The Republicans have threatened to let the government default on its debts by refusing to raise the statutory limit on what it can borrow unless President Joe Biden and the Democrats accept sharp spending cuts and other concessions.

Feeding the anxiety is the fact that so much financial activity hinges on confidence that America will always pay its financial obligations. Its debt, long viewed as an ultra-safe asset, is a foundation of global commerce, built on decades of trust in the United States. A default could shatter the \$24 trillion market for Treasury debt, cause financial markets to freeze up and ignite an international crisis.

"A debt default would be a cataclysmic event, with an unpredictable but probably dramatic fallout on U.S. and global financial markets," said Eswar Prasad, professor of trade policy at Cornell University and senior fellow at the Brookings Institution.

The threat has emerged just as the world economy is contending with a panoply of threats - from surging inflation and interest rates to the ongoing repercussions of Russia's invasion of Ukraine to the tightening grip of authoritarian regimes. On top of all that, many countries have grown skeptical of America's outsized role in global finance.

In the past, American political leaders generally managed to step away from the brink and raise the debt limit before it was too late. Congress has raised, revised or extended the borrowing cap 78 times since 1960, most recently in 2021.

Yet the problem has worsened. Partisan divisions in Congress have widened while the debt has grown after years of rising spending and deep tax cuts. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen



In this file photo, the likeness of Benjamin Franklin is seen on U.S. \$100 bills, Thursday, July 14, 2022, in Marple Township, Pa. If the debt crisis now roiling Washington were eventually to send the United States crashing into recession, the repercussions of a first-ever default on the federal debt would reverberate around the world and quickly. (AP)

Time to resolve debt ceiling standoff grows short

Biden, McCarthy to hold pivotal meeting

WASHINGTON, May 22, (AP): President Joe Biden and House Speaker Kevin McCarthy are set to meet at the White House at a pivotal moment as Washington works to strike a budget compromise and raise the nation's borrowing limit in time to avert a potentially chaotic federal default.

Negotiators for the White House arrived Monday back at the Capitol for talks ahead of the afternoon meeting between the Democratic president and the new Republican speaker that will be critical as they race to prevent a looming debt crisis as soon as next week.

After a weekend of start-stop talks, both men have appeared upbeat as they face a deadline, as soon as June 1, when the government could run out of cash to pay its bills.

By Monday morning, McCarthy took a sharper edge, blaming Biden for having refused to engage earlier on annual federal spending, a separate issue

but linked to the nation's debt. "What we have to do here is get the spending addition to stop," McCarthy, R-Calif., told reporters as he arrived at the Capitol.

"The Democrats and the president refusing to even to negotiate, no household would run this way," he said. "That is why we go from crisis to crisis."

McCarthy said as he has many times before: "We're going to spend less than we did last year."

The contours of an agreement appear within reach, and the negotiations have narrowed on a 2024 budget year cap that would be key to resolving the standoff. Republicans have insisted next year's spending cannot be more than current 2023 levels, but Democrats have refused to accept the steeper cuts McCarthy's team first proposed.

A budget deal would unlock a separate vote to lift the debt ceiling, now \$31 trillion, to allow more borrowing

to pay bills already incurred. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said Sunday that June 1 is a "hard deadline."

A top Republican negotiator Rep. Patrick McHenry of North Carolina told reporters that a round of talks late Sunday had gone "reasonably well."

"We know the deadline, we know the challenge," said McHenry, who is also chairman of the House Financial Services Committee. "People are working in good faith." But he said: "All these things are tough."

"We'll keep working," said Steve Ricchetti, counselor to the president, as the White House team exited talks late Sunday.

Biden and McCarthy spoke by phone Sunday while the president was returning home on Air Force One after the Group of Seven summit in Japan. "It went well, we'll talk tomorrow," Biden said in response to a shouted question upon his return late Sunday.

made it the de facto global currency since World War II, it's relatively easy for the United States to borrow and finance an ever-growing pile of government debt.

But high demand for dollars also tends to make them more valuable than other currencies, and that imposes a cost: A strong dollar makes American goods pricier relative to their foreign rivals, leaving U.S. exporters at a competitive disadvantage. That's one reason why the United States has run trade deficits every year since 1975.

Of all the foreign exchange reserves held by the world's central banks, U.S. dollars account for 58%. No. 2 is the euro: 20%. China's yuan makes up under 3%, according to the IMF.

Researchers at the Federal Reserve have calculated that from 1999 to 2019, 96% of trade in the Americas was invoiced in U.S. dollars. So was 74% of trade in Asia. Elsewhere outside of Europe, where the euro dominates, dollars accounted for 79% of trade.

So reliable is America's currency that merchants in some unstable economies demand payment in dollars, instead of their own country's currency. Consider Sri Lanka, battered by inflation and a dizzying drop in the local currency. Earlier this year, shippers refused to release 1,000 containers of urgently needed food unless they were paid in dollars. The shipments piled up at the docks in Colombo because the importers weren't able to obtain dollars to pay the suppliers.

"Without (dollars), we can't do any transaction," said Nihal Seneviratne, a spokesman for Essential Food Importers and Traders Association. "When we import, we have to use hard currency - mostly the U.S. dollars."

Likewise, many shops and restaurants in Lebanon, where inflation has raged and the currency has plunged, are demanding payment in dollars. In 2000, Ecuador responded to an economic crisis by replacing its own currency, the sucre, with dollars - a process called "dollarization" - and has stuck with it.

UK gov't reduces stake in NatWest to below 40%

The British government has sold a further stake in one of the banks that was bailed out at the height of the global financial crisis in 2008, when the banking system was teetering on the edge of collapse.

In a statement Monday, the Treasury said it had sold shares in NatWest that are valued at 1.3 billion pounds (\$1.6 billion). As a result of the latest sale, its stake in the bank has fallen below 40%.

"Today's sale is another major milestone in returning NatWest to full private ownership as promised," said Andrew Griffith, economic secretary to the Treasury. "The government has now sold well over half of its shareholding."

Royal Bank of Scotland, as it was known then, was one of the biggest near-collapse during the financial crisis following years of rapid expansion that saw it become one of the world's

biggest banks.

As part of a series of bailouts, the Labour government at the time took a majority stake in the bank as it pumped in 46 billion pounds in order to keep it afloat.

"This transaction reduces government ownership below 40% and demonstrates positive progress on the bank's strategic priorities and the path to privatization," said NatWest chief executive officer Alison Rose. (AP)

Privat 3 Money announces British Airways campaign

Luxury HNW-focused fintech, Privat 3 Money (P3), has today announced a strategic marketing campaign with British Airways, one of the world's most iconic airlines.

Launching this summer, P3 will promote its innovative financial services on the digital screens within the airlines Gold, Concorde First Class and Arrivals lounges at Heathrow Airport. The brand will feature in BA's HighLife magazine and also launch its first video ad-

vertisement which will be shown as part of the airlines in-flight entertainment journey.

Founded in 2020, Privat 3 Money has revolutionised the premier digital finance industry, providing a truly digital alternative to traditional financial institutions. The firm has reimaged access to deposits, payments, foreign exchange and trading for the digital age, enabling financial transactions from anywhere in the world via smartphone

whilst maintaining the personal customer service offering synonymous with traditional private finance.

Their unique understanding of client requirements has made them the banking alternative of choice for HNW individuals, and the partnership with British Airways is a further extension of the firm's global outlook and approach, enabling P3 to reach global citizens across the world. (PRNewswire)

The Conversation

Should gov'ts ban TikTok? Can they? A cybersecurity expert explains risks the 'app' poses and challenges to blocking it

By Doug Jacobson
Iowa State University

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

On May 24, 2023, Montana Gov. Greg Gianforte signed legislation banning TikTok in the state. The law imposes fines of US\$10,000 per day on any app store that offers the popular Chinese-owned video social media app, and on the app maker itself if it operates in the state. Individual users are not subject to penalties. The law, which is scheduled to go into effect Jan. 1, 2024, is the first total ban by a U.S. state government. The company claims 200,000 users in the state of 1.1 million people.

Many members of Congress have called for the federal government to ban the Chinese-owned video social media app nationally. TikTok CEO Shou Zi Chew was grilled by members of Congress during testimony before the House Energy and Commerce Committee on March 23, 2023.

The federal government, along with many state and foreign governments and some companies, has already banned TikTok on work-provided phones. This type of ban can be effective for protecting data related to government work.

But a full ban of the app is another matter, which raises a number of questions: What data privacy risk does TikTok pose? What could the Chinese government do with data collected by the app? Is its content recommendation algorithm dangerous? Is it legal for a government to impose a total ban on the app? And is it even possible to ban an app?

As a cybersecurity researcher, I've noted that every few years a new mobile app that becomes popular raises issues of security, privacy and data access.

Apps collect data for several reasons. Sometimes the data is used to improve the app for users. However, most apps collect data that the companies use in part to fund their operations. This revenue typically comes from targeting users with ads based on the data they collect. The questions this use of data raises are: Does the app need all this data? What does it do with the data? And how does it protect the data from others?

So what makes TikTok different from the likes of Pokemon-GO, Facebook or even your phone itself? TikTok's privacy policy, which few people read, is a good place to start. Overall, the company is not particularly transparent about its practices. The document is too long to list here all the data it collects, which

should be a warning.

There are a few items of interest in TikTok's privacy policy besides the information you give them when you create an account - name, age, username, password, language, email, phone number, social media account information and profile image - that are concerning. This information includes location data, data from your clipboard, contact information, website tracking, plus all data you post and messages you send through the app. The company claims that current versions of the app do not collect GPS information from U.S. users. There has been speculation that TikTok is collecting other information, but that is hard to prove.

If most apps collect data, why are governments worried about TikTok? First, they worry about the Chinese government accessing data from TikTok's 150 million users in the U.S. There is also a concern about the algorithms used by TikTok to show content.

If the data does end up in the hands of the Chinese government, the question is how could it use the data to its benefit. The government could share it with other companies in China to help them profit, which is no different than U.S. companies sharing marketing data. The Chinese government is known for playing the long game, and data is power, so if it is collecting data, it could take years to learn how it benefits China.

One potential threat is the Chinese government using the data to spy on people, particularly people who have access to valuable information. The Justice Department is investigating TikTok's parent company, ByteDance, for using the app to monitor U.S. journalists. The Chinese government has an extensive history of hacking U.S. government agencies and corporations, and much of that hacking has been facilitated by social engineering - the practice of using data about people to trick them into revealing more information.

The second issue that the U.S. government has raised is algorithm bias or algorithm manipulation. TikTok and most social media apps have algorithms designed to learn a user's interests and then try to adjust the content so the user will continue to use the app. TikTok has not shared its algorithm, so it's not clear how the app chooses a user's content.

The algorithm could be biased in a way that influences a population to believe certain things. There are numerous allegations that TikTok's algorithm is biased and can reinforce negative thoughts among younger users, and be used

to affect public opinion. It could be that the algorithm's manipulative behavior is unintentional, but there is concern that the Chinese government has been using or could use the algorithm to influence people.

The Montana law aims to use fines to coerce companies into enforcing its ban. It's not clear if companies will comply, and it's unlikely that this would deter users from finding workarounds.

Meanwhile, if the federal government comes to the conclusion that TikTok should be banned, is it even possible to ban it for all of its 150 million existing users? Any such ban would likely start with blocking the distribution of the app through Apple's and Google's app stores. This might keep many users off the platform, but there are other ways to download and install apps for people who are determined to use them.

A more drastic method would be to force Apple and Google to change their phones to prevent TikTok from running. While I'm not a lawyer, I think this effort would fail due to legal challenges, which include First Amendment concerns. The bottom line is that an absolute ban will be tough to enforce.

There are also questions about how effective a ban would be even if it were possible. By some estimates, the Chinese government has already collected personal information on at least 80% of the U.S. population via various means. So a ban might limit the damage going forward to some degree, but the Chinese government has already collected a significant amount of data. The Chinese government also has access - along with anyone else with money - to the large market for personal data, which fuels calls for stronger data privacy rules.

So as an average user, should you worry? Again, it is unclear what data ByteDance is collecting and if it can harm an individual. I believe the most significant risks are to people in power, whether it is political power or within a company. Their data and information could be used to gain access to other data or potentially compromise the organizations they are associated with.

The aspect of TikTok I find most concerning is the algorithm that decides what videos users see and how it can affect vulnerable groups, particularly young people. Independent of a ban, families should have conversations about TikTok and other social media platforms and how they can be detrimental to mental health. These conversations should focus on how to determine if the app is leading you down an unhealthy path.

China tells tech manufacturers to stop using chips made by Micron

Beijing steps up feud with US

BEIJING, May 22, (AP): Stepping up a feud with Washington over technology and security, China's government on Sunday told users of computer equipment deemed sensitive to stop buying products from the biggest U.S. memory chipmaker, Micron Technology Inc.

"Operators of critical information infrastructure in China should stop purchasing products from Micron Co.," the agency said.

The United States, Europe and Japan are reducing Chinese access to advanced chipmaking and other technology they say might be used in weapons at a time when President Xi Jinping's government has threatened to attack Taiwan and is increasingly assertive toward Japan and other neighbors.

Chinese officials have warned of unspecified consequences but appear to be struggling to find ways to retaliate without hurting China's smartphone producers and other industries and efforts to develop its own processor chip suppliers.

An official review of Micron under China's increasingly stringent information security laws was announced April 4, hours after Japan joined Washington in imposing restrictions on Chinese access to technology to make processor chips on security grounds.

Foreign companies have been rattled by police raids on two consulting firms, Bain & Co. and Capvision, and a due diligence firm, Mintz Group. Chinese authorities have declined to explain the raids but said foreign companies are obliged to obey the law.

Business groups and the U.S. government have appealed to authorities to explain newly expanded legal restrictions on information and how they will be enforced.

Sunday's announcement appeared to try to reassure foreign companies.

"China firmly promotes high-level opening up to the outside world and, as long as it complies with Chinese laws and regulations, welcomes enterprises and various platform products and services from various countries to enter the Chinese market," the cyberspace agency said.

Xi accused Washington in March of trying to block China's development. He called on the public to "dare to fight."

Despite that, Beijing has been slow to retaliate, possibly to avoid disrupting Chinese industries that assemble most of the world's smartphones, tablet computers and other consumer electronics. They import more than \$300 billion worth of foreign chips every year.

Beijing is pouring billions of dollars



The bank's human resources team with Tariq Al-Othman from the university



ABK at the AUM Career Fair

ABK: Golden sponsor of AUM's Annual Career Fair

Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait: Golden Sponsor of the American University of the Middle East's Annual Career Fair

Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait has recently announced its sponsorship of the American University of the Middle East (AUM)'s annual career fair as its golden sponsor from 22 to 24 May 2023. The Bank's participation in the event is part of its continuous support of the young generation, reiterating the Bank's keenness in providing graduates with job opportunities across all its divisions.

The Bank extends an invitation to all students and graduates to pay a visit to its booth at the fair, where they will have the opportunity to learn more about the nature of the work conducted at ABK as well as the available employment openings in all divisions. The human resources team will be readily available to receive applications and elucidate the Bank's recruitment and hiring policies that would enable aspiring students to successfully embark on their career path.



Al Arbash

smartphones, artificial intelligence and other advanced applications.

The conflict has prompted warnings the world might decouple, or split into separate spheres with incompatible

technology standards that mean computers, smartphones and other products from one region wouldn't work in others. That would raise costs and might slow innovation.

Sungrow to supply 2.1 GW of 1+X Modular Inverter Solutions to KSA

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia, May 22, (PRNewswire): Sungrow, the global leading inverter and energy storage system solution supplier, signed a 2.1 GW contract with China Energy International Group Co., Ltd. to supply the Company's featured 1+X Modular Inverter solutions to Al Shuaibah project in the western region of Saudi Arabia. The Al Shuaibah project with a total AC capacity of 2.66 GW, is the world's largest PV project and will fuel the transition of Saudi Vision 2030.

Al Shuaibah is ACWA Power's sixth solar energy facility in Saudi Arabia. Badeel and ACWA Power will build, own, and operate Al Shuaibah facility and the electricity produced will be sold to Saudi Power Procurement Company (SPPC). China Energy International Group is engaged in the project as an EPC company. The project is expected to be completed in 2025 and power 350,000 homes annually.

The project marks an important milestone for the National Renewable Energy Program (NREP) that was initiated by the Ministry of Education (MoE) and aims to develop 70% of the nation's renewable energy through the Public Investment Fund (PIF) by 2030.

Sungrow provides 240 units of its 1+X Modular Inverter solution and 10,000 units of its combiner box. The 1+X Modular Inverter is an innovation combining the advantages of both central and string inverters. As a result of the optimal IP65 high protection capability, the solution is resilient to sandy,

dry, and windy conditions. Due to the smart forced air-cooling technology, the inverter solution can work stably in extremely high temperatures.

In addition, the 1+X Modular Inverter features a 1.1 MW single unit as the minimum, and the maximum capacity can be expanded to 8.8 MW by combing eight units together. To meet their requirements, customers can choose from 1.1 MW to 8.8 MW, bringing a more flexible design for different block sizes and making the on-site O&M easier. Each module is designed with an independent MPPT, further improving the power generation capacity of the power plant. More importantly, the 1+X Modular Inverter is also equipped with intelligent string-level diagnosis to improve the power yield and real-time parallel arc detection to further protect system safety. Therefore, these advantages help lower the overall OPEX.

Xiong Gaoxia, Al Shuaibah Project General Manager of China Energy International Group commented: "The Al Shuaibah project is the largest project in our portfolio, and when it becomes operational, it will annually generate continuous clean power into the power system, contributing to the sustainable development of Saudi Arabia. We are delighted to partner with Sungrow as its industry-leading modular inverter solution, profound experience, and dedicated local team make it possible to deliver long-term benefits for all our stakeholders."

Australian prime minister says working effectively to free founder of WikiLeaks

CANBERRA, Australia, May 22, (AP): Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said he was working in the "most effective way possible" to secure the release of WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, but declined an invitation Monday to meet the Australian citizen's wife.

Independent lawmaker Andrew Wilkie asked Albanese if he would meet Assange's wife Stella Assange, who was watching Parliament from the public gallery. Albanese said a meeting with Stella Assange wouldn't help her 51-year-old husband who is in a London prison fighting extradition to the United States.

"A priority for us isn't doing something that is a demonstration, it's actually doing something that produces an outcome," Albanese told Parliament. "And that's my focus, not grandstanding."

Albanese was with U.S. President Joe Biden and British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak in Japan over the weekend for the Group of Seven leading industrial nations summit. Albanese did not say whether he had raised with either leader Australia's position that Assange had been incarcerated for too long.

Albanese said he appreciated opposition leader Peter Dutton's recent comments that he agreed with the government that Assange should be released.

"I've made it very clear to the U.S. administration and also to the U.K. administration of the Australian government's view and I appreciate the fact

that that is now a bipartisan view ... that enough is enough," Albanese said.

"Nothing is served from the ongoing incarceration of Julian Assange. What I have done ... is to act in the most effective way possible," he said. "What I have done is act diplomatically in order to maximize the opportunity that is there of breaking through an issue which has gone on for far too long."

But Albanese said the issue was not simple.

Assange has spent four years in Britain's Belmarsh Prison fighting extradition. Before that, Assange had taken asylum for seven years in the Ecuadorian Embassy in London.

Stella Assange used her first visit to Australia to address the National Press Club on Monday with her husband's lawyer, Jennifer Robinson.

The wife said her husband had spent 1,502 days behind bars under threat of extradition to the United States, where he faces a 175-year sentence on espionage charges.

"If Julian is extradited, he will be buried in the deepest, darkest hole of the U.S. prison system, isolated forever," she said. "We must do everything we can to ensure that Julian never, ever sets foot in a U.S. prison."

Earlier this month, Albanese expressed frustration at the United States' continuing efforts to extradite.

Albanese said Julian Assange's case had to be examined in terms of whether the time he had "effectively served" was in excess of what would be "reasonable" if the allegations against him were proved.

Company grabs 16 awards

stc wins 'Advertiser of the Year' at MENA MMA SMARTIES

KUWAIT CITY, May 22: Kuwait Telecommunications Company – stc, a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers, enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, announced that it has won two prestigious awards at the 2022 Middle East and North Africa (MENA) MMA SMARTIES. The event, which celebrates the most innovative and creative minds in marketing, recognized stc for its outstanding work in both the "Small Business/Big Impact" and "Audio/Voice/Sonic Branding" categories.

The awards were presented during the SMARTIES Innovation & Creativity Days 2022 conference held in Dubai, UAE, on 18 May 2023. stc won the awards following a rigorous review of its FIFA World Cup 2022 media campaign as well as other initiatives launched by the Company within the World Cup Season. Danah AlJasem, General Manager of Corporate Communications at stc, received the awards on behalf of stc Kuwait at the confer-

ence. The "Small Business/Big Impact" category recognizes companies that demonstrate an ability to create significant impact through its creative concepts, which in turn benefit the community and spread positivity. As for the "Audio/Voice/Sonic Branding", this category aims to recognize excellence in the use of voice recognition technology, audio identities or other audio advertising to create consumer demand and engagement, enhance the consumer experience, or reinforce our brand identity.

It is worth mentioning that stc group and stc subsidiaries took home 16 awards which resulted in the digitally pioneering company winning, 'Advertiser of the Year'. The winning campaigns demonstrated the seamless transition of stc into the realm of dynamic advertising, transcending traditional digital marketing to harness the power of AI.

In recognition of the awards, Danah AlJasem, said, "We are thrilled to



A photo from the event

receive these awards, which reflect the hard work and effort our team has placed in launching our 2022 FIFA World Cup campaign. When launching such concepts, stc focuses on the various ways in which it can

positively impact and influence the community. Moreover, we continuously explore innovative approaches to launching our various activities in such a way that promotes that attributes and key values behind our

brand." AlJasem added: "I would like to congratulate our colleagues at stc group and stc subsidiaries for their wins as well that has demonstrated the stc group leading the way in

driving digital maturity and serving as a catalyst for groundbreaking innovation. I would also like to thank the team at Partners agency, who designed and executed stc Kuwait's TVC for the 2022 World Cup. In addition, I want to thank our agency UM for their outstanding efforts, unwavering commitment and determination to push boundaries throughout the year."

It is worth mentioning that MENA SMARTIES honors the most effective modern marketing across the Middle East and North Africa region. Comprised of over 800 member companies globally and 14 regional offices, the MMA is the only marketing trade association that brings together the full ecosystem of marketers, tech providers and sellers working collaboratively to shape the future. The MMA's global headquarters are located in New York with regional operations in Asia Pacific (APAC), Europe/Middle East/Africa (EMEA), and Latin America (LATAM).



AU students at the Gulf Bank head office.

Bank supports 'Job Shadowing'

Gulf Bank prepares students from the Australian University for 'job market'

KUWAIT CITY, May 22: As part of its various initiatives to consolidate the principles of sustainability in society, and as part of its strategic partnership with INJAZ Kuwait, Gulf Bank welcomed a group of students from the Australian University in Kuwait (AU) at its head office, to take part in the Job Shadowing training program.

The students were introduced to Gulf Bank's Corporate Communications team, where they received a thorough introduction about the team members and their various job tasks. This was followed by an interactive workshop, where the students were divided into two teams – with a mission to plan and organize a specific event, by distributing responsibilities amongst themselves. The teams determined how to take advantage of the available resources, in order to support the event and ensure its success.

The Corporate Communications team carefully listened to the students and answered their various questions regarding the different job tasks at the bank. This helped to provide the students with a greater understanding about the differences between university and work life, and how to smoothly transition from one stage to the next. On this occasion, Gulf Bank's Assistant Manager of Corporate Communications, Ms. Maysoon Al-Attar, explained: "We were very pleased with the creativity and high academic level of the students participating in the program. Their eagerness to be well-prepared for the labor market, was impressive."

Al-Attar pointed that the Job Shadowing program is a cooperation with INJAZ Kuwait, which aims to support the next generation of young leaders and provide them with the skills required by the labor market, amidst the rapid developments in various economic sectors.

Al-Attar emphasized that Gulf Bank is keen to fulfill its social responsibility towards youth, especially those at high school or university levels, including recent graduates. She further indicated that the bank provides youth with basic concepts related to business – enabling them to explore their professional interests, and the available opportunities; in addition to the ways in which they can develop their job skills.

The Job Shadowing program is one of Gulf Bank's sustainability initiatives, and as Al-Attar expressed, "is a brilliant way of exposing youth to the real working environment where they are able take part in several tasks

'Diraya' campaign

KFH 'underlines' customers rights of dealing with banks

KUWAIT CITY, May 22: Kuwait Finance House "KFH" continues efforts to support "Diraya" financial and banking awareness campaign launched by the Central Bank of Kuwait and Kuwait Banking Association for the second year in a row. The campaign aims to shed light on customers rights, rules and regulations of dealing with banks, information safety and security against intrusion, combating fraud transactions in addition to other warnings and regulations. This campaign comes as part of the bank obligation to keep the customers informed about their rights and duties towards banking and financial transactions and their cyber security.

The campaign discusses finance types, banking cards, awareness of customers with special needs, tips on cyber security and protection of bank accounts. Also, it provides the mechanism to lodge complaints, protect customers rights and identify the banking sector duties and its role in enhancing and developing national economy.

KFH contribution in the campaign comprises the dispatch of various messages on different topics related to the main components of the campaign. These messages are sent to all types of customers to suite the culture and nature of each tier. Also, messages are sent on continuous basis to employees who are considered as the second main component in the awareness triangle (customers – employees – public) who are either potential or targeted customers,

thus aiming to achieve the targets of the campaign. The main targets of the campaign comprise awareness, identification of and warning against any possible risks of failing to follow safety and security instructions upon using modern technology means. Regulations include refraining from extending any information about accounts and personal transactions to any unknown parties or reply to messages from unknown sources as this would be a violation to data privacy and banking protection regulations.

Awareness

KFH is keen on spreading financial education, saving and investment knowledge and customer's awareness of the bank's products and services. KFH appreciates the efforts extended by the Central Bank of Kuwait and Kuwait Banking Association in organizing the Be Aware "Diraya" campaign to spread awareness in society regarding banking and financial transactions and e-banking services. Technology has opened vast business opportunities. However, several risks and challenges were also detected considering the several attempts, most of which failed, to hack customers accounts and cause system damage. Accordingly, this situation has called for a comprehensive awareness plan and enhancement of the cyber security systems, anti-money laundering systems and prevention of other legally incriminated and suspicious activities.

Shadowing program.

Additionally, the visits aim to showcase the different career clusters and potential job positions, and to understand the importance of career research and preparation. Students are also given the opportunity to learn about the importance of networking and relationship building with businesspeople, to understand the relevance between their education and future careers, and to realize the benefits of soft skills and ethics in the workplace.

Event to be held on May 29

Markaz to hold webinar on how GCC evolving as 'important EM'

KUWAIT CITY, May 22: Kuwait Financial Centre "Markaz" announced its upcoming webinar that sheds light on the unique attributes that differentiate GCC countries from other Emerging Markets (EMs), as well as the lucrative opportunities available throughout. Titled 'GCC Markets: An Attractive EM Allocation Play,' the webinar will be held on 29 May 2023 and will be presented by Mr. M. R. Raghu – CEO, Marmore MENA Intelligence, the research arm of Markaz.

The webinar will showcase key factors that set the GCC apart from other emerging markets, as well as the current and future share of GCC markets in the EM index. The webinar will also provide a detailed overview of the most opportune regional sectors for investment along with expected future investment trends. This online event will give attendees, specifically family offices and high net-worth individuals, the opportunity to discuss EMs and gain industry insights in light of the highly competitive financial ecosystem, in an effort to cater to their investment needs and goals.

Mr. Abdullah Al-Nouri, Assistant Vice President, Wealth Management and Business Development at Markaz



Abdullah Al-Nouri



M.R. Raghu

stated: "The event comes as part of Markaz's ongoing efforts to keep clients up to date with the latest and futuristic market trends, and informed of the available opportunities across different sectors and markets, enabling them to make sound investment decisions based on in-depth studies and research. In addition, Markaz's webinars enables clients to gain in-depth information in the financial and investment sectors easily and from anywhere, which allows them to be effectively ahead of the curve."

It is worth mentioning that Markaz

launched various initiatives over the years, including a series of seminars that address investment opportunities for clients across different sectors. The latest of those was the 2023 outlook seminar titled "Identifying Investment Opportunities in Light of Current Market Challenges", which witnessed more than 300 attendees. The event was led by Markaz's experts in asset management, investment banking, and wealth management, who shared effective strategies on how to identify opportunities across target markets.



A photo from the event.

Behbehani strengthening partnerships

'Pirelli' hosts training session for its partners and distributors in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, May 22: In order to strengthen their partnerships and keep pace with product development, Behbehani Tire Center - Pirelli, the leading provider of tires in Kuwait, recently hosted a comprehensive training session for its partners and distributors in a number of service centers for car dealerships in Kuwait, in an effort to highlight the latest developments in its products and keep pace with technological changes in the field.

A number of strategic partners in the automotive field, such as: Porsche, GMC, Volvo, Audi and Lamborghini, participated in the training. In addition to representatives of authorized distributors and agents.

The session was led by Anthony Johansen, Pirelli's Global Training Manager, and Mr. Raad Haddad,

who traveled all the way from Italy and Dubai, respectively, to be part of this event. Mr. Johansen delivered an in-depth presentation on the latest product specifications and conducted detailed training sessions for the participants. He also shared insights into the company's latest strategies, products, and market trends, emphasizing Pirelli's commitment to innovation and adaptability.

This training session is part of Pirelli's annual program, conducted across various countries. The company places great importance on enhancing partnerships in the Middle East, Africa, and India, and aims to ensure that its partners are well-informed about the rapid and continuous changes taking place within Pirelli, the global leader in premium tire manufacturing.

The company focuses on elucidating its strategic direction, including its sustainability-based approach and its active involvement in the electric vehicle sector. Additionally, the company provides updates on recent managerial decisions that impact its operations and offerings.

In parallel, Behbehani Tire Center - Pirelli, remains dedicated to offering the best deals and exceptional value to its customers in Kuwait. To that end, they recently launched a special promotion, allowing customers to enjoy a 25% discount on tire purchases and receive a purchase voucher from Al Shaya worth up to KD 50. This campaign has received significant acclaim, resulting in increased customer interest and boosted sales figures for the company's products.



A photo from the event.

Warba sponsors Kuwait e-football team in W. Asian Championship

KUWAIT CITY, May 22: Warba Bank proudly announces its sponsorship of the Kuwaiti e-football team and the Kuwait Electronic Sports Club for their participation in the upcoming West Asian Championship. The championship, taking place in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia on June 1st and 2nd, will feature six Arab teams, including the Kuwaiti, Saudi, Qatari, Emirati, Lebanese, and Jordanian national teams. Representing Kuwait will be Abdullah Al-Rish and Abdulrahman Al-Failakawi.

Ayman Salem Al-Mutairi, Director of Marketing and Corporate Communications at Warba Bank, expressed his pride in the sponsorship, stating,

"We are honored to support the Kuwaiti e-football team and the Kuwait Electronic Sports Club as they prepare for the West Asian Championship. We recognize the importance of professional players in this field and eagerly support and encourage their pursuit of success." Al-Mutairi extended his best wishes to all the players and thanked the Kuwait Electronic Sports Club, headed by Chairman Abdullah Musaed Al-Ali, for their efforts.

Emphasizing their commitment to success, Al-Mutairi assured full support and necessary resources to the team in their quest for the championship cup. This sponsorship aligns with Warba Bank's dedication to sports and

athletes, recognizing their talents and the bank's contribution to community service. Al-Mutairi highlighted Warba Bank's belief in the role of sports in promoting a healthier lifestyle and their commitment to supporting such events that benefit the youth.

Warba Bank's support and sponsorship of sports activities aim to strengthen ties between the banking and sports sectors while highlighting their presence on local and international platforms. Chairman of the Kuwait Electronic Sports Club, Abdullah Musaed Al-Ali, expressed gratitude for Warba Bank's support, emphasizing the team's readiness and determination to excel in the tournament.

Al-Ali highlighted the importance of electronic sports and the club's efforts to develop the sport and instill its culture among Kuwaiti youth. He also conveyed the club's anticipation for positive results that showcase Kuwaiti talent in the field.

Notably, Warba Bank has achieved remarkable success in a short period, pioneering Islamic digital banking services for individuals and prioritizing customer convenience. Alongside its social role and support for Kuwaiti youth projects, Warba Bank ranks among the top 50 banks in the Middle East in terms of market value for 2023, according to Forbes Middle East classification.

Signing Ceremony of Strategic Cooperation between Thousand Oaks Biologics and GeneQuantum Healthcare.



TOBio, GQ sign strategic partnership agreement

Thousand Oaks Biologics Inc. (TOBio) and GeneQuantum Healthcare (Suzhou) Co., Ltd (GQ) have announced that they have formed a strategic partnership focusing on the CMC development of ADC products with a core conjugation technology for more stable drug candidates.

The over 200 million RMB collaboration will allow GQ to leverage TOBio's expertise in CMC and commercial manufacturing to advance its pharmaceutical research on ADC products and enable GQ to speed up its Biologics License Applications. Meanwhile, GQ will share with TOBio

its leading enzymatic site-specific conjugation technology to provide more effective and comprehensive CDMO services to the industry.

"We are thrilled to have reached an in-depth collaboration with Thousand Oaks Biologics. TOBio is a cutting-edge global biopharmaceutical development and manufacturing organization, whose CMC capabilities in biologics are widely acknowledged. GQ and TOBio will collaborate closely, leveraging our respective strengths and resources, to pursue multiple cooperative projects, and to jointly accelerate the development of the ADC industry," said Dr. Qin

Gang, Chairman of GQ.

"I am very excited to establish this collaboration with GeneQuantum Healthcare. GQ's innovative conjugation technology offers significant value and differentiated advantages in the discovery and development of ADC molecules. We believe Thousand Oaks Biologics' competitive CMC expertise in large molecules will fully empower GeneQuantum to accelerate its product development process, making high-quality biological drugs accessible and affordable to patients," said Dr. Luo Shun, Chairman of TOBio.

CorVista presents IDENTIFY PH at ATS conference

ML algorithm to help ID pulmonary hypertension in patients

WASHINGTON, May 22: CorVista Health, Inc, a leading digital health company dedicated to improving cardiovascular disease diagnosis, has announced the presentation of a machine-learned algorithm to IDENTIFY PH at the American Thoracic Society (ATS) conference. This proof-of-concept showcases the effectiveness of a machine learned (ML) phase space electro-mechanical pulse wave analysis to identify pulmonary hypertension (PH) patients with new onset symptoms at the point-of-care. This presentation follows the recent achievement of the Breakthrough Designation from the FDA for the CorVista System to aid in the diagnosis of pulmonary hypertension.

This Identify PH study is a prospective, multi-center study designed to recruit patients for the training and validation of machine-learned algorithms based on the CorVista System's novel approach to measure and analyze the patient's electrical and hemodynamic signals at the point of care. The measurements are used to identify PH patients with new onset symptoms. The study enrolled consecutive patients across US-based healthcare centers who presented symptoms suggestive of PH. These patients underwent signal data acquisition and were enrolled with transthoracic echocardiography (TTE), or right heart catheterization (RHC) data. The primary objective of the study was to demonstrate a ML algorithm's predictive capability for PH diagnosis, with diagnostic accuracy measured using the area under the curve of the receiver operating characteristic (AU-ROC).

"After our recent Breakthrough Designation for pulmonary hypertension, we are now pleased to present this proof-of-concept research based on the IDENTIFY PH Study," said Don Crawford, President and CEO of CorVista Health. "The data presented today demonstrates the potential of being able to aid identification of PH patients who present with new onset symptoms."

Signals were collected using a proprietary signal capture device recording synchronous orthogonal voltage gradients and photoplethysmographic waveforms from resting patients for 3.5 minutes. Also collected were patient metadata (e.g., birthdate, height, weight) and the results of the patient TTE, or RHC.

Performance

"We are pleased to present this multidisciplinary work, which provides strong evidence that an algorithm with high performance can be developed to assess the likelihood of PH in patients with new onset symptoms of cardiovascular disease at the point-of-care," said Charles Bridges, M.D., Sc.D., Presenter and Chief Scientific Officer of CorVista Health. "This advancement, when integrated into a point-of-care test, holds great promise for early PH detection within the clinical pathway."

The CorVista System is an investigational device Limited by Federal (or United States) law to investigational use. CorVista Health, Inc. is applying machine learning using real world test data to develop a novel cardiac diagnostic platform, CorVista® System, with the aim of transforming cardiovascular care and the patient experience.

CorVista Health is focused on FDA's recent call to action to better leverage health technologies to advance health equity as presented by FDA Commissioner, Dr. Robert Califf. Particularly, the decline of life expectancy in rural areas has been cited as key evidence of disparate health outcomes. CorVista System has potential to enable more equitable care by providing access to immediately actionable, high quality cardiovascular status results in low-resource settings, where access to capital-intensive equipment and the qualified specialists needed to operate them may not be available. In doing so, the CorVista System is uniquely poised to advance the quality of care in rural and low-resource settings.

CorVista System is a non-invasive point-of-care solution that is intended to synchronously collect and apply machine learning to a patient's cardiac and hemodynamic signals to predict the likelihood of cardiovascular diseases without the use of radiation, contrast agents, injections, fasting or exercise. Within minutes of the test, the CorVista® Analysis will be available in a secure web portal to aid physicians in rapidly diagnosing and treating patients with suspected cardiovascular disease, answering important clinical questions to guide better treatment decisions.

QIKcap tech aims to reduce bloodstream infections

Intellego & HAI Solutions partner to improve quality, safety of IV access

SOLNA, Sweden, May 22: Intellego Technologies and HAI Solutions announced a strategic partnership that is designed to improve the quality and safety of intravenous (IV) vascular access. The partnership combines Intellego's patented ultraviolet-sensitive ink as an indicator component in HAI Solutions' QIKcap™ technology to offer visible and verifiable IV port protection and provide confidence that the needle-free connector has been disinfected.

The QIKcap Disinfection Device is a patented, handheld UV-C tool that is designed to irradiate the surface of an intravenous connector and intravenous access points to prevent microbial ingress. The specialized luer cap, known as QIKcap™, incorporates Intellego's proprietary ink. When the QIKcap is irradiated with the UV-C handheld device, the cap changes color from yellow to pink, providing visible indication that a sufficient dose of germicidal energy has been delivered in as little as one second.

The development of the QIKcap Disinfection Device and QIKcap is designed to address the continued risk of bloodstream infections (BSI) and hospital onset bacteremia (HOB), which is any positive blood culture obtained 48 hours after admission. In the 2023 Hospital Safety Grade data that was released on May 3, 2023 by The Leapfrog Group, healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) spiked to a 5-year high in US hospitals during the COVID-19 pandemic and remain high. The report noted that the average CLABSI standard infection ratio increased by 60%. HAIs including Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA), central line bloodstream infections (CLABSI) and catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTI) increase the length of hospitalization stays, add to costs and are the leading causes of death in the US.

Reliable

This novel use of Intellego's photochromic ink as an ingredient in a medical device is a first for the Swedish company that is best known for its product line, UVC Dosimeters. Used by OEMs, in academic research and in healthcare facilities around the world, UVC Dosimeters are the most trusted and reliable single-use UV indicators cards that provide visible measurement of germicidal ultraviolet energy delivered to surfaces.

According to Claes Lindahl, CEO of Intellego Technologies, "We are excited about the opportunity to expand the application of our proprietary ink technology in new and innovative ways to provide visible evidence of successful UV irradiation. Our partnership with HAI Solutions demonstrates our commitment to life-saving technologies and promoting the safety, efficacy and efficiency of ultraviolet disinfection applications."

"We are thrilled to announce our new

DUBAI, UAE, May 22: TVM Capital Healthcare, a global specialist healthcare private equity firm headquartered in Dubai and Singapore, has announced an investment, from its TVM Healthcare Afiyah Fund, of EUR 10 million into DEBx Medical, an Amsterdam-based medical devices company.

DEBx Medical, founded in 2019, has developed a groundbreaking product, DEBRICHEM®, which offers a superior alternative to existing treatments for non-healing chronic wounds. This innovative product is easy to use and highly effective in removing biofilm and curing hard-to-heal wounds. With CE and ISO approvals obtained in February 2021, DEBx Medical has already successfully treated over 5,000 patients, and is about to introduce its product to the market.

Chronic wounds pose a significant healthcare challenge, affecting approximately 2.4% of the population throughout their lifetime, and is particularly pronounced in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, where high levels of diabetes contribute to the problem. Hard-to-heal wounds have the potential for poor patient health and quality of life outcomes and represent a substantial cost to healthcare systems.

TVM Capital Healthcare's investment in DEBx Medical will enable the company to commence commercialization of its groundbreaking product for the benefit of patients. As part of the firm's investment, DEBx Medical will establish a regional headquarter and a production base in MENA, thereby accelerating the introduction of its innovative wound care solution to the region.

Tristan de Boysson, Managing Partner of TVM Capital Healthcare, commented:

strategic partnership with Intellego Technologies," said Nicholas Perrenoud, CEO of HAI Solutions. "By working together, we will be able to leverage our respective resources and capabilities to drive innovation, create new opportunities, and deliver even greater value to our stakeholders. We look forward to a successful and mutually beneficial partnership with Intellego."

Intellego Technologies is a research and development company, headquartered in Solna, Sweden. Founded in 2011, Intellego

"With this investment from our TVM Healthcare Afiyah Fund, we will accelerate the market introduction of a product which will transform the management of chronic wounds, and improve the life of millions of patients. This investment is also part of our Fund's strategy of bringing innovative, best-in-class healthcare solutions to the wider MENA region. We are looking forward to working together with the DEBx Medical management team."

Care

Bert Quint, Co-founder & CEO of DEBx Medical added: "We founded the company with the aim of innovating wound care, a market that has not seen significant innovation in a very long time. Our product, DEBRICHEM®, has the potential to disrupt the chronic wound care market and help patients to heal fast, safely and effectively. After just one single treatment, more than 90% of chronic wounds start healing. TVM Capital Healthcare's investment is testament to our technology, and we are looking forward to bringing our product to market together."

TVM Capital Healthcare is an emerging markets-focused healthcare private equity firm headquartered in Dubai and Singapore, with offices in Riyadh, Boston, Munich, and Ho Chi Minh City. 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, ac-

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. Medical DEBx Medical B.V. is a Dutch medical technology company dedicated to revolutionizing the management of chronic wounds by enabling their healing, thereby improving the outcomes for millions of patients. DEBx Medical aims to support doctors and their patients from diagnosis through treatment, follow-up care and maintenance of a healthy wound bed. Our core values focus on delivering affordable treatments that are easy to use and implement in daily clinical practice.

has grown to become the global leader in colorimetric indicators that are utilized worldwide to visually validate the dose of ultraviolet irradiation delivered to surfaces. Through its patented photochromic ink technology, Intellego manufactures standard and customized indicators that make the benefits of germicidal ultraviolet light visible and promotes the safe, effective and efficient use of UV applications. Intellego's products support better outcomes with ultraviolet devices in healthcare, food and

beverage manufacturing, environmental services, and more.

Based in Santa Barbara, CA, HAI Solutions is developing a novel and diverse platform of innovative intravenous therapy solutions targeting IV contamination which occurs in challenging medical segments like the Operating Room, Intensive Care Unit and Emergency Room. Founded in 2015, HAI Solutions believes in protecting every patient by advancing clinical care across the healthcare spectrum.

MEDICAL CLASSIFIEDS

Take care of your health

To advertise in this page please call: (+965) 24813566 Ext.: 513 or E-mail: advt@arabtimesonline.com

CITY CLINIC GROUP
A CARING MISSION

EVERY DAY 7.00 AM - 10.00 PM
GYNAECOLOGY SPECIALISTS

City Clinic Int'l - Fahaheel
Dr. Sarita Hari
(MBBS, MD, MRCOG)
Obstetrics & Gynaecology
6070 6812 | 2391 5593

City Clinic - Mahboula
Dr. Susan Sheeba
(MBBS, MD, MRCOG)
Obstetrics & Gynaecology
222 199 12 | 222 199 13

City Clinic - Khaitan
Dr. Ambily.T.Kumaran
(MBBS, MD, DGO, FRCOG)
Obstetrics & Gynaecology
1880020

Home collection services available

مرکز شفاء الجزيرة الطبية-الفروانية
SHIFA AL JAZEERA MEDICAL CENTRE - FARAWANIYA

Our Services
PRP | Peels | Painless laser hair removal | Treatment for scars, acne scars, wrinkles, aging, | Skin tightening, stretch marks
Cellulite, fat, warts, moles, corn | Mesotherapy | Crystal Peel & diamond microdermabrasion | Whitening treatment (Localized & Whole body) Dualpeel | Carboxytherapy
Dualpeel | Botox | Fillers | Hair loss treatment | Nail surgeries
Skin biopsies | Cryotherapy | Dermapen

Dr. Abdul Nazer
MBBS, MD
Dermatologist & Cosmetologist

Phone : 24 734 000
Hotline: 60 749 749

CLINIC WORKING HOURS: 7 am to 12 Midnight

Behind Maghateer Commercial Complex & Opp. Police station - Farwaniya
info@shifaaljazeera.com.kw - www.shifaaljazeera.com.kw

'In the Rearview' spotlights Ukrainians escaping war

WARSAW, Poland, May 22. (AP) — When Polish filmmaker Maciek Hamela first began evacuating Ukrainians fleeing Russia's war on their country, he wasn't intending to make a film. He was one of the many Poles extending humanitarian aid to neighbors under attack, and had turned down an offer to film a television investigation there.

But the reflections of the people he was transporting to safety in his van were so poignant that soon he began filming them. He asked a friend who is a director of photography to help him film - and drive - and directed his camera squarely back at his passengers as they traversed their war-scarred land.

The result is "In the Rearview," a documentary film being shown at the Cannes film festival in France as part of a parallel program devoted to independent cinema. It is not in competition.

A Polish-French co-production, it takes place almost entirely in Hamela's van, with the camera capturing the harrowed passengers, one group after another in countless journeys made between March and November of 2022.

The result is a composite portrait of men, women and children traversing a devastated landscape of bombed-out buildings and past checkpoints with dangerous detours caused by mines and collapsed bridges and roads.

The 84-minute film shows a little girl so traumatized that she stopped speaking. There is a Congolese woman who was so badly injured that she has undergone 18 operations since Hamela evacuated her. A moth-

er with two kids who pass by the Dnieper River; believing it to be the sea, the kids ask their mother if she will take them there after the war.

"The way we set up the film was to see the reflection of the war in these very small details of ordinary life and the life that we all have," Hamela told The Associated Press in an interview in Warsaw before he flew to Cannes.

There is also some humor, with one woman commenting ironically that she had always wanted to travel. A woman escaping with her cat saying it needed a bathroom break.

In order not to exploit the people he was helping, Hamela told them a camera was in a car before he picked them up. And they only signed forms giving him permission to use the footage after they had arrived safely at their destinations so they would never feel that was a condition for his help.

Migrants

"In the Rearview" also documents one of the many Polish efforts to help Ukraine. When Russia launched its all-out invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24, 2022, there was a massive grassroots effort to help across Poland, with regular people taking time off work to travel to the border with Ukraine to distribute food. Some picked up strangers and took them to shelters or even into their own homes.

Hamela began on day one to raise money for the Ukrainian army. By day three he had bought a van to transport Ukrainians from the Polish

border and convinced his father to open his beloved summer home to strangers.

Soon Hamela heard from a friend of people in eastern Ukraine needing to be rescued, and he began driving to the front lines of the war to pick them up. Some emerged from basements where they had been sheltering in terror.

When the war began, Hamela had been working on a documentary about a crisis at Poland's border with Belarus. Large numbers of migrants from the Middle East and Africa had been trying to cross that border in 2021. Poland and other European Union countries viewed that as an effort organized by Russia's ally Belarus to destabilize Poland and other EU countries.

Poland reacted by building a wall to stop the migrants, resulting in some dying in the forests and bogs of the area.

The war in Ukraine led Hamela to drop that project, which was to have focused on the indifference in some Polish border communities to the plights of the migrants and refugees.

Having observed both crises up close, he sees a connection. "This is my personal take on this, but I really think it was meant to antagonize Poles against all refugees in preparation for the war with Ukraine," he said.

Hamela, who is now 40, was also active in supporting Ukrainians involved in the pro-democracy Maidan Revolution of 2014, which led to Russia's initial incursions into Ukraine.

Film

Variety



Michelle Yeoh poses for photographers upon arrival at the premiere of the film 'Firebrand' at the 76th international film festival, Cannes, southern France, Sunday, May 21. (AP)

Film

'Killers of the Flower Moon' receives rave reviews

Scorsese's film turns focus on Osage Nation

CANNES, France, May 22, (AP) — It was well into the process of making "Killers of the Flower Moon" that Martin Scorsese realized it wasn't a detective story.

Scorsese, actor Leonardo DiCaprio and screenwriter Eric Roth had many potential avenues in adapting David Grann's expansive nonfiction history, "Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI." The film that Scorsese and company premiered Saturday at the Cannes Film Festival, however, wasn't like the one they initially set out to make.

The film, which will open in theaters in October, chronicles the series of killings that took place throughout the Osage Nation in 1920s Oklahoma. The Osage were then enormously rich from oil on their land, and many white barons and gangsters alike sought to control and steal their money. Dozens of Osage Native Americans were killed before the FBI, in its infancy, began to investigate.

DiCaprio had originally been cast to star as FBI agent Tom White. But after mulling the project over, Scorsese decided to pivot.

"I said, 'I think the audience is ahead of us,'" Scorsese told reporters in Cannes on Sunday. "They know it's not a whodunit. It's a who-didn't-do-it."

The shift, filmmakers said, was largely driven from collaboration with the Osage. Osage Nation Chief Standing Bear, who consulted on the film, praised the filmmakers for centering the story instead on Mollie (Lily Gladstone) and her husband Ernest Burkhart (DiCaprio), the tragic romance at the heart of Scorsese's epic of insidious American ethnic exploitation.

"Early on, I asked Mr. Scorsese, 'How are you going to approach the story?' He said 'I'm going to tell a story about trust, trust between Mollie and Ernest, trust between the outside world and the Osage, and the betrayal of those trusts,'" said Chief Standing Bear. "My people suffered greatly and to this very day those effects are with us. But I can say on behalf of the Osage, Marty Scorsese and his team have restored trust and we know that trust will not be betrayed."

"Killers of the Flower Moon," the most anticipated film to debut at this year's Cannes, instead became about Ernest, who Scorsese called "the character the least is written about."

DiCaprio, who ceded the character of White to Jesse Plemons, said "Killers of the Flower Moon" reverberates with other only recently widely discussed dark chapters of American history.

"This story, much like the Tulsa massacre, has been something that people have started to learn about and started to understand is part of culture, part of our history," said DiCaprio. "After the screenplay, from almost an anthropological perspective - Marty was there everyday - we were talking to the community, trying to hear the real stories and trying to incorporate the truth."

"Killers of the Flower Moon" premiered Saturday to largely rave reviews and thunderous applause nearly 50 years after Scorsese, as a young filmmaker, was a sensation at Cannes. His "Taxi Driver" won the Palme d'Or in 1976.

Among the most-praised performances has been that of Gladstone, the actor of Blackfeet and Nimipuu heritage.

Challenge

"These artistic souls on this stage here cared about telling a story that pierces the veil of what society tells us we're supposed to care about and not," said Gladstone, who singled out Scorsese. "Who else is going to challenge people to challenge their own complicity in white supremacy in such a platform except as this man here?"

"We're speaking of the 1920s Osage community. We're talking about Black Wall Street and Tulsa. We're talking about a lot in our film," she continued. "Why the hell does the world not know about these things? Our communities always have. It's so central to everything about how we understand our place in the world."

In the film, Robert De Niro plays a wealthy baron who's particularly adept at plundering the Osage. Speaking on Sunday, De Niro was still mulling his character's motivations.

"There's a kind of feeling of entitlement," said De Niro. "It's the banality of evil. It's the thing that we have to watch out for. We see it today, of course. We all know who I'm going to talk about but I won't say the name. Because that guy is stupid. Imagine if you're smart?"

A minute later, De Niro resumed: "I mean, look at Trump," referring to former President Donald Trump.

With a running time well over three hours and a budget from Apple of \$200 million, "Killers of the Flower Moon" is one of Scorsese's largest undertakings. Asked where he gets the gumption for such risks, the 80-year-old director didn't hesitate.

"As far as taking risks at this age, what else can I do?" said Scorsese. "No, let's go do something comfortable." Are you kidding?"

Also:

CANNES, France: Protests over pension reforms have roiled France in recent months, but demonstrations have been kept largely at bay at one of the country's glitziest events, the Cannes Film Festival.

On Sunday, dozens of protesters gathered in Cannes to oppose the raising of the reforms pushed through parliament by President Emmanuel Macron's government. Those protests, however, were far removed from the central hub of the festival, the Palais des Festivals, or Cannes' seaside boulevard, the Croisette. Instead, they gathered on the edge of the city, on the Boulevard Carnot.

"We are against the retirement reforms which will make many people die at work," said Tomas Ghestem, one of the demonstrators.

Ahead of the festival, local authorities in Cannes ordered a ban on rallies throughout much of Cannes. That move was part of increasing attempts throughout France to prohibit demonstrations in some high-profile locations. Unions have called for a new round of nationwide demonstrations on June 6.

The ban has kept Cannes' famous red carpet clear of demonstrations and prevented one of the most divisive issues in France from disturbing the highly orchestrated flow of the festival.

One exception was on Friday. Hospital workers skirted the ban by protesting on private grounds in front of the Carlton Hotel, a historic luxury hotel where many stars stay during the festival stay. Hotel and catering workers held up a banner reading "No to pension reforms."

Labor strife has colored much of this year's Cannes, which is happening while Hollywood screenwriters are on strike. Film and TV writers are seeking higher pay, reforms for the streaming era and safeguards against the use of artificial intelligence.

LOS ANGELES: The 10th installment of the "Fast and Furious" franchise was off to the races this weekend, knocking "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3" out of first place and easily claiming the No. 1 spot at the box office. "Fast X" earned \$67.5 million in ticket sales from 4,046 North American theaters, according to estimates from Universal Pictures on Sunday.

It's on the lower end of openings for the series which peaked with "Furious 7's" \$142.2 million launch, the sole movie in the series to surpass \$100 million out of the gates. "Fast X's" domestic debut only ranks above the first three. The last movie, "F9," opened to \$70 million in 2021.

But this is also a series that has usually made the bulk of its money internationally, often over 70%. True to form, overseas it's on turbo drive. "Fast X" opened in 84 markets internationally, playing in over 24,000 theaters, where it earned an estimated \$251.4 million. The top market was China with \$78.3 million, followed by Mexico with \$16.7 million. And it adds up to a \$319 million global debut - the third biggest of the franchise.

"It's a global franchise with a very broad audience," said Jim Orr, Universal's head of domestic distribution. "The themes resonate across the world."

Directed by Louis Leterrier (who took over from Justin Lin during production), "Fast X" brings back the familiar crew including Vin Diesel, Michelle Rodriguez, Tyrese Gibson and Jordana Brewster and adds several newcomers, like Brie Larson, Rita Moreno and a villain played by Jason Momoa. The ever-expanding cast also includes Jason Statham, Charlize Theron, Scott Eastwood and Helen Mirren.

Reports say the movie cost \$340 million to produce, not including marketing.

Reviews were mixed for "Fast X," the beginning of the end for the \$6 billion franchise, which currently has a 54% on Rotten Tomatoes. AP's Mark Kennedy wrote in his review that, "It has become almost camp, as if it breathed in too much of its own fumes" and that it's also "monstrously silly and stupidly entertaining."

According to exit polls audiences were 29% Caucasian, 29%

Hispanic and 21% Black, and 58% were between the ages of 18 and 34. They gave the film a B+ CinemaScore.

In its third weekend, Disney and Marvel's "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3" earned an estimated \$32 million in North America to take second place. It's now made \$266.5 million domestically and



Diesel



Rodriguez

\$659.1 million globally. Third place went to another Universal juggernaut, "The Super Mario Bros Movie," which is now in its seventh weekend and available to rent on VOD. Nevertheless, it earned an additional \$9.8 million in North America, bringing its domestic total to \$549.3 million. "Book Club: The Next Chapter

added \$3 million in its second weekend to take fourth place, while "Evil Dead Rise" rounded out the top five in its fifth weekend with \$2.4 million. "Mario" and "Fast X" are just the latest success stories for Universal, following hits like "Cocaine Bear" and "M3GAN." And later this summer, on July

21, they'll release Christopher Nolan's "Oppenheimer." "Universal as a studio is just on a roll like no other by having this incredible slate of films from all different types of genres," said Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for Comscore. "They've created a release strategy that's really picture perfect so far." (AP)

People & Places

Film

Spielberg incredulous

Mangold takes Indiana on one last adventure

CANNES, France, May 22, (AP) — When the lights came up after a screening of the Walt Disney lot of "Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny," Steven Spielberg was incredulous.

"Damn!" he said. "I thought I was the only one who knew how to make one of these!"

"Dial of Destiny," which premiered Thursday at the Cannes Film Festival, is the first Indiana Jones film without Spielberg behind the camera. After years of development, Spielberg and Lucasfilm decided to pass the reigns to James Mangold, the "Ford vs. Ferrari" filmmaker, who was 18 years old when he saw "Raiders of the Lost Ark" in a Hudson Valley theater on opening day in 1981.

"When I got over my initial hesitation of just: holy s--- this is a big challenge to step into these very big shoes that Steven Spielberg is leaving, the opportunity, on a very selfish level, to collaborate and learn and have the tools and the resources to play on this level was hard to resist," Mangold said.

Mangold was being tasked with not only restoring the luster of one of the most beloved film series after a disappointing fourth film in 2008's "Indiana Jones and the Crystal Skull," but giving Harrison Ford a



Mangold

poignant send-off in his last performance as the character.

While no one is saying "Dial of Destiny" matches "Raiders of the Lost Ark," the consensus in Cannes was that it betters "Crystal Skull" by a wide margin. Mangold certainly has Ford's endorsement.

"He more than filled the shoes," Ford told reporters. "He made, for me, a beautiful movie."

Before "Dial of Destiny" opens in theaters June 30, Mangold spoke about the challenges of capturing "Indiana Jones" tradition and carrying it forward. After a 1940s-set opening with a de-aged Ford, "Dial of Destiny" moves to the '60s and finds an aged Jones weary and on the cusp of retirement. The space race has made him a relic of a bygone era.

And the notion of who Indiana — an Errol Flynn-like hero forged in the moral clarity of WWII — would be in a more complicated time, without the spryness of youth, factored heavily into Mangold's thinking on "Dial of Destiny." Remarks have been lightly edited for clarity and brevity.

AP: How did you respond when this opportunity arose?

Mangold: When Harrison and Kathy (Kennedy) and Steven came to me about this — you're talking about just heroes of my life. George Lucas. John Williams, too. The idea of being invited to not only play in an all-star game with that kind of team, but also take the mound and be the pitcher, is beyond. So you flash forward to this moment where I'm kind of stepping in to the director's chair, and it's a chance for me to both try and carry forward what I feel like I've been learning all my life from Steven's work. And at the same time carrying my own voice, but wanting very much to work within the same kind of golden-age vernacular that he's operating in. It's pressure because you can't be playing at a higher level with a headier crowd of luminaries around you. You either have to rise to the occasion or not.

AP: Were you surprised the job was even open? During the film's long development, it was long assumed that Spielberg would direct.

Mangold: I don't think directing an Indiana Jones film is a job. It is a lifetime commitment. There's too many luminaries and too much involved. When they came to me they were very laser focused on me stepping in. The idea for me was that I wanted to write a script that I could get behind. I wanted to really retell the existing script pretty aggressively, almost entirely. But when they first came to me? It was a complete shock. I was numb. But I'm also not new at this. There's a kid in me that's tickled and flattered — the romantic in me. And then there's the rational person who's survived these movies up to this and knows how to make a picture like this.

AP: And so much of the what defines "Indiana Jones" is the ingenuity of the filmmaking: the clever reveals, the ingenious blocking.

Mangold: These are love letters to Golden Age cinema. You're making a narrative and you're making a movie about characters who have to feel real, but you're also making a movie that in and of itself is about enjoying the sheer beautiful spectacle of movie making. The way shots move together, the way sequences are constructed, the way you kind of unwind the onion of a revelation in the movie. These are all things where you're taking your guidance from the classics.

AP: You've described wanting to make "Dial of Destiny" about "a hero at sunset." How did age relate to your intentions for the film?

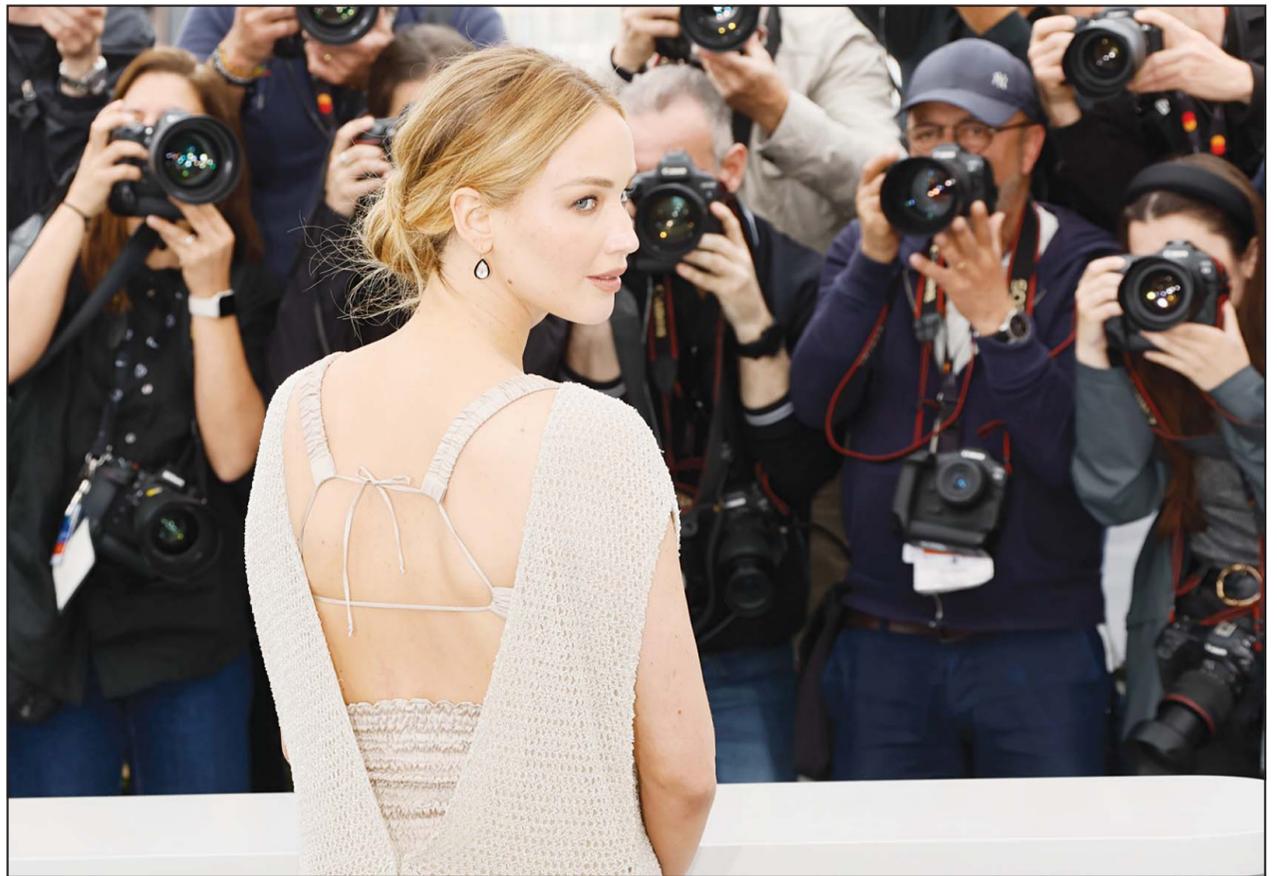
Mangold: When they approached me, I immediately found myself faced with making an Indiana Jones with a hero in his late 70s. There's no way around the fact that the audience is going to be confronted with Harrison's age. They're going to see a man they've grown up with in his late 70s. To me, it's not about what I'm doing, it's about what I'm not doing. I'm not going to allow myself to be in denial that this is going to be a huge factor in the audience's mind.

AP: So even though you begin with a de-aged Indiana, you wanted to embrace who Ford, 80, is today.

Mangold: The movie becomes about the very thing that is undeniable. What is it like to be a hero, to be a kind of swashbuckling, mischievous, demanding, fearless, but also fearful? What I thought about, even in relation to some of the struggles they had with "Crystal Skull," was that it's very challenging to carry a kind of golden-age character forward past the dividing line after modernism arrived. The optimism and clarity of purpose with which characters operated in the '30s or '40s is not the same environment that they're operating in in the '50s, '60s and '70s. The arrival of modernism has brought realpolitik and a kind of lack of clarity about who are enemies and who our heroes are. It's brought a kind of cynicism into the world about easy heroes. Science has replace mysticism, and we're landing on the moon where nuclear weapons are all around us.

AP: Was it moving to shoot Ford's last scene as Indiana?

Mangold: We shot his last shot and everyone applauded. And it is very moving. But you've been through almost a year of making this movie together. To do a good job making a movie like this, you can never sink completely into that way of thinking. Because if you did, you'd be lost in kind of the symbolism of each moment. Indiana Jones is a part of Harrison, so in a way, I don't think he's ever saying goodbye to the character because he carries this character. It's very close to who he is.



Producer Jennifer Lawrence poses for photographers at the photo call for the film 'Bread and Roses' at the 76th international film festival, Cannes, southern France, Sunday, May 21. (AP)



Alicia Vikander poses for photographers at the photo call for the film 'Firebrand' at the 76th international film festival, Cannes, southern France, Monday, May 22. (AP)



King Charles



Grant

Variety

TAIPEI, Taiwan: A Malaysian comedian better known for mocking attempts by Western chefs at Asian cooking has had his Chinese social media account suspended after making jokes about China.

Nigel Ng, who uses the name Uncle Roger, is the latest comedian to feel the consequences of jokes that could be perceived as reflecting negatively on China under increasingly intense censorship and rising nationalism.

Last week, a Chinese comedian came under police investigation for a joke about stray dogs.

Ng posted a video clip last Thursday from an upcoming comedy special in which he pokes fun at Chinese surveillance and Beijing's claims of sovereignty over Taiwan.

The video shows Ng interacting with someone in the audience who said he is from Guangzhou, a metropolis in China's south.

Ng then jokes with members of the audience who said they're from Taiwan, a self-governed island claimed by China, saying Taiwan is not a real country. "I hope one day you rejoin the motherland. One China," he said.

His Weibo account said on Monday that he was banned from posting for "violating relevant laws and regulations." Ng's agency did not respond to a request for comment.

A Chinese comedian, meanwhile, could face jail time as police and government departments investigate him for a joke he made at a performance earlier in May.

Beijing police announced last Wednesday that they were investigating comedian **Li Haoshi** "for severely insulting" the People's Liberation Army.

The comedian, who goes by the stage name HOUSE, made a joke about stray dogs by riffing on a well-known propaganda slogan used to describe the Chinese military. (AP)

CANBERRA, Australia: Prominent Indigenous journalist **Stan Grant** announced that, after Monday, he will step away from television hosting duties after viewers responded with racist abuse to his comments during **King Charles III's** coronation about historic Aboriginal dispossession.

Film

Rapper makes his mark in acting debut

Harlow's 'White Men' has no game

By Jake Coyle

Nineties nostalgia has extended now to 1992's "White Men Can't Jump" returning to the black-top courts where Wesley Snipes and Woody Harrelson hustled and Rosie Perez studied "Jeopardy!" answers for foods beginning with the letter "Q."

Why, you ask? The principal reason seems to be giving Jack Harlow, a charismatic, fast-rising white rapper making his acting debut, a vehicle for his laid-back charm.

The original "White Men Can't Jump" thrived on Harrelson's goofball energy and the "You can't hear Jimi" trash talk of Snipes, a criminally underrated comic actor (see "Dolemite Is My Name"). The contributions of Perez, a hooped-earrings firecracker who makes any movie a little better, shouldn't be minimized, either. "White Men Can't Jump," the rare sports movie where the woman (Perez) walks out on the guy (Harrelson), hinged mostly on its off-court drama.

This limp, half-hearted, breezy remake makes some modest improvements. The film, directed by Calmatic, bounces to a hip-hop beat and the gameplay action is smoother. But the drop off in personality from that original trio is like going from the Lakers to the G-League.

Sinqua Walls stars as Kamal, a once highly touted prospect whose professional career derailed in a rage-fueled incident the film slowly reveals through flashbacks. (The late Lance Reddick plays Kamal's father in one of his last performances.) He's now struggling through a job delivering packages while customers often ridicule him for how low he's fallen. His girlfriend, Imani (Teyana Taylor), though, lovingly supports him.

One day at the gym, Jeremy (Har-

low) makes a loud entrance, dressed like, as one character later says, a Sierra Mist can. Kamal's friend Speedy (Vince Staples) notices him and says, "They let yoga instructors into the gym now?" Jeremy, a former player at NCAA powerhouse Gonzaga now hobbled by knee pain, is there to hustle games and sell some detox drinks.

Harlow's character is brash, as Harrelson's was, but he's sweeter. His trash talk is earnest. He meditates. The joke isn't that he's racially out of touch, it's that he's almost too sensitive.

Mostly, he's a chatty, charming nuisance that Kamal reluctantly turns to as an on-court partner with hopes of a big cash prize in a three-on-three tournament. Jeremy, meanwhile, has a girlfriend, Tatiana (Laura Harrier), who's pressing him to grow up and find a real job.

Original

Calmatic worked in music videos (Lil Nas X's "Old Town Road") before making his directorial debut earlier this year with a reboot of 1990's "House Party."

And he films "White Men Can't Jump" with a polish that takes out some of the asphalt grit that the movie needs. If the original resided on the blacktop, as any pick-up basketball movie should, this remake curiously favors indoor hoops. Last year's surprisingly good basketball movie, "Hustle," with Adam Sandler, had the texture the game deserves.

Walls holds his own in "White Men Can't Jump" and Harlow has an easy charm. His debut pales next to those of rappers like Ice Cube, Mos Def and Tupac Shakur. It's asking too much, though, for him to supply so much of the comedy here. The jokes, too, are timid. How is it possi-

ble that in today's fraught America, the biggest debate Jeremy and Kamal get into is over whether Spike Lee or Paul Thomas Anderson is the better filmmaker?

There are a few suggestions that betting on pick-up basketball might not be the hustle it once was. Try crypto, one character suggests. Another says it's clear now that white players can ball. I'm not sure it's so different than in 1992, when Chris Mullin and John Stockton were in the league. Now there's Luka Doncic, Nikola Jokic and Tyler Herro, who makes a cameo. No mention is made of the recent NBA dunk champ, the 6'2" Mac McClung, but an older winner of that contest, Blake Griffin, is an executive producer.

But one thing should not have changed. This "White Men Can't Jump" never gives its girlfriend characters much to do. They mostly recede as the on-court exploits take over, thus ignoring Perez's wise words from the original: "Always listen to the women."

"White Men Can't Jump," a 20th Century Studios release, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association for pervasive language and some drug material. Running time: 101 minutes. One and a half stars out of four.

Also:

LOS ANGELES: It's a robust week for Sundance documentaries on streaming as "Victim/Suspect" debuts on Netflix on Tuesday. This film from director **Nancy Schwartzman** follows reporter **Rae de Leon's** investigation into a disturbing pattern: That in the **United States**, women reporting sexual assaults often become suspects. The film delves into possible flaws and loopholes in the system that may be enabling the chilling trend. (AP)

Grant, a member of the Wiradjuri tribe of Indigenous Australians and former international correspondent for US-based CNN, has been under fire since taking part in a panel discussion on the

Australian Broadcasting Corp. ahead of the May 6 coronation ceremony in **London**. Topics included a push to have a president replace the British monarch as Australia's head of state and Indigenous

suffering from colonization.

Critics complained that the ABC had soured the celebratory mood of the coronation.

After more than 30 years of news experience in Australian television, Grant wrote Friday in his regular ABC online column that Monday would be the last time in the foreseeable future that he would host his weekly national panel discussion program "Q+A," because of the news media and social media abuse.

"I take time out because we have shown again that our history — our hard truth — is too big, too fragile, too precious for the media. The media sees only battle lines, not bridges. It sees only politics," Grant wrote. "The media has turned public discussion into an amusement park. Social media, at its worst, is a sordid spectacle. A grotesque burlesque. Lives are reduced to mockery and ridicule."

"I want no part of it. I want to find a place of grace far from the stench of the media," Grant said.

Grant was asked to participate on the panel "as a Wiradjuri man to discuss his own family's experience and the role of the monarchy in Australia in the context of Indigenous history," Justin Stevens, ABC news director, said in a statement.

"The responsibility for the coverage lies with ABC news management, not with Stan Grant," Steven said.

Indigenous Australians account for 3.2% of the national population and are Australia's most disadvantaged ethnic minority. (AP)



Polish filmmaker Maciek Hamela speaks during an interview in a cafe in Warsaw, Poland, on May 17. Hamela has made a documentary film about Ukrainians fleeing war, 'In the Rearview,' which is being shown at the Cannes film festival but is not in competition. When Polish filmmaker Maciek Hamela first began evacuating Ukrainians fleeing Russia's war on their country, he wasn't intending to make a film. He was one of the many Poles extending humanitarian aid to neighbors under attack. (AP) — Details Page 11

Health

Millions ditched cars

Cities want pandemic 'biking habit' to stick

MONTREAL, May 22. (AP) — In the agonies of the virus that upended most of the world, millions of people from Bogota to Berlin saw what life could be like on two wheels instead of four.

Even as commuting to the office and going to school plunged at the height of COVID lockdowns, outdoor recreation, and cycling in particular, surged in country after country as people looked to escape isolation in a relatively safe way. In response, cities worldwide have developed bikeways with new urgency since 2020.

The question is whether people stick with their new cycling habit in these closer-to-normal times.

Recently, Bike to Work Day in the US, the automatic counters that record each passing cyclist in many cities will get the latest numbers.

So far the evidence is incomplete and varies by place. But the numbers suggest that if they build it, people will come.

Case studies led by global urban planning researchers **Ralph Buehler** of Virginia Tech and John Bucher of Rutgers University track what more than a dozen cities have done in recent decades, and specifically during the pandemic, to improve pedal-powered commutes and recreation.

Already a world leader in bicycle friendliness, Montreal did more than any other North American city studied to expand safe cycling in the pandemic. London, Paris and Brussels did the most in Europe. But many more cities worldwide also seized opportunity in the crisis.

Some steps have phased out as the virus has faded, like many of the temporary "pop-up" bike lanes that appeared as if overnight. But many have stuck, thanks to an increase in lanes with permanent barriers against traffic, central arteries where cars can't go, and other concessions to a pent-up demand to get around without gas.

Motivation

Environmental concerns have also been a motivation for many people to ditch cars for bikes, a choice that researchers say has clear benefits in reducing the carbon emissions that drive global warming and in curbing pollution broadly.

Here are snapshots of what some of the most ambitious pro-cycling cities on three continents have done for cycling before and during the pandemic. The findings are drawn principally from the MIT-published book "Cycling through the COVID-19 Pandemic to a More Sustainable Transport Future," by Buehler, chair of urban affairs at Virginia Tech, and Pucher, professor emeritus at Rutgers' School of Planning and Public Policy.

In 2001, the US capital offered cyclists a meager 3 miles (5 kilometers) of bicycle lanes, unprotected. By 2019, the network topped 100 miles, and bicycling as a share of all travel in the city increased fivefold. In 2020 and 2021, the city picked up the pace even more, building nearly 20 miles (32 km) of protected lanes, much safer than merely marked lanes on streets shared with cars.

An innovator in urban biking since the late 1980s, Montreal was the first large North American city to develop an extensive network of physically separated on-street bicycle lanes, the book says. It was also first to introduce a large-scale bike-sharing system, with its BIXI bikes in 2009.

In the five years before the pandemic, Montreal's cycling network grew by 34%, topping 1,000 km (600 miles). Almost a third of that is made up of off-street paths and much of the rest is safely separated on shared roads.

The city's pro-biking mayor, Valérie Plante, easily won reelection in 2021 on a platform of green initiatives. Underway is a major expansion of a new express bikeway network, Réseau Express Vélo or REV, that would double the city's already sweeping cycling network in four years.

Considered the most pro-cycling large city in the US South, Austin doubled its network of protected on-street bike lanes to around 60 miles (97 km) in the first two years of COVID. From 2010 to 2019, the city had tripled its network of conventional on-street bicycle lanes, to nearly 300 miles (480 km).

Bogota is a breakout success. By some measures, over 9% of trips in the capital are by bicycle, putting it in the top tier globally and a model that other cities in Latin America are trying to emulate.

When the pandemic broke out, Mayor Claudia Lopez turned traffic lanes over to bicycles, among other steps, adding 85 km (53 miles) to the city's network of bike paths.

Paris saw cycling spike 60% in 2020-2021. Seen a quarter century ago as bicycle-unfriendly, the city has since taken striking measures to get people on wheels, even subsidizing one-third of the cost for people to buy 85,000 electric bikes or cargo bikes from 2009 to 2022. Cars were banned or relegated to single lanes on certain roads along the Seine River through the center of Paris.

London more than doubled its protected bike lanes when the virus bore in, bringing the total to 260 km (160 miles) in a year. This, after tripling their length in the decade before. Bucher and Buehler say the pandemic brought about the most rapid transformation of the streetscape in Greater London in decades, resulting in a sharp rise in both walking and cycling.

Demand

Back in 1998, 10% of trips in Berlin were by bicycle — a share many cities can only dream about even now. By 2018, that had grown to 18%. That's in part because of Berlin's configuration as a city of many neighborhood centers, with more people living close to where they work and shop. Early in the pandemic, city officials expedited a plan creating more bicycle lanes to meet demand.

In Brussels, cycling jumped 22% in 2020, then declined in 2021 but was still 14% higher than in 2019. That suggests that some people who took up biking when COVID arrived gave it up but more stayed with it. The city plowed 74% more money into cycling in 2020-21.

The New York City built over 60 miles (100 km) of protected bike lanes from 2019 to 2022, usually connecting them to protected intersections, and a larger number of regular bike lanes. Docking stations for CitiBike bike-sharing exceeded 1,500 in mid-2022, up from 860 in 2019.

During COVID's peak in 2020, over 80 miles (130 km) of mostly neighborhood streets were closed to motor vehicles altogether during certain hours; that's since been pulled back to 20 miles (32 km).

From 2000 to 2017, Minneapolis bikeways more than doubled in length, cycling tripled and the share of cyclists who suffered severe injury or death plunged by nearly 80%, a not uncommon development in cities that aggressively expanded their networks. In the pandemic's first month, the city announced it would quickly add 15 miles (24 km) of bike routes, closing many roads to traffic except for neighborhood residents.

Along with Montreal, Quebec City and select other cities in northern climes, Minneapolis is also big on bicycling through brutal winters. Researchers place Minneapolis with Denver and Chicago as mid-America standouts in advancing safer cycling.



Buehler



The crew of the SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket, with the Crew Dragon spacecraft, (from left), Saudi Arabian astronaut Rayyanah Barnawi, commander Peggy Whitson, pilot John Shoffner and Saudi Arabian astronaut Ali al-Qarni arrive at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Fla., before their launch to the International Space Station, Sunday, May 21. (AP)



A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket, with the Dragon capsule and a crew of four private astronauts lifts off from pad 39A, at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Fla., May 21. (AP)



Sánchez



Meloni

Discovery

Mount Etna erupts: Mount Etna, Europe's most active volcano, was erupting on Sunday, spewing ash on Catania, eastern Sicily's largest city, and forcing a suspension of flights at that city's airport.

Italy's National Institute of Geophysics and Volcanology, or INGV, which closely monitors Etna with instrumentation on the slopes, noted that cloud cover on a rainy day was impeding views of the eruption, which often serves up a spectacular display of flaming lava during the volcano's not infrequent eruptions.

The institute said that ash had fallen on Catania and at least one town on Mount Etna's inhabited slopes. No injuries were reported.

Catania airport said due to ashfall, flight operations were temporarily suspended.

INGV indicated that monitoring had recorded evidence of a stepping up in tremor activity in recent days.

People in the towns of Adrano and Biancavilla reported hearing loud booms emanating from the volcano on Sunday, the Italian news agency ANSA said.

Italy's national Civil Protection agency had noted on Thursday in an alert that in view of increased volcanic activity, "sudden" variations of Etna's activity could occur. Prime Minister of Italy is **Giorgia Meloni**.

In early 2021, an eruption of the volcano lasted several weeks. (AP)

Animal rights activists protest: Animal rights activists gathered Sunday in Madrid to protest plans for the construction of an octopus farm in Spain, saying there are no respective laws in the country and the European Union to guarantee the welfare of the animals in captivity.

The proposed farm, which aims to breed octopuses on a large scale in captivity, is scheduled to be built next year in the Canary Islands, a Spanish archipelago located in the Atlantic Ocean.

A few dozen people showed up to express their concerns regarding a project that plans to confine 3 million octopuses in pools, despite these creatures being solitary predators in their natural habitat.

"It is similar to imprisoning tigers together. They will prey on one another and will also attempt to escape due to their high intelligence and adeptness," said Jaime Posada, a spokesperson for the protest called by various animal welfare organizations.

Octopuses grown in captivity will behave differently from those in the wild, said Nova Pescanova, the seafood company promoting this farm. Since 2018, the company has run a pilot project in a research facility in northern Spain, where they have succeeded in breeding five captivity-born generations of the cephalopod.

"It is not possible to grow any (animal) species in the European Union without respecting their welfare conditions. It is the standard, and our group does nothing but comply with guidelines and legislations," said Roberto Romero, the multinational's aquaculture director. Prime Minister of Spain is **Pedro Sánchez**.

Space

First Saudi woman to say 'hello from outer space!'

SpaceX sends Saudi astronauts to ISS

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla., May 22. (Agencies) — Saudi Arabia's first astronauts in decades rocketed toward the International Space Station (ISS) on a chartered multimillion-dollar flight Sunday.

SpaceX launched the ticket-holding crew, led by a retired NASA astronaut now working for the company that arranged the trip from Kennedy Space Center. Also on board: a US businessman who now owns a sports car racing team.

The four should reach the space station in their capsule Monday morning; they'll spend just over a week there before returning home with a splashdown off the Florida coast.

Sponsored by the Saudi Arabian government, Rayyanah Barnawi, a stem cell researcher, became the first woman from the kingdom to go to space. She was joined by Ali al-Qarni, a fighter pilot with the Royal Saudi Air Force.

They're the first from their country to ride a rocket since a Saudi prince launched aboard shuttle Discovery in 1985. In a quirk of timing, they'll be greeted at the station by an astronaut from the United Arab Emirates.

"Hello from outer space! It feels amazing to be viewing Earth from this capsule," Barnawi said after settling into orbit.

Added al-Qarni: "As I look outside into space, I can't help but think this is just the beginning of a great journey for all of us."

Rounding out the visiting crew: Knoxville, Tennessee's John Shoffner, former driver and owner of a sports car racing team that competes in Europe, and chaperone Peggy Whitson, the station's first female commander who holds the US record for most accumulated time in space: 665 days and counting.

"It was a phenomenal ride," Whitson said after reaching orbit. Her crewmates clapped their hands in joy.

It's the second private flight to the space station organized by Houston-based Axiom Space. The first was last year by three businessmen, with another retired NASA astro-

naut. The company plans to start adding its own rooms to the station in another few years, eventually removing them to form a stand-alone outpost available for hire.

Axiom won't say how much Shoffner and Saudi Arabia are paying for the planned 10-day mission. The company had previously cited a ticket price of \$55 million each.

NASA's latest price list shows per-person, per-day charges of \$2,000 for food and up to \$1,500 for sleeping bags and other gear. Need to get your stuff to the space station in advance? Figure roughly \$10,000 per pound (\$20,000 per kilogram), the same fee for trashing it afterward. Need your items back intact? Double the price.

At least the email and video links are free.

Experiments

The guests will have access to most of the station as they conduct experiments, photograph Earth and chat with schoolchildren back home, demonstrating how kites fly in space when attached to a fan.

After decades of shunning space tourism, NASA now embraces it with two private missions planned a year. The Russian Space Agency has been doing it, off and on, for decades.

"Our job is to expand what we do in low-Earth orbit across the globe," said NASA's space station program manager Joel Montalbano.

SpaceX's first-stage booster landed back at Cape Canaveral eight minutes after liftoff — a special treat for the launch day crowd, which included about 60 Saudis. "It was a very, very exciting day," said Axiom's Matt Ondler.

The 12-day trip marks an important historical event for Saudi Arabia, but also for women across the world, as Barnawi becomes the first ever female astronaut from Saudi Arabia to travel into space.

Upon arrival, the astronauts will be conducting 14 scientific pioneering experiments in microgravity, including the repercussions of space on human health and rain-seeding technology, which will

contribute to increasing rainfall in many countries. In collaboration with the Ministry of Education, there will also be educational experiments conducted aboard the ISS in real time with 12,000 students viewing from Saudi. The aim is to inspire the future generation of scientists and aspiring astronauts and encourage more young women and girls to follow STEM careers.

Barnawi says "Space research hovers over all of humanity, literally and figuratively. As such, it should include the voices and perspectives of a truly global community that involves not only a diversity of nations, but a diversity of people. I am honored to represent Saudi Arabia's growing contributions to this field and proud to be the first Saudi Arabian woman to go to space. I hope this mission will inspire girls from various backgrounds, who have not always had these opportunities, to embrace their talents and intellect, and to know they have a crucial role to play in advancing the human experience."

The success of this mission will enhance Saudi Arabia's global position within the field of space exploration and underline its service to humanity. It will place a cornerstone in the astronauts' program which is designed to prepare future astronauts and engineers, through quality educational and training programs, participation in scientific experiments, international research, and future space-related missions — ultimately helping to achieve the goals of Vision 2030.

H.E. Dr Mohammed Al-Tamimi, The Governor of the Communications, Space and Technology Commission (CST) and CEO of Saudi Space Commission (SSC) adds "ahead of us lies a promising future in space, one which the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia are keen to shape in partnership with the world. SSC, CST, and the Kingdom at large are not engaged in a space race but are invested in a shared journey with a clear mission: to enable humanity to unlock the potential that space holds for future generations to flourish."

how many enjoy a day at the beach? One such unlikely critter was spotted riding the waves recently on Dauphin Island, bobbing calmly near the human beachgoers sunbathing and wading.

Matt Harvill, a 27-year-old Mobile resident, came across the lengthy gator while at the beach taking pregnancy announcement photos with his girlfriend. He said the reptile seemed to be enjoying the sun and gently breaking waves, attracting several beachgoers to get a closer look — but not too close.

"It didn't hiss, charge or open its mouth at all," Harvill said. "It seemed like it was kind of spectating and seeing what was going on."

Harvill snapped photos and videos of the gator to show family and friends. His post on Facebook garnered 3,000 shares.

"The things you never think you'll see," he wrote in the caption. "First time seeing a gator on Dauphin Island. Heading towards the west end be careful y'all."

Alligators are found throughout Alabama in saltwater bayous and estuaries, said Marianne Gauldin, outreach coordinator for the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

"It is not unusual to see them in the Gulf of Mexico as they can tolerate a variety of salinity levels," she said in an email. "They are aquatic and cover long distances as they forage for prey items."

Harvill said he's seen things like jellyfish or a dark fin slicing through the Gulf waters, but never an alligator.

"I didn't want to step foot in the water after that!" he said. (AP)



A cyclist pedals past caps displayed for sale by a roadside on a hot afternoon in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, India, Monday, May 22. As temperatures crossed 45 degrees Celsius (113 degrees Fahrenheit) in this northern state, some parts suffered blackouts lasting more than 12 hours. (AP)

Mumbai through to playoffs

Kohli's ton not enough, Bangalore 'eliminated'

MUMBAI, India, May 22 (AP): Gujarat Titans opener Shubman Gill hit a superb century to outdo Virat Kohli's second successive ton as Royal Challengers Bangalore were eliminated from the Indian Premier League.

Bangalore had to win the final IPL game in the league stage to claim the last available playoff spot, but Gill followed his century against Sunrisers Hyderabad with an unbeaten 104 off 52 balls as Gujarat reached 198-4 with five balls to spare for a six-wicket win.

Kohli with 101 not out - his record seventh century in the IPL - had earlier anchored Bangalore to 197-5 but Gill powered Gujarat's run chase by hitting eight sixes and five fours.

"It's all about getting a start and converting it into a big one," Gill said. "Thankfully it's working out for me in the business end (of the tournament). You have to keep applying yourself, that's important."

Bangalore's loss meant Mumbai sealed the final playoff spot after all-rounder Cameron Green had cracked a belligerent unbeaten century off 47 balls in Mumbai's all-important eight-wicket win against Hyderabad earlier Sunday.

Gujarat topped the league with 20 points and will take on second-place Chennai Super Kings in the first playoff on Tuesday with the winner advancing directly to next Sunday's final.

Mumbai will meet third-place Lucknow Super Giants in the second playoff game on Wednesday. The loser of the first playoff will get another chance for a place in the final when it takes on the winner of the second playoff on Friday.

Gill defied the data favoring teams batting first and winning at Bangalore in the recent past with his

superb stroke play and he combined well with impact player Vijay Shankar, who scored 53 off 35 balls.

Gill and Shankar put on a match-winning 123 runs for the second wicket. Gill raised the victory and also completed his second successive century with a straight six off Wayne Parnell in the final over.

Bangalore finished sixth in the standings with 14 points, behind Rajasthan Royals also on 14 points but with a better net run-rate.

After the start was delayed by nearly an hour because of rain, Kohli and captain Faf du Plessis combined in a 67-run opening stand off 43 balls.

But Gujarat spinner Noor Ahmad (2-39) and Rashid Khan (1-24) squeezed the runs in the middle overs as Kohli raised his half century off 35 balls.

Kohli upped the scoring rate in the death overs with his superb drives on both sides of the wicket and became the first batter in IPL history to score seven centuries.

CRICKET

Kohli followed his century against Hyderabad three days ago when he scooped Mohit Sharma (0-54) to long on in the final over for a single to raise his hundred off 60 balls only to see Gill's brilliance take the win away from his team.

All-rounder Green finally scored big in the most important game for Mumbai.

Green had struggled with only two half centuries in the previous 13 games but finally struck form with 100 not out as he anchored Mumbai to 201-2 with two overs to spare.

"We came with the mindset to win and not worry what happens elsewhere," Mumbai skipper Rohit Sharma said. "Even if we don't go through, we got ourselves to blame. If we do, (the) boys get credit."

Asked to bat first, Hyderabad couldn't capitalize on a blistering start of 140 between the opening pair of Mayank Agarwal (83) and Vivrant Sharma (69) before finishing on 200-5.

Last-place Hyderabad finished with four wins and 10 defeats.

Fast bowler Akash Madhwal put on the brakes with 4-37 in the latter half of the innings as he dismissed Sharma off a mistimed pull and then found the edge of Agarwal's bat before knocking back the stumps of Heinrich Klaasen and Harry Brook.

Ohtani strikes out 9, allows 2 hits in 6 innings as Angels edge Twins



Baltimore Orioles left fielder Austin Hays (21) slides into home plate to score his team's sixth run against the Toronto Blue Jays during the eleventh inning of a baseball game in Toronto. (AP)

Brewers avoid sweep

ANAHEIM, Calif., May 22, (AP): Shohei Ohtani struck out nine in six innings, Mickey Moniak delivered his second big hit of the series and the Los Angeles Angels defeated the Minnesota Twins 4-2 on Sunday.

Ohtani did not get a decision despite allowing one run and two hits. It was the fourth time in 10 starts this season the two-way star had nine or more strikeouts. He leads the majors with a .142 opponent batting average and is third in strikeouts with 80.

Moniak, who had a tying triple Friday night, came through with a two-run double off Pablo López (2-3) in the seventh for a 3-1 advantage.

Brewers 6, Rays 4

In St. Petersburg, Willy Adams, Rowdy Tellez and William Contreras homered as Milwaukee avoided a three-game sweep by beating the major league-leading Rays.

Tampa Bay (34-14) dropped to 21-4 at Tropicana Field, the second-best 25-game home record since 1901 behind the 1978 Boston Red Sox at 22-3.

Freddy Peralta (5-3) gave up three runs and five hits over six innings as the NL Central-leading Brewers (25-21) stopped a three-game skid. Devin Williams pitched 1 1/3 innings for his seventh save.

Yankees 4, Reds 1

In Cincinnati, Harrison Bader and Gleyber Torres homered off Hunter Greene (0-4) as New York completed a three-game sweep for its first four-game winning streak this season.

BASEBALL

Luis Severino returned from a strained lat muscle that had sidelined him since spring training and allowed one run and four hits in 4 2/3 innings.

Albert Abreu (2-1) got four straight outs and Clay Holmes earned his fifth save when Will Benson hit a game-ending comebacker with the bases loaded.

Astros 2, Athletics 0

In Houston, Framber Valdez (4-4) pitched a four-hitter as Houston completed a three-game sweep that extended its winning streak to seven.

Oakland dropped to 10-38 and is on pace to finish 34-128, the most losses since the 1899 Cleveland Spiders went 20-134.

Valdez (4-4) struck out seven without a walk in his second career shutout and fifth complete game. The A's have been blanked three times in 10 games and seven overall.

Braves 3, Mariners 2

In Atlanta, Jared Shuster (1-2) allowed one hit in six innings. Jarrod Kelenic's lead-off homer in the second, for his first big league win.

Atlanta took two of three from Seattle for its first series victory over the Mariners in 12 years. Travis d'Arnaud had two hits, including his first homer.

Jose Caballero hit his first big league homer, an eighth-inning liner off Nick Anderson.

Raisel Iglesias struck out two in a perfect ninth for his third save.

Mets 5, Guardians 4, game 1

In New York, Justin Verlander outpitched Shane Bieber in a marquee matchup of Cy Young Award winners, and New York edged Cleveland for a doubleheader sweep.

Francisco Lindor homered against his former team and Jeff McNeil knocked in the tiebreaking run with a sacrifice fly off Bieber (2-2) in the eighth inning. Brooks

Raley closed out New York's fifth consecutive comeback victory — all by one run — since a 6-16 slide.

In the opener, Starling Marte ended a long power drought by hitting a go-ahead homer in the eighth off Trevor Stephan (2-2) that sent the Mets to a 5-4 win. Max Scherzer pitched six shutout innings despite a callus on his right thumb.

The 40-year-old Verlander (2-2) gave up three hits and struck out five, becoming the first Mets pitcher to complete eight innings this season.

Raley needed only five pitches in the ninth to earn his 10th career save and first for the Mets, finishing an old-fashioned pitchers' duel that took just 2 hours, 6 minutes. The left-hander got José Ramírez to ground into a game-ending double play.

Ramírez homered off Verlander in the first after hitting a two-run shot in the eighth inning of Game 1 against David Robertson (2-0) to give the Guardians a 4-3 lead.

Bieber permitted seven hits in his fifth career complete game and first this season. He struck out four and threw 106 pitches.

Phillies 2, Cubs 1

In Philadelphia, Bryson Stott hit his first career pinch-hit homer, a two-run drive in the seventh off Albert Alzolay (1-3)

After extending their losing streak to five in the series opener, the defending NL champions won the final two games of the set. Taijuan Walker pitched 5 1/3 scoreless innings on three days' rest and Craig Kimbrel got his 399th save, moving within one of becoming the eighth pitcher with 400.

Matt Strahm (4-3) worked around a walk in the seventh.

Diamondbacks 8, Pirates 3

In Pittsburgh, Christian Walker had three RBIs, hitting a two-run double in a three-run seventh inning.

Arizona has won seven of nine, including the final two games of the series after losing the opener 13-3. Pittsburgh committed three errors, threw five wild pitches and fell to 4-13 in May after a 20-9 start.

Nationals 6, Tigers 4

In Washington, Riley Adams had a career-high four hits and finished a triple short of the cycle as Washington tied its season high with 18 hits.

Ildemaro Vargas hit his first home run since last Aug. 28 and Jeimer Candelario had four singles.

MLB Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, May 22, (AP): Results and standings from the MLB games on Sunday.

NY Yankees	4	Cincinnati	1	San Diego	7	Boston	0
Atlanta	3	Seattle	2	NY Mets	2	Cleveland 2nd game	1
NY Mets	5	Cleveland 1st game	4	Philadelphia	2	Chicago Cubs	1
Milwaukee	6	Tampa Bay	4	Milwaukee	6	Tampa Bay	4
Washington	6	Detroit	4	Washington	6	Detroit	4
Chicago W. Sox	5	Kansas City	2	Arizona	8	Pittsburgh	3
Houston	2	Oakland	0	St. Louis	10	LA Dodgers	3
Baltimore	8	Toronto 11 inn	3	Texas	13	Colorado	5
Texas	13	Colorado	3	San Francisco	7	Miami	5
LA Angels	4	Minnesota	2				

American League				National League					
East Division				East Division					
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB		
Tampa Bay	34	14	.708	—	Atlanta	29	17	.630	—
Baltimore	31	16	.660	2-1/2	New York	25	23	.521	5
New York	29	20	.592	5-1/2	Miami	24	23	.511	5-1/2
Boston	26	21	.553	7-1/2	Philadelphia	22	24	.478	7
Toronto	25	22	.532	8-1/2	Washington	20	27	.426	9-1/2
Central Division				Central Division					
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB		
Minnesota	25	22	.532	—	Milwaukee	25	21	.543	—
Detroit	20	24	.455	3-1/2	Pittsburgh	24	22	.522	1
Cleveland	20	26	.435	4-1/2	St. Louis	21	27	.438	5
Chicago	19	29	.396	6-1/2	Chicago	20	26	.435	5
Kansas City	14	34	.292	11-1/2	Cincinnati	19	27	.413	6
West Division				West Division					
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB		
Texas	29	17	.630	—	Los Angeles	29	19	.604	—
Houston	27	19	.587	2	Arizona	27	20	.574	1-1/2
Los Angeles	25	23	.521	5	San Francisco	22	24	.478	6
Seattle	22	24	.478	7	San Diego	21	26	.447	7-1/2
Oakland	10	38	.208	20	Colorado	19	28	.404	9-1/2

Josiah Gray (4-5) allowed one run and three hits over five innings but matched his career high with six walks. Hunter Harvey pitched a 1-2-3 ninth for his second save.

Joey Wentz (1-4) allowed six runs and a season-high 10 hits in two-plus innings.

White Sox 5, Royals 2

In Chicago, Luis Robert Jr. homered and Romy González went 3 for 3 with two RBIs as Chicago finished a three-game sweep, winning for the fifth time in six games.

Lance Lynn (3-5) allowed two runs and four hits over six innings in his second straight win, and Joe Kelly tossed a perfect ninth for his first save.

Michael Massey hit a two-run homer for Kansas City, which finished with four hits. The last-place Royals (14-34) have dropped seven of nine. Max Castillo (0-1) allowed five runs and eight hits in 4 2/3 innings.

Orioles 8, Blue Jays 3, 11 innings

In Toronto, Cedric Mullins had five hits and three RBIs and Austin Hays had a tie-breaking single off Yimi Garcia (1-2) in a five-run 11th inning as Baltimore completed a three-game sweep.

Hays reached base four times for the Orioles (31-16), who have won five of six.

Mullins' RBI single put the Orioles ahead

3-2 in the 10th, but Whit Merrifield hit a run-scoring single in the bottom half off Austin Voth. Mike Baumann (3-0) relieved and picked off Merrifield at first.

Cardinals 10, Dodgers 5

In St. Louis, Oscar Mercado tied his career high of five RBIs and had three hits. Paul DeJong hit a three-run homer for St. Louis, which has won 11 of 14 after a 10-24 start.

Los Angeles dropped three of four games in the series and lost its first set since dropping two of three to Pittsburgh from April 24-26.

Clayton Kershaw (6-4) allowed four runs and five hits over 3 2/3 innings.

Rangers 13, Rockies 3

In Arlington, Corey Seager hit a two-run homer in a five-run second inning and an RBI double in a six-run fifth, helping Texas complete a three-game sweep.

Texas is 12 games over .500 for the first time since finishing 2016 at 95-67.

Josh Jung put Texas ahead in the second against Connor Seabold (1-1) with his ninth homer, a solo drive that tied the Dodgers' James Outman for the rookie lead.

Giants 7, Marlins 5

In San Francisco, Patrick Bailey hit his first major league homer and drove in a run with a squeeze bunt, helping San Francisco win for the fifth time in six games.

Two days after making his major league debut, the 23-year-old catcher homered in the second off Jesús Luzardo (3-3) and knocked in a run with a bunt in a two-run sixth for a 6-4 lead.

J.D. Davis hit his team-leading eighth home run in the third, then doubled and scored the go-ahead run on Mitch Haniger's sixth-inning single.

Ryan Walker (1-0) worked around a pair of singles in a scoreless sixth to win in his major league debut. Camilo Doval got three outs for his 12th save.

Padres 7, Red Sox 0

In San Diego, Rowned Odor hit a three-run double off struggling Corey Kluber (2-6) in the first inning. Matt Carpenter homered and San Diego stopped a four-game skid by winning for the third time in 14 games.

Odor finished with two doubles and four RBIs. Michael Wacha (5-1), who pitched for Boston last year, allowed five hits in six innings.

Hiring Interior Designer

Fourline Interiors is looking for well-experienced designers with good knowledge in AUTOCAD, 3D and latest designing applications. Should have Visa # 18.

Interested Candidates, please forward your CV to careers4line@gmail.com

Required for Next Academic Year 2023-24 at Private American School

KG and Elementary

- English Teacher
- Reading Intervention Teacher
- Math Teacher
- Science Teacher
- Music Teacher

Middle and High School

- Social Studies Teacher
- English Teacher
- Science Teacher
- Math Teacher
- PE Teacher
- Computer Teacher

Leadership Positions

- High School Principal
- Dean of Students
- Counselor

Admin Staff Copy Clerk (Filipino preferred)

Interested applicants may apply through our website at the following link: <https://www.abs.edu.kw/careers/abs>

Outdoor Sales Executive

A leading industrial gas company is looking to recruit a dynamic Outdoor sales executive responsible for selling industrial and medical gases :

Duties and responsibilities include :

- Identify and establish contact with potential customers within the allocated line of business or geographical area.
- Develop and maintain relationships with customers
- Follow industry trends to identify new opportunities for potential sales
- Recommend marketing strategies to target a specific region or demographic
- Generate and submit sales reports
- Must co-ordinate with drivers for cash sales.
- Must be fluent in written, spoken and conversational English. Working knowledge of Arabic is an added advantage.
- Kuwait Driving License is a must.
- Minimum Experience : 3 years.
- Age: must be less than 28 years.

Email the CV to info@technogas-kw.com



Los Angeles Angels starting pitcher Shohei Ohtani throws to the plate during the second inning of a baseball game against the Minnesota Twins in Anaheim, Calif. (AP)

Organizers plan to install retractable roof over Campo Centrale by 2026

Medvedev makes mark on clay by beating Rune for Italian Open title

ROME, May 22, (AP): Daniil Medvedev hadn't won a single match in his three previous appearances at the Italian Open.

Now he's won the tournament.

The Russian beat rising 20-year-old Danish player Holger Rune 7-5, 7-5 for the first clay-court trophy of a career that includes the 2021 U.S. Open title and a period at No. 1 in the rankings.

Medvedev was previously known almost exclusively for his prowess on hard courts, with 18 of his previous 19 titles coming on that surface - the other was on grass in Mallorca. But he now must be considered a contender at the French Open - the clay-court Grand Slam - which starts next Sunday.

There's room for a new champion at Roland Garros after 14-time winner Rafael Nadal announced on Thursday that he won't be competing in the tournament because of a lingering hip injury that has sidelined him since January.

Medvedev also felt great after



Daniil Medvedev of Russia lifts the trophy after defeating Denmark's Holger Rune during the men's final tennis match at the Italian Open tennis tournament in Rome, Italy. (AP)

beating Stefanos Tsitsipas in straight sets in the semifinals, after which he celebrated with a little dance.

Rune, who eliminated six-time Rome champion Novak Djokovic in the quarterfinals, should also leave the Foro Italico confident for Paris. He was also the runner-up to Andrey Rublev at the Monte Carlo Masters last month and then won a clay title in Munich.

The final started nearly two hours late due to a rain delay - a day after the Medvedev-Tsitsipas match was interrupted by rain suspensions for a total of nearly 4 1/2 hours.

Earlier, organizers announced that they plan to install a retractable roof over Campo Centrale by 2026.

When the new rankings are released on Monday, Medvedev will rise to No. 2 and Carlos Alcaraz will drop from No. 1 to No. 3. Alcaraz, Medvedev and Djokovic therefore will be seeded first, second and third, respectively, at the French Open.

When Medvedev broke Rune's

serve to win the first set, he did it by producing a blistering backhand return cross-court winner from deep in the corner and then ran down a drop shot with ease to set up a comfortable forehand winner.

Rune hung his hands on his knees when Medvedev won a draining 21-shot rally midway through the second.

TENNIS

Medvedev missed two swinging forehand volleys to hand Rune a break and a 4-3 lead in the second but Rune couldn't serve it out and Medvedev evened the set at 5-5 and then broke again in the final game.

When Rune's forehand was overruled by the chair umpire and called out on Medvedev's second championship point, Medvedev dropped down to the clay on his knees to celebrate. Medvedev dropped only one set - to Bernabe Zapata Miralles in the third round - over his six matches.

Kyle takes home \$1 million

Larson dominates for 3rd NASCAR All-Star race win

NORTH WILKESBORO, N.C., May 22, (AP): Kyle Larson didn't mince words after his third All-Star race victory in the last five years.

"That was an old school (butt)-whipping, for sure," Larson said.

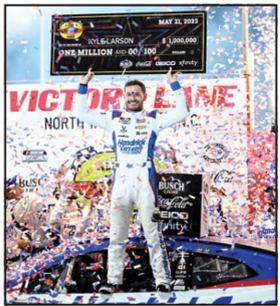
Larson turned in a dominating effort to run away with his third All-Star race and earn \$1 million Sunday night in the Cup Series' return to North Wilkesboro Speedway following a 27-year absence.

He became only the fourth driver to win the All-Star race at least three times. Jimmie Johnson has the most with four victories, while Larson, Jeff Gordon and Dale Earnhardt have three. Larson is the first to win the All-Star race at three different tracks, also having won in Charlotte in 2019 and Texas in 2021.

He celebrated the win with a full lap of burnouts around the .625-mile track as Hendrick Motorsports won its 11th All-Star race.

Bubba Wallace finished second in the 200-lap non-points exhibition race, followed by Tyler Reddick, Chase Briscoe and Chase Elliott.

But only Larson collected prize money in the winner-take-all event.



Kyle Larson (5) celebrates in Victory Lane after winning the NASCAR All-Star Cup Series auto race at North Wilkesboro Speedway in North Wilkesboro, N.C. (AP)

Wallace joked he won the "best of the rest."

Larson was unsure if he would finish better than 15th after struggling in the heat races Saturday night.

"I didn't think there was enough there for (my crew) to get me better," Larson said.

So when Larson was penalized for speeding on lap 24 and sent to the back of the field, he figured it was not his night.

But after taking on the new tires, he drove his No. 5 Chevrolet to the front of the field blowing past 16 cars, including polesitter Daniel Suarez on lap 56. Larson went on to build an 11-sec-

CAR RACING

ond lead before the first competition caution at lap 100.

The competition caution didn't slow Larson, who was never seriously challenged in the second half of the race.

If fans came to see wrecks, they walked away disappointed.

There were none.

And the only pass they saw for the lead was Larson moving past Suarez in what amounted to yet another short track snoozer in a season where NASCAR has struggled with non-competitive races.

North Wilkesboro Speedway's patched-up asphalt track held up fairly well following a week of racing despite not having been paved in more than three decades.

The track, which sat mostly dormant and became overgrown with weeds, was restored with help of Speedway Motorsports CEO Marcus Smith and Hall of Fame driver Dale Earnhardt Jr. for NASCAR's 75th year anniversary season.

Suarez and Chris Buescher started on the front row for the All-Star race after winning their 60-lap heats Saturday night, when NASCAR experimented for the first time with wet weather tires on Cup Series cars.

Mbappé scores 2

PSG on verge of winning 11th French league title

PARIS, May 22, (AP): Kylian Mbappé scored twice to reach a league-leading 28 goals this season as Paris Saint-Germain labored to a 2-1 win at relegation-threatened Auxerre on Sunday to all but guarantee a record 11th French league title.

Defending champion PSG remains six points ahead of second-place Lens with two matches left and has a far superior goal difference, but mathematically needs one point next weekend at Strasbourg to move past Saint-Étienne on 10 titles.

Mbappé put PSG 2-0 ahead inside eight minutes with World Cup winner Lionel Messi in-

again when he pushed away Gauthier Hein's shot in the 75th.

Mbappé had a hat-trick goal ruled out for offside in stoppage time.

Earlier, Seko Fofana scored again as Lens rallied to win 3-1 at Lorient and maintained its very slim hopes of catching PSG.

The standout midfielder sliced the ball home from close range in the 87th minute.

Lorient midfielder Romain Faivre put his side ahead early on but Lens scored twice in quick succession midway through the first half with goals from forward Florian Sotoca and midfielder Adrien Thomasson.

Lens is close to ensuring second place and automatic entry into the Champions League. The northern side leads third-place Marseille by five points with two matches left.

Fofana scored the winner in the previous round of games with 10-man Lens beat Reims 2-1.

Elsewhere, forward Amine Gouiri scored a hat trick as Rennes won 5-0 at relegated Ajaccio to stay one point behind Lille in fifth place and the Europa Conference league spot. Ajaccio has conceded 10 goals in two games and next travels to play Lens.

Auxerre is fighting with 15th-place Strasbourg and 17th-place Nantes to avoid being the last side relegated in a season where four teams go down.

Brest ensured it stayed in the

Golden Knights hold off Stars to take lead 2-0 in West finals



Dallas Stars defenseman Miro Heiskanen (4) and Vegas Golden Knights center Ivan Barbashev (49) vie for the puck during the first period of Game 2 of the NHL hockey Stanley Cup Western Conference finals in Las Vegas. (AP)

Stephenson's OT goal gives Vegas win

LAS VEGAS, May 22, (AP): A slashing penalty in the first period and a retaliatory cross check in the second not only sent Vegas' Chandler Stephenson to the penalty box twice, but resulted in a conversation with coach Bruce Cassidy in the second intermission.

"Let's not let our egos get in the way of having success," Cassidy told Stephenson. "It's playoffs. You deal with it."

He did just that. Stephenson jumped on a rebound 1:12 into overtime and hit the back of the net to complete a rally and give the Golden Knights a 3-2 victory over the Dallas Stars on Sunday and a 2-0 lead in the Western

Conference Final.

Stephenson, Jonathan Marchessault and Mark Stone each had a goal and an assist for Vegas, and Adin Hill saved 26 shots. Miro Heiskanen and Jason Robertson each scored for the Stars, and Ryan Suter had two assists. Jake Oettinger made 21 saves.

Game 3 is Tuesday in Dallas. Teams that have won the first two games in the series preceding the Stanley Cup Final have advanced 91% of the time, one of the few times the odds have been in the Knights' favor. They have gone against the usual paths to victory during the NHL playoffs by going 7-3 when the opponent scores first and posting eight comeback wins.

Dallas led 1-0 and 2-1 before Marchessault forced overtime with a shot from the slot with just 2:22 left in the third period. He banged home the

ICE HOCKEY

goal after a sensational no-look pass from Jack Eichel, who took advantage of a turnover by Suter.

The Stars have found overtime to be a no-win proposition. They are 0-4 in OT games this postseason, the fifth team to lose that many. All four games of the conference finals have gone to overtime, the first time in NHL history that has occurred.

Each team took advantage of funky bounces to score in the first period.

Heiskanen scored just 2:47 into the game for the Stars, the puck hopping over Hill. Vegas evened the score at 10:08 when the puck went off Dallas defenseman Esa Lindell's skate and Stone buried the 5-on-3 power-play goal that came off an usual double penalty on the Stars - their only two infractions.

Robertson scored for the second game in a row when he knocked in a rebound on a power play at 9:21 of the second period to put Dallas back in front at 2-1. That goal rewarded a Stars defensive effort that allowed just 10 shots on goal through the first two

US rout France to 'stay' perfect

TAMPERE, Finland, May 22, (AP): The United States routed France 9-0 to keep its perfect record at the ice hockey world championship.

Cutter Gauthier led with a hat trick, Drew O'Connor got two goals and Scott Perunovich, T. J. Tynan, Rocco Grimaldi and Conor Garland added one apiece at Nokia Arena for the Americans to dominate Group A with six wins from six games.

Goaltender Cal Petersen made 13 saves for the shutout.

Nico Sturm scored twice and Germany thrashed Hungary 7-2 to keep alive its hopes of advancing to the quarterfinals from Group A.

In the Latvian capital of Riga, Switzerland beat the Czech Republic 4-2 to lead Group B with six victories from six games.

Andres Ambuhl scored two goals for Switzerland, Tanner Richard and Romain Loeffel contributed one each while Roman Cervenka and Dominik Kubalik scored for the Czechs.

Slovakia edged Slovenia 1-0 in Group B to stay in contention for a place in the knockout stage. Slovenia lost six straight games and will be relegated from the top division.

periods.

The Knights, however, picked up the pressure in the third period with 12 shots on goal, forced overtime and then won it quickly in the extra session.

Stephenson capped what had been a difficult day with a shot he will long remember.

The Knights are two victories from making their second Stanley Cup Final. Their other trip was in the Knights' historic first season in 2018, and six players remain from the team known as the Golden Misfits. The Knights have come close to returning to the championship round, twice making the semifinals. They also still are chasing the first title, having lost the 2018 Cup Final in five games to Washington.

SOCCER

involved in the buildup for both goals. Mbappé's brace moved him two clear of Lyon striker Alexandre Lacazette, who has 26 goals, in the race to finish top scorer.

Despite the comfortable lead, PSG's defense looked vulnerable, as it has for several seasons. Late in the first half, Rayan Raveloson hit the crossbar with a half-volley for Auxerre and PSG goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma then had to make a sharp save.

The warning signs went unheeded as striker Lassine Sinayoko got behind the defense and beat Donnarumma in the 51st. Donnarumma saved PSG



PSG's Sergio Ramos (right), challenges for the ball with Auxerre's Rayan Raveloson during the French League One soccer match between Auxerre and Paris Saint Germain, at the Abbe Deschamps stadium in Auxerre, central France. (AP)



Miami Heat guard Gabe Vincent (2) dribbles the ball as Boston Celtics guard Malcolm Brogdon (13) defends during the first half of Game 3 of the NBA basketball playoffs Eastern Conference finals in Miami. (AP)

Sports

Latest sports scores at — <http://sports.arabtimesonline.com>

'The rim was as big as the ocean for everybody'

Heat blow out Celtics for 3-0 lead in Eastern Conference finals



Brooks Koepka holds the Wanamaker trophy after winning the PGA Championship golf tournament at Oak Hill Country Club in Pittsford, N.Y. (AP)

Koepka gets another major 'win' at PGA Championship

LIV gets a major champion

PITTSFORD, N.Y., May 22, (AP): Confidence was never an issue for Brooks Koepka until the injuries piled up, the doubts crept in and he began to wonder if he still belonged among golf's elite.

Koepka answered every question at the PGA Championship with a performance that ranks among his best. His fifth major title was the sweetest of them all. No doubt about that, either.

One knee injury kept him from the Masters, another from the Presidents Cup in Australia. Two years ago, he tried to pop his knee back into place and shattered his knee cap. And then last summer, uncertain about his future, he decided to leave the PGA Tour for the guaranteed Saudi riches of LIV Golf, bringing a mixture of criticism and skepticism. And there he was Sunday at Oak Hill, look-

GOLF

ing good as new, dominant as ever, against the best collection of golfers in the world on a punishing golf course.

Koepka ran off three quick birdies early, never lost the lead amid a gritty fight from Viktor Hovland, and closed with a 3-under 67 for a two-shot victory.

He held up his index finger as he posed next to the Wanamaker Trophy, but he may as well have held up all five.

With three PGAs and two U.S. Opens, he became the 20th player with five or more majors. He won his third Wanamaker Trophy - only Jack Nicklaus and Walter Hagen with five and Tiger Woods with four have won the PGA Championship more times - and captured his first major in what felt like four years.

And to think that over the last few years, Koepka was so wounded he felt he couldn't compete, a decision that might have led to him leaving the PGA Tour for Saudi-funded LIV Golf in a shocking move last June after the U.S. Open.

In the Netflix series "Full Swing"

Vinicius 'again' targeted with racist abuse during Real loss

MADRID, May 22, (AP): Spanish soccer is again embroiled in a racism debate after yet another case of abuse against Real Madrid forward Vinicius Junior, with the president of Spain's soccer federation acknowledging that the country has a racism problem and the player's club asking authorities to investigate the latest incident as a hate crime.

Officials, players and former players showed solidarity with Vinicius, who on Sunday considered leaving the field after facing racist taunts from fans during Real Madrid's 1-0 loss at Valencia in the Spanish league.

"We have a problem of behavior, of education, of racism," Spanish soccer federation president Luis Rubiales said Monday. "And as long as there is one fan or one group of fans making insults

based on someone's sexual orientation or skin color or belief, then we have a serious problem. A serious problem that stains an entire team, an entire fan base and an entire country."

Valencia said it banned one of its fans for life and was looking to identify others who may have insulted Vinicius at Mestalla Stadium.

"From the moment that the unfortunate events occurred, the club has analyzed all the available footage, working alongside the authorities as rapidly as possible to clarify what happened in order to be able to act quickly and forcefully," Valencia said in a statement, adding it is working with police to identify more culprits. Real Madrid asked authorities to investigate the abusive behavior, saying the club believed the incident to be a hate crime.

MIAMI, May 22, (AP): Erik Spoelstra had his team fully expecting that Game 3 of the Eastern Conference finals would be extremely difficult, that the Miami Heat were going to have to take the best shot that a desperate bunch of Boston Celtics could muster.

He was wrong. It was a Heat romp - and a team that had to pull off a frantic rally just to make the playoffs is now one win from the NBA Finals.

Gabe Vincent scored a career-high 29 points, Duncan Robinson added 22 and the eighth-seeded Heat rolled past the Celtics 128-102 on Sunday night. Miami leads the series 3-0, with a chance to finish off a stunning sweep on Tuesday night at home in Game 4. "That was a solid, mature, professional approach," said Spoelstra, now on the brink of a sixth trip to the NBA Finals as Miami's coach. "There's a lot of

pent-up stuff here and we're getting closer, but we still have to finish this off." Caleb Martin scored 18, Jimmy Butler finished with 16, Bam Adebayo had 13 and Max Strus added 10 for Miami. Every team in NBA history that has won the first three games of a best-of-seven has ultimately prevailed; the Heat are 8-0 in that situation.

"The rim was as big as the ocean for everybody," Adebayo said, after Miami shot 57%.

Jayson Tatum scored 14 and Jaylen Brown added 12 for the second-seeded Celtics, who won three times on Miami's floor on the way to winning last season's East finals - but simply never had a chance in this one and basically emptied the bench for the fourth quarter.

Payton Pritchard each added 12 for Boston.

"To their credit, they're playing

well above their means," Brown said. "They're ballin' right now and I've got to give them respect. Gabe Vincent, Martin, Strus, Duncan Robinson, guys that we should be able to keep under control are playing their (butt) off." The NBA Finals start June 1, and the way things are going, that might mean the league is about to go a few days without games. The Western Conference finals could end Monday; Denver leads that series against the Los Angeles Lakers 3-0. And now, the East finals could end Tuesday.

BASKETBALL

"It's the first to four games," Vincent said. "We're not satisfied with three." There's never been a season where both conference finals ended in sweeps; it happened in 1957 in the division finals immediately preceding the title series, when Boston beat Syracuse 3-0 and St. Louis beat Minneapolis 3-0.

Of all the 3-0 series leads in NBA history, this one might be the most unexpected - a No. 8 seed in the Heat, a team that struggled just to get into the playoffs, a team that was less than 3 minutes away from being eliminated in the play-in tournament, getting past top-seeded Milwaukee in five games, then fifth-seeded New York in six, and now on the brink of denying the Celtics a second consecutive East crown.

And the Heat let Boston know how much they were enjoying this one.

Anthony 'retires' from NBA, after 19-yr career

WASHINGTON, May 22, (AP): Carmelo Anthony, the star forward who led Syracuse to an NCAA championship in his lone college season and went on to spend 19 years in the NBA, announced his retirement on Monday.

Anthony, who was not in the NBA this season, retires as the No. 9 scorer in league history.

Only LeBron James, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Karl Malone, Kobe Bryant, Michael Jordan, Dirk Nowitzki, Wilt Chamberlain and Shaquille O'Neal scored more than Anthony - who finishes his career with 28,289 points.

"Now the time has come for me to say good-bye ... to the game that gave me purpose and pride," Anthony said in a videotaped message announcing his decision - one he called "bittersweet."

Anthony's legacy has long been secure: He ends his playing days after being selected as one of the 75 greatest players in NBA history, a 10-time All-Star, a past scoring champion and a six-time All-NBA selection.

And while he never got to the NBA Finals - he only played in the conference finals once, with Denver against the eventual champion Los Angeles Lakers in 2009 - Anthony also knew what it was like to be a champion.



Kuwait Triathlon Club displays the national flag at the end of Sharm El-Sheikh AT African Cup and the 2023 Pan Arab Championships.

Kuwait Triathlon Club dominate Champ'ships

The players of the Kuwait Triathlon Club achieved a great win of 7 gold medals and two silver medals during their participation in the 2023 Sharm El-Sheikh AT African Cup and the 2023 Pan Arab Championships, which had recently concluded in Sharm El-Sheikh in the Arab Republic of Egypt.

The winners of the medals for the male and female triathlon champions were as follows:

Noura Al-Barrak, Fi Al-Mulla, Lulwa Al-Rifai, Huda Al-Saleh and Jassim Al-Rajeb won gold medals in the category for all age groups in the Arab Championship.

Saleh Al-Ruzaihan and Jassim

Al-Rajeb won silver medals in the category for all age groups in the Arab Championship.

Huda Al-Saleh won the gold medal in the the category for all age groups in the African Cup.

Head of the delegation from the Kuwait Triathlon Club in the African Cup and the Arab Championships in Sharm El-Sheikh Sufyan Al-Khalil praised the achievement of the Kuwaiti champions in the Arab and African forums.

He affirmed that this achievement did not come from a vacuum, but was the result of the great work and efforts exerted by the players and the financial support and mo-

rale from the Kuwait Triathlon Club headed by Rashid Al-Kandari.

Al-Khalil said, "The triathlon players have proven their high standing in the international competitions. This is evidence of the development taking place in the game and the interest of the triathlon leaders in raising the level and competence of the Kuwaiti champions before any international participation."

He thanked the club, the Public Authority for Sports and the Olympic Committee of Kuwait for supporting the game and the national team in the African Cup and the Arab Championship.



One of the winners celebrate with his medals.

Italy upstage Brazil, Japan shock Senegal

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina, May 22, (AP): Two of the title favorites lost their opening games at the Under-20 World Cup on Sunday when Italy upstaged Brazil 3-2 and Japan produced a shocking 1-0 upset win over Senegal.

Nigeria and Colombia won their matches in dramatic fashion, both by scores of 2-1 against much weaker rivals Dominican Republic and Israel.

SOCCER

Italy raced to a 3-0 lead in the Group D match, opening in the 11th minute when midfielder Matteo Prati shot from close range. Italy doubled its lead after Brazil goalkeeper Mycael failed to stop a cross and left the ball for a clear header by midfielder Cesare Casadei in the 27th. Casadei added a third in the 35th from the spot.

Brazil regrouped and scored two goals through striker Marcos Leonardo, the first in the 72nd and the second with a header in the 87th, but it was too little too late.

Senegal was stunned early by Japan in its Group C match

in La Plata. Striker Kuryu Matsuki scored in the 15th and that allowed the Japanese to sit back. Senegal winger Samba Diallo, one of the expected stars of the tournament, failed to deliver and was substituted in the 73rd.

Earlier, Nigeria trailed the Dominican Republic in their Group D match in Mendoza after Edison Azcona opened the scoring from the spot in the 23rd. But the African team's high intensity paid off in the second half.

The Nigerians equalized after an own-goal by left-back Guillermo de Peña in the 31st and got the winner with Samson Adeniran Lawal in the 70th minute.

Colombia faced difficulties before edging Israel with a late winner in their Group C match in La Plata. Dor David Turgean scored for the Israelis in the 57th, but Colombia rallied with goals from Oscar Cortez in the 74th and Gustavo Puerta in the 90th.

Colombia next plays Japan on Wednesday. In other matches Wednesday, Italy and Nigeria face off and Brazil takes on Dominican Republic. Argentina took Indonesia's spot in the tournament as host and participant. Protests in Muslim-majority Indonesia against hosting Israel forced FIFA into a very late switch of venues.