



BULLETS, DRUGS, MONEY ... VOTER LISTS SEIZED

Ten in vote-buying network arrested



Supporters of Turkish President and People's Alliance's presidential candidate Recep Tayyip Erdogan, attend an election campaign rally in Istanbul, Turkey, Saturday, May 27, 2023.

term in the second-round runoff, after coming just short of an outright victory in the first round on May 14.

The divisive populist finished four percentage points ahead of Kemal Kilicdaroglu, the candidate of a six-party alliance and leader of Turkey's center-left main opposition party.

Hotline set up

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh
Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 28: The Criminal Investigation General Department at the Ministry of Interior has confirmed the arrest of 10 individuals for forming a vote-buying network in favor of two parliamentary election candidates in the Fifth Constituency.

The security authorities found unlicensed bullets, drugs, money and list of voters in the possession of the arrested individuals; who were referred to the Public Prosecution along with the confiscated items.

The department stressed that the ministry is keen on enforcing the law and it is closely monitoring election activities to prevent illegal acts like the purchase of votes. It urged citizens to call the hotline - 97272672 - to report suspicious acts related to the elections.

According to reliable sources, the arrested individuals include a Pakistani who has strong relations with almost 400 voters in the Fifth Constituency and that he works with others. The prosecution detained these individuals and summoned the two involved candidates - one of them is a former MP.

Meanwhile, former MP and First Constituency candidate Saleh Ashour said in his campaign that attempts to make the citizens lose trust in democracy and the Parliament have been foiled, owing to the people's awareness. He highlighted the importance of the monitoring role of the Parliament, which led to the investigation and punishment of many senior officials and Sheikhs involved in corruption.

In a relevant development, former MP and Second Constituency candidate Khalil Al-Saleh said the government must address the urgent issues including increasing the citizens' salaries and pension and maintenance of roads within three months, starting from the beginning of the upcoming parliamentary term.

Opinion

National Assembly: monotonous output... a government without power

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

POLITICAL geniuses in Kuwait are trying to invent "hot water" by recycling the problems that the country endures from.

Even before the results are announced, each of them shows his arsenal in pursuit of a position in the National Assembly, which apparently will not change anything from reality, but could be a distorted version of the previous ones.

Therefore, the features of the election outcome are clear in content, but not in form. The objectives are not the names, but the way the parliamentarians will perform after June 6.

Indeed, there are many Kuwaitis who are currently saying, "A bad start brings about undesirable outcomes." This is due to the fact that the principle of the electoral approach is concerned with the one who has the ability to impose a solution to the concerns of the people, after the matter has reached a point where people no longer trust the parliamentarians.

On the other hand, the governments, including the current one, did not provide anything that can be relied upon to get the country out of the impasse, as they work on a reaction mode.

That is why it does not have any state project for development, especially in the face of regional and international changes, and the pressure of wars raging in more than one region, as well as the uncertainty of how to face the fluctuating oil prices, the looming financial crisis due to the financial situation of the United States, and the consequences that will cast a shadow on foreign investments.

Unfortunately, there are those who believe that the situation will not change or that the raising prices is a natural result of the decline in the purchasing value of the currencies of commodity-exporting countries.

There are still advisors who bet on "all is well" because they seek to provide advice to officials based on a vision of their personal interests, not the interests of the people and the state.

We have mentioned on several occasions that the prestige and strength of the state is the decision of a leader. This is what happened to Singapore through Lee Kuan Yew, and China through Deng Xiaoping.

No one remembers Hua Guofeng, who succeeded Mao Zedong. Today everyone is watching the achievements of the current President Xi Jinping but no one remembers Hu Jintao.

In 2017, the Chinese Communist Party voted to include President Xi Jinping's name and thoughts in the party's constitution and make him the same as the late founder of the party Mao Zedong.

Similar scenarios happened in the United States with its 46 presidents. The American people remember only five or six of them because they worked to establish their name in history with the great deeds they presented to their nation.

All of these had governments and parliaments, and some of their countries suffered from problems between the parliamentarians and the government, and even witnessed popular political unrest.

However, they held onto the helm of steering the ship to the achievements, and did not care about the arguments and polemics of the MPs or their interpellation. Also, their governments did not conclude deals to prevent the interpellation of the prime minister, or any of the members of his team.

Indeed, in the United Kingdom, there are interpellations of ministers and the prime minister happening on a daily basis. The conditions of the state have not been disturbed because everyone works with the decision of the leadership, and even its ambitions.

The decision maker there does not pay attention to social media because of the conviction that the state is not governed by these means, but rather by a state strategy set by the leadership and everyone acts on its inspiration and strict control over all institutions, and firmness in preventing anyone from encroaching on the interests of the state, or the public money.

Kuwait today, in light of what it is enduring, needs a decision-making will, instead of waiting for a nation's assembly. From what the candidates claim that "it is all the same", we know this means we need an executive authority that has the ability of change for the better in order for the country to get out of the political and developmental impasse that led to a number of crises, and the deterioration of everything in the state.

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US, Riyadh urge truce extension

CAIRO, May 28, (AP): The United States and Saudi Arabia called on warring sides in Sudan to extend a fragile cease-fire due to expire Monday, as weeks of fighting reached a stalemate in the capital and elsewhere in the African country.

The Sudanese army and a rival paramilitary force, battling for control of Sudan since mid-April, had agreed last week to the week-long truce, brokered by the U.S. and the Saudis. However, the cease-fire, like others before it, did not stop the fighting in the capital of Khartoum and elsewhere in the country.

In a joint statement early Sunday, the U.S. and Saudi Arabia called for an extension of the current truce which expires at 9:45 p.m. local time Monday.

"While imperfect, an extension nonetheless will facilitate the delivery of urgently needed humanitarian assistance to the Sudanese people," the statement said.

The statement also urged Sudan's military government and the rival Rapid Support Forces to continue negotiations to reach an agreement on extending the cease-fire.

The fighting broke out in mid-April between the military and the powerful RSF. Both military chief Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan and RSF leader Gen. Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo led the 2021 coup that removed the Western-backed government of Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok.

It turned Khartoum and the adjacent city of Omdurman into a battleground. The clashes also spread elsewhere in the country, including the war-ravaged Darfur region.

The conflict has killed hundreds of people, wounded thousands and pushed the country to near collapse. It forced more than 1.3 million out of their homes to safer areas inside Sudan, or to neighboring nations.

Residents reported renewed sporadic clashes Sunday in parts of Omdurman, where the army's aircraft were seen flying over the city. Fighting was also reported in al-Fasher, the provincial capital of North Darfur.

The conflict has come to a stalemate as neither side has been able to deliver a decisive blow to the other after more than five weeks of fighting.

In the first two weeks of the war, army airstrikes targeted RSF camps in and outside the capital, stripping the paramilitary force from its bases. That forced the RSF to deploy in densely populated areas, where they seized people's houses and other property, and are using them as cover against the military's airstrikes.

The detention of Dr. Alaa Eldin Awad Nougoud, a prominent surgeon and pro-democracy activist, in Omdurman caused an uproar in the country, with medical and rights groups in and outside of Sudan demanding his release.

A group of armed men stormed Nougoud's home Sunday and detained him, according to the Sudan Doctors' Syndicate. He was taken to an unknown location, it said.

The Forces of Freedom and Change, the pro-democracy coalition, said the armed men claimed they were members of the military and the intelligence service. It said Nougoud's detention was part of a campaign targeting pro-democracy activists, and urged his immediate release.

The development came after Nougoud told a television station last week that the military seized medical aid provided by the World Health Organization and stored it at a military hospital in Omdurman, according to local media.

UAE releases 10 Lebanese

BEIRUT, May 28, (AP): A group of Lebanese citizens detained in the United Arab Emirates have been released, Lebanon's foreign ministry said Saturday.

Lebanon's ambassador to the UAE notified the ministry of the release of 10 Lebanese detainees who had been arrested there about two months ago, the ministry said in a statement.

The release comes after the death earlier this month of a Lebanese man who was detained in the UAE on unknown charges. A committee of family members of Lebanese citizens detained in the UAE alleged in a statement that Ghazi Ezzedine, 55, had died under torture, and rights groups raised concerns about the Emirati government's lack of transparency regarding Ezzedine's case and the linked detentions.

Emirati authorities have not commented on the case or on the release of the other detainees.

Afif Shouman, head of a group of Lebanese families with relatives detained in the Gulf country, said seven Lebanese citizens remain detained in the UAE, none of whom have been convicted of a crime, and called for their release.

UAE authorities have detained dozens of Lebanese, mostly Shiites, in the past over alleged links to the Iran-backed Lebanese militant group Hezbollah. The UAE, like other Gulf Cooperation Council members, considers Hezbollah a terrorist organization.

In 2019, the UAE sentenced one Lebanese national to life in prison and two to ten years in prison on charges of links to Hezbollah.

Amnesty International said in a statement at the time the trial of the men "failed to meet international fair trial standards," as the evidence included confessions that were "extracted under duress, and the defendants were detained incommunicado for months and denied access to lawyers during interrogation and investigation."

News watch

KUWAIT CITY: Kuwaiti and Saudi officials at panel's level sat at the negotiating table on Sunday to examine plans for boosting cooperation in a host of sectors namely energy and trade and aviation.

The talks were held within framework of a joint coordination committee at headquarters of the Kuwaiti Ministry Oil, according to a statement released by the ministry. The Kuwaiti side was headed by the Oil Undersecretary Sheikh Dr. Nimr Fahad Al-Malek Al-Sabah and the Saudi delegation was chaired by Nasser Al-Dosari of the Saudi Ministry of Energy.

The two sides discussed boosting cooperation between the two brotherly countries in the sectors of energy, commerce, industries, civil aviation, customs and economy, the statement said, noting that the agenda included prospecting joint vision for establishing sustainable cooperation in energy, namely gas, and optimum use of the oil resources. (KUNA)

KUWAIT CITY: Kuwait's Ministry of Foreign Affairs denounced on Saturday the rampage attack on the residence of Jordan Ambassador in Khartoum, the capital city of Sudan.

"The State of Kuwait reaffirms opposition to all forms of violence and vandalism targeting the diplomatic missions and their facilities in sisterly Sudan," according to a statement issued by the Ministry tonight.

The State of Kuwait reiterates the call for all concerned parties in Sudan to ensure protection of these missions pursuant to the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961, it added. (KUNA)

CAIRO: Kuwait is eager to propel its economic and trade relations with Arab countries to greater levels, an official said on Sunday, emphasizing the need to hold more pan-Arab gatherings to bring that goal to fruition.

As part of these efforts, Kuwait was among the first countries in the region to launch an electronic "certificate of origin" to process exports within the Greater Arab Free Trade Area, the Kuwaiti Customs Authority's chief of the air cargo department Mutlaq Al-Enezi said amid talks on the matter in the Egyptian capital. (KUNA)

TEHRAN: Two Iranian soldiers were killed and two others were injured in the armed clashes with Taliban movement, rulers of the neighboring Afghanistan, the official Iranian news agency reported Saturday.

The clashes occurred between Iranian border guards and members of the Afghan Taleban movement at the Sasuli border post, IRNA stated.

It pointed out that Taliban fighters killed the commander of the same Iranian border post last week. (KUNA)

TEHRAN: Oman's ruler arrived Sunday in Tehran for talks with Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and other top officials, state television reported.

Sultan Haitham bin Tariq Al Said was officially welcomed by Raisi at the capital's Saadabad Palace, state media said. The sultan's visit followed an official invitation by the Iranian president. It is his first visit to Iran since he ascended the throne. (AP)

CAIRO: The Arab League on Sunday urged the international community to take serious action for halting Israel's abuse of Palestinian children.

The appeal was made by Ambassador Haifaa Abu-Ghazala, the Assistant Secretary General for Social Affairs, in a statement during inauguration of the "the regional conference on grave violations against children in armed struggles," held via visual technology. (KUNA)

Prayer Timings

Fajr	03:17	Asr	15:20
Sunrise ..	04:50	Maghrib ..	18:40
Zohr	11:45	Isha	20:10

Local

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

Memorial Day held for lost souls at Camp Arifjan

Our relationship with Kuwait, its people is exceptional: Holtsnider

KUWAIT CITY, May 28: Chargé d'Affaires at the US Embassy in Kuwait, James Holtsnider said the US army has lost more than 7,000 soldiers since the events of September 11, 2001 in various regions such as Iraq, Afghanistan and other areas, reports Al-Anba daily.

"It is a great honor to be here today," he said, "to join my partners in Kuwait and my fellow military and diplomats from a number of coalition countries working with us here in the region, to honor those who lost their lives serving their country."

He said this during a ceremony held at Camp Arifjan on the occasion of Memorial Day which is an occasion to celebrate those who sacrificed their lives for the sake of serving their countries the US Army has lost more than 7,000 soldiers since the events of September 11, 2001

He added, "Since the liberation of Kuwait in 1991, we have lost nearly 300 members of the coalition in the region, and we are still losing soldiers in various wars around the world."

He explained, "For example, in Operation Inherent Resolve, where we were helping in Syria to fight ISIS, we lost more than 300 members of the coalition over the past years, and today, we come together to honor the memory of the sacrifices made by these individuals."

"We are doing this in partnership with our closest ally, Kuwait, and with our other allies, and we continue to work closely with them on all aspects of our military partnership," Holtsnider said.

Regarding the relationship between his country and Kuwait, he said: "Our relationship with Kuwait is exceptional. We have a very strong relationship with the Kuwaiti people and with the Kuwaiti leadership, and we are working to consolidate our relations with the Kuwaiti military partners through multifaceted exercises. We also carry out exercises with our Canadian, British, Italian, Egyptian and many other partners," other partners who today share our mission to keep the region safe.

On the occasion, Holtsnider said: "Remembrance Day is an occasion to remember and honor those who sacrificed their lives for the sake of duty during military service, pointing out that on this day they lay wreaths to celebrate those who answered the call of their nation, wore service uniforms, and we invite their families, who gave themselves to duty altruistically."

He added that today, we honor all those who lost their lives while serving, especially this last generation that

was lost during Operation Iraqi Liberation, Operation Enduring Freedom, and the Global War on Terror, as 219 American service members died during the liberation of Kuwait, and 7,057 American service members were killed in the process of war operations that followed September 11.

The US Chargé d'Affaires added: Let us never forget that our nation has paid a heavy price for the freedoms we enjoy, as the number of Americans killed in all conflicts since the American Revolution has reached more than 1.3 million people.

"When we gather around the world, we honor the bravery and sacrifices of our fallen soldiers in defense of our way of life," he said, adding that we must remember not only our fallen sailors, airmen and marines, but also the more than 1.4 million active-duty men and women now in action. the whole world.

He concluded saying these conflicts occur all over the world, but the price is paid by their loved ones, parents, children, siblings, and spouses, and Remembrance Day gives us pause and time to focus and with grieving gratitude, remember those who died in service from the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines, Navy and Space Forces.

For his part, the commander of the region's support group and the supervisor of al-Qaeda's operations in Beirut and Arifjan, Colonel Martin Wolgemut, said that "in 1991 during the Gulf War, 219 American soldiers were killed during the overthrow of Saddam Hussein's regime, and more than 400 Kuwaiti soldiers and more than a thousand civilians were killed." Adding that these numbers are important to remember, and for this reason, the United States and our allies in the coalition are here together to continue to defend Kuwait, pointing to the presence of more than 12,000 American soldiers, between Camp Arifjan, Ali Al-Salem Air Base, Kuwait Naval Base, Bureij Camp and Shuaiba Port as we continue to defend Kuwait.

On Remembrance Day, he added, many people back home try to commemorate or remember something they did not know or personally experience before. During the American Civil War, one in 50 Americans died during that war - a personal experience of loss shared by almost everyone. Since September 12, 2001, just over 7,000 US Department of Defense service members and civilians have been killed in foreign conflicts, less than one American in 50,000.



James Holtsnider



Soldiers holding their flags at the ceremony.

Photo by Samer Shaqir

'Come out, vote in polls'

'Candidates need media training to woo voters'

By Amna Ashour/Nawaf Al-Deqbas

KUWAIT CITY, May 28, (KUNA) : A number of experts in media and politics stressed on Sunday the importance of participating in the voting process for the upcoming parliamentary elections on June sixth.

In statements to (KUNA), academics called on Kuwaiti society and youths to participate in the elections in order to help the right qualified candidate to reach parliament and better serve their country.

"The democratic process is going through a stage of push and pull, the National Assembly has a role in protecting freedoms and preventing corruption, and refusal to vote serves those who want this country to be backward and regression," said the Associate Professor of Public Relations and Media at the Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST), Dr. Ali Abdel Samad.

He called on voters to "participate in voting and choose the best candidate to complete the electoral process in a better way". In a similar statement, Professor of Communication and Digital Media at Kuwait University, Dr. Bashayer Al-Sanea, said that participation in the electoral process is "the best option to achieve the desired development and block those with personal interests.

The election represent a true chance to express our views and achieve our aspiration for a better future, she added.

"When the views and needs of citizens are properly represented in parliament, balance and sustainable development are achieved and democracy is strengthened".

For his part, Professor of Political Science at Kuwait University, Dr. Abdullah Al-Ghanim considered, "Political participation is a fundamental issue for reforming the situation."

"The ballot paper is the first step in this path; the ballot boxes are the first steps of political reform."

"Voter must control his conscience and choose a qualified candidate away from partisanship, sectarianism or tribe, and he must make a rational choice based on a comparison between candidates based on the interest of the country", he continues.

Electoral

Al-Ghanim stressed that "the most important thing in the electoral process is the realization that if the choice is based on personal interest, it will not contribute to development, but will lead to harm to society".

Dr. Muhammad Akbar, the Professor of Media at the American University, on the other hand stated, "the voter should choose the honest, educated candidate with a conscience, and who enjoys the spirit of patriotism and served the country in his field of work".

He added that the Kuwaiti people must choose according to democratic criteria that call for the development of the country and the development of legislation that serves society and is in the public interest for a better future."

He pointed out the importance of resorting the motivating participation in the elections, overcoming negative criticism, and broadcasting positive messages calling for optimism.

Earlier this month, the Kuwaiti Cabinet approved a draft decree calling for National Assembly (parliament) elections to take place on Tuesday, June 6, 2023).

Meanwhile, media figures and academics affirmed on Sunday National Assembly candidates should be trained in media to influence voters with their ideas.

In a statement to KUNA, multiple media academics said that certain media skills acquired through training courses helps candidates to attract public attention and the acceptance of voters.

Professor of Media at Kuwait University Dr. Khaled Al-Qahs said that each candidate needs a media personality to convince voters with their ideas, as well as intellectual and cultural characteristics especially in the legislative and constitutional aspects and public affairs issues.

Al-Qahs added that candidates must acquire the ability to deal with various media platforms, appear in media conferences and interviews and speak about public issues.

Journalist Dr. Bassam Al-Jazzaf said that candidates' most important characteristic is to maintain a positive and honest image in the voters head, and the ability to dialogue, negotiate, persuade, respond to arguments and confront the media and the public, which is achieved by intensive training sessions.

For his part, Media figure Eid Al-Rashidi stressed the importance of media characteristics for the candidate is to have the ability to influence others and persuade and evoke their feelings as well as have confidence in what he says.

He also added on the need to develop training programs for candidates that are exposed to pressure and contribute to their media success and confidence in what they present and discuss.

Al-Rashidi stated that the best advice to give any candidate was to provide good content for the issues raised, choosing a good media platform to convey ideas and having alternative plans to deal with any issue in addition to clarifying the electoral message.

Weather

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:
By Day: Hot and partly cloudy to cloudy with light to moderate freshening at times northwesterly wind to northerly wind with speeds of 15-40 km/h.

By Night: Rather hot and partly cloudy with light to light northwesterly wind with speeds of 08-30 km/h.
Station **Max Exp** **Min Rec**
 Kuwait City 44 32
 Kuwait Airport 44 27

Abdaly	44	25
Jahra	44	30
Salmiyah	39	32
Ahmadi	37	32
Nuwaisib	40	28
Wafra	43	27

Bid to protect public funds

Travel ban on over 140,000 : MoJ

KUWAIT CITY, May 28: Great efforts are made by the General Administration of Execution in implementing judgments and preserving public money through the implementation of judgments in the administrations of the various governorates and Kuwait International Airport, reports Al-Anba daily.

Meanwhile, the daily continues to publish details of the annual statistics prepared by the Statistics and Research Department of the Information Technology and Statistics Sector at the Ministry of Justice, including the efforts of the General Administration of Implementation of the Ministry of Justice.

According to the statistics of the Ministry of Justice, 140,005 citizens and residents were prevented from traveling during 2022.

The statistics indicated that the Kuwait Airport Office had the biggest share in the travel ban, as the number of those banned from traveling through Kuwait Airport reached 36,145 citizens and residents, while the Capital Governorate was the highest in the travel ban with 28,251, followed by the Farwaniya Governorate, where the number of those banned from travel reached 25390 citizens and residents.

Al-Jahra Governorate came third in terms of the number of those banned from traveling, with 17,112 citizens and residents, followed by Hawalli Governorate, with 14,495.

Al-Ahmadi Governorate followed with 13,759 people banned from traveling, while Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorate was the lowest with 4,853 people banned from travel.

With regard to the implementation of family courts, the number of those banned from traveling reached 6075 citizens and residents due to family court cases.

Hawalli Governorate ranked highest among the governorates with 1448 citizens and residents, while Al-Ahmadi Governorate came after 1129 prohibited from traveling.

Then came the Jahra governorate with 1077, followed by the Farwaniya governorate with 947 citizens and residents banned from travel, then the capital with 878, and finally the Mubarak Al-Kabeer governorate with 596 citizens and residents banned from travel.

Kuwaitis in Jordan: The Jordanian Ambassador to Kuwait, Saqr Abu Shattal, said about 4,500 Kuwaitis are currently studying in Jordanian universities, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Abu Shattal's was speaking during the inauguration of the fourth Jordanian university education exhibition, which was held over two days.

Participating in the event was the University of Jordan 'online' in the presence of representatives of Princess Sumaya University.

Abu Shattal said, "The exhibition, in its fourth edition, is an invitation to our brothers in Kuwait, the Jordanian community, and the rest of the nationalities residing in Kuwait to benefit from the university education that distinguishes Jordanian universities."

He pointed out that it "aims to develop the fraternal relationship that binds the Kingdom and Kuwait, leadership and people," and said, the Kuwaiti student in Jordan enjoys close care and follow-up by Jordanian universities, in coordination with the Kuwaiti embassy in Amman.

He noted that "the great rapprochement in customs and traditions between the two countries makes Jordan a safe educational destination for many Kuwaiti and Arab students.

Other Voices

Hejaz railway and Abdullah Al-Salem leadership center

By Ahmed Al-Sarraf

In 1900, the Ottomans established Hejaz railway to connect Damascus and Madinah, to carry pilgrims and soldiers as well as providing some military services. By 1908, the railway was launched. However, but it soon suffered a lot of damage and sabotage during the Great Arab Revolt against the Ottomans in 1917. When Lawrence of Arabia joined the revolution, he urged the revolutionaries to blow the railway up. Since then, the attempts aimed at repairing it have failed. The railway started from Damascus to Basra in the south of Syria and then divides into 2 lines; the first goes to the south via Jordan and the second goes west to Palestine and then from Haifa to Egypt.

The path of the pilgrimage line started from the city of Damascus, crossed the Hauran plain, passed through Muzayrib, in addition to a number of areas located in southern Syria, all the way to the city of Daraa, then to Jordan, where it passed through Mafraq, Zarqa, Amman, and Maan, respectively, then entered the Hijaz and ended in the city!

The Ottomans, almost 130 years ago, also built the first railway, or the "Schmendiver Railway" in Lebanon, linking Beirut with Damascus, and the line subsequently included other Lebanese cities, but its government police went bankrupt with the devastation of Lebanon that began in 1975, but the members of the authority supervising the line continued to receive their salaries from the state until recently, despite the passage of half a century since the bankruptcy of the railway!

Their situation reminded me of the situation of the so-called "Abdullah Al-Salem Center for Leadership Development," which was established in 1966, and often failed in its work completely, and this prompted the government to transfer its supervision to the Youth and

Sports Authority, so that salaries and the rest of the privileges continue to be paid to the supervising authority.

This center, after changing its failed name, to become the Leadership Development Center, could have done a lot to qualify and prepare those chosen as undersecretaries, directors, and heads of organizations, to become worthy of assuming their positions, instead of the very modest level that we find in the majority of those who hold leadership positions.

This center was also able to provide the necessary training for the new deputies, and explain the requirements of the parliamentary work to them, especially since among them there are those who "distinguish themselves from reading and writing!"

It is known that the newly elected members of Congress in America engage in orientation programs, before they begin their official duties, as representatives or senators, in order to familiarize them with the processes and procedures of Congress, and provide them with the resources and support to carry out their responsibilities effectively.

Most of them receive training courses on various aspects of operations, learn about legislative procedures, functions of committees, role of staff, code of ethics and guidelines, resources available to them, get acquainted with experienced members and key staff of the board who can provide guidance and answer their questions, and provide them with necessary knowledge and tools. To navigate the legislative process effectively and to fulfill their duties as Representatives or Senators!

Perhaps we will dream for a long time of such an arrangement and initial training for the new members, which we desperately need, especially for the new representatives, or those who will be elected within days. We also hope that the next Speaker of Parliament will consider approving this idea, as the majority of members are in dire need of this type of training, more than the new members of Congress need it.

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Zero tolerance: PAM

'Respect noon work ban rule decision'

KUWAIT CITY, May 28: The Public Authority for Manpower said it is in no mood to be lenient or turn a blind eye to those who violate the Administrative Decision No. 535/2015 which requires employers not to force their workers in the open areas under the direct sunlight effective from June 1 until end of August, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The decision, which was issued in 2015, is binding on all employers to ensure no workers are made to work from 11:00 am and 4:00 pm.

The PAM sources stressed that it will not tolerate violators of the decision, and explained that the inspection teams will follow up on its implementation over a period of three months, through surprise campaigns on work sites to monitor any violations and take legal measures

against business owners, stressing that the decision aims to protect workers from the scorching sun during the summer season.

The decision calls for organizing working hours and not reducing them, while making sure that projects that are being implemented do not suffer as a result of the decision.

The sources added, "Working in open areas during this period of the year is difficult due to the harsh climatic conditions, which make it difficult to work as during other times of the year," noting that implementation of the decision during the past years was accepted and appreciated by companies operating in various sectors taking into account the public interest and in line with Kuwait's obligations to implement international labor standards at noon hours.

'Those raising racism issue do so from wrong entrance'

"THEY talk about racism and how it has increased in Western countries, and say that human rights are a lie and democracy is a false mask," columnist and editor-in-chief of **Al-Rai Jassim Marzouq Boodai** wrote for the daily.

"I have never in my life been fascinated by the West, but perhaps I was the one who wrote more against the policies of America and some European countries that regarding the people's rights. Nevertheless, I hope to make a point of view that differs slightly from the slogan "With them, with them, against them, against them."

"Religions, especially Islam, and therefore the customs and laws in the West, have domesticated the issue of unbridled instincts. Racism is religiously unacceptable and violates the principle of equality between human beings, as it has been criminalized to different degrees from one country to another.

"However, such phenomena cannot be completely eliminated because they are related to people's ways of thinking, behavior, and tendencies. Therefore, school and educational curricula, and even artistic and cultural works, have intervened to help the law shed light on this phenomenon, which was, and still is, capable of fueling societal disputes and even the outbreak of wars as well.

"I will not elaborate on the spread of this phenomenon in Western countries. Frankly, it requires shedding light on the growth of this phenomenon in some of our countries without laws criminalizing or limiting it, and without the adherence of its owners to any divine missionary guidance. And if we follow the legal development and judicial mechanisms in the West to confront this phenomenon, we find that the scale is not in our interest, and that we have to start with ourselves and better than them, and do not defame ourselves, and not challenge one another by nicknames. Evil is a bad name after faith. And whoever does not repent, they are the wrongdoers.

"Some of those in Arab and Muslim lands still classify people according to their family, tribal, and regional affiliations. Some of them still talk about people with dark skin in a way that is neither religious nor civilized. Some of them classify people according to their social level, adding painful ridicule to the suffering of the poor, and putting pressure on those who have problems with nationality and residency. In an Arab country, people have reached the point of using the adjective of a particular race as a way of insulting a person, or likening another race to describe foolishness or other expressions of inferiority.

"Oh people, we have created you from a male and a female, and made you into nations and tribes so that you may know one another. Some of us were, and still are, ignoring the element of "piety" in dealing with the other, whether from his national and religious environment or from the environments of others. Rather, some of those who did not resemble us in religion and homeland were more pious and more beneficial to humanity and mankind in the fields of good and scientific and health progress than some of those who resemble us'.

"We have to do it ourselves, and it is the duty that we abandoned and thus lost the compass of change. Human rights advocates in the West succeeded when they considered this mission their responsibility, and their counterparts in our country failed because they wanted to imitate other models and help from others. The most dangerous thing is that they considered fighting terrifying diseases intellectually, socially and security as the mission of others on their land and not theirs from the general discourse of racism to the discourse of private immigrants in our country.

"In short, the majority of those who raised this issue did so from the wrong entrance. Some are for electoral populism, or to translate a racist instinct, and some are with sincere intentions that are jealous of the present and future of Kuwaitis, and some are for outbids and political agendas, but the problem is basically related to the law and its application and the abuses that accompanied that, whether through intermediaries or protecting visa traders or even justifying the violations by the "political bill".

"The number of expatriates in a sister country, for example, exceeds nine times the nationals, but their presence is linked to two factors -- the need of the labor market and an strong commitment to the law. A violation, theft, or crime takes place, and the perpetrator is punished just as the citizen is punished, without dropping the penalty depending on the nationality of the perpetrator, or mass attack campaigns are launched against the expatriates. Achievement, distinction, and creativity occur, and its owner is rewarded with all aspects of honor without distinguishing between him and the citizen.

"The expatriate is not responsible for the absence of a new vision for the labor market in Kuwait, in which priority is given to the citizen. A vision that starts from linking the job with the outputs of education and organizing secondary and university studies on this basis.

"And the expatriate is not responsible for not adopting a strategy that opens all fields of work so that graduates can lead into it instead of cramming them into the manpower lists, and the expatriate is not responsible for a contract he signed or a visa that he paid for and then found himself without shelter or food and "manage your life", and the expatriate is not responsible for the survival of visa traders who enjoy with the money they have accumulated illegally. Once again, we start with ourselves to change instead of ignoring the core of the problem and some of us resorting to the easiest, instinctive option: racism.

"Kuwaiti first and foremost, but the realization of hopes is done with knowledge, reason and planning, and not with slogans, instincts and emotion. God does not change the condition of a people until they change what is in themselves.

Also:

"A dream, and what makes you realize the dream of amending the demographics, and what do we know about the numbers of violators in the country? Yes, we want to breathe a sigh of relief with the humanity of the authentic Arab Kuwaiti. Violators according to the legal classification of the articles of the Residence Law," columnist **Tariq Bouresli** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

"The number has exceeded 130,000 violators, and those registered under Article 18 are about 1.5 million violators. The Indian community comes in first place, then the Egyptian community in second place, and after them the Filipino community, and if we look at the demographics in Kuwait and we wanted to address it with suggestions and visions in partnership with those concerned, since the Kuwaiti people are a partner in decision-making and their well-being in a healthy national society in all psychological and material aspects and the future of its future generations.

"Its political decision-making is subject to the leg-

islative and executive authorities. With priority or "disruption" of the sessions, or the threads of the issue were not resolved, the councils are between dissolving by decrees or nullifying by a constitutional ruling, in addition to that in more than one article I mentioned the need to amend the demographics, as a flabby infrastructure and marginal employment, and for those concerned with the demographics file, "This is not how camels supply, oh Saad »because every time the Ministry of Interior reveals large numbers of violators, it grows annually, and now it has become a million, and there is no fundamental solution to the issue.

"And we start with the necessity of deporting everyone who has absenteeism, and everyone who is criminalized by law with a crime. Companies that import these marginal workers must be held accountable under legal files on the surface and suspicious ones on the inside.

"The aforementioned consumer markets have multiplied, so why are these markets not subject to follow-up and monitoring by the workforce and violations of the residency law? And why is it allowed for violators to accumulate in suspicious spots in areas that violate the laws of the municipality and the Ministry of Electricity and Water, such as Jleeb, Khaitan, Mahboula and other areas of Kuwait, because this labor does not live except in hiding, and there are violators who were caught without residency for decades or more and work in professions that manage and protect them and live above the law, and distort the image of Kuwaiti society, and what do we say about the blatant interference in the state's decisions and procedures with Kuwaiti law?

"Therefore, we have the right to demand and dream that our Kuwait will be "zero" marginal employment."

□ □ □

"Half a century ago when I started working in Kuwait Airways, a group of Kuwaiti pilots and flight engineers contributed to the establishment of our own public benefit association," columnist **Sami Anisf** wrote for **Annahar** daily.

"Had it not been for the full support of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad -- may God protect him, the idea would not have seen the light. Since then, His Highness has been the honorary president of the association. For your information, the association is different from the Kuwait Airways Workers Union, which also includes pilots, aviation engineers and other employees.

"Over the years, the association appeared to have had shortcomings in addressing some important issues, including its silence and failure to express its specialized technical opinion on the validity or invalidity of purchasing various types of aircraft that are not suitable for the operating requirements. Such wrong choices affected the pilots first, then the rest of the workers, as they keep the institution in a state of continuous loss paid for by public funds.

"The association was supposed to give its technical opinion on stopping the deceptive acts of some Kuwait Airways administrators, especially since its opinions are published in newspapers and social media, with the participation of civil aviation authorities. It has been observed that a beginner in the aviation field wears a 'captain' uniform and is also called a 'captain'. This is an advanced rank that is not attained until after many years of experience, exams and thousands of flying hours."

□ □ □

"Many developed countries seek the help of local consultants to conduct important studies and give pieces of advice that are applicable at a much lower cost than foreign companies, offices and consultants, especially since we have seen in the media such as television, press and social media that they are old," columnist **Abdullah Abduljader** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

"For many years, the Kuwaiti government has contracted with foreign companies, offices and consultants at a cost of thousands and millions of Kuwaiti dinars, but were the consultations and studies applied and were they in the interest of the country and the citizen?

"According to my observation for years, the government contracted with them, but most of the consultations are either listed and preserved, or they are not suitable for implementation and are not in the interest of developing the country and serving citizens -- whether in government agencies with an attached or independent budget, or in the oil sector or in government companies. This is not just my opinion, as I read about it in the local newspaper.

"Therefore, my advice for the government and 2023 National Assembly is to seek assistance from retired Kuwaiti consultants if they need advice, study or information that benefits the country and citizens. They should issue a decision or law on hiring retired Kuwaiti consultants to work part-time or full time.

"I suggest to the government to appoint advisors for each minister and his affiliated bodies. Their qualifications and experience must match the nature of work of the ministry. In the same manner, there should be Kuwaiti advisors in the Assembly, its Secretariat General and committees. Once this proposal is implemented, you will see and know that there are proposals, studies and consultations that benefit the government and issues raised by parliamentary committees or members of the Assembly."

□ □ □

"Kuwait tried to find a solution to the Filipino labor crisis in order to preserve the relationship between the two countries. Officials at the Ministry of Interior listened to the views of Filipino officials, hoping the Filipinos would exchange the same good feelings that Kuwait has towards them," columnist **Abdulmohsen Mohammad Al-Hussaini** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

"However, the Filipino officials persisted and tried to bypass the Kuwaiti laws by insisting on opening shelters for fleeing Filipino workers. They sought to grant their workers the right to cancel the contract and take shelter in the Philippine Embassy, which helps them abandon work contracts.

"Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and acting Minister of Defense Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled did well when he closed the door to any agreement with the Philippine delegation that came to the country to conduct negotiations with the responsible authorities in Kuwait. This solid position must be taken by Kuwait to foil the attempts of the Philippine delegation to impose their conditions. They were not ready to negotiate.

"We reviewed the previous positions and found that Kuwait deals with the Filipino workers like the rest of the foreign workers. The Ministry of the Interior did not intervene in any labor problems in courts, rather it gives each complainant the right to resort to the judiciary.

"This is Kuwait, the country of democracy and justice. Many workers of different nationalities live among us. None of their embassies interfered in disputes between workers and citizens. Even the Filipinos were among the best workers and they did not resort to the embassy before, unlike the case today."

— Compiled by **Mai Elsoukary**



Photo by Mohammad Morsi

A jet-skier (bottom) passes near a tourist spot in Salmiya. Temperature has shot up in the last two days breaching 45 C.

Biometric fingerprint project to be completed in year: Mol

Forbidden items seized in prison raids

KUWAIT CITY, May 28: The Director of the General Department of Criminal Evidence, Major General Eid Al-Owaihian, said the biometric fingerprint project was a dream of the Ministry of Interior, and it has been achieved on the ground, indicating that the project will contribute to setting up a database for everyone who lives in Kuwait and is 18 years old and above; whether for citizens or residents, where previously there was only the decimal fingerprint, while the biometric fingerprint will activate all information and help verify the identity of each individual, reports **Al-Rai** daily.

During the first 10 days of the Ministry of Interior starting to take biometric fingerprints for citizens and residents, whether for those arriving at the border crossings or those visiting the centers designated for that, Major General Al-Owaihian said, about 100,000 fingerprints were taken, with expectations of an increase in the frequency of fingerprinting, after increasing the number of centers, and moving to open other centers, so that achieving the goal set by the Ministry to fingerprint all citizens and residents within a year.

Interview

Al-Owaihian said, in an interview with "Al-Rai", that the Ministry of Interior has prepared an integrated plan that will contribute significantly to the success of this project, by opening 4 centers dedicated to taking fingerprints, and will work to increase them to provide the opportunity for the largest possible number of auditors to take fingerprints, indicating that it is possible to make a prior appointment for fingerprinting through the "Meta" platform and the Ministry of Interior's website, and that there are instructions by the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled and the Undersecretary of the Ministry, Lieutenant General Anwar Al-Barjas, to harness all capabilities and overcome all obstacles in this regard.

He confirmed that work on the old fingerprint is still underway to arrest the perpetrators, remove fingerprints from the crime scene, and arrest violators of the residence law, and explained that with the new fingerprint, the data of the perpetrators or wanted persons will be activated so that they are identified.

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Prison raids conducted: The security authorities during the weekend, raided the prisons in Kuwait and seized mobile phones, phone chargers, headphones hidden secretly in the wall, narcotic substances inside the bathrooms, between clothes and mattresses, and knives and blades) hidden under the beds, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

The daily said the campaign was organized under the instructions of the First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and Acting Minister of Defense Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled, the Assistant Undersecretary for Private Security and Correctional Institutions Affairs, Major General Abdullah Saffah Al-Mulla.

The daily added, the purpose of such campaigns is to rid the prison facilities of all drugs and contraband and cut off communications between drug dealers from inside prisons and their followers outside prisons.

Ban on working under 'hot sun'

KUWAIT CITY, May 28: The Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) has announced that the ban on working in open spaces from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm will take effect on June 1 until Aug 31, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

PAM confirmed that the inspection teams will follow up the implementation of the ban by conducting surprise inspections in open work sites to record violations and take the necessary legal measures.

The authority disclosed that the aim of the decision is to protect workers from the extreme heat in summer months, clarifying this is to regulate working hours during summer and not to reduce the working hours. It added the business owners can ask the workers to do their jobs in the early morning or in the evening.



Photo by Muhammad Salem

A beautiful view of the beach opposite Al-Manqaf, south of Kuwait City.

38 expats arrested

Mol appeal rejected, nationality 'restored'

KUWAIT CITY, May 28: The Court of Cassation rejected the appeals submitted by the Ministry of Interior for the withdrawal of Kuwaiti nationality from three families. It instead decided to cancel the administrative decisions related to the nationality withdrawal and ordered the return of nationality to these families in final court rulings, reports **Aljarida** daily.

The rulings were based on "the invalidity of the reasons for the withdrawal of nationalities due to the issuance of acquittal rulings for these families from the criminal cases that were brought against their members".

Two years ago, the court issued preliminary rulings regarding its competence to consider nationality cases, prior to the issuance of the ruling of the Unification of Principles Chamber, which prohibited the consideration of nationality cases. Therefore, what was issued by the court was in light of the previous principle of Cassation in taking up these cases and considering them to be within the jurisdiction of the judiciary.

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38 expats held: The Residence Affairs Investigation General Department in the Interior Ministry arrested 38 expatriates of various nationalities for violating the Residency and Labor laws, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

These expatriates were arrested in Salhiya, Shuwaikh Beach and Al-Wattia. They were referred to the concerned authority, which will take legal action against them.

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Corpse found: A corpse, believed to belong to the missing Mubarak Al-Rashidi, was found inside a container in Salmi desert area. The minister of Interior and the undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior visited the area to follow up on the findings, reports **Aljarida** daily.

No confirmation has been received yet that the corpse belongs to the missing Al-Rashidi due to the state of severe decomposition it reached. The Forensic Evidence officers and the forensic doctor took samples from the corpse to confirm the identity of its owner.

Also, the Ministry of Interior announced that it found an unidentified body in the Salmi area.

Forensic officers rushed to the site to deal with the corpse. The identity of the deceased person is yet to be determined. A case has been filed in this regard.



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MoH opens door to appoint expat doctors in primary health centers

Panel on certs evaluation seeks basic data from CSC

KUWAIT CITY, May 28: Within the framework of regulating the provision of health services and doctors to cover health needs with the successive opening of new medical facilities, Minister of Health Dr Ahmed Al-Awadi issued a ministerial decision allowing the appointment of non-Kuwaiti doctors, graduates of universi-

ties outside the country and meet the conditions for appointment under the registered assistant category to work in primary health centers



Dr Al-Awadi

and accident departments in hospitals, reports Al-Rai daily.

The decision excludes the children of Kuwaiti women married to Kuwaitis and Bedouns who covered by a decision issued by the minister earlier to employ them directly on the condition that they hold Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery to fill the resident doctor position or Bachelor of Medicine and Oral and Dental Surgery to fill the resident dentist position; and that both of them are transferred to the registered assistant position after spending a year in their current job.

Earlier, the Ministry of Health has stopped the transfer and special assignment for doctors working in primary health care centers to work outside the scope of these centers, reports Al-Anba daily. The decision states the categories include family physicians with a registered title or above and family physicians with specialized fellowships.

The decision excludes doctors who were accepted into the programs of the Kuwait Institute for Medical Specialization (KIMS) and the Family Medicine Board during the training years.

The decision has been implemented and/or is required to be implemented and is enforced as of yesterday, and every decision or text that contradicts its provisions is cancelled.

This decision comes from

About KD45 each time

Average person in Kuwait shops 18 times per month

KUWAIT CITY, May 28: According to the data the average number of shopping times whether online or direct purchases for every citizen and resident in Kuwait since the beginning of this year reached 18 times per month, each time paying an average of about 45 dinars, reports Al-Anba daily.

The data also shows that citizens and residents spent 11.45 billion dinars in the first 3 months of 2023 through about 253 million purchases and automatic withdrawals, including 163.79 million direct purchases and payment through points of sale, with an average of 12 purchases per citizen and resident.

This is in addition to 67.76 million "online" purchases. With an average of 5 online purchases per citizen and resident per month, in addition to two cash withdrawals from ATMs per month, with a total of 21.42 million transactions in the first 3 months of the year.

the Ministry's desire to provide high-quality primary health care services that target the health needs of the population through trained and qualified health cadres of family physicians and general practitioners, and to reduce the phenomenon of board-certified family physicians leaking into administrative work.

On the other hand, the Ministry of Health has established new controls and a mechanism for disbursing the "cash allowance" from the balance of annual leaves.

It was stated that replacement requests will continue to be submitted for employees who did not submit a replacement request during 2023, provided that lists of names and job data will be prepared, taking into account auditing and reviewing salaries or promotions.

Certs evaluation: The tripartite committee, formed by the Council of Ministers to evaluate the certificates of all government employees, has asked the Civil Service Commission (CSC) to provide it with the basic data needed to carry out its task, reports Al-Rai daily quoting sources.

Sources disclosed the committee requested for the names of employees, their civil identification numbers, work places and job titles for both Kuwaitis and non-Kuwaitis, types of contracts for non-Kuwaitis, academic certificates, academic degrees, country of study, year of graduation, if the employee holds an equivalency for his certificate from higher education or not, and if he was on scholarship or not.

Greetings sent on national days

HH Amir 'congratulates' Azerbaijan and Ethiopia

KUWAIT CITY, May 28, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Sunday a cable of congratulations to the President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev, on his country's National Day.

In the cable, His Highness wished him everlasting health and wellness, and further progress and prosperity to his country and people.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations to President Ilham Aliyev, on his country's National Day.

In the cable, His Highness wished him and his people everlasting health and further progress and prosperity.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Nawaf Al-Jaber Al-Sabah also sent a cable of congratulations to President Ilham Aliyev, on his country's National Day.

Ethiopia: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Sunday a cable of congratulations to the President of Ethiopia Sahle-Work Zewde, on her country's National Day.

In the cable, His Highness wished her everlasting health and wellness, and further progress and prosperity to her country and people.

Also, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations to the President of Ethiopia Sahle-Work Zewde, on her country's National Day.

In the cable, His Highness wished her and her people everlasting health and further progress and prosperity.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Nawaf Al-Jaber Al-Sabah also sent a cable of congratulations to President Sahle-Work Zewde, on her country's National Day.



KUNA photo
A photo from the 165th Executive Bureau's meeting and the OAPEC 110th Council of Ministers.

Developing OAPEC's work to keep pace with counterparts: Loughani

KUWAIT CITY, May 28, (KUNA): Secretary General of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) Jamal Al-Loughani, stressed Sunday, the importance of developing the organization's work to keep pace with its counterparts from international organizations with similar activity.

This came in Al-Loughani's speeches during the 165th Executive Bureau's meeting and the OAPEC 110th Council

of Ministers meeting held in Kuwait.

The meeting's agenda includes the approval of the final accounts of the General Secretariat and the judicial body of the organization for the year 2022, in addition to the studies it completed during the first half of this year, OAPEC chief said.

The cooperation of all parties will achieve the best-desired results and goals for which it was established, he added.



Anne Koestinen

Koestinen to arrive in June

'EU's envoy looking forward to boost bilateral ties with Kuwait'

KUWAIT CITY, May 28: The Chargé d'Affaires of the European Union Mission in Kuwait, Gediminas Varanavicius, announced that the European Union's ambassador-designate to Kuwait, Anne Koestinen, will arrive in the country in June to assume her duties in the country, reports Al-Qabas daily.

In a statement to Al-Qabas, Varanavicius said that Koestinen is the first woman to hold the position of the European Union's ambassador to Kuwait, indicating that she is looking forward to learning more about Kuwait and its people, and will cooperate with our Kuwaiti partners to strengthen our bilateral relationship, in the context of the strategic partnership between the European Union

and the Gulf states, especially with regard to major issues such as strengthening ties between our peoples, trade and investment affairs, humanitarian aid, as well as security affairs, climate action, and other files of common interest.

Ambassador Koestinen, a Finnish national, is a seasoned diplomat with twenty years of experience working for the European Commission and the European Union's external action body, and has held several positions in Europe and the Middle East, including Head of Political Affairs at the European Union Delegation to the United Nations in Geneva, and Head of the Political and Media Affairs Department at the European Union Delegation to Egypt.

'Proper mechanism not followed'

Two co-ops referred for investigation

KUWAIT CITY, May 28: The Ministry of Social Affairs has referred two cooperative societies from the Capital and Farwaniya governorates to the General Department of Investigations at the Ministry of Interior, on the background of some financial and administrative irregularities, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The daily has learned that the cooperatives sector recently referred the reports compiled by the two committees which were formed to investigate the work and accounts of two cooperative societies to the General Department of Investigations in the Ministry of Interior.

The daily added, this will hurt the shareholders' funds and negatively affect the solvency if these violations continue without treatment.

According to the sources, among the violations monitored is the failure to follow the proper mechanism when purchasing vegetables, the large number of individual decisions without referring to the Ministry or obtaining its prior approval, in addition to the violations related to paying bonuses for additional work and some allowances in an exaggerated manner, in violation of the text of Article No. (66) of Law (6/2010) issued regarding work in the private sector, in addition to reducing working hours for some employees, and the non-cooperation of the boards of directors of the two societies with the supervising authorities.

The ministry has not and will not tolerate anyone who tempts himself to tamper with the shareholders' money saying the public funds are inviolable.



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Envoy highlights strategic projects

Egyptian Ambassador to Kuwait takes on Africa Day celebrations

KUWAIT CITY, May 28: The Egyptian Ambassador to Kuwait Osama Shaltout affirmed that the celebration of Africa Day this year is of special importance, as it coincides with the 60th anniversary of the founding of the African Union, reports Al-Anba daily.

In a press statement, he explained that the African Union, since its inception, has gone through many important stages, the most prominent of which is perhaps the stage of struggle from colonialism to independence, and then the stage of Renaissance and orientation towards development and integration among African countries.



Shaltout

Egypt is proud of its African, Arab and Islamic identity.

The slogan for the Africa Day this year is "Towards Activating the African Continental Free Trade Agreement," which includes many institutions under its umbrella aiming at the advancement of Africa.

Foreign investment

The African continent is rich in its natural resources, representing at least two-thirds of the world's natural resources. Despite the many challenges facing the continent, it is open to foreign investment and has been able to achieve a growth rate higher than the global average.

He highlighted the convening of the African Development Bank conference in Sharm El-Sheikh, which is considered one of the important development arms in the continent and finances all strategic projects in the African continent.

The ambassador revealed that the African continent needs USD 200 billion annually for sustainable development and USD 109 billion to compensate for losses

resulting from climate change.

He affirmed that Egypt cares about its African depth and attaches utmost importance to its relations with all the countries of the continent, adding that it spares no effort in advancing development efforts in the continent, does not skimp on advice, and does not hesitate to provide assistance.

Ambassador Shaltout highlighted a number of huge strategic projects such as the Cairo-Cape Town project, and the continental road, to connect countries in the continent through a railway link.

He indicated the start of work to link Egypt and Sudan, adding that there is also a continental link between Senegal and Sudan to major projects for electrical connection.

The ambassador said, "Therefore all countries have a common desire to cooperate with each other to advance the continent. The continent's arms are open for direct foreign investments."

He praised the close cooperation between Kuwait and African countries since the establishment of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development and its financing of a number of development projects in the African continent.

The ambassador stressed that Kuwait was and still is a pioneer in the field of humanitarian work, support and sponsorship of charitable institutions, and perhaps an air bridge from Kuwait to Sudan, where more than 120 tons of humanitarian aid is evidence of the fact that it is a country of goodness that upholds human values.

He said, "We, as ambassadors of 34 countries residing on the land of Kuwait, represent more than 70 percent of the population of the countries of the continent."

Ambassador Shaltout appreciated all the efforts that Kuwait is making, either through direct or indirect investments or by giving loans from the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development or relief aid through public benefit associations.

Kuwait's 18th Arab Media Forum kicks off under patronage of PM

Event to focus on future of media in region

KUWAIT CITY, May 28, (KUNA): The 18th Arab Media Forum began on Sunday under the auspices of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

The event will focus on a multitude of issues pertaining to the future of media in the region.

During a session, Editor-in-chief of Saudi Okaz newspaper Jameel Al-Theyabi said that the advent of Artificial Intelligence would have an impact on media outlets worldwide, affirming that it was important to catch up with all modes of development within media or be left behind.

Challenges

Several other officials spoke during the event including Arab League Assistant Secretary for media and communication Ambassador Ahmad Khitabi who stressed the importance of meeting the challenges of the new and digital media.

Upgrading media capabilities should not sweep away issues of great urgency mainly the Palestinian cause, he affirmed.

On his part, Editor-in-chief of Kuwait's Al-Rai newspaper Waleed Al-Jassem said that Arab media faced challenges in suppressing freedoms, which are an integral part of any plans for much-sought development and creativity.

He noted that Social Media platforms had a higher ceiling for freedoms compared with regular media.

Delivering his view, Editor-in-chief of Oman's Al-Ru'ya newspaper Hatem Al-Tai indicated that the newer generation of media personnel needed to prepare for the upcoming transformation in digital media.

Al-Tai called on the Arab League to enforce fees on international media companies, with the money used in funding media entities in the region.



Participants of the 18th Arab Media Forum discusses future of media in the region.

KUNA photo

Celebration marks 42nd anniversary of council

Al-Budaiwi lauds GCC achievements

RIYADH, May 28, (KUNA): Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Jassem Al-Budaiwi said Thursday the Council has made outstanding achievements in its blessed march towards the realization of the aspirations of the citizens of the its member countries.

"In its efforts to advance joint action, the GCC Secretariat and its affiliate organs enjoy firm support from the leaders of the GCC states," he said in a speech to a celebration marking the 42nd anniversary of the Council.

He attributed the progress towards prosperity and welfare to the wisdom of the GCC leaders who laid the foundations of the joint action and maintain the resolve to add more achievements in the political, economic, security, social and humanitarian fields in the coming years.

"The GCC has become one of the world's most influential, most coherent and most harmonious organizations," Al-Budaiwi pointed out.

Over the past four decades, the GCC proved to be able to respond appropriately to regional and international crises, and ensure safety for its citizens, he added.



GCC Secretary General Jassem Al-Budaiwi.

KUNA photo

Al-Budaiwi thanked the leadership and people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for their limitless support to the GCC Secretariat and the affiliate organizations.



Zain Jordan CEO Fahd Al-Jassem with executive director Lubna Touqan.

Initiative aims of setting excellence in teaching

Zain Kuwait renews education deal in Jordan

AMMAN, May 28, (KUNA): Zain Kuwait renewed a deal with the Association of Queen Rania Al Abdullah Award for Excellence in Education Saturday on supporting the education sector in Jordan.

In a statement, Zain Jordan said CEO Fahd Al-Jassem signed renewing the agreement with executive director of the association Lubna Touqan.

The agreement comes to complete the company's role and efforts in backing the vital sectors, topped with

education, in line with the sustainable development goals adopted by the company in all its programs and initiatives mainly the fourth and eighth goals, the statement said.

Zain Jordan has been launching and supporting educational initiatives and programs, which contribute to developing the educational sector and providing support to government schools, it noted.

Meanwhile, Touqan stressed the importance of the deal renewed by the

two parties for the tenth year in a row.

The association was founded by a royal initiative, with the aim of setting a national standard of excellence in teaching as well as celebrating the educators who work tirelessly to meet it.

Zain Kuwait, affiliated with the Zain Group for Mobile Communications in the Middle East and Africa, is one of the Kuwaiti investments in Jordan evaluated at USD 20 billion in various sectors.



Al-Najat Charity lays foundation stone of two villages in Yemen.

KUNA photo

Al-Najat lays foundation stone of 2 villages in Yemen

MEW to procure 600 megawatts from EIA of GCC states for summer of 2023

KUWAIT CITY, May 28: The Board of Directors of the Central Agency for Public Tenders announced it does not have jurisdiction over the request of the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy regarding a direct contract with the Electricity Interconnection Authority of the Gulf Cooperation Council states to purchase 600 megawatts for the summer of 2023, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Responsible sources indicated "the ministry will proceed with the project to purchase energy from EIA by taking the approvals of the regulatory authorities to complete direct contracting procedures, including the Fatwa and Legislation Department and the Audit Bureau.

The sources pointed out that the ministry had earlier obtained the ap-

proval of the Ministry of Finance to purchase energy from the Authority, in order to ensure the safe operation of electrical production units for the current summer season.

The sources expected that electrical loads, starting from the beginning of next June, would witness an increase in energy consumption rates, coinciding with the rise in temperatures expected to range between 43 and 45 degrees Celsius, indicating that the Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy, and Minister of State for Housing Affairs Mutlaq Al-Otaibi had previously explained that "the highest consumption expected for the current summer will be 16,880 megawatts, while the production by the units will reach 18,000 megawatts.

ADEN, May 28, (KUNA): The delegation of Kuwait's Najat Charity laid on Saturday the foundation stone of a project to build two Kuwait-funded villages in Taiz governorate, southwest Yemen, as part of the eight-year long "Kuwait beside You" campaign.

The first stage of the project envisages building 25 housing units, including 10 units in Al-Jare village, Dhubbab district, overlooking the southern part of the Red Sea, said Eng. Abdullah Al-Shehab, head of Al-Najat's programs and projects division.

Fifteen units will be built in Al-Zahari village, Al-Mocha district, Taiz governorate, in the first phase, he told KUNA.

Eng. Al-Shehab noted that the housing project aims to build a total of 80 housing units, including 30 in Al-Jare and 50 in Al-Zahari, over a total area of 225 sq. km.

He expressed confidence that the project will alleviate the suffering of orphans and families impoverished by the conflict in Yemen.



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FP Markets expands its emerging markets forex offering

Through the FP Markets MetaTrader 4 (MT4) and MetaTrader 5 (MT5) Trading Platforms, Traders and Investors can now trade a range of additional emerging currencies against the US Dollar.

Continued growth in the foreign exchange market has triggered increased client demand for choice and flexibility. In response, FP Markets has expanded its exotic currency pairs

offering. Traders and investors are now able to trade the Mexican Peso (MXN), Brazilian Real (BRL) and South African Rand (ZAR) against the US Dollar. The additional offering increases the total number of currency pairs available to trade at FP Markets to more than 70 currency pairs, bolstering FP Markets' wide range of existing CFD products, including Commodities, Shares, Indices, Digital Currencies,

Bonds, and ETFs.

The newly added currencies are available through the FP Markets MT4 and MT5 Trading Platforms, with a comprehensive list available here.

CEO Craig Allison commented: "The launch of the additional currencies is part of a wider effort by FP Markets to develop its Forex offering and deliver greater diversity when trading the FX market." (PR Newswire)

Chevron 'positive' about Israeli-Cypriot plans pipeline

Oil and gas company Chevron is "positive" about an Israeli-Cypriot plan for a pipeline that would convey offshore natural gas from both countries to Cyprus where it would be liquefied for export by ship to Europe and elsewhere, an official said Friday.

Cypriot Energy Minister Giorgos Papanastasiou said after talks with visiting Chevron Vice President for Exploration and Production Frank Cassulo that

the company also wants to hear the views of other energy firms attending a gathering next week where the Cypriot government will formally pitch the plan in order to secure investor backing.

Chevron has presented the Cypriot government with a plan to develop its Aphrodite deposit in waters south of the island, first discovered in 2011 and estimated to contain 4.2 trillion cubic feet of the hydrocarbon.

Papanastasiou also pointed to recent statements by a senior ExxonMobil executive who said the oil and gas company is interested in Israeli-Cypriot plans. ExxonMobil holds exploration licenses for two of Cyprus' 13 areas - or blocks - that make up its exclusive economic zone. The company has already discovered one sizeable gas deposit and prospects for more discoveries look "promising." (AP)

Market Movements 26-05-2023

	Change	Closing pts		Change	Closing pts		
UAE	- DFM	+0.44	3,541.41	PAKISTAN	- KSE 100	-0.16	41,002.60
JAPAN	- Nikkei	+0.37	30,616.31	PHILIPPINES	- PSEi	-0.46	6,530.20
				SAUDI	- Tadawul	-0.46	11,184.57
				EGYPT	- EGX 30	-0.27	17,043.62

Business



Ribbon cutting by Mohammed Haris, Director of LuLu Hypermarket Kuwait, Dahham Bhairan Alsanea, LuLu Exchange Kuwait General Manager, Sreenath Sreekumar; Deputy General Manager, Subaheer Thayil; and Head of Operations, Shafaz Ahamed, standing nearby.



LuLu Exchange relocates its Riggae branch to Street 21

LuLu Exchange – one of Kuwait's most trusted names in cross-border payments and currency exchange, has relocated its existing branch at Riggae to a more convenient location on Street 21. The new branch was virtually inaugurated by Mr. Adeb Ahamed, Chairman and Managing Director of LuLu Financial Holdings.

The branch will offer remittances and foreign exchange services in a more convenient location to customers, without compromising on the quality that LuLu Exchange is known for.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Adeb Ahamed, MD, LuLu Financial Holdings said, "Kuwait holds significant strategic value as a market for us,

and as we continue our expansion efforts, we are placing equal importance on the relocation of certain branches. Today's relocation of the Riggae branch is part of this strategic repositioning to offer our customers enhanced accessibility to our physical and digital services, keeping their evolving needs in mind."

Biden and GOP reach debt-ceiling deal but Congress must 'okay' it to prevent default

Compromise announced risks angering both parties

WASHINGTON, May 28, (AP): An "agreement in principle" between President Joe Biden and House Speaker Kevin McCarthy would raise the nation's legal debt ceiling, but now Congress has only days to approve a package that includes spending cuts and would avert a potentially disastrous U.S. default.

The compromise announced late Saturday risks angering both Democratic and Republican lawmakers as they begin to unpack the concessions. Negotiators agreed to some Republican demands for increased work requirements for recipients of food stamps that House Democrats had called a nonstarter. But bargainers stopped short of greater spending cuts overall that Republicans wanted.

Support from both parties will be needed to win congressional approval before a projected June 5 government default on U.S. debts. Lawmakers are not expected to return to work from the Memorial Day weekend before Tuesday, at the earliest, and McCarthy has promised lawmakers he will abide by the rule to post any bill for 72 hours before voting.

Senior administration officials including budget director Shalanda Young, National Economic Council Deputy Director Aviva Aron-Dine and John Podesta, the White House's senior adviser on climate, planned a virtual briefing with House Democrats on Sunday afternoon, according to a House Democratic aide. One of the chief negotiators, presidential counselor Steve Ricchetti, began making one-on-one calls to Democratic lawmakers on Saturday night and during the day Sunday as the administration ramped up its efforts to sell the deal.

The Democratic president and Republican speaker reached the agreement after the two spoke Saturday evening by phone. The country and the world have been watching and waiting for a resolution to a political standoff that threatened the U.S. and global economies.

"The agreement represents a compromise, which means not everyone gets what they want," Biden said in a statement. "That's the responsibility of governing."

Biden said the deal was "good news for the American people because it prevents what could have been a catastrophic default and would have led to an economic recession, retirement accounts devastated, and millions of jobs lost."

McCarthy told reporters at the Capitol on Sunday that the agreement "doesn't get everything everybody wanted," but that it is to be expected in a divided government. "At the end of the day, people can look together to be able to pass this."

With the outlines of an agreement in place, the legislative package could be drafted and shared with lawmakers in time for House votes as soon as



Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., joined at left by his top negotiator on the debt limit, Rep. Garret Graves, R-La., talks to reporters at the Capitol in Washington, Sunday, May 28, 2023. The mediators came to an 'agreement in principle' that would avert a potentially disastrous U.S. default, but still has to pass both houses of Congress. (AP)

Debt ceiling tests McCarthy as he rides breezily through high-wire act of career

WASHINGTON, May 28, (AP): One morning amid the debt ceiling crisis, House Speaker Kevin McCarthy climbed onto his mountain bike and took a ride along the National Mall, marveling at the monuments.

The next day he arrived for negotiations at the Capitol carting in tortilla chips and queso for the beleaguered reporters waiting outside his office during the 24/7 talks.

McCarthy, with his laid-back California vibe, was never Washington's bet to become speaker, having almost missed seizing the gavel in a history-making spectacle at the start of this year.

But the 58-year-old is now leading House Republicans in the high-wire act of his career: Having negotiated with Democratic President Joe Biden over raising the nation's debt limit, he now must deliver the votes to pass the spending cuts package into law.

The standoff is being watched the world over as the United States stares down a June 5 deadline when it could run short of cash to pay its bills, poten-

Wednesday, and later in the coming week in the Senate.

Central to the compromise is a two-year budget deal that would hold spending flat for 2024 and increase it by 1% for 2025 in exchange for raising the debt limit for two years, which would push the volatile political issue past the next presidential election.

Driving hard for a deal to impose tougher work requirements on government aid recipients, Republicans achieved some but not all of what they wanted. The agreement would raise the age for existing work requirements on able-bodied adults, from 49 to 54,

tially hurling the American economy into chaos with an unprecedented default and taking the global economy into a crisis.

McCarthy commands only a slim majority in the House and must reach out to Democrats to support the compromise. But neither side is expected to be happy with the deal announced late Saturday.

If McCarthy succeeds in pushing the budget-cutting deal through Congress, it will be an accomplishment like nothing he has achieved before. Or he could lose it all, if the compromise he reached with the Democratic White House becomes so objectionable to the conservative flank that Republicans try to oust him from his job.

"One thing you've always learned about me: I don't give up it," McCarthy told reporters as he arrived at the Capitol on Saturday morning.

"Doesn't matter how many times it takes," he went on, "you want to make sure you get an agreement worthy of the American public."

Throughout the weeks of grueling

without children. Biden was able to secure waivers for veterans and the homeless.

The two sides had also reached for an ambitious overhaul of federal permitting to ease development of energy projects. Instead, the agreement would put in place changes in the landmark National Environmental Policy Act that will designate "a single lead agency" to develop environmental reviews, in hopes of streamlining the process.

The deal came together after Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen told Congress that the United States could de-

negotiations McCarthy has remained relentlessly optimistic, breezing through the anxiety-filled hours, seemingly certain of the outcome.

Underestimated from the start, he is nothing if not relentless. To become speaker, McCarthy endured 14 failed votes before finally securing the gavel on the 15th try, only after he had tired his colleagues out and given hard-right conservatives all sorts of promises and concessions.

McCarthy isn't known as a seasoned legislator, one who has delved deeply into policy details or put his name on many big bills.

Having arrived in Congress in 2007, he rose swiftly to leadership as a political strategist, not a policy wonk.

Younger than the previous generation of congressional leaders, McCarthy is decades younger than Biden. The president has been in elected office since McCarthy was a young man growing up in dusty Bakersfield, running a sandwich shop counter from his uncle's yogurt shop and becoming immersed in Reagan-era politics.

fault on its debt obligations by June 5 - four days later than previously estimated - if lawmakers did not act in time. Lifting the nation's debt limit, now at \$31 trillion, allows more borrowing to pay the nation's already incurred bills.

McCarthy commands only a slim Republican majority in the House, where hard-right conservatives may resist any deal as insufficient as they try to slash spending. By compromising with Democrats for votes, he risks losing support from his own rank and file, setting up a career-challenging moment for the new speaker.

The Conversation

An economist has answers

Will the 'Inflation' Reduction Act actually reduce inflation?

By Nirupama Rao
University of Michigan

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

The U.S. is about to spend US\$490 billion over 10 years on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving health care and reducing the federal deficit. Where's all that money coming from?

We asked University of Michigan economist Nirupama Rao to examine how the new law will raise enough revenue to pay for clean energy tax credits, Affordable Care Act subsidies and incentives for manufacturers to use cleaner technologies, among other initiatives. We also wanted to know, given its name, will the Inflation Reduction Act actually bring down inflation?

The new law funds itself primarily through a mixture of tax-related measures and health care savings. In fact, the revenue it's projected to raise more than pays for the new spending, reducing the deficit by roughly a quarter of a trillion dollars over 10 years.

The biggest source of revenue, projected by the Joint Committee on Taxation at about \$222 billion, comes from a new 15% minimum corporate tax rate. Another \$124 billion in net revenue is expected as a result of stepped-up tax enforcement by the Internal Revenue Service. The committee expects two other tax measures - including a 1% tax on corporate stock buybacks - would raise about \$126 billion.

Congress is also hoping to save \$265 billion through several provisions to lower the amount of money the government spends on prescription drugs through its Medicare program.

The corporate minimum tax is aimed at raising revenue from companies that report large profits to their shareholders but pay minimal taxes.

Though businesses can, of course, owe no tax because of perfectly legitimate uses of the tax code, seeing headlines about successful companies paying little to no tax has been galling to many Americans and can potentially undermine the public's faith in the tax system.

In addition, government revenue from companies has plunged in recent years as a result of the 2017 corporate tax cut and other measures. Corporate tax revenue fell by nearly half as a share of gross domestic product from 2015 to 2020.

To be subject to the minimum tax, U.S. corporations must earn an average of at least \$1 billion in adjusted book income - the earnings they report to shareholders less some adjustments - over the previous three years. It hits foreign companies too, though they need

only report \$100 million in U.S. income.

Basically, companies subject to the minimum will have to calculate their tax liability twice - once under regular corporate income tax rules and again by multiplying their adjusted book income by 15%. Their tax is whichever is greater. Theoretically, this ensures they at least pay the minimum.

A few important adjustments included in the bill's final language will limit how much companies pay under the minimum tax. To prevent manufacturers from facing high minimum tax bills, for example, companies will be able to employ some of the same credits and deductions they use to reduce their regular corporate tax bills to lower the minimum tax they'll pay as well.

While an earlier vision of the bill would have subjected private equity funds to the minimum tax, intense lobbying of Arizona Sen. Kyrsten Sinema helped the industry get an exemption, along with retaining the carried interest loophole that the bill initially closed.

In the end, fewer than 150 companies - including many household names like Amazon, AT&T and General Motors - are expected to be subject to the tax.

The law allots \$80 billion in new funding for the Internal Revenue Service. The Joint Committee on Taxation expects the investment to garner \$204 billion in revenue over 10 years, or \$124 billion once you subtract the increased spending.

The main target of this spending is the so-called tax gap, which is currently estimated at about \$600 billion a year. The tax gap is the difference between how much corporate or individual taxpayers owe the IRS and how much the agency is able to collect.

The new revenue is expected to come from increased auditing, mostly targeting high-income taxpayers. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen and IRS Commissioner Charles Rettig have both pledged that the investments will not lift audit rates on small businesses and households earning less than \$400,000 a year.

Many Democrats, along with former Treasury Secretary Larry Summers, believe this investment in the IRS will raise a lot more money than estimated because of better compliance among taxpayers who want to avoid being audited.

The funding will also be used to update antiquated technology and increase the IRS's staff. Decades-old computer systems and understaffing prevent the IRS from answering taxpayer queries, tracking funds owed and using simple analytics to guide enforcement.

While an \$80 billion investment that returns \$204 billion already sounds pretty impressive, it may be possible that it's a conservative estimate.

US business activity gains ground

A hike by Fed in June is widely expected

By National Bank of Kuwait

Republican and White House negotiators are inching closer to an agreement to raise the US debt limit with just a week to go before the US government faces a potential default. US Treasury yields edged lower across the curve while equity futures pointed to gains at the open. Moving to FX, the greenback remained strong however slipped against major peers on Friday after the index rose to a 9-month high of 104.41. The euro and pound continued to drag lower, closing at the 1.0726 and 1.2346 levels respectively on Friday after declining for three weeks straight.

United States

PCE at 4.7% Annually

Inflation remained stubbornly high in April according to the Federal Reserve's preferred measure of inflation. The Personal Consumption Expenditures index rose 0.4% for the month excluding food and energy costs, higher than the 0.3% estimate. Annually, the gauge increased 4.7%, 0.1% higher than expected. The report revealed that spending gained 0.8% for the month, while personal income accelerated 0.4% - both numbers were expected to increase 0.4%. Markets were initially pricing in a pause for the Fed's June meeting, however the higher than expected PCE report led markets to end the week pricing in a 69% probability for a 25 bps hike.

Business Activity Rose to 13-month High

Despite rising risks of a recession, US business activity gained ground, lifted by strong growth in the services sector. The flash US Composite PMI Output Index, which tracks the manufacturing and services sector, rose to a reading of 54.4 this month. The figure was the highest level since April 2022 and followed a final reading of 53.4 in April. Services led the gain, with the PMI rising to 55.1 from 53.6, while manufacturing remained in contractionary territory at 48.5.

The survey followed other data that illustrated labor market resilience as job growth accelerated and the unemployment rate fell back to a 53-year low of 3.4%. Retail sales rebounded strongly, while production at factories and homebuilding picked up. Most economists expect a recession in the second quarter of this year, pointing to the Fed's interest rate hikes amounting to 500 bps since March 2022 as the central bank embarked on its fastest monetary policy tightening campaign since the 1980s.

GDP Revised Higher

Revisions to first quarter economic data showed the US economy grew faster than initially expected despite inflation coming in higher than first noted. GDP rose 1.3% in the Department of Commerce's second estimate, compared with the 1.1% growth expected and the previous estimate of 1.1%. The change was mainly driven by an upward revision to private inventory investment,

Highlights

- US business activity gained ground despite rising risks of a recession. The flash Composite PMI rose to 54.4, reaching the highest level since April 2022, lifted by strong growth in the services sector.
- Revisions to first quarter economic data showed the US economy grew faster than initially expected despite inflation coming in higher than first noted.
- US unemployment claims were revised down by a combined 50,000 in the prior two weeks.
- UK annual inflation fell to 8.7% last month from 10.1% in March, however higher than the 8.2% estimate. The decline is largely due to lower energy prices.
- The Eurozone composite PMI climbed to an 11-month high of 54.1 from 53.7 in March, largely supported by the services sector. The UK saw similar growth, with the services PMI at 55.1 versus manufacturing at 46.9.
- The Reserve Bank of New Zealand raised rates by 25 bps on Wednesday and signaled a pause to its hiking campaign.

which includes finished goods, materials, and works in progress being saved for a later date. That means inventory investment had less of a drag on GDP earlier this year. Accounting for about two-thirds of economic output, robust consumer spending helped fuel the first quarter growth, evident by data released in the last few weeks. Jobless Claims Tick Up, Prior Week Revised Lower. Data on applications for US unemployment benefits were revised substantially lower after one state detected a surge in fraud, indicating the labor market is not softening as much as previously thought. Initial unemployment claims in the two weeks through May 13 were revised down by a combined 50,000 according to the Labor Department data revealed on Thursday. In the most recent week, claims increased by 4,000 to 229,000. The overall level of claims is still low, indicating resilient demand for workers. Meanwhile, continuing claims, which include those who have received unemployment benefits for a week or more, acting as a good indicator of the difficulty of finding new work, edged lower to 1.79 million in the week ended May 13.

Europe & UK

UK Inflation Below 10%

Prices in the UK dropped sharply in April, with headline CPI inflation coming in at 8.7% year-on-year according to the Office for National Statistics, down from 10.1% in March however higher than the 8.2% estimate. "Electricity and gas prices contributed 1.42 percentage points

to the fall in annual inflation in April as last April's rise dropped out of the annual comparison, but this component still contributed 1.01 percentage points to annual inflation," the ONS said in its report. On a monthly basis, consumer prices rose by 1.2%. The decline is largely because energy price rises are slowing from the high levels seen a year ago, right after Russia invaded Ukraine and was hit with sanctions.

British inflation remains stubbornly high even as the economy defied expectations for a recession, prompting the Bank of England to hike interest rates for the 12th consecutive time to 4.5% at its last meeting. Economists broadly expect another 25 bps hike at its next meeting due to stickier inflation in the UK compared to major economies as the labor market remains tight and Governor Andrew Bailey warns of a wage price spiral. As households continue to struggle with high food and energy bills, workers across a range of sectors have launched mass strike action in disputes over pay and conditions.

Strong Services Demand

Growth in euro zone business activity sped up in April as robust services offset a downturn in manufacturing. The Composite PMI which is seen as an overall gauge of economic health, climbed to an 11-month high of 54.1 from 53.7 in March. The data marked the fourth straight month above the 50-mark that separates growth from contraction.

Digging into the report, the bloc's dominant services industry hit a one-year high of 56.2, up from March's 55.9 however still lower than the 56.6 estimate. By contrast, the manufacturing sector survey showed factory activity in the bloc contracted, dropping to 45.8 from March's 47.3. As input costs fell at the fastest pace since May 2020, factories increased their prices while demand weakened, evident by the output prices index falling to a 29-month low of 51.6 from 53.4. Eurozone GDP is likely to have grown in the second quarter thanks to a strong

services sector, however the drag on manufacturing will likely slow the momentum of the economy as a whole. The European Central Bank is widely expected to hike by 25 bps at their June meeting. Similar to the Eurozone, there is a clear contrast in the UK economy with solid services activity while manufacturing remains on the softer side. The manufacturing PMI remained in contraction, dropping to 46.9 versus the 48 expected. Meanwhile the services sector PMI rose to 55.1, strong however slightly below expectations of the 55.5 level.

Asia Pacific

RBNZ Signals End to Tightening

The Reserve Bank of New Zealand raised rates by 25 bps on Wednesday, sending the official cash rate to its highest level in more than 14 years at 5.5%. The central bank forecasts the cash rate to peak at its current level and will remain at the restrictive level until at least mid-2024 to ensure inflation returns to a target band of 1-3%. The dovish statements defied market expectations for further hikes and sent the New Zealand dollar down 1.25%.

The central bank is a front-runner among its peers in withdrawing pandemic-era stimulus, lifting rates by 525 basis points since October 2021. RBNZ Governor Adrian Orr said at a media conference that there were signs higher interest rates were already having the desired effect. "It is quite nice to see some of the things we were hoping would already be here actually be here. And that is the lower surprise on GDP, the decline in inflation and all the indicators that suggest the interest-sensitive parts of the New Zealand economy are yielding," he said. Annual inflation is currently running just below a three-decade high of 6.7%.

Kuwait

Kuwaiti Dinar

USD/KWD closed last week at 0.30735.

Rates - 28 th May, 2023							
Currencies	Previous Week Levels				This Week's Expected Range		3-Month Forward
	Open	Low	High	Close	Minimum	Maximum	
EUR	1.0813	1.0700	1.0831	1.0724	1.0515	1.0820	1.0738
GBP	1.2444	1.2306	1.2472	1.2434	1.2165	1.2545	1.2366
JPY	138.02	137.48	140.72	140.62	139.50	142.50	138.63
CHF	0.8997	0.8939	0.9075	0.9053	0.8870	0.9225	0.8968



Top and above: Some photos from the event

Warba Bank, Radisson Blu partner to offer 'zero-profit financing' for event hall rentals

Individuals can obtain financing of up to KD 25,000

KUWAIT CITY, May 28: Warba Bank is pleased to announce its partnership agreement with Radisson Blu Hotel, aimed at offering zero-profit financing for the rental of event halls. Under this agreement, individuals can obtain financing of up to 25 thousand dinars for a period of 5 years, without the requirement of transferring their salary to Warba Bank.

This innovative product marks the first of its kind in Kuwait and reflects Warba Bank's commitment to strengthening community partnerships by providing tailored banking services and products that meet the unique needs of its customers.

Musaed Al-Mazyad, Deputy Chief Retail Banking Officer at Warba Bank, expressed his enthusiasm for this agreement, emphasizing the bank's dedication to delivering exceptional banking services and the strongest financing offers for consumer products and services. He highlighted the recent success of Warba Bank in attracting renowned companies, such as Radisson Blu Hotel, to provide profit-free financing for those interested in renting banquet halls.

Al-Mazyed further stated that the collaboration with Radisson Blu Hotel demonstrates Warba Bank's commitment to meeting the needs and aspirations of its customers, while also introducing cutting-edge international technology in electronic payment systems. This partnership reinforces the Bank's comprehensive financing services and integrated banking solutions, particularly for customers seeking event hall rentals. These facilities are designed to fulfill the requirements of our esteemed customers, in line with other financing offers provided by the Bank.

Saud AlShebak, Executive Manager Direct Sales at Warba Bank, emphasized the Bank's continuous efforts to offer comprehensive financing services, including personal financing for consumer goods, which have seen a growing demand among customers. He reiterated that Warba Bank is committed to establishing long-term strategic relationships and partnerships to enhance the overall banking experience, especially in terms of financing, in order to meet customers' expectations and modern lifestyle aspirations.

AlShebak stressed that Warba Bank is constantly striving to create exceptional products and services that provide customers with a comprehensive and outstanding banking experience. He noted that the Bank's extensive experience enables it to understand customer needs, evaluate their goals, and exceed their expectations. Recent achievements include the introduction of innovative products and services, reflecting the core values of "Warba" as a company and serving as motivation to continuously provide the highest level of service.

Philippe Pillod, General Manager of

INJAZ & Gulf Bank announce winners of Company Program Competition '23

Company	Category	Award
Raskla	University	Best Student Company
B-one	High School	
Pure	University	Best Innovative Product
Reuse	High School	
Unexpire	University	Best Social Impact Company
Blue Ocean	High School	
Blue Shore	University	Best Booth
Gro	High School	
Unexpire	University	Best Logo
Venderlo	High School	
Actual Size Plan	University	Best Social Media Platform
Venderlo	High School	

KUWAIT CITY, May 28: The Company Program Competition 2023 concluded its two-day competition, at Kuwait Technical College, announcing 12 winning projects by students from several teams, that competed for various awards in the university and high school categories.

INJAZ Kuwait and Gulf Bank – the main sponsor of the competition – held a ceremony at the end of the competition, honoring the winning teams, in the presence of representatives from both Gulf Bank and the INJAZ Foundation. The competition also witnessed a large number of male and female students, their parents, volunteers, and schoolteachers, in addition to other supporting and sponsoring companies affiliated with INJAZ.

As part of its continuous effort to support youth, and its long-standing partnership with INJAZ Kuwait, Gulf Bank awarded the "Best Student Company for the year 2023" award to the two winning student companies, namely: Raskla, that won the university students category, and B-One, that won the high school students' category – where they will also get to represent Kuwait in the regional Company Program competition. The regional competition will host 14 countries from the

Arab region.

Gulf Bank

On this occasion, Gulf Bank's Deputy General Manager of Corporate Communications, Mr. Ahmed Al-Amir, said: "We congratulate Raskla and B-one for winning the Best Student Company for the year 2023 award, and wish them all the best in representing Kuwait in the annual regional competition," praising the vital role that INJAZ plays in organizing the competition annually.

He added: "At Gulf Bank, we are proud of our long-lasting partnership with INJAZ, that spans over 17 years, which has witnessed the adoption and support of many ideas and companies; some of which have become part of the economic and business world in Kuwait today." Al-Amir affirmed Gulf Bank's keenness to support youth as part of its commitment to encourage and develop their professional work skills – which helps them keep pace with the requirements of the job market and its rapid changes both locally and globally. This is part of Gulf Bank's 2025 strategy which centralizes youth, and Kuwait Vision 2035, which emphasizes the importance of investing in youth.

He pointed that the Company Pro-

gram Competition is very popular amongst high school and university students and provides an unprecedented opportunity for them to practice practical experience in establishing and managing a real company; along with the support, and sponsorship, of major institutions, such as Gulf Bank.

Al-Amir noted that the successful partnership between Gulf Bank and INJAZ Kuwait, has resulted in training around 26,000 male and female students during the academic year of 2022 and 2023, covering various academic levels ranging from primary to university levels, including fresh graduates.

INJAZ Association

For her part, the CEO of INJAZ Kuwait Association, Ms. Laila Hilal Al-Mutairi, stated that INJAZ continues to succeed due to the various companies that believe in the association, and continue to support INJAZ's activities and programs.

Al-Mutairi mentioned that the partnership with Gulf Bank is extraordinary as it has been a strategic partnership that spans over many years, and Gulf Bank has continued to be a key supporter of the association's activities; by providing volunteers and training programs for students.

Hezb chief calls on Lebanon cenbank governor to resign

BEIRUT, May 28, (AP): The chief of Lebanon's militant Hezbollah group on Friday called on the country's central bank governor to resign amid mounting legal troubles.

The governor, Riad Salameh, should either step down or be stripped of his responsibilities, Hassan Nasrallah, the leader of the Iran-backed Hezbollah, said in a televised speech commemorating the Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon in 2000.

On Wednesday, Salameh was questioned by a Lebanese judge and his Lebanese and French passports were confiscated, following an arrest warrant from France over corruption charges. He is a dual citizen.

The development effectively prevents Salameh from traveling abroad. Lebanon does not extradite its citizens to foreign countries or international tribunals.

"In Hezbollah, we believe that there are two options. The first is for the governor to step down of his own volition," Nasrallah said. The second, he said, is for the judiciary to take legal steps against Salameh and relieve him from his post.

not come up with a formal decision.

France, Germany and Luxembourg are investigating Salameh and his associates over myriad alleged financial crimes, including illicit enrichment and laundering of \$330 million. A French investigative judge on May 16 issued an international arrest warrant, followed by an Interpol red notice, for the 72-year-old Salameh after he failed to show up in Paris for questioning.

Once seen as the guardian of Lebanon's financial stability, Salameh is now widely blamed for an economic meltdown that began in 2019. The Lebanese pound has since plummeted in value and wiped out much of the savings of ordinary Lebanese, plunging an estimated three-quarters of the population into poverty.

Salameh, who is also under investigation in Lebanon, has repeatedly denied all corruption allegations, saying he made his wealth from his years working as an investment banker at Merrill Lynch, inherited properties, and investments. He said he would only resign if convicted of a crime. He also said last week he plans to appeal the Interpol red notice.

Salameh has held his post for almost 30 years, but says he intends to step down after his current term ends in July.

Iran hopes for stable oil markets

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi expressed hope Saturday that the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) would control instability and restore "calm at oil markets."

The Iranian presidency broadcast Raisi's statement while receiving OPEC Secretary General Haitham Al Ghais in Tehran.

"Constructive cooperation among OPEC member states is a key factor in making a successful work," he noted.

Tehran has always cooperated constructively with the organization and will continue

"this mission to promote this path in the future," he said.

Meanwhile, Al-Ghais said Iran, as one of the founding members of the organization, has always been "useful and constructive" in collaboration with the organization and its members.

Al-Ghais voiced his hope for restoring "calm (stability) at the markets," thanks to the unity among OPEC member states.

Al-Ghais arrived in Tehran earlier to hold talks with Raisi and Energy Minister Javad Owji to review the oil markets. (KUNA)

Iraq announces plans for \$17b transportation project

Iraq's prime minister on Saturday announced plans for a \$17 billion regional transportation project intended to facilitate the flow of goods from Asia to Europe.

The announcement was made at a one-day conference in Baghdad that convened transport ministers and representatives from Iraq, the Gulf countries, Turkey, Iran, Syria, and Jordan.

Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani said the planned De-

velopment Road project would facilitate the movement of goods from the Gulf to Europe by way of the Grand Faw Port in Basra, in southern Iraq, which would be connected to Turkey, then to Europe, through a network of railways and highways.

A centerpiece of the project will be the development of the Grand Faw Port and a "smart industrial city" adjacent to it, al-Sudani said.

The planned project, which would involve the construction of

about 1,200 km (about 745 miles) of railways and highways, will be "an economic lifeline and a promising opportunity for the convergence of interests, history, and cultures," said al-Sudani, adding it will "make our countries a source for modern industries and goods."

He did not say how the project would be financed but noted that Iraq would "rely heavily on cooperation... with brotherly and friendly nations." (AP)

Al Mulla inaugurates its second auto show with a wide range of leading automobiles & special offers

KUWAIT CITY, May 28: Al Mulla Group, a leading diversified and privately owned business group in the State of Kuwait, has recently celebrated the opening of its 'Second Al Mulla Auto Show' extending over ten days at the 360 Kuwait. The announcement came at an official opening ceremony in the presence of Mr. Talal Al Mulla – CEO of Al Mulla Group, and Mr. Imad Flayhan – Managing Director of Al Mulla Automotive accompanied by the Honorable Ambassadors of the United States of America, Germany, Japan and Italy. The spectacular auto exhibition features the latest models of renowned international brands in the automotive industry on offer by Al Mulla Automotive. The special event also included special launches and reveal ceremonies by Al Mulla & Behbehani Motor Company of new models of leading international car manufacturers.

Commenting on this event, the CEO of Al Mulla Group Mr. Talal Al Mulla said: "At Al Mulla Group we pride ourselves on partnering with world-renowned brands in the auto industry and taking their brands' reputation to new heights of success in the region. I am delighted today to witness the breadth of our diverse range of international auto brands on display at the Al Mulla Auto Show for the second time in the 360 Kuwait in the presence of our honorable guests. At Al Mulla Group, we are committed to being the catalysts of Excellence in everything that we do, and our Second Al Mulla Auto Show perfectly reflects our unparalleled endeavors to meet and exceed our customers' expectations of presenting the best products and services that they have known, and trusted Al Mulla to always deliver."

Managing Director of the Al Mulla Automotive Mr. Imad Flayhan, said: "Following the unprecedented success of our first Al Mulla Auto Show in 2021, we are proud to once again showcase the breadth of unique products and services on offer from our Automotive and Financial Services Groups for a second round at the 360 Kuwait. Our auto show this year comes with added features such as the launches of new models in the auto industry from Al Mulla & Behbehani Motor Company. Visitors to the auto exhibition this year will live an unforgettable shopping experience with everything that they'd need when buying their dream car all under one roof."

Running from May 25 to June 3, 2023 at the 360 Kuwait, the Second Al Mulla Auto Show by Al Mulla Group promises to deliver once again unique auto shopping experience to car enthusiasts in Kuwait filled with information and interactive activities planned over ten days at 360 Kuwait one of the country's iconic shopping destinations. Key business sectors at Al Mulla Group joined hands to bring our customers a comprehensive auto shopping experience highlighting the extensive breadth of offers from Al Mulla Automotive, and supported by exclusive insurance products, financial services solutions from the Al Mulla Financial Services Group, as well as a wide range of Auto Rental & Leasing options.

Special Features & Promotional Offers at the Al Mulla Auto Show include:

Reveal of the All-New Grand Wagoneer by Jeep
At a special ceremony and in the presence of His Excellency Mr. James Holtsnider, Deputy Chief of Mission of the U.S. Embassy in the State of Kuwait, Mr. Talal Behbehani – Board Member at Al Mulla & Behbehani Motor Co., and Mr. Imad Flayhan – Managing Director of Al Mulla Automotive, Al Mulla & Behbehani Motor Company, announced the unveiling of the all-new Grand Wagoneer by Jeep.

Visitors to the Auto Show until June 3 will witness firsthand the most luxurious and technologically advanced SUV in the Jeep brand's legendary 80-year history. The auto show presents a unique opportunity to demonstrate the car's renowned capability courtesy of three available 4x4 systems, exceptional driving dynamics, powerful performance, advanced technology, safety and a new level of comfort for up to eight passengers – all wrapped in a sophisticated and authentic new design.

Reveal of the All-New Alfa Romeo Tonale
The festivities at Al Mulla Auto Show continued with the reveal of the all-new Alfa Romeo Tonale model in the presence of H.E. Carlo Baldocci, Ambassador of the Italian Republic to the State of Kuwait accompanied by the Director of Al Mulla & Behbehani Motor Company Mr. Riaan Le Roux.

For electric car enthusiasts, Alfa Romeo, Tonale marks a natural entry point into the world of electrification, offering a concrete commitment to sustainable mobility, while remaining faithful to its founding values. With two levels of electrification, Hybrid and Plug-in Hybrid, the Tonale debuts the 160-hp Hybrid VGT (Variable-Geometry Turbo) engine, an exclusive for Alfa Romeo.

Visitors to the Al Mulla Auto Show this year will also enjoy a one of a kind auto festival featuring the latest models of vehicles from the following authorized and sole car distributorships by Al Mulla Group:

Al Mulla & Behbehani Motor Company
Al Mulla & Behbehani Motor Company, a member of Al Mulla Group and the sole authorized distributor of Alfa Romeo, Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, Ram, Fiat, Abarth and the Mopar® brands, featured a unique selection of the latest models of automotive brands and officially announced the reveal of the all-new Grand Wagoneer by Jeep, and the innovative Tonale model Alfa Romeo.

When buying your car from Al Mulla & Behbehani during the 10 days of Al Mulla Auto Show, visitors will receive the following offers (T&C apply):

Buy your car now and pay after 3 months, in collaboration with Al Mulla Finance. Attractive package for full insurance from Oriental Insurance Company, including the following three items: medium size replacement car, roadside assistance, and waiver of liability at no extra charge.

Al Mulla Automobiles - Mercedes-Benz
Al Mulla Automobiles, the sole authorized distributor of Mercedes-Benz vehicles in Kuwait, featured the Mercedes-Benz GLE 450, the Mercedes-Benz C-Class, the Mercedes-Benz GLE 53 Coupe, and the versatile Mercedes-Benz V-Class. In addition to a wide range of its all-electric lineup including the EQA, EQS and highly anticipated EQS-SUV from Mercedes-Benz, which highlighted to guests the variety available from its focus on electric mobility. In addition to showcasing the exciting Mercedes-AMG GT 63 F1 Edition and the premiere showcase and display of the extraordinary Mercedes-AMG G 63 4x4.

Al Mulla Automobiles - Mercedes-Benz Kuwait took this opportunity to present its enticing promotional offers and programs. Beginning with its 'Buy Now, Pay in 2024' promotional offer on select vehicles and the launch of its unique leasing program which offers customers a chance to lease from a selection of its electric vehicles including EQS, EQA, EQB, EQC and EQE. During the auto show, customers and guests will have the opportunity to sign up for a 24 or 36 month leasing program with monthly installments all while presenting them with the opportunity to own the vehicle at the end of the lease. This leasing program includes a wide range of benefits to customers including installation of the Mercedes-Benz at home wall box charging station free of charge, in addition to numerous other benefits on service and warranty. The two programs are part of a cooperation with Al Mulla Finance.

Al Mulla Motors Presents the Strongest Offers of the Year
At the "Al Mulla Auto Show" Al-Mulla Motors, the sole authorized distributor of Mitsubishi vehicles in Kuwait since 1972, announced the exceptional launch of the strongest offers of the year on a group of Mitsubishi cars during its participation in the "Al-Mulla Auto Show" held at 360 Kuwait.

Over the 10-day auto exhibition, Al Mulla Motors will display a diverse range of Mitsubishi cars during its participation in the exhibition, launching on May 25. Including notable models catering to various categories such as the Montero Sport Ralliart, Ralliart X-Treme, Outlander Matt black edition, and ASX Ralliart. Moreover, an exceptional offer on Outlander 4X4 allows customers to purchase the car now and



Top and above: Some photos from the event.

commence paying installments in 2024.

In addition, visitors to the auto show will get extraordinary discounts by Al Mulla Motors on a range of its services, such as 50% discount on paint protection and window filming packages, as well as 25% discount on all original Mitsubishi accessories.

ACURA Al Mulla Has Exceptional Offers and Packages at the "Al Mulla Auto Show"

Al Mulla International Auto Trading Company, a member of Al Mulla Group and the sole authorized distributor of ACURA vehicles in Kuwait, presents its esteemed customers with exceptional deals as it takes part in the "Al Mulla Auto Show".

During its participation, ACURA Al Mulla is displaying a selection of its luxurious Japanese cars such as the MDX Type S, MDX Advance, TLX Type S, and RDX A-Spec, on which it extends exclusive offers and features that are available during the exhibition days only. Visitors to the Al Mulla Auto Show will have the opportunity to reserve their preferred ACURA vehicle, and start making monthly payments in 2024 through Al Mulla Finance.

As part of its exhibition presence, ACURA Al Mulla is offering a 50 percent discount on a selection of its distinguished services such as paint protection, heat tinting and others in addition to a 25 percent discount on original MDX accessories.

TLX car enthusiasts have a chance to partake in the offers presented at the "Al Mulla Auto Show", where the TLX will be exclusively available to exhibition visitors at a remarkable price of only KWD11,500 only. This presents a remarkable opportunity for luxury sports cars lovers.

Auto Rental & Leasing Special Offers at the Al Mulla Auto Show

ARABA by Al Mulla Rental and Leasing Co. announced its participation for the second year running in the Al Mulla Auto Show, to be held at 360 Kuwait from May 25 to June 3. This participation is in line with the company's mission to provide unique leasing solutions for those who prefer to rent a car rather than own one.

ARABA offers a wide range of over 30 types of brand new cars of the latest and most luxurious models from well-known brands. This lineup includes small and medium sedans to luxury, family and SUVs of all sizes as a smart and convenient alternative to owning a car. Renting or leasing a car is an ideal alternative for those who prefer not to bear the ongoing operational requirements, such as maintenance, insurance and car replacement and more. With increasing auto-financing costs, operating lease is the practical answer, not to mention the freedom to change the model frequently.

Customers will enjoy all the benefits of operating lease, also including airport custody, women's packages, 24-hour roadside assistance and the ability to travel outside Kuwait. This comes with immediate approval upon submission and an online payment facility.

"Araba" invites interested clientele to visit the Al Mulla Auto Show to select their favorite car and avail of two concurrent offers at the show, starting with one tailored for the "Graduates" and a second price promotion on selected cars with color and specifications of customers' choice.

For inquiries about Al Mulla Auto Show's offers and all rental benefits, please contact the hotline 1800 007 or through the #almullarental page on Instagram and Facebook.

Gulf Trading Group – BRABUS - Kuwait

BRABUS Kuwait displayed the G500 vehicle and its many premium modifications and vehicle enhancement options. BRABUS also demonstrated its unique capabilities to customize the Mercedes-Benz super cars and bring its globally renowned aftermarket services to visitors. In addition to creating an exciting environment for car enthusiasts to explore the wide range of modifications and enhancement options from BRABUS.

Special Auto Financing and Insurance Services on Offer at the Al Mulla Auto Show

To complement our customers' car shopping experience, Al Mulla International Finance Co., and Oriental Insurance Company, two leading members of Al Mulla Financial Services Group, will also have representatives on location at the Al Mulla Auto Show to offer information and advice on auto financing and car insurance services.

Oriental Insurance Company Offers Exclusive Insurance Deals at Al Mulla Auto Show

Oriental Insurance, a leading insurance company in Kuwait, with Al Mulla Group being their Chief Agents for over 30 years, is excited to announce its participation in the highly anticipated Al Mulla Auto Show. As a trusted provider of insurance services, Oriental Insurance is committed to offering exclusive deals and special offers for customers attending the event. Being associated with Al Mulla Group, Oriental Insurance provides our customers the highest level of services not just in Policy Issuance but also in Claims servicing.

Finance Your Dream Car with Al Mulla International Finance Co.

Al Mulla International Finance Co., an affiliate of Al Mulla Group, and a leading licensed Islamic finance company in Kuwait, is extending Sharia compliant finance solutions to visitors of the Al Mulla Auto Show with special deals on personal auto financing to make the purchase of a new vehicle easy and affordable for everyone.

The 10-day auto exhibition presents an exciting opportunity for our clients experience an exclusive collection of new models from our leading automotive brands on display under one roof at the 360 Kuwait, with everything that they would need whilst shopping for their dream car. From a vast array of luxury vehicles and economic cars, to premium vehicle modifications on offer from Al Mulla Group, as well as auto financing, auto insurance services, and auto rental and leasing the event promises to deliver a unique opportunity for our customers, and reflects the breadth of the diverse offers available at Al Mulla Group.

The Al Mulla Auto Show will run from May 25 to June 3, 2023 at the 360 Kuwait. For more information related to the event and offerings in place, follow Al Mulla Group on Social Media @AlMullaGroup and the specially designed hashtag #AlMullaAutoShow. To learn more about Al Mulla Group, visit www.almullagroup.com

Big Data Expo 2023: Merging digital technology with culture

GUIYANG, China, May 28, (PR Newswire): A news report by Huanqiu.com:

The much-awaited Big Data Expo 2023, taking place from May 26th to 28th in Guiyang, presents an array of groundbreaking technological accomplishments that are redefining the nexus of culture and technology. As digital technology such as big data, cloud computing, and AI evolve at a rapid pace, they are propelling the cultural sector into a new era of creativity and distribution, thus sparking a wealth of opportunities for cultural expansion.

Technologies that provide immersive experiences, such as XR and holographic projections, are not only transforming the way cultural products are consumed, but also how they are produced. Shenzhen Absen Optoelectronic, a leading LED display manufacturer, showcases its top-of-the-line products and innovative solutions at the Expo, enabling visitors to experience captivating visuals firsthand.

A major highlight at Absen's booth is the virtual shooting stage, which primarily employs LED display screens from Absen to produce predefined visuals, creating distinctive settings. As visitors step onto the stage, they are transported

into the scene through high-tech processing, thus experiencing an immersive sensory spectacle.

Absen's virtual stage utilizes "xR" virtual shooting as the technical support to deliver an immersive experience to the audience. xR refers to extended reality, which encompasses VR (virtual reality), AR (augmented reality), and MR (mixed reality). This technology is becoming increasingly prevalent in several fields, including advertising, film production, and live commerce. One notable application is the virtual shooting studio, where LED screens and virtual shooting technology merge to digitally replicate specific "scenes". This allows actors to perform directly within an AR virtual environment, leading to significant savings in production time and cost.

Discussing the rationale for venturing into xR virtual shooting, a director of Absen stated, "xR offers a gateway to the metaverse, integrating a wide variety of virtual realities. It represents a groundbreaking technology in the film and television sector, enhancing overall industry shooting efficiency and fostering growth. Given its enormous potential, xR will also link the industry to others, including education,

smart manufacturing, and energy supply. Undoubtedly, this signifies a forthcoming trend in the display industry's evolution."

In addition to the innovation generated by its virtual shooting technology, Absen has also been enriching the novel experience of digital culture in culture-themed tourism. For instance, Absen has played a vital role in the Universal Beijing Resort. It creates a multi-dimensional, all sensory immersive experience with the advanced LED display technology. The Performing Arts Center of Guiyang Grand Theatre benefits from stages adorned with movable LED screens and a four-sided rotating stage, offering viewers a spectacular visual treat. Furthermore, Absen has influenced the exhibition industry, particularly in the Sci-Tech Cultural Center of Wannian County of Shangrao City, Jiangxi Province. Here, Absen's immersive digital sand table (CAVE) and large-scale data visualization smart screen have turned the center into a new science, technology, and culture landmark. The director of Absen said, "We aim to use LED display technology to revolutionize content, models, and business modes, crafting

immersive cultural attractions and continually enhancing visitors' audio-visual experience."

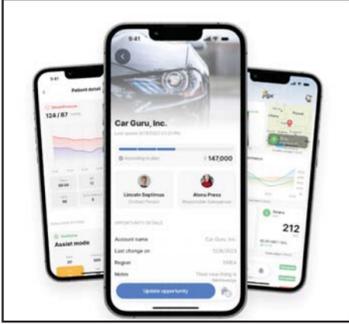
In the digital era, technological advancements and content drive the cultural industry's evolution. Consequently, the demand for intellectual property protection is becoming more urgent.

At the Expo, Intellectual Property Publishing House presents the China IPR Big Data and Intelligent Service System (Inspiro). The publishing house director explained, "We have collected 491 pools of data, reaching a capacity of 383T+ and an amount of 1 billion+. Inspiro integrates data resources, including domestic and foreign patents, trademarks, intellectual property cases and standards, scientific journals, geographical indications, new plant varieties, and layout-designs of integrated circuit. Inspiro performs multiple functions, such as information retrieval, analysis, early warnings, and project management in big data."

Using interactive data visualization and data monitoring and analysis, Inspiro communicates complex data relationships and data-driven insights in an easily digestible manner.

BUSINESS

With the Jigx App Platform, any developer can build enterprise-grade native mobile apps in weeks, not months or years. Deliver outstanding user experiences. Grow your presence across your entire audience. Keep things running smoothly and efficiently. (AP)



Jigx makes breakthrough mobile app development platform

Jigx, Inc has announced the general availability of the Jigx mobile platform, opening up the world of native mobile app development to millions of developers globally. Jigx Builder enables developers to use common coding skills to build high-performance, pixel-perfect mobile experiences for business users, customers, and partners. To start building native mobile apps, developers simply register on the Jigx website, then install the free Jigx Builder extension from the Microsoft Visual Studio Marketplace.

“From the outset, we wanted to make it easy for developers to deliver mobile apps that people love to use,” says Jigx co-founder and CEO, Adriaan van Wyk. “Now, any developer can download Jigx Builder and deliver their first enterprise-grade mobile app within days. With this milestone, we’ve changed what’s possible with mobile apps for business.”

Jigx accelerates the mobile app development process, from design and development through debugging and deployment. Robust out-of-the-box functionality simplifies many essential capabilities for mobile business apps, including connecting to backend data sources, offline

syncing, branding, user authentication, and publishing to app stores. To enhance the end user experience, Jigx recently added custom UI components so developers can better address specific business needs.

Jigx marks a turning point in mobile app development. Previously, developers who wanted to build mobile apps had two primary choices: 1) learn a specialized native programming language like Kotlin for Android or Swift for iOS; or 2) deliver a hybrid mobile app (a web app in a native container) with limited performance and user appeal. (AP)

‘Blood-testing scam at Therasanos startup’

As Holmes heads to jail for fraud, many puzzle over her motives

SAN JOSE, Calif., May 28, (AP) — As Elizabeth Holmes prepares to report to prison next week, the criminal case that laid bare the blood-testing scam at the heart of her Therasanos startup is entering its final phase.

The 11-year sentence represents a comeuppance for the wide-eyed woman who broke through “tech bro” culture to become one of Silicon Valley’s most celebrated entrepreneurs, only to be exposed as a fraud. Along the way, Holmes became a symbol of the shameless hyperbole that often saturates startup culture.

But questions still linger about her true intentions - so many that even the federal judge who presided over her trial seemed mystified. And Holmes’ defenders continue to ask whether the punishment fits the crime.

At 39, she seems most likely to be remembered as Silicon Valley’s Icarus - a high-flying entrepreneur burning with reckless ambition whose odyssey culminated in convictions for fraud and conspiracy.

Her motives are still somewhat mysterious, and some supporters say federal prosecutors targeted her unfairly in their zeal to bring down one of the most prominent practitioners of fake-it-til-you-make-it - the tech sector’s brand of self-promotion that sometimes veers into exaggeration and blatant lies to raise money.

Holmes will begin to pay the price for her deceit on May 30 when she is scheduled to begin the sentence that will separate her from her two children - a son whose July 2021 birth delayed the start of her trial and a 3-month-old daughter conceived after her conviction.

She is expected to be incarcerated in Bryan, Texas, about 100 miles (160 km) northwest of her hometown of Houston. The prison was recommended by the judge who sentenced Holmes, but authorities have not publicly disclosed where she will be held.

Her many detractors contend she deserves to be in prison for peddling a technology that she repeatedly boasted would quickly scan for hundreds of diseases and other health problems with a few drops of blood taken with a finger prick.

The technology never worked as promised. Instead, Therasanos tests produced wildly unreliable results that could have endangered patients’ lives - one of the most frequently cited reasons why she deserved to be prosecuted.

Before those lies were uncovered in a series of explosive articles in The Wall Street Journal beginning in October 2015, Holmes raised nearly \$1 billion from a list of savvy investors including Oracle co-founder Larry Ellison and media mogul Rupert Murdoch. It was the duping of those investors that led to her prison sentence and a \$452 million restitution bill.

Evidence

Holmes’ stake in Therasanos at one point catapulted her paper wealth to \$4.5 billion. She never sold any of her stock in the company, though trial evidence left no doubt she reveled in the trappings of fame and fortune - so much so that she and the father of her children, William “Billy” Evans, lived on a palatial Silicon Valley estate during the trial.

The theory that Holmes was running an elaborate scam was buttressed by trial evidence documenting her efforts to prevent the Journal’s investigation from being published. That campaign compelled John Carreyrou - the reporter responsible for those bombshell stories - to attend court and position himself in Holmes’ line of vision when she took the witness stand.

Holmes also signed off on surveillance aimed at intimidating Therasanos employees who helped uncover the flaws with the blood-testing technology. The whistleblowers included Tyler Shultz, the grandson of former Secretary of State George

Shultz, whom Holmes befriended and persuaded to join the Therasanos board.

Tyler Shultz became so unnerved by Holmes’ efforts to shut him up that he began sleeping with a knife under his pillow, according to a wrenching statement delivered by his father, Alex, at her sentencing.

Holmes’ supporters still contend she always had good intentions and was unfairly scapegoated by the Justice Department. They insist she simply deployed the same over-the-top promotion tactics as many other tech executives, including Elon Musk, who has repeatedly made misleading statements about the capabilities of Tesla’s self-driving cars.

According to those supporters, Holmes was singled out because she was a woman who briefly eclipsed the men who customarily bask in Silicon Valley’s spotlight, and the trial turned her into a latter-day version of Hester Prynne - the protagonist in the 1850 novel “The Scarlet Letter.”

Holmes steadfastly maintained her innocence during seven often-riveting days of testimony in her own defense - a spectacle that caused people to line up shortly after midnight to secure one of the few dozen seats available in the San Jose courtroom.

On one memorable day, Holmes recounted how she had never gotten over the trauma of being raped while enrolled at Stanford University. She then described being subjected to a long-running pattern of emotional and sexual abuse by her former lover and Therasanos conspirator, Ramesh “Sunny” Balwani, and suggested his stifling control blurred her thinking.

Balwani’s lawyer, Jeffrey Coopersmith, denied those allegations during the trial. In Balwani’s subsequent trial, Coopersmith unsuccessfully tried to depict his client as Holmes’ pawn.

‘Free speech is priceless’

Twitter’s DeSantis’ event shows its rightward shift

NEW YORK, May 28, (AP) — Two years ago, signing a bill intended to punish Twitter and other major social media companies, Florida Gov Ron DeSantis blasted the platforms as “suppressing ideas” during the COVID-19 pandemic and silencing conservative voices.

What a turnaround.

The new Elon Musk-owned version of Twitter helped DeSantis launch his bid for the Republican presidential nomination Wednesday. Though it was marred by technical glitches and skewered by the candidate’s critics, the forum nevertheless underscored Twitter’s unmistakable shift to the right under Musk, who bought it for \$44 billion and took over in October.

“The truth was censored repeatedly, and now that Twitter is in the hands of a free speech advocate, that would not be able to happen again on this Twitter platform,” DeSantis said during the Twitter Spaces event.

Musk, co-hosting the event, responded to the praise by saying, “Twitter was indeed expensive, but free speech is priceless.”

While Musk has promoted his platform as a haven for free expression, the site has been flooded with extremist views and hate speech since he bought it and fired or laid off roughly 80% of its staff.

That is raising alarms that Twitter - heavily used by candidates and government agencies, including those providing voting information - will become an open forum for conspiracy theories, fake content and election misinformation as a bitterly divided country heads into the 2024 presidential election.

Many Republicans have hailed Musk’s takeover of Twitter as creating one of the last mainstream online spaces where they can share their views without fear of removal. Prominent figures in conservative media, like former Fox News host Tucker Carlson and the podcasts hosts of The Daily Wire, say they plan to start streaming content on the site.

Democrats and anti-hate watchdogs, meanwhile, say Musk’s partisan comments and policy changes have effectively given a megaphone to far-right extremists.

Since Musk bought Twitter, he has overhauled the site’s verification system, removing safeguards against impersonation for some government accounts and political candidates. He also has personally indulged in far-right conspiracy theories on the site, reinstated accounts with a history of extremist rhetoric and gutted the team that had been responsible for moderating the content flowing across the platform.

Coincided

That has coincided with a deluge of conspiracy theory rhetoric, according to the Anti-Defamation League, which reported that QAnon hashtags surged 91% on Twitter between May 2022 and May 2023, with about three-fourths of those messages posted after Musk’s takeover.

Several believers of the baseless QAnon theory, centered on the idea that former President Donald Trump is waging a secret war against “deep state” enemies and pedophiles, have committed acts of violence, including the attack on the US Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021.

Musk’s decision to reinstate influential Twitter accounts with a history of spreading extremist views also has created spaces in their tweet reply threads where users are sharing anti-semitic tropes, conspiracy theories and other types of hate, the ADL reported Wednesday.

The group’s vice president Yael Eisenstat, who leads its Center for Technology and Society, said Musk’s content moderation choices have

Obligation remains

Twitter abandons EU disinformation pact

LONDON, May 28, (AP) — Twitter has dropped out of a voluntary European Union agreement to combat online disinformation, a top EU official said Friday.

European Commissioner Thierry Breton tweeted that Twitter had pulled out of the EU’s disinformation “code of practice” that other major social media platforms have pledged to support. But he added that Twitter’s “obligation” remained, referring to the EU’s tough new digital rules taking effect in August.

“You can run but you can’t hide,” Breton said.

San Francisco-based Twitter responded with an automated reply, as it does to most press inquiries, and did not comment.

The decision to abandon the commitment to fighting false information appears to be the latest move by billionaire owner Elon Musk to loosen the reins on the social media company after he bought it last year. He has rolled back previous anti-misinformation rules, and has thrown its verification system and content-moderation policies into chaos as he pursues his goal of turning Twitter into a digital town square.

Google, TikTok, Microsoft and Facebook and Instagram parent Meta are among those that have signed up to the EU code, which requires companies to measure their work on combating disinformation and issue regular reports on their progress.

“served to silence marginalized voices” by giving harassers and internet trolls free reign.

“It is one thing to say we want free speech on the platform,” she said. “It’s another thing to say we are going to allow extremists - conspiracy theorists - to contribute to normalizing this kind of rhetoric and antisemitism and racism.”

Twitter didn’t provide comment after repeated requests. It sent automated replies instead, as it does to most media inquiries.

Musk’s free speech rhetoric also has attracted conservatives who have been knocked off other platforms - or fired, in the case of Carlson.

Shortly after his ouster, Carlson went on Twitter May 9 to announce that he would be doing some version of his show on that platform. It’s still not clear what that would entail, or when he would start.

“There aren’t many platforms left that allow free speech,” Carlson said in a two-minute message viewed more than 132 million times. “The last big one remaining in the world, the only one, is Twitter, where we are now.”

Free speech and truth aren’t the same thing, however, and Carlson had been accused of spreading misinformation on his Fox show, most recently about the Jan. 6 Capitol insurrection.

DeSantis has been a frequent guest on Fox News, and on the night of his presidential campaign announcement he appeared on the network for an interview - after the Twitter event.

Though DeSantis’ Twitter launch was severely delayed with site crashes and strained servers, his choice to debut his campaign on the platform illustrates that Fox will have more competition as a Republican king-maker.

‘We’re watching’

US regulators ‘take aim’ at AI to protect consumers and workers

NEW YORK, May 28, (AP): As concerns grow over increasingly powerful artificial intelligence systems like ChatGPT, the nation’s financial watchdog says it’s working to ensure that companies follow the law when they’re using AI.

Already, automated systems and algorithms help determine credit ratings, loan terms, bank account fees, and other aspects of our financial lives. AI also affects hiring, housing and working conditions.

Ben Winters, Senior Counsel for the Electronic Privacy Information Center, said a joint statement on enforcement released by federal agencies last month was a positive first step.

“There’s this narrative that AI is entirely unregulated, which is not really true,” he said. “They’re saying, ‘Just because you use AI to make a decision, that doesn’t mean you’re exempt from responsibility regarding the impacts of that decision. This is our opinion on this. We’re watching.’”

In the past year, the Consumer Finance Protection Bureau said it has fined banks over mismanaged automated systems that resulted in wrongful home foreclosures, car repossessions, and lost benefit payments, after the institutions relied on new

technology and faulty algorithms.

There will be no “AI exemptions” to consumer protection, regulators say, pointing to these enforcement actions as examples.

Consumer Finance Protection Bureau Director Rohit Chopra said the agency has “already started some work to continue to muscle up internally when it comes to bringing on board data scientists, technologists and others to make sure we can confront these challenges” and that the agency is continuing to identify potentially illegal activity.

Representatives from the Federal Trade Commission, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and the Department of Justice, as well as the CFPB, all say they’re directing resources and staff to take aim at new tech and identify negative ways it could affect consumers’ lives.

Decisions

“One of the things we’re trying to make crystal clear is that if companies don’t even understand how their AI is making decisions, they can’t really use it,” Chopra said. “In other cases, we’re looking at how our fair lending laws are being adhered to when it comes to the use of all of this data.”

Under the Fair Credit Reporting Act and Equal Credit Opportunity Act, for example, financial providers have a legal obligation to explain any adverse credit decision. Those regulations likewise apply to decisions made about housing and employment. Where AI make decisions in ways that are too opaque to explain, regulators say the algorithms shouldn’t be used.

“I think there was a sense that, ‘Oh, let’s just give it to the robots and there will be no more discrimination,’” Chopra said. “I think the learning is that that actually isn’t true at all. In some ways the bias is built into the data.”

EEOC Chair Charlotte Burrows said there will be enforcement against AI hiring technology that screens out job applicants with disabilities, for example, as well as so-called “bossware” that illegally surveils workers.

Burrows also described ways that algorithms might dictate how and when employees can work in ways that would violate existing law.

“If you need a break because you have a disability or perhaps you’re pregnant, you need a break,” she said. “The algorithm doesn’t necessarily take into account that accommodation. Those are things that we are looking closely at ... I want to be clear that while we recognize that the technology is evolving, the underlying message here is the laws still apply and we do have tools to enforce.”

OpenAI’s top lawyer, at a conference this month, suggested an industry-led approach to regulation.

“I think it first starts with trying to get to some kind of standards,” Jason Kwon, OpenAI’s general counsel, told a tech summit in Washington, DC, hosted by software industry group BSA. “Those could start with industry standards and some sort of coalescing around that.”

And decisions about whether or not to make those compulsory, and also then what’s the process for updating them, those things are probably fertile ground for more conversation.”



Alphabet CEO Sundar Pichai, (left), and OpenAI CEO Sam Altman arrive to the White House for a meeting with Vice President Kamala Harris on artificial intelligence, Thursday, May 4, in Washington. As concerns grow over increasingly powerful artificial intelligence systems like ChatGPT, the nation’s financial watchdog says it’s working to ensure that companies follow the law when they’re using AI. (AP)

EU aims to ‘assist companies’ for AI Act

OpenAI boss downplays fears ChatGPT maker could leave Europe over AI rules

LONDON, May 28, (AP) — OpenAI CEO Sam Altman on Friday downplayed worries that the ChatGPT maker could exit the European Union if it can’t comply with the bloc’s strict new artificial intelligence rules, coming after a top official rebuked him for comments raising such a possibility.

Altman is traveling through Europe as part of a world tour to meet with officials and promote his AI company, which has unleashed a frenzy around the globe.

At a stop this week in London, he said OpenAI might leave if the artificial intelligence rules that the EU is drawing up are too tough. That triggered a pointed reply on social media from European Commissioner Thierry Breton, accusing the company of blackmail.

Breton, who’s in charge of digital policy, linked to a Financial Times article quoting Altman saying that OpenAI “will try to comply, but if we can’t comply we will cease operating.”

Altman sought to calm the waters a day later, tweeting: “very productive week of conversations in europe about how to best regulate AI! we are excited to continue to operate here and of course have no plans to leave.”

The European Union is at the forefront of global efforts to draw up guardrails for artificial intelligence,

with its AI Act in the final stages after years of work. The rapid rise of general purpose AI chatbots like ChatGPT caught EU officials off guard, and they scrambled to add provisions covering so-called generative AI systems, which can produce convincingly human-like conversational answers, essays, images and more in response to questions from users.

“There is no point in attempting blackmail - claiming that by crafting a clear framework, Europe is holding up the rollout of generative #AI,” Breton said in his tweet. He added that the EU aims to “assist companies in their preparation” for the AI Act.

Altman tweeted that his European tour includes Warsaw, Poland; Munich, Germany; Paris; Madrid; Lisbon, Portugal; and London. Brussels, headquarters of the EU, has not been mentioned.

He has met with world leaders including British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, French President Emmanuel Macron, Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz.

Google CEO Sundar Pichai also has been crisscrossing Europe this week to discuss AI with officials like Scholz, European commissioners including Breton, Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson, and two EU lawmakers who spearheaded the Parliament’s

work on the AI rules.

“Good to discuss the need for responsible regulation and transatlantic convergence on AI,” Pichai tweeted.

Google has released its own conversational chatbot, Bard, to compete with ChatGPT.

Other tech company bosses have been wading into the debate this week over whether and how to regulate artificial intelligence, including Microsoft President Brad Smith, who unveiled a blueprint for public governance of AI on Thursday.

Microsoft has invested billions in OpenAI and integrated ChatGPT-like technology into its products, including a chatbot for its Bing search engine.

Altman told congressional lawmakers this month that AI should be regulated by a US or global agency because increasingly powerful systems will need government intervention to reduce their risks.

Altman was mobbed by students when he appeared in a “fireside chat” at University College London on Wednesday. He told the audience that the “right answer” to regulating AI is “probably something between the traditional European, UK approach and the traditional US approach.”

“I think you really don’t want to overregulate this before you know what shape the technology is going to be,” Altman said.

The Conversation

REM sleep behavior disorder can occur at any age

Sleep disorder affects millions and has clear links to dementia

By Anelyssa D'Abreu
University of Virginia

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

A little-known and poorly understood sleep disorder that occurs during the rapid eye movement, or REM, stage of sleep has been garnering attention for its role in foreshadowing neurodegenerative brain diseases such as Parkinson's disease and dementia with Lewy bodies. The disorder, known as REM sleep behavior disorder, or RBD in the medical field, affects around 1% of the general population worldwide and about 2% of adults over 65.

The Conversation talked with Anelyssa D'Abreu, a neurologist who specializes in geriatric neurology, to explain what researchers know about the condition's links to dementia.

Every night, you go through four to five sleep cycles. Each cycle, lasting about 90 to 110 minutes, has four stages. That fourth stage is REM sleep.

REM sleep only comprises 20% to 25% of total sleep, but its proportion increases throughout the night. During REM sleep, your brain rhythms are similar to when you are awake, your muscles lose tone so you are unable to move, and your eyes, while closed, move quickly. This stage is often accompanied by muscle twitches and fluctuations in your respiratory rate and blood pressure.

But someone with REM sleep behavior disorder will act out their dreams. For reasons that are poorly understood, the dream content is usually violent - patients report being chased, or defending themselves, and as they sleep they shout, moan, scream, kick, punch and thrash about.

Harm

Injuries often result from these incidents; patients may fall from bed or accidentally harm a partner. Some 60% of patients and 20% of bed partners of people with this disorder sustain an injury during sleep.

Appropriate testing, including a sleep study, are needed to determine if a patient has REM sleep behavior disorder, as opposed to another disorder, such as obstructive sleep apnea. This is a disorder in which breathing is interrupted during sleep.

REM sleep behavior disorder can occur at any age, but symptoms usually start with people in their 40s and 50s. For those younger than 40, antidepressants are the most common cause of REM sleep behavior disorder; in these younger patients, it affects biological males and females about equally, but past age 50, it's more common in biological males.

The disease mechanism is not well understood. In some cases of REM sleep behavior disorder, a clear cause cannot be identified. In other cases, the disorder may be caused by something specific, such as obstructive sleep apnea, narcolepsy, psychiatric disorders, use of antidepressants, autoimmune disorders and brain lesions, which are areas of damaged brain tissue.

In both situations, REM sleep

behavior disorder may be associated with synucleinopathies, a group of neurodegenerative disorders in which aggregates of the protein synuclein accumulate in brain cells. The most common of these neurodegenerative disorders is Parkinson's disease. Others are dementia with Lewy bodies, multiple system atrophy and pure autonomic failure. REM sleep behavior disorder may precede these diseases or occur at any time during the disease process.

REM sleep behavior disorder may be the first symptom of Parkinson's disease or dementia with Lewy bodies. It is observed in 25% to 58% of patients diagnosed with Parkinson's, 70% to 80% of patients with dementia with Lewy bodies and 90% to 100% of those with multiple system atrophy.

Slowed

In a long-term study of 1,280 patients with REM sleep behavior disorder who didn't have parkinsonism - an umbrella term that refers to brain conditions, including Parkinson's disease, that cause slowed movements, stiffness and tremors - or dementia, researchers followed participants to find out how many would develop these disorders. After 12 years, 73.5% of those with REM sleep behavior disorder had developed a related neurodegenerative disorder.

Some of the factors that independently increased the risk of developing a neurodegenerative disorder were the presence of irregular motor symptoms, abnormal dopamine levels, loss of sense of smell, cognitive impairment, abnormal color vision, erectile dysfunction, constipation and older age.

REM sleep behavior disorder may also be observed in other neurodegenerative disorders such as Alzheimer's disease and Huntington's disease, but at much lower rates. The association is also not as strong as that observed in the synucleinopathies.

For most neurodegenerative disorders, there is a phase that may last for decades in which brain changes are taking place but the patient either remains asymptomatic or develops symptoms without the full expression of the disease. RBD, in that scenario, is an early sign of those disorders. This provides an opportunity to study how the disease progresses in the brain and to develop therapies that could either slow this process or prevent it from happening.

At this time, there are no approved therapies to prevent the onset of these neurodegenerative diseases in those with REM sleep behavior disorder. There are, however, medications such as melatonin and clonazepam that may improve the symptoms. We also recommend measures to avoid injury, such as removing breakable objects from the room, protecting windows and padding floors.

Patients who are affected by REM sleep behavior disorder may choose to participate in research. Proper treatment of the disease can help prevent injury and improve quality of life. (AP)

Takeda to present oncology portfolio, pipeline data at ASCO & EHA congress

Research, develop and deliver transformative medicines

Critical for mRNA vaccines and gene therapies

Touchlight expands, creates one of world's largest DNA manufacturing facilities in UK

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. & OSAKA, Japan, May 28: Takeda (TSE: 4502/NYSE:TAK) has announced that it will present data from its expanding oncology pipeline and established product portfolio at the 59th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) being held June 2-6, 2023, in Chicago, Ill. and the 31st Congress of the European Hematology Association (EHA), June 8-11, 2023, in Frankfurt, Germany.

The company's presence at ASCO 2023 will underscore Takeda's growing solid tumor portfolio, with research focused on improving treatment for metastatic colorectal cancer (CRC), as well as rare forms of oncogene-driven non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). Within its hematology portfolio, Takeda will present data in oral sessions at both ASCO and EHA on a head-to-head Phase 3 study comparing targeted treatments in newly diagnosed patients with Philadelphia-positive acute lymphoblastic leukemia (Ph+ ALL).

"Over the past year, we have made significant advancements with our pipeline - both in progress with our innate immunity enhancers and in further diversifying our pipeline - aiming to ultimately deliver transformative medicines to patients who need them most," said Awny Farajallah, M.D., head, global medical affairs, oncology at Takeda. "With our aspiration to cure cancer in mind, we are excited to share data from our newly expanded solid tumor portfolio featuring results in colorectal cancer, as well as research from our established hematological portfolio where we continue to explore the potential for a new standard of care treatment in acute lymphoblastic leukemia."

Treatment

At Takeda Oncology, we are united by our aspiration to cure cancer and motivated every day to work harder for patients with limited or ineffective treatment options. Our agile structure and deep in-house expertise are complemented by a network of partnerships that optimize our ability to research, develop and deliver transformative medicines to people living with cancer. Building on decades of leadership in oncology and a portfolio of approved medicines for hematologic cancers and solid tumors, we are advancing a cutting-edge pipeline focused on the power of innate immunity. With inspiration from patients and innovation from everywhere, our goal is to introduce new classes of immunotherapies that can lead to deep, durable responses so that more patients can benefit from - and have access to - innovative medicines.

HAMPTON, England, May 28: Touchlight, a company pioneering enzymatic DNA production, a critical material in many new genetic medicine treatments, has completed the redevelopment and expansion of its UK manufacturing facility, housed in a repurposed Victorian waterworks on the banks of the River Thames.

The expanded state-of-the-art facility's manufacturing capacity has tripled and is now capable of producing more than 8kg a year. This exceeds the current, but growing, global supply of plasmid DNA for genetic medicine. The new facility has 11 suites and includes two class B filling suites with class A filling cabinets, warehousing, together with a quality control laboratory capability and has already received a successful customer quality audit from a Big Pharma company.

Touchlight's proprietary doggybone DNA (dbDNA™) overcomes the technical challenges associated with efficiently mass-producing plasmid DNA. The patented dbDNA technology produces a minimal, linear, double stranded, covalently closed DNA vector through an enzymatic manufacturing process. dbDNA is uniquely positioned for the rapid, synthetic, and scalable manufacture of GMP DNA using a small, simple footprint. The technology can incorporate genes from 500bp to 20kb and accommodate sequences typically unstable

as plasmid DNA in, such as those found in viral vector and mRNA production.

Demand for DNA from biopharmaceutical companies is increasing exponentially given its critical role in genetic medicines, including mRNA vaccines and gene therapies, enabling the potential of emerging new drug classes such as gene-editing treatments and novel cancer therapies. Touchlight has contracts to supply many of the top ten biopharmaceutical companies in the world, including Pfizer, as well as Lonza

Capacity

Touchlight was founded in 2007 and has been based at the Morelands and Riverdale Buildings on the banks of the River Thames, since 2015, housing the Company's growing 150 staff. The unique new 515m² facility now comprises 11 state-of-the-art good manufacturing practice (GMP) DNA manufacturing suites, bringing the total on site to 15, more than tripling the company's DNA manufacturing capacity.

The completion of the building project follows the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) acceptance of a Drug Master File for GMP-grade dbDNA™ in December, and a further FDA approval a month later for the first investigational new drug application (IND) using dbDNA in an in-human trial planned by one of Touchlight's clients. A dbDNA-

derived AAV product previously entered clinical testing in Europe in 2022.

In April, the Company also won a substantial grant to accelerate its manufacturing programme from the Life Sciences Innovative Manufacturing Fund, which is jointly backed by government and industry to support life sciences businesses investing in manufacturing projects in the UK. It completed a \$125m fundraising in 2021.

The Morelands and Riverdale Buildings have a long history, having once been a Victorian waterworks built to supply fresh water to London's East End to tackle the 19th century cholera epidemic. Touchlight began the complex renovation of the building in 2016, which required careful architectural design, led by Chapman Architects, and complex engineering work to make the space suitable for research and development and manufacturing activities, whilst maintaining many of the building's original features, such as the brickwork, tiling and windows.

The building's slate-covered roofs required extensive work, supported by original iron and steel trusses, which were innovative at the time of their design and have been preserved as part of the restoration, weaving beautiful Victorian architecture and engineering with high-tech labs, meeting rooms, manufacturing suites and other workspaces.

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Exchange

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Museum

Iconic Beirut museum reopens 3 years after damage from port blast

BEIRUT, May 28. (AP): Lebanon's Surssock Museum has reopened to the public, three years after a deadly explosion in Beirut's port - set off by tons of improperly stored chemicals - reduced many of its treasured paintings and collections to ashes.

The reopening Friday night offered Beirut residents a rare bright spot in a country reeling from a crippling economic crisis that has left around three-quarters of Lebanon's population of 6 million in poverty.

Originally built as a private villa in 1912 on a hilltop overlooking the city's Achrafieh neighborhood, the opulent residence integrated Venetian and Ottoman styles. Its owner, famed Lebanese art collector Nicolas Ibrahim Surssock, bequeathed his beloved home to his people, to be turned into a contemporary art museum upon his death in 1952.

The museum housed Lebanese art dating back from the late 1800s, including the work of distinguished painter Georges Corm and Fouad Debbas' library of 30,000 photographs - one of the largest private photo collections. The photos are from across the Levant, a region encompassing countries along the eastern Mediterranean, from Turkey to Egypt, from 1830 until the 1960s. In 2008, a seven-year project renovated and expanded the museum, relaunching it in 2015.

But the Aug. 4, 2020 blast in Beirut's port - only about 800 meters (875 yards) away - hit the museum fully front on. Its stained glass windows were shattered, doors were blown out, and almost half the artwork on display was damaged. The explosion ripped through much of Beirut, killing more than 200 people and injuring over 6,000.

The destruction was unprecedented, said museum director Karina El Helou, a level unseen even during Lebanon's 1975-1990 civil war. Seventy percent of the building was badly damaged, as were 66 of the

132 art pieces on display, she said. Glass shards tore through Dutch artist Kees Von Dongen's portrait of Nicolas Surssock.

Two months after the explosion, then-museum director Zeina Arida launched a fundraising campaign, estimating the damages to be around \$3 million at the time. The museum eventually raised over \$2 million to restore the building and the artwork with support from Italy, France, UNESCO and various private organizations.

The restoration was long and painstaking work. Surssock's portrait was taken to Paris, along with two other art pieces, and restored there. Experts from Lebanon and abroad flocked to the museum to piece together damaged terracotta sculptures and fix tears and scratches that had marred the paintings. Dust and debris from the explosion were carefully removed to bring back the splendor of many items.

Darkness

"White powder from the blast that we saw everywhere in Beirut even reached our storage room four stories underground," El Helou said. She hopes the reopening will boost the morale of many Lebanese amid the country's economic meltdown - and offer a "safe space" for free expression.

Art is now more important than ever, she added. "In the face of darkness, (artists) fought through art and culture," she said.

Dozens gathered in Surssock's large, tree-lined courtyard on Friday evening, serenaded by a choir and a band performing on the entrance stairs for the reopening. The museum, looking almost exactly as it did before the blast, drew sighs of appreciation. Others remembered how much Beirut has withered since then and how scores of artists have left

the country.

"I now hope all the friends of the Surssock who may have left Lebanon in recent years at least come back to visit us," the museum's chairman, Tarek Mitri, told The Associated Press as he greeted guests.

The Surssock Museum was not the only art space damaged in the port explosion and restored in the years since.

Marfa Projects, a gallery close to one of the port's entrances, was eventually rebuilt and reopened. Others, like the Saifi Urban Gardens, a family run hostel that over the years has become a vibrant cultural hub with art studios and an exhibition space, were destroyed and closed for good.

Without financial support, many heritage buildings, including Ottoman-era houses built in the 19th century and damaged in the blast, could ultimately be sold to developers. Lebanon's cash-strapped government has been unable to fund major restoration projects.

Mona Fawaz, professor of urban studies and planning at the American University of Beirut, said the Surssock Museum's ability to raise funds through its networks and management is a valuable lesson for others.

"I think it's good to think of it as potentially one of our rare success stories," Fawaz said.

At Friday's reopening, visitors could view five new exhibitions of both classical and modern art - a testament to Lebanon's artistic and cultural history and the perseverance of its people despite the country's troubled past.

One of the exhibits, titled "Ejecta," is set up in a darkened room where a video and an audio recording reflect on the port blast. Ziad Moultaqa, the artist behind the installation, said he hoped it would inspire people to turn their dark thoughts about that day into hope for the future.

Variety



Justine Triet, winner of the Palme d'Or for 'Anatomy of a Fall,' poses for photographers during a photo call following the awards ceremony at the 76th international film festival, Cannes, southern France, Saturday, May 27. (AP)

Film

Third time female director wins top honor at Cannes

'Anatomy of a Fall' wins Palme d'Or

CANNES, France, May 28. (AP): Justine Triet's "Anatomy of a Fall" won the Palme d'Or at the 76th Cannes Film Festival in a ceremony Saturday that bestowed the festival's prestigious top prize on an engrossing, rigorously plotted French courtroom drama that puts a marriage on trial.

"Anatomy of a Fall," which stars Sandra Hüller as a writer trying to prove her innocence in her husband's death, is only the third film directed by a woman to win the Palme d'Or. One of the two previous winners, Julia Ducournau, was on this year's jury.

Cannes' Grand Prix, its second prize, went to Jonathan Glazer's "The Zone of Interest," a chilling Martin Amis adaptation about a German family living next door to Auschwitz. Hüller also stars in that film.

The awards were decided by a jury presided over by two-time Palme winner Ruben Ostlund, the Swedish director who won the prize last year for "Triangle of Sadness." The ceremony preceded the festival's closing night film, the Pixar animation "Elemental."

Remarkably, the award for "Anatomy of a Fall" gives the indie distributor Neon its fourth straight Palme winners. Neon, which acquired the film after its premiere in Cannes, also backed "Triangle of Sadness."

Ducournau's "Titane" and Bong Joon Ho's "Parasite," which it steered to a best picture win at the Academy Awards.

Triet was presented the Palme by Jane Fonda, who recalled coming to Cannes in 1963 when, she said, there were no female filmmakers competing "and it never even occurred to us that there was something wrong with that." This year, a record seven out of the 21 films in competition at Cannes were directed by women.

After a rousing standing ovation, Triet, the 44-year-old French filmmaker, spoke passionately about the protests that have roiled France this year over reforms to pension plans and the retirement age. Several protests were held during Cannes this year, but demonstrations were - as they have been in many high-profile locations throughout France - banned from the area

around the Palais des Festivals. Protesters were largely relegated to the outskirts of Cannes.

"The protests were denied and repressed in a shocking way," said Triet, who linked that governmental influence to that in cinema. "The merchandizing of culture, defended by a liberal government, is breaking the French cultural exception."

"This award is dedicated to all the young women directors and all the young male directors and all those who cannot manage to shoot films today," she added. "We must give them the space I occupied 15 years ago in a less hostile world where it was still possible to make mistakes and start again."

After the ceremony, Triet reflected on being the third female director to win the Palme, following Ducournau and Jane Campion ("The Piano"). "Things are truly changing," she said.

Character

Speaking to reporters, Triet was joined by her star, Hüller, whose performance was arguably the most acclaimed of the festival. (The festival encourages jurors not to give films more than one award.) But "Anatomy of a Fall" did pocket one other sought-after prize: the Palme Dog. The honor given to the best canine in the festival's films went to the film's border collie, Snoop.

The jury prize went to Finnish director Aki Kaurismäki's "Fallen Leaves," a deadpan love story about a romance that blooms in a loveless workaday Helsinki where dispatches from the war in Ukraine regularly play on the radio.

Best actor went to veteran Japanese star Koji Yakusho, who plays a reflective, middle-aged Tokyo man who cleans toilets in Wim Wenders' "Perfect Days," a gentle, quotidian character study.

The Turkish actor Merve Dizdar took best actress for the Nuri Bilge Ceylan's "About Dry Grasses." Ceylan's expansive tale is set in snowy eastern Anatolia about a teacher, Samet (Deniz Celiloğlu), accused of misconduct by a young female student. Dizdar plays a friend both attracted and repelled by Samet. "I understand what it's like to be a woman in this

area of the country," said Dizdar. "I would like to dedicate this prize to all the women who are fighting to exist and overcome difficulties in this world and to refrain hope."

Vietnamese-French director Trần Anh Hùng took best director for "Pot-au-Feu," a lush, foodie love story starring Juliette Binoche and Benoît Magimel and set in a 19th century French gourmet chateau.

Best screenplay was won by Yuji Sakamoto for "Monster." Sakamoto penned Japanese director Hirokazu Kore-eda's nuanced drama, with shifting perspectives, about two boys struggling for acceptance in their school at home. "Monster" also won the Queer Palm, an honor bestowed by journalists for the festival's strongest LGBTQ-themed film.

Quentin Tarantino, who won Cannes' top award for "Pulp Fiction," attended the ceremony to present a tribute to filmmaker Roger Corman. Tarantino praised Corman for filling him and countless moviegoers with "unadulterated cinema pleasure."

"My cinema is uninhibited, full of excess and fun," said Corman, the independent film maverick. "I feel like this what Cannes is about."

The festival's Un Certain Regard section handed out its awards on Friday, giving the top prize to Molly Manning Walker's debut feature, "How to Have Sex." Saturday's ceremony drew to close a Cannes edition that hasn't lacked spectacle, stars or controversy.

The biggest wattage premieres came out of competition. Martin Scorsese debuted his Osage murders epic "Killers of the Flower Moon," a sprawling vision of American exploitation with Leonardo DiCaprio and Lily Gladstone. "Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny," Harrison Ford's Indy farewell, launched with a tribute to Ford. Wes Anderson premiered "Asteroid City."

The festival opened on a note of controversy. "Jeanne du Barry," a period drama co-starring Johnny Depp as Louis XV, played as the opening night film. The premiere marked Depp's highest profile appearance since the conclusion of his explosive trial last year with ex-wife Amber Heard.

BERLIN: Police in Berlin said Friday that they have opened an investigation of Roger Waters on suspicion of incitement over a costume the Pink Floyd co-founder wore when he performed in the German capital last week.

Images on social media showed Waters firing an imitation machine gun while dressed in a long black coat with a red armband. Police confirmed that an investigation was opened over suspicions that the context of the costume could constitute a glorification, justification or approval of Nazi rule and therefore a disturbance of the public peace.

Once the police investigation is concluded, the case will be handed to Berlin prosecutors, who would decide whether to pursue any charges.

Waters rejected the accusations in a statement early Saturday on Facebook and Instagram, saying that "the elements of my performance that have been questioned are quite clearly a statement in opposition to fascism, injustice, and bigotry in all its forms."

He claimed that "attempts to portray those elements as something else are disingenuous and politically motivated."

Authorities in Frankfurt tried to prevent a concert there scheduled for May 28, but Waters challenged that move successfully in a local court. In Munich, the city council said it had explored possibilities of banning a concert but concluded that it wasn't legally possible to cancel a contract with the organizer. His appearance there on Sunday was accompanied by a protest attended by the community's leader. (AP)

NEW YORK: CBS claimed the distinction of most-watched television network for the 15th straight year, even as those bragging rights don't mean what they used to.

The network averaged just under 6 million viewers on a typical moment in prime time for the season that just concluded, the Nielsen company said on Friday. NBC was the second most popular, followed by Fox and ABC - the same pecking order as last year.

All of the networks lost viewers from the year before, with NBC's 13% decline the steepest and Fox's 1% drop the smallest, Nielsen said.

CBS' winning streak began in a different era, back when the men-

tion of streaming or cord-cutting would earn a quizzical look. Its viewership average during that 2008-09 season was 11.75 million, nearly double what it was this year.

In comparison, ABC and Fox both lost more than half of their live viewers from the 2008-09 season, while NBC was down 33% from that time, when it was at an



Waters



Lorre

ebb, Nielsen said.

Quite simply, viewers have far more choices today and are accustomed to creating their own entertainment schedules. The broadcast networks also benefit from that; CBS said that within 35 days, a typical episode of "CSI: Vegas" more than doubles its viewership from the night it first airs.

But, increasingly, live events like sports are what brings viewers to network television. NBC's "Sunday Night Football" was the most popular program this past season, averaging 18.5 million live viewers, Nielsen said.

"Sunday Night Football" first aired on NBC in 2006. Longevity was a key component in other

popular shows. The most-watched drama on the night it first airs, CBS' "NCIS," has been on the network's schedule since 2003. The most popular comedy, CBS' "Young Sheldon," created by Chuck Lorre and Steven Molaro first aired in 2017, but it was a spinoff from "The Big Bang Theory," which began a decade earlier. (AP)

People & Places

Music

Dudamel resigns

All of 'Swift's eras' on display at MAD

NEW YORK, May 28, (AP): Taylor Swift has been breaking records and delighting fans on the US leg of her Eras Tour, a splashy celebration of her career and new releases since the pandemic.

It's become a notoriously tough ticket to get.

But on the second floor of the Museum of Arts and Design (MAD) in New York City, fans can catch glimpses of Swift's "eras" for much cheaper. "Taylor Swift: Storyteller," features dozens of costumes and objects spanning her music videos, tours and awards show performances - from the lace gown she wore when performing "All Too Well" on the Red Tour to the "key to the castle" featured in the video for "Bejeweled."



Swift

The goal, museum director Tim Rodgers said, was to explore how Swift uses clothing and props to tell stories - almost as much as she does lyrics. "It's different than stars that use costumes or fashion in order to enhance themselves," Rodgers said. "Taylor Swift is using costumes and props like a vocabulary."

Rodgers said Swift's team came to MAD with the idea because of another exhibit they hosted - "Queer Maximalism X Machine Dazzle" - featuring the work of artist, performer and costume designer Matthew Flower, also known as Machine Dazzle. "It was totally unexpected," Rodgers said.

"Taylor Swift: Storyteller" opened ahead of Swift's three-night stop nearby at New Jersey's MetLife Stadium. Like her concerts, the collection walks visitors through her genre- and decade-spanning career. There's the crystal-encrusted guitar she used when performing her 2010 album "Speak Now," a hooded bodysuit she wore during her Reputation Stadium Tour, the striped T-shirt she wore in a 2020 photoshoot for "folklore."

"She's a visual storyteller. Everything she does ... it feels very intentional," said Teresa Bocalan, a fan visiting the museum. "So it's really cool to see those outfits up close."

Playlist

The exhibit, on display through Sept. 4, is accompanied by a playlist of Swift's music videos - including her short film for the 10 minute version of "All Too Well" - which are projected on screens around the room. Lyrics scrawled in Swift's handwriting adorn key walls in the space.

But perhaps the centerpiece of it all is a more recent piece of Swift's lore: the flowing red wedding dress she wore in the 2021 video for "I Bet You Think About Me (Taylor's Version) (From the Vault)," directed by Blake Lively and co-starring Miles Teller. The song, featuring Chris Stapleton, was an addition to the re-released version of her 2012 album "Red." Adorned with tulle roses, the dress was custom made for Swift by Nicole + Felicia Couture.

In the video, the red gown is a showstopper - or, more literally, a wedding stopper.

In the exhibit, it seems to hold the same power. "We had people come in and look at that red wedding dress over there and literally start to cry," Rodgers said of the exhibit's opening weekend. "It is, for a lot of people, almost like a religious experience to see this clothing that Taylor once wore."

"I'm also super excited to see the 'I Bet You Think About Me' dress over there," said Greta Myers, a student at the Fashion Institute of Technology. "We haven't looked at it yet. I'm saving it."

Gustavo Dudamel announced his resignation as music director of the Paris Opéra on Thursday, a surprise decision two seasons into a six-year contract scheduled to run through the 2026-27 season.

A 42-year-old Venezuelan who lives in Madrid, Dudamel was hired in February by the New York Philharmonic as its music director starting with the 2026-27 season. He has been music director of the Los Angeles Philharmonic since 2009, a tenure that will end after 17 seasons when Dudamel starts in New York.

"It is with a heavy heart, and after long consideration, that I announce my resignation as music director of the Paris Opéra in order to spend more time with my family," Dudamel said in a statement Thursday.

His early exit from Paris at the end of the current season in August could free the conductor for additional engagements in New York, where Jaap van Zweden leaves after the 2023-24 season, his sixth as music director.

"I have no plans other than to be with my loved ones, to whom I am deeply grateful for helping me to continue to be strong in my resolve to grow and remain challenged, both personally and artistically, each and every day," Dudamel said.

Performances

Dudamel conducted the New York Philharmonic last weekend, for the first time since his appointment was announced, in three performances of Mahler's Ninth Symphony, and he is not scheduled with the orchestra next season. He and Philharmonic CEO Deborah Borda participated in extensive planning meetings last week.

"He's been considering his life very carefully over the past couple of years. Like so many people during the pandemic, he took the time, we all took the time, to evaluate our lives, our goals, our futures, finding just the right balance," Borda said in a telephone interview. "This is a critical move on really the chessboard of his life as he contemplates his future."

Dudamel made his Paris Opéra debut in December 2017 in Claus Guth's staging of Puccini's "La Bohème" that was moved to a spaceship, and his appointment by the Paris Opéra was announced in April 2021 to start that Aug. 1.

He conducted new productions of Puccini's "Turandot" and Mozart's "Le Nozze di Figaro (The Marriage of Figaro)" in his first season, followed this season by a revival of Wagner's "Tristan und Isolde" and the company debut of John Adams' "Nixon in China." The 2023-24 season, announced in March, has Dudamel leading a new production of Wagner's "Lohengrin" starting Sept. 23 and Thomas Ades' "The Exterminating Angel" starting Feb. 9.

The status of his engagements with the company next season is not clear.

Alexander Neef had hired Dudamel after being appointed general director of the Paris Opéra in July 2019 to succeed Stéphane Lissner for the 2021-22 season. Neef praised Dudamel's "passion and immense talent."



Guests tour the Sursok Museum's exhibitions after relaunching an opening event for the iconic venue in Beirut, Lebanon, Friday, May 26. The museum has reopened to the public, three years after a deadly explosion in the nearby Beirut port reduced many of its treasured paintings and collections to ashes. (AP) — Details Page 11

Television

'A whopping 88-minute finale'

'Succession' fans brace for series finale

WASHINGTON, May 28, (AP): Jennifer Gould, an Oregon-based trusts and estates lawyer, thinks the premise of "Succession" - HBO's hit series chronicling a billionaire media mogul and his children's struggles to take over the family company - is a little flawed.

"The idea that they wouldn't have a firm succession plan in place is ridiculous," Gould said.

Still, she has set aside Monday for "crying and grieving" after watching the hotly anticipated series finale airing Sunday evening.

With the critically acclaimed drama's fourth and final season ending, dedicated fans of "Succession" are locking in plans to watch the whopping 88-minute finale while turning online for emotional support, memes and endless theories about how the show could end and who will prevail. "No one I know in real life watches the show," Gould said, adding that the emotional toll of season four made her look for support online, which is how she landed on the social news website Reddit, where a chat dedicated to all things "Succession" has more than 456,000 members.

In preparation for Sunday, Gould also is rereading "King Lear," among Shakespeare's bleakest tragedies, about a declining monarch and his children's battle for the crown. Gould thinks the play could offer clues to how the series will end.

"It's fairly obvious that it's a loose retelling of King Lear," Gould said of "Succession." "I watch it obsessively. I don't think there's another way to watch it."

"Succession" always has been about the membership of its audience, not its size, and its popularity among the coastal media and agenda-setting groups that the show depicts and attracts means the finale should leave a cultural mark.

More recent prestige TV finales are a better analogue for "Succession" than those of the network behemoths of decades past. For example, "The Sopranos" suddenly cutting to black to the song "Don't Stop Believin'" in 2007 set the standard for both talkability and inscrutability.

Pamela Soin, a management consultant in New York City, said the end of the monumental New Jersey mob saga was the only finale generating more excitement than "Succession" for her "because that was after seven years of investment."

Soin and a group of friends have watched every "Succession" episode this season with a serious ritual.

Holiday

"We turn off all the lights, cinema style, put on the surround sound and watch in complete silence," Soin said. "Then we have a debrief."

But Soin said she'll be alone for the final episode because of the Memorial Day holiday weekend in the U.S.

On social media platforms including Twitter, Reddit and the chatting app Discord, popular among gamers, "Succession" fans share countless memes and swirling theories about which of the Murdoch-esque Roy family members, corporate executives and hangers-on will prevail in the finale. Fans have searched for clues in past episodes, characters' names, the show's opening sequence and elsewhere.

Show creator Jesse Armstrong told The New Yorker earlier this year "there's a promise in the title of 'Succession,'" which some have taken as a sign that the show's central question will be answered.

Soin thinks the finale will leave many unresolved plot lines and questions open to interpretation.

"I love how they handle a lot of things off-camera," Soin said of the show's writers, who throughout the

series have peppered pivotal backstories of the main characters in later scenes and passing conversations.

"Just like in real life, you find out about things that happened when you weren't there," Soin said.

Conclusions to hit TV series can be hit-or-miss. The bloody 2013 ending of Walter White's story on "Breaking Bad," and Don Draper's more zen ending on "Mad Men" in 2015, generally satisfied their finicky fans. The 2019 conclusion of "Game of Thrones" - the last big finish for an HBO show - generally did not. Endings are hard to pull off and disappointment tends to be the norm, to which the makers of "Seinfeld" and "Lost" can attest.

HBO was able to ratchet up suspense ahead of Sunday's "Succession" finale in part by airing only one episode per week, a decision that fans who grew up in the streaming age may be too young to remember was once the norm for TV series.

Suraj Nandy, a 20-year-old college student from Bengaluru, India, said he was counting down the hours until Sunday's finale, which airs at 6:30 a.m. local time.

"I'm going to huddle, get a blanket and snacks and sit there in awe," Nandy said.

An economics student at Canada's University of Western Ontario, Nandy said he was disappointed by the "Game of Thrones" conclusion and had watched all of "Breaking Bad," too, but considers "Succession" "easily, by far, my favorite show of the bunch."

As for his finale plans, Nandy said he'll join some friends online for a virtual watch party. But it won't end there.

"I'll probably cry for a couple of days and then watch it again," Nandy said. "I'd like to reexperience the whole thing in one sitting."



Koji Yakusho, winner of the award for best actor for 'Perfect Days', poses for photographers during a photo call following the awards ceremony at the 76th international film festival, Cannes, southern France, Saturday, May 27. (AP) — Details Page 11



Lee



Ames

Variety

NEW YORK: Bill Lee, a well-regarded jazz musician who accompanied such artists as Bob Dylan, Simon and Garfunkel and Harry Belafonte as well as scoring four of his son Spike's early films, including the hit "Do the Right Thing" and two songs for "Jungle Fever," has died. He was 94.

Lee died Wednesday at his home in Brooklyn, said Theo Dumont, a publicist for Spike Lee. The younger Lee posted several photos of his father on his Instagram page announcing the death.

Lee was a session bassist who has played on albums by Odetta, Woody Guthrie, Cat Stevens, Gordon Lightfoot, John Lee Hooker and Peter, Paul and Mary, among many others. He can be heard on Dylan's "It's All Over Now, Baby Blue" and Lightfoot's "Oh, Linda." He played on Aretha Franklin's Columbia album debut in 1960, "Aretha." Lee wrote the soundtracks to Spike Lee's "She's Gotta Have It," "School Daze," "Do the Right Thing" and "Mo' Better Blues." Bill Lee also appeared in "Do the Right Thing." Terence Blanchard took over the role starting with "Jungle Fever." (AP)

LOS ANGELES: Ed Ames, the youngest member of the popular 1950s singing group the Ames Brothers, who later became a successful actor in television and musical theater, has died. He was 95.

The last survivor of the four singing brothers, Ames died May 21 from Alzheimer's disease, his wife, Jeanne Ames, said Saturday.

"He had a wonderful life," she said. On television, Ames was likely best known for his role as Mingo, the Oxford-educated Native American in the 1960s adventure series "Daniel Boone" that starred Fess Parker as the famous frontiersman. He also was the center of a bit on "The Tonight Show" that - thanks to his painfully uncanny aim with a hatchet - became one of the show's most memorable surprise moments. Ames had guest roles in TV series

such as "Murder, She Wrote" and "In the Heat of the Night," and toured frequently in musicals, performing such popular songs as "Try to Remember" and the

song that became his biggest hit single, "My Cup Runneth Over."

As part of the 1950s music scene, he and his brothers were one of numer-

ous pop quartets that included the Four Aces, Four Lads, Gaylords, Hilltoppers, Lancers, Four Knights, Ink Spots and, still around from a previous era, the Mills Brothers. (AP)



Hirokazu Koreeda, holds the award for best screenplay for 'Monster,' which Koreeda accepted on behalf of Yuji Sakamoto, during a photo call following the awards ceremony at the 76th international film festival, Cannes, southern France, Saturday, May 27. (AP) — Details Page 11

NASHVILLE, Tenn.: The fatal shooting of a Grammy-winning sound engineer by police earlier this year was "reasonably necessary," a Tennessee prosecutor said.

The decision in January's fatal shooting of Mark Capps, 54, comes after a review of the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation report, the autopsy and video evidence, Nashville District Attorney General Glenn Funk said in a statement.

A Metro Nashville Police officer killed Capps while at his home to arrest him on warrants charging him with two counts each of aggravated assault and aggravated kidnapping, authorities have said. His 60-year-old wife and 23-year-old stepdaughter told police he had held them in the home at gunpoint, according to police.

When officers went to the home, Capps opened the front door armed with a pistol, and Officer Kendall Coon yelled at him to show his hands, police said at the time of the shooting.

Video of the shooting appears to show the door of the home opening and an officer can be heard yelling "Show me your hands" before firing seconds later. Capps died at the scene. (AP)

Climate

Cracks emerge

EU at the crossroads of environment fight

BRUSSELS, May 28, (AP) — The European Union has been at the forefront of the fight against climate change and the protection of nature for years. But it now finds itself under pressure from within to pause new environmental efforts amid fears they will hurt the economy.

With the next European Parliament elections set for 2024, some leaders and lawmakers are concerned about antagonizing workers and voters with new binding legislation and restrictive measures and are urging the 27-nation bloc to hit the brakes.

Since Ursula von der Leyen took the helm of the powerful European Commission back in 2019, environmental policies have topped the EU agenda. EU nations have endorsed plans to become climate neutral by 2050 and adopted a wide range of measures, from reducing energy consumption to sharply cutting transport emissions and reforming the EU's trading system for greenhouse gases.

But cracks in the European united front against climate change have emerged in recent months.

The first sign was earlier this year when Germany, the bloc's economic giant, delayed a deal to ban new internal combustion engines in the EU by 2035 amid ideological divisions inside the German government.

An agreement was finally reached in March, but just weeks later, the bloc's other powerhouse, France, called for a pause on EU environmental regulation, causing controversy.

As he presented a bill on green industry earlier this month, French President Emmanuel Macron said it was time for the EU to implement existing rules before adopting new ones.

"We have already passed a lot of regulations at European level, more than our neighbors," he said. "Now we have to execute, not make new rules, because otherwise we will lose all players."

Macron has been particularly concerned by a US clean energy law that benefits electric vehicles and other products made in North America, fearing it will expose European companies to unfair competition. Although Europeans and their American partners keep working to resolve the challenges posed by the US law, Macron's logic basically holds that a pause on environmental constraints would help EU businesses keep producing on home soil, despite competition from countries such as China that have lower environmental standards.

Legislation

Belgian Prime minister Alexander De Croo quickly followed suit, calling this week for a moratorium on the introduction of EU legislation aimed at nature preservation, creating a rift within the governing coalition including green politicians.

The law proposed by the EU's executive arm aims, by 2030, to cover at least 20% of the EU's land and sea areas with nature restoration measures, "and eventually extend these to all ecosystems in need of restoration by 2050," the commission said.

De Croo said that climate legislation should not be overloaded with restoration measures or limits on agricultural nitrogen pollution, warning that businesses would no longer be able to keep up.

"That's why I'm asking that we press the pause button," he told VRT network. "Let's not go too far with things that, strictly speaking, have nothing to do with global warming. These other issues are important too, but measures to address them must be taken in phases."

Macron and De Croo have found allies at the European Parliament, where members of the biggest group, the Christian Democrat EPP, have asked the European Commission to withdraw the nature restoration law proposal on grounds that it will threaten agriculture and undermine food security in Europe.

The move came after two parliamentary committees, the Fisheries Committee and the Agriculture Committee, rejected the planned legislation.

EPP lawmakers claim that abandoning farmland will lead to an increase in food prices, more imports and drive farmers out of businesses.

"This is an exceptional step and shows that the Parliament is not ready to accept a proposal that only increases costs and insecurity for farmers, fishers and consumers," said Siegfried Muresan, the vice-chairman of the EPP Group responsible for budget and structural policies.

The growing opposition to the nature restoration law has caused great concern among environmental NGOs, and Frans Timmermans, the EU Commission's top climate official in charge of its Green Deal, warned he would not put forward an alternative proposal because there isn't time.

"You can't say I support the Green Deal, but not the ambition to restore nature. It's not 'à la carte menu,'" Timmermans said.

The EU commission has also proposed setting legally binding targets to reduce the use of pesticides by 50% by 2030 and a ban on all pesticide use in public parks, playgrounds and schools. To ease the transition to alternative pest control methods, farmers would be able to use EU funds to cover the cost of the new requirements for five years.

"If one piece falls, the other pieces fall. I don't see how we can maintain the Green Deal without the nature pillar, because without the nature pillar, the climate pillar is also not viable," Timmermans told EU lawmakers. "So we need to get these two together."

Last week, German police raided 15 properties linked to the Last Generation climate activist group Wednesday, seizing assets as part of an investigation into its finances in a sign of growing impatience with disruptive protest tactics also seen in other European countries.

Action

Members of the group have repeatedly blocked roads across Germany in an effort to pressure the government to take more drastic action against climate change. In recent weeks, they have brought traffic to a halt on an almost daily basis in Berlin, gluing themselves to busy intersections and highways. Over the past year, they have also targeted various artworks and exhibits.

The raids, ordered by Munich prosecutors, come days after Chancellor Olaf Scholz said that he thought it was "completely nutty to somehow stick yourself to a painting or on the street." Leading figures with the environmentalist Green party, part of his governing coalition, have also said the group's actions are counterproductive.

A spokesperson for Last Generation said that the police searches had hit the group and its supporters hard, but that it wouldn't let up its activities.

"They make us afraid, but we must not be frozen by fear," Aimee van Baalen told reporters in Berlin.

"The German government is right now driving us toward climate hell with its eyes wide open. It is even stepping on the gas pedal," she said. "We must continue to resist now, because we need to loudly demand that lives be protected."

Hundreds of people joined a protest march in Berlin against the raids and further rallies were planned in other German cities.

One protester, Chaim, who declined to give his last name for fear of legal repercussions, said he felt the crackdown against climate activists was politically motivated. "It's wrong and dangerous," he said.

Last Generation has acknowledged in the past that its protests are provocative, but argues that by stirring friction it can encourage debate about climate change and the policies necessary to stop it.

Germany's top court ruled two years ago that the previous government was placing too much of the burden from global warming on young people, prompting then-Chancellor Angela Merkel to sharpen climate targets. Experts say that while Germany now has some of the most ambitious targets for cutting emissions of planet-heating greenhouse gas, the country isn't on track to meet them.



Mostafa Waziri, secretary-general of the Supreme Council of Antiquities, displays a recently unearthed ancient wooden sarcophagus at the site of the Step Pyramid of Djoser in Saqqara, 24 kilometers (15 miles) southwest of Cairo, Egypt, Saturday, May 27. (AP)

Egypt unveils recently discovered ancient workshops, tombs in Saqqara necropolis

Egyptian antiquities authorities Saturday unveiled ancient workshops and tombs they say were discovered recently at a Pharaonic necropolis just outside the capital Cairo.

The spaces were found in the sprawling necropolis of Saqqara, which is a part of Egypt's ancient capital of Memphis, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Mostafa Waziri, secretary-general of the Supreme

Council of Antiquities, said the workshops had been used to mummify humans and sacred animals. They date back to the 30th Pharaonic Dynasty (380 BC to 343 BC) and Ptolemaic period (305 BC to 30 BC), he said.

Inside the workshops, archaeologists found clay pots and other items apparently used in mummification, as well as ritual vessels, Waziri said.

The tombs, meanwhile, were for a top official from

the Old Kingdom of ancient Egypt, and a priest from the New Kingdom, according to Sabri Farag, head of the Saqqara archaeological site.

In recent years, Egypt's government has heavily promoted new archaeological finds to international media and diplomats. It hopes that such discoveries will help attract more tourists to the country to revive an industry that suffered from political turmoil following the 2011 uprising. (AP)

Health

Cholera kills 17 in South Africa

Mpox resurgence risk in some US cities

NEW ORLEANS, May 28, (AP) — The mpox health emergency has ended, but US health officials are aiming to prevent a repeat of last year's outbreaks.

Mpox infections exploded early in the summer of 2022 in the wake of Pride gatherings. More than 30,000 US cases were reported last year, most of them spread during sexual contact between gay and bisexual men. About 40 people died.

With Pride events planned across the country in the coming weeks, health officials and event organizers say they are optimistic that this year infections will be fewer and less severe. A bigger supply of vaccine, more people with immunity and readier access to a drug to treat mpox are among the reasons.

But they also worry that people may think of mpox as last year's problem.

"Out of sight, out of mind," said Dr. Demetre Daskalakis, who is advising the White House on its mpox response. "But we are beating the drum."

Last week, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued a health alert to US doctors to watch for new cases. On Thursday, the agency published a modeling study that estimated the likelihood of mpox resurgence in 50 countries that have been the focus of a government campaign to control sexually transmitted diseases.

The study concluded that 10 of the countries had a 50% chance or higher of mpox outbreaks this year. The calculation was based largely on how many people were considered at high risk for infection and what fraction of them had some immunity through vaccination or previous infection.

At the top of the list are Jacksonville, Florida; Memphis, Tennessee; and Cincinnati - cities where 10% or fewer of the people at highest risk were estimated to have immunity. Another 25 countries have low or medium immunity levels that put them at a higher risk for outbreaks.

Limitations

The study had a range of limitations, including that scientists don't know how long immunity from vaccination or prior infections lasts.

So why do the study? To warn people, said Dr. Chris Braden, who heads the CDC's mpox response.

"This is something that is important for jurisdictions to promote prevention of mpox, and for the population to take note - and take care of themselves. That's why we're doing this," he said.

Officials are trying to bring a sense of urgency to a health threat that was seen as a burgeoning crisis last summer but faded away by the end of the year.

Formerly known as monkeypox, mpox is caused by a virus in the same family as the one that causes smallpox.

It is endemic in parts of Africa, where people have been infected through bites from rodents or small animals, but was not known to spread easily among people.

Cases began emerging in Europe and the US about a year ago, mostly among men who have sex with men, and escalated in dozens of countries in June and July. The infections were rarely fatal, but many people suffered painful skin lesions for weeks.

Countries scrambled to find a vaccine or other countermeasures. In late July, the World Health Organization declared a health emergency. The US followed with its own in early August.

But then cases began to fall, from an average of nearly 500 a day in August to fewer than 10 by late December. Experts attributed the decline to several factors, including government measures to overcome a vaccine shortage and efforts in the gay and bisexual community to spread warnings and limit sexual encounters.

The US emergency ended in late January, and the WHO ended its declaration earlier this month.

Emergency

Indeed, there is a lower sense of urgency about mpox than last year, said Dan Dimant, a spokesman for NYC Pride. The organization anticipates fewer messages about the threat at its events next month, though plans could change if the situation worsens.

There were long lines to get shots during the height of the crisis last year, but demand faded as cases declined. The government estimates that 1.7 million people - mostly men who have sex with men - are at high risk for mpox infection, but only about 400,000 have gotten the recommended two doses of the vaccine.

"We're definitely not where we need to be," Daskalakis said, during an interview last week at an STD conference in New Orleans.

Some see possible storm clouds on the horizon.

Cases emerged this year in some European countries and South Korea. On Thursday, U.K. officials said an uptick in mpox cases in London in the last month showed that the virus was not going away.

Nearly 30 people, many of them fully vaccinated, were infected in a recent Chicago outbreak. (As with COVID-19 and flu shot, vaccinated people can still get mpox, but they likely will have milder symptoms, officials say.)

Dr. Joseph Cherabie, associate medical director of the St. Louis County Sexual Health Clinic, said people from the area travel to Chicago for events, so outbreaks there can have ripple effects elsewhere.

"We are several weeks behind Chicago. Chicago is usually our bellwether," Cherabie said.

Chicago health officials are taking steps to prevent further spread at an "International Mr. Leather" gathering this weekend.

Event organizers are prominently advising attendees to get vaccinated. Chicago health officials put together social media messages, including one depicting three candles and a leather paddle that reads: "Before you play with leather or wax get yourself the mpox vax."

Also:

JOHANNESBURG: At least 17 people have died in a cholera outbreak in the Hammanskraal township outside South Africa's capital, Pretoria, authorities said Wednesday.

The toll has risen from an initial 10 fatalities reported by local health authorities earlier this week.

Authorities said there were another 29 laboratory-confirmed cholera cases, while 67 people were admitted to a hospital and clinics for gastrointestinal infections.

Health authorities are yet to confirm the exact source of the cholera outbreak, but poor waste water management and local government instability in South Africa's capital city have been blamed for the situation. The City of Tshwane Municipality, which takes in Pretoria and surrounding areas, has had at least five different mayors since the ruling African National Congress party lost control in local government elections in 2016.

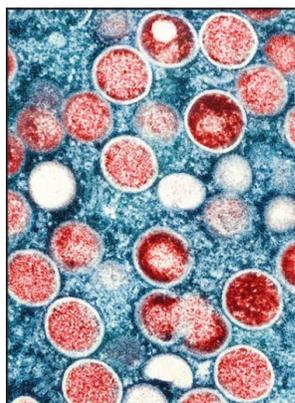
A water plant in Pretoria which is responsible for waste water management for large parts of Hammanskraal is in need of urgent upgrades estimated to cost about \$130 million and hasn't been functioning properly for years, the city's mayor said.

"It has been out of capacity since about 2005," said Tshwane executive mayor Cilliers Brink, who was elected in March.

South Africa is the latest southern African nation to experience an outbreak of cholera following deaths in neighboring Zimbabwe and in Malawi this year. In February, the World Health Organization said cholera cases in Africa were rising exponentially amid a global surge. At least 12 African nations have reported cholera outbreaks this year.

Zimbabwean health authorities have confirmed nine recent deaths with another 28 suspected cholera deaths since February. The Ministry of Health said it had recorded 1,404 suspected cholera cases and 359 laboratory-confirmed cases.

Malawi reported earlier this year that more than 1,000 people had died in a widespread outbreak that started in March 2022. It is Malawi's worst cholera outbreak in 20 years, WHO said, with more than 36,000 cases.



This colored electron microscope image provided by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases shows mpox particles, red, found within an infected cell, blue, cultured in a laboratory in Fort Detrick, Md. A study released by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Thursday, May 25, suggests dozens of US cities are at risk for mpox outbreaks this summer. Health officials say they are working to prevent the scale of infections that surprised the nation the previous summer. (AP)

Discovery

Rita not ready to retire: One of the greatest mountain guides said he's not ready to retire after climbing Mount Everest for a record 28th time.

Nepalese Sherpa Kami Rita reached the 8,849-meter (29,032-foot) summit of the world's highest mountain on Tuesday, beating his own record less than a week after setting it.

"I will continue to climb as long as my body allows," the 53-year-old guide told reporters after arriving from the mountain at Kathmandu's airport, where he was given a hero's welcome by supporters and family members.

He said his goal is not to compete for any records but to help his foreign clients scale the mountain.

This year's climbing season is almost over, and his next climb will have to wait until next spring.

Kami Rita reached the summit a day after fellow Sherpa guide Pasang Dawa matched his previous record of 27 climbs.

A race for the title began with Pasang Dawa climbing the peak for a 26th time on May 14, equalling Kami Rita's earlier record. Kami Rita reached the peak three days later for the 27th time.

Kami Rita first climbed Everest in 1994 and has done so nearly every year since then. He is one of many Sherpa guides whose expertise and skills are vital to the safety and success of foreign climbers who seek to reach the top of the mountain. His father was among the first Sherpa guides. (AP)

Shark attacks very rare: Recent shark bites in Florida and Hawaii and a suspected case in New Jersey have piqued interest in an age-old summer question for beachgoers - is it safe to go in the water?

Scientists and researchers who study sharks said the overwhelming answer to that question is yes, it is safe. Potentially dangerous interactions between humans and sharks are uncommon, and serious injuries and deaths from the bites are vanishingly rare, scientists said.

Nonetheless, the dramatic nature of shark bites and the stories of survivors, such as Hawaii surfer Mike Morita's tale of fighting off a shark in April, capture the imagination. It's a good idea to remember just how rare shark bites truly are, scientists said.

There have been typically around 70 to 80 unprovoked shark bites annually, worldwide, over the past decade. And not only are shark bites rare, they've been especially rare recently.

There were only 57 unprovoked bites last year, and five of those were fatal, according to University of Florida's International Shark Attack File. There had been nine such deaths the previous year.

The shark attack file reported a year ago that one reason for the decline in bites might be the global decline of shark populations.

It's too early in the warm season to get an idea of how active this year will be for interactions between humans and sharks,



Skomal



Morita

said Greg Skomal, a shark expert with the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries.

"If we get lots of bait fish and forage fish species close to shore, we have a super hot summer that draws people to beaches, more people in the water, then we can determine the risk," Skomal said.

The United States and Australia are typically the sites of the most reported shark bites. (AP)



Benfica's team captain Nicolas Otamendi lifts the trophy during a ceremony at the Luz stadium in Lisbon, Saturday, May 27, 2023. Benfica has won its first Portuguese league title in four years after beating Santa Clara 3-0 on the final day of the season. (AP)

Cincinnati become 1st team to reach 10 wins this season

Charlotte FC keep LA Galaxy reeling

CARSON, Calif., May 28, (AP) — Karol Swiderski scored a second-half goal, Justin Meram added to his club record with an assist and Charlotte FC kept the Los Angeles Galaxy reeling with a 1-0 victory on Saturday night.

Swiderski scored his fourth goal of the season when he took a pass from Meram and found the net in the 70th minute. Meram extended his team record by contributing to a goal in five straight matches.

Kristijan Kahlina finished with two saves to earn the clean sheet for Charlotte (6-6-3), which was coming off a 3-1 road win over Atlanta United. It's the first time Charlotte, an expansion team last season, has won two straight on the road. Jonathan Bond saved three shots for the Galaxy.

Chicharito picked up a red card in the 85th minute for LA.

The Galaxy (2-9-3) entered play with just nine points through their first 13 matches. It is the club's second worst start behind the eight points of the 2006 squad.

The Galaxy beat Charlotte 1-0

SOCCER

last season in the first home match of Charlotte's first season.

Charlotte stays on the road to play the Philadelphia Union on Wednesday. The Galaxy travel to play Real Salt Lake on Wednesday.

Dominique Badji scored a first-half goal and Roman Celentano made it stand up in FC Cincinnati's 1-0 victory over the Colorado Rapids.

Cincinnati (10-1-3) became the first team to reach 10 victories this season. The win gives front-running Cincinnati an eight-point lead over the New England Revolution and Nashville SC in the Eastern Conference standings.

Badji, who played for the Rapids two seasons ago, scored his first goal of the season when he took a pass from Obinna Nwobodo and found the net in the 33rd minute.

Celentano finished with three saves to earn his sixth clean sheet for Cincinnati. He trails the Seattle Sounders' Stefan Frei by one for

the most shutouts this season. Nashville's Joe Willis also has six clean sheets. William Yarbrough saved five shots for Colorado (2-7-6).

The Rapids are the only team without a home win this season, falling to 0-4-3. They are the fourth team in league history to go winless through the first seven home matches. Cincinnati set the record to begin a season with a nine-match skid in 2021.

Last week, Cincinnati became the eighth team in league history to have 30 points after 13 matches. Five of the previous seven clubs won the Supporters' Shield.

Colorado had won both previous match-ups between the teams - a 3-1 home win in 2019 and a 2-0 road win in 2021.

St. Louis City got an early goal from Eduard Löwen, a late goal from Miguel Perez and an own-goal from Tristan Blackmon in between en route to a 3-1 victory over the Vancouver Whitecaps.

St. Louis City (8-4-1) grabbed the lead in the 10th minute on an unassisted goal by Löwen - his fourth net this season.

Blackmon's own-goal came in the 45th minute, giving St. Louis City a 2-0 lead at halftime.

Vancouver (4-5-5) pulled within a goal when Brian White took a pass from Julian Gressel in the 83rd minute and scored for the fifth time

this season.

Perez scored unassisted in the fourth minute of stoppage time for his first career goal. The 18-year-old midfielder found the net in his 11th appearance, including five starts.

Roman Bürki finished with one save for St. Louis City. Thomas Hasal saved five shots in his first start of the season for Vancouver.

The Whitecaps have lost their last two road matches against expansion teams after posting a 3-0-2 mark in their previous five road trips against first-year clubs.

St. Louis City has a league-high seven players with multiple goals this season. SLC was coming off a 4-0 road win over Sporting Kansas City - its third four-goal victory. Atlanta United set the record at four in its inaugural 2017 season.

The Whitecaps haven't picked up a win in 15 straight road matches - one more than the San Jose Earthquakes for the longest current skid. Fourteen of Vancouver's 17 points have come at home this season.

Iván Franco scored his first career goal late in the second half and the Houston Dynamo rallied to beat Austin FC 2-1.

Austin (4-6-4) took a 1-0 lead in the 22nd minute on a goal by Gyasi Zardes with an assist from Nick Lima. It was Zardes' third netter of the season.

Héctor Herrera scored for a third

time this season - unassisted in the 37th minute to pull Houston even.

Franco used assists from Daniel Steres and Herrera to score the winner in the 87th minute. It was the 23-year-old rookie's 12th appearance for the Dynamo this season, including seven starts.

The home team picked up a victory for the sixth time in seven all-time matches between the clubs.

Austin entered play having won back-to-back matches after an eight-match winless streak.

The Dynamo snapped a four-match winless streak. When Franco scored it marked the first time Houston has scored more than one goal in its last seven matches. The Dynamo have not conceded more than one goal in their last seven outings.

Steve Clark saved two shots for Houston. Brad Stuver totaled four saves for Austin.

Julián Carranza scored two goals during first-half stoppage time, Dániel Gazdag scored on a penalty kick and the Philadelphia Union rallied to beat New York City FC 3-1.

Philadelphia (7-4-3) has beaten NYCFC four straight times, joining the New York Red Bulls as the only two teams to pull off the feat. The Union also put an end to NYCFC's 10-match unbeaten run at home. The Union have won three straight road matches for the first time in club history. NYCFC (4-6-4) grabbed the lead in the 30th minute on a goal by Gabriel Pereira. Richard Ledezma and Santiago Rodríguez notched assists on Pereira's fourth netter of the campaign.

It appeared NYCFC would take the lead into halftime, but Carranza scored twice in stoppage time to give Philadelphia (7-4-3) the lead at the break.

Jack Elliott had an assist on Carranza's goal in the first minute of extra time. Carranza used passes from Mikael Uhre and José Martínez in the third minute to score his seventh goal this season.

Gazdag stretched the Union's lead to 3-1 with his seventh goal of the season. It came on a PK in the 53rd minute. Gazdag is now 14 for 14 on penalty kicks over his three years in the league. It is the most PK goals any player has scored while maintaining 100% accuracy in league history.



Real Salt Lake defender Justen Glad (left), clears the ball past Minnesota United forward Luis Amarilla (right), in the second half of an MLS soccer match in St. Paul, Minn. (AP)

Yankees 'avoid' 4th straight loss

Dodgers beat Rays

NEW YORK, May 28, (AP) — Isiah Kiner-Falefa hit a game-ending single with one out in the 10th inning as the New York Yankees beat the San Diego Padres 3-2 on Saturday.

After Anthony Volpe hit into a double play in the eighth and Aaron Judge did the same in the ninth, the Yankees got their fifth walk-off win when Kiner-Falefa grounded Nick Martinez's 2-0 pitch down the line just past the glove of third baseman Rougned Odor to score pinch-runner Greg Allen from third.

DJ LeMahieu, who had an RBI double in the first, homered off Padres starter Michael Wacha to tie it in the seventh as the Yankees avoided a fourth straight loss.

Fernando Tatis Jr. homered for the second straight game, and ninth time this season, for San Diego's only hit in Luis Severino's 6 2/3 innings. Ha-Seong Kim hit an RBI single in the seventh off Michael King.

Severino allowed two runs, one earned, in his second start since returning from a strained right lat muscle.

Clayton Kershaw (3-2) retired Tatis on a soft grounder that was initially ruled an infield hit before being overturned on replay to end the top of the 10th.

Dodgers 6, Rays 5

In St. Petersburg, Freddie Freeman extended his hitting streak to 16 games, Max Muncy and Miguel Vargas homered, and NL West-

BASEBALL

leading Los Angeles beat MLB-best Tampa Bay.

Freeman finished 2 for 3 with two walks and is hitting .444 (28 for 63) with 18 RBIs during his streak.

Mookie Betts had an RBI single and Freeman followed with a run-scoring double off Colin Poche (3-1) as the Dodgers took a 5-4 lead in the seventh inning. Vargas added a solo shot in the eighth.

Harold Ramírez hit the Rays' major league-leading 100th homer, but Tampa Bay dropped to 25-6 at home.

Neither starting pitcher, Dodgers ace Clayton Kershaw nor Tampa Bay right-hander Tyler Glasnow, made it past the fifth inning. Glasnow went 4 1/3 innings in his season debut after being sidelined by a strained left oblique. He allowed three runs and five hits.

Marlins 8, Angels 5, 10 innings

In Anaheim, Jorge Soler homered in his fifth consecutive game, and pinch-hitter Garrett Cooper delivered a tiebreaking double during Miami's four-run 10th inning against Los Angeles.

Cooper hit a long fly to left-center off Jaime Barria (1-2), and Mickey Moniak couldn't make the tough catch after sprinting to get under it. Miami scored another run when video review determined catcher Matt Thaiss hadn't touched home plate while turning an inning-ending double play, and Garrett Hampson added a two-run single to punctuate the Marlins' third win in four games.

Soler's go-ahead, two-run homer in the seventh was his 17th of the season — second-most in the majors — and 12th in May, tying Miami's team record for the month.

Rangers 5, Orioles 3

In Baltimore, Andrew Heaney pitched seven innings of four-hit ball, Marcus Semien extended his hitting streak to 16 games with a pivotal two-run single and Texas beat Baltimore. Robbie Grossman and Jonah Heim each had an RBI single for the Rangers, who have won 10 of 13. Their 33-18 record is best in Rangers history after 31 games, and they passed Baltimore (33-19) for second-best in the majors behind Tampa Bay.

After outscoring the Orioles 17-5 in the first two games of this three-game set, Texas is assured of winning a fifth straight road series for the first time since 2016.

Phillies 2, Braves 1

In Atlanta, Zack Wheeler struck out 12 in eight shutout innings as Philadelphia beat Charlie Morton and Atlanta.

Wheeler (4-4) allowed three hits, walked one and hit a batter in his first win since April 29. The right-hander went 0-3 with a 4.44 ERA in four previous May starts.

The Phillies went ahead with two runs in the fifth against Morton (5-5). Bryson Stott had a sacrifice fly, and Trea Turner added a run-scoring double.

Morton struck out nine in 5 1/3 innings. He allowed seven hits and walked four.

Sean Murphy homered against Philadelphia closer Craig Kimbrel in the ninth. Kimbrel then struck out Marcell Ozuna and Eddie Rosario to end it.

Twins 9, Blue Jays 7

In Minneapolis, Willi Castro had his first multi-homer game, Matt Wallner homered among his career-high four hits, and the Twins held off the Blue Jays.

Edouard Julien also homered as part of a three-hit day, and Alex Kirilloff and Kyle Farmer each had two of Minnesota's 14 hits.

Bo Bichette had three hits, including a home run for the second straight game, but the Blue Jays lost for the 10th time in 13 games. Daulton Varsho also went deep.

Castro and Wallner went back-to-back in the fifth off Chris Bassitt (5-4).

Red Sox 2, Diamondbacks 1

In Phoenix, Reese McGuire's safety squeeze with the bases loaded brought home Triston Casas, which proved to be the difference as Boston beat Arizona.

Boston has won the first two games of the series and will go for a three-game sweep on Sunday. Kiké Hernández had an RBI single for the Red Sox in their two-run fourth. McGuire came to bat with one out and dropped a sacrifice bunt down the first-base line for a 2-1 lead. Arizona jumped ahead in the first on Ketel Marte's seventh homer.

Both teams were using a starting pitcher who just came off the injured list. Diamondbacks right-hander Zach Davies (0-1) hadn't appeared in a big league game since April 8 and looked rusty, lasting only 3 1/3 innings.

Cardinals 2, Guardians 1, 10 innings

In Cleveland, Brendan Donovan homered in the second inning and scored on a passed ball in the 10th to lift St. Louis over Cleveland.

Donovan began the 10th inning on second base as the automatic runner. He stole third and came home when third-string catcher David Fry mercled a pitch by Nick Sandlin (2-2) to Oscar Mercado.

The Cardinals, who won for the 14th time in 20 games, had just two hits against Guardians starter Tanner Bibee and four relievers. None occurred after Alec Burleson singled in the third.

Tigers 7, White Sox 3

In Detroit, Zach McKinstry homered in a three-run seventh inning as the Tigers rallied to beat the White Sox.

McKinstry went 3 for 4 with a sacrifice fly and has reached base 19 times in the last seven games.

Detroit trailed 3-2 going into the bottom of the seventh, but McKinstry tied it with a one-out homer off Joe Kelly (1-3). Consecutive doubles by Riley Greene and Spencer Torkelson gave the Tigers a 4-3 lead.

Torkelson took third on a wild pitch and Eric Haase punched a single over the drawn-in infield to make it 5-3.

Giants 3, Brewers 1

In Milwaukee, Mitch Haniger hit a go-ahead two-run homer in the eighth inning and Logan Webb allowed one run over seven innings to pace San Francisco past Milwaukee.

J.D. Davis singled with one out in the eighth off Peter Strzelecki. After Michael Conforto struck out, Haniger sent the first pitch he saw from Strzelecki (2-4) a projected 419 feet to center field for his fourth homer.

Brewers starter Corbin Burnes allowed one run and four hits in seven innings, struck out eight and walked three. But his errant pickoff attempt led to the Giants' first-inning run.

Mariners 5, Pirates 0

In Seattle, Luis Castillo struck out 10 in six crisp innings as Seattle blanked Pittsburgh.

Castillo allowed one hit — Tucupita Marcano's double on the game's first pitch — and walked two. The right-hander earned his second straight win since dropping consecutive starts.

Gabe Speier, Matt Brash, Trevor Gott and Justin Topa then combined for three innings of one-hit ball for Seattle.

The Mariners backed Castillo (4-2) with three runs in the first and one in the second. Ty France hit an RBI double and scored on Eugenio Suárez's check-swing bloop single. Julio Rodríguez added a run-scoring double in the second.

Astros 6, Athletics 3

In Oakland, Jeremy Peña hit a two-run homer in his first at-bat following a planned day off, and Framber Valdez pitched six stinging innings as Houston handed Oakland its 10th consecutive defeat.

Alex Bregman had three hits and three RBIs for the Astros, who have won 13 of 16. Houston manager Dusty Baker earned his 1,233rd win, two behind Hall of Famer Joe McCarthy for eighth on the career list.

Valdez (5-4) allowed one run and four hits with five strikeouts to win back-to-back starts for the first time this season. Six days earlier, he pitched his second career shutout against the A's.

Ryan Pressly retired three batters for his 10th save.

Reds 8, Cubs 5

In Chicago, Jonathan India homered twice and drove in five runs, powering Cincinnati past struggling Chicago.

TJ Friedl and rookie Matt McLain each had two hits and scored two runs as the Reds won for the fourth time in six games.

Buck Farmer (1-3) got five outs for the win, and Alexis Díaz worked a shaky ninth for his 11th save. Farmer, Ian Gibaut, Alex Young and Díaz combined for 4 2/3 innings of one-run ball in relief of Brandon Williamson. Dansby Swanson and Ian Happ each had two RBIs for the Cubs, who blew a 4-1 lead. Jameson Taillon was charged with four runs and six hits in 4 2/3 innings.

Nationals 4, Royals 2

In Kansas City, CJ Abrams hit a two-run double in Washington's four-run sixth inning, Corey Dickerson got his 1,000th hit and the Nationals defeated Kansas City.

Dickerson sparked the big inning with his milestone hit on an RBI double.

After starter Josiah Gray gave up two runs in four innings, Mason Thompson (3-2), Carl Edwards Jr., Hunter Harvey and Kyle Finnegan held the Royals scoreless — with Finnegan earning his 11th save.

Rockies 10, Mets 7

In Denver, Ryan McMahon hit a go-ahead homer in the seventh inning and Colorado outslugged New York after blowing an early six-run lead.

Charlie Blackmon's two-run double in a five-run second helped the Rockies race out to a 6-0 advantage against Justin Verlander after three innings. Pete Alonso's major league-high 20th homer started New York's comeback in the fourth, and the Mets tied it 6-all when rookie Francisco Álvarez capped a five-run sixth with a three-run homer off reliever Jake Bird.



Los Angeles Dodgers starting pitcher Clayton Kershaw goes into his windup against the Tampa Bay Rays during the first inning of a baseball game in St. Petersburg, Fla. (AP)

Change Name

I, DUDU SHAKERA SALIM holder of Indian passport No Z3246707 having permanent address : RAJASTHAN INDIA PIN code :327022 residing in Kuwait at present, hereby declare that henceforth my name will be read as under: Given name SHAKERA SALIM and Surname DADU

Change Name

I, SALIM holder of Indian passport No Z3826669 having permanent address : RAJASTHAN INDIA PIN code: 327022 residing in Kuwait at present, hereby declare that henceforth my name will be read as under: Given name SALIM HATIM ALI and Surname DADU

MLB Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, May 28, (AP) — Results and standings from the MLB games on Saturday.

Team	W	L	Pct	GB	Team	W	L	Pct	GB
NY Yankees	3	7	.300	—	Arizona	1	5	.167	—
Detroit	7	7	.500	—	Cleveland 10 inn	1	5	.167	—
Minnesota	9	7	.563	—	LA Angels 10 inn	5	5	.500	—
Texas	5	7	.417	—	Atlanta	2	5	.286	—
Seattle	5	7	.417	—	Pittsburgh	0	5	.000	—
Houston	6	6	.500	—	San Francisco	3	3	.500	—
LA Dodgers	6	6	.500	—	Cincinnati	5	3	.625	—
Washington	4	6	.400	—	Chicago Cubs	8	5	.615	—
					NY Mets	10	7	.588	—
					Colorado	2	5	.286	—

American League					National League						
East Division					East Division						
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	38	16	.704	—	Atlanta	31	21	.596	—		
Baltimore	33	19	.635	4	Miami	27	26	.509	4-1/2		
New York	31	23	.574	7	New York	27	26	.509	4-1/2		
Boston	28	24	.538	9	Philadelphia	25	27	.481	6		
Toronto	27	26	.509	10-1/2	Washington	23	29	.442	8		
Central Division					Central Division						
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	27	25	.519	—	Milwaukee	27	25	.519	—		
Detroit	24	26	.480	2	Pittsburgh	26	25	.510	-1/2		
Cleveland	22	29	.431	4-1/2	St. Louis	24	30	.444	4		
Chicago	22	32	.407	6	Cincinnati	23	29	.442	4		
Kansas City	15	38	.283	12-1/2	Chicago	22	29	.431	4-1/2		
West Division					West Division						
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB
Texas	33	18	.647	—	Los Angeles	32	21	.604	—		
Houston	30	21	.588	3	Arizona	29	23	.558	2-1/2		
Los Angeles	28	25	.528	6	San Francisco	27	25	.519	4-1/2		
Seattle	27	25	.519	6-1/2	San Diego	24	28	.462	7-1/2		
Oakland	10	44	.185	24-1/2	Colorado	23	30	.434	9		

Al-Ittihad win Saudi Arabian league

RIYADH, May 28, (AP) — Cristiano Ronaldo's first season in Saudi Arabia will end without a trophy as his Al-Nassr team was beaten to the league title by Al-Ittihad in the penultimate round.

Ronaldo arrived in Riyadh in January after being released from his contract by English Premier League powerhouse Manchester United and had to settle for second place in the 16-team Saudi Arabian league. Al-Nassr's 1-1 draw with Ettifaq meant that Al-Ittihad's 3-0 win at Al-Faiha gave the team from Jeddah a five-point lead with one game remaining and its first league title since 2009. Al-Nassr dominated in the eastern city of

Dammam but fell behind just before the break as Youssef Niakate scored for Ettifaq from close range. A fierce shot from ex-Bayern Munich midfielder Luiz Gustavo leveled for Al-Nassr after 56 minutes. Ronaldo has scored 14 goals in 16 league games since making his debut in January, but could not get a winner this time and Gustavo had a second-half strike ruled out for offside with 10 minutes remaining.



Dallas Stars center Wyatt Johnston (53) skates around Vegas Golden Knights defenseman Alec Martinez (23) during the first period of Game 5 of the NHL hockey Stanley Cup Western Conference finals Saturday in Las Vegas. (AP)

Dellandrea scores twice in 3rd

Stars stay alive in West finals

LAS VEGAS, May 28, (AP) — With Dallas' season on the line, the Stars got two critical goals from a player who was a healthy scratch the first two games of the Western Conference Final.

ICE HOCKEY

Ty Dellandrea's goals came within a 1:27 span midway through the third period, and the Stars beat the Vegas Golden Knights 4-2 on Saturday to keep alive their hopes of advancing to the Stanley Cup Final to face the Florida Panthers.

"He's one of the best guys I've ever played with," said Stars goalie Jake Oettinger, who made 27 saves. "He deserves every opportunity he gets, and there's no one happier for him than the guys in this room. It shows how special you are when you get taken out. He didn't make it about him. He needed the opportunity to step up, and that's what he did."

The Stars escaped elimination for the second game in a row and head to Dallas for Game 6 on Monday night down 3-2. Dallas is attempting to become the fifth team in NHL history to win a series after being down 3-0.

And look who's back for the

Stars? Captain Jamie Benn returns after a two-game suspension for his cross-check to the neck of Vegas captain Mark Stone in Game 3. That was the only game in this series that was decided early, and until Saturday the Stars hadn't even had a multi-goal lead.

"I know our group, and we weren't happy about being in the hole we were in, and they decided to do something about it," Stars coach Pete DeBoer said. "And now we're rolling."

The only problem for DeBoer was waiting two days to play Game 6.

"Drop the puck," he said. DeBoer said before the game if his

team won, the pressure would shift to the Knights. Now it's up to them to respond after twice being a period away from playing in the Stanley Cup Final and letting both opportunities slip away.

"I don't think we brought our best the last two games," Stone said. "We were still in a good spot to win the game. We've got to bring a little bit better effort and start playing a little more desperate."

Vegas coach Bruce Cassidy said "it's a very good question" why his team didn't play with more desperation, but he also wasn't thrilled with the Knights' execution.

PSG secure record 11th French league title

Messi breaks European scoring record

PARIS, May 28, (AP) — Lionel Messi helped Paris Saint-Germain clinch a record 11th French league title, and broke another scoring record in the process.

Messi scored the opening goal as PSG drew 1-1 at Strasbourg to move four points clear of second-place Lens with one game left.

Messi put PSG ahead from Kylian Mbappe's pass in the 59th minute. Former PSG striker Kevin Gameiro equalized for Strasbourg in the 79th.

It was Messi's 496th career league goal in Europe, breaking Cristiano Ronaldo's scoring record for Europe's top five leagues. It could also be his last, as the Argentina star is widely expected to leave PSG at the end of the season and has been linked with a possible move to Saudi Arabia or MLS.

Lens secured second place and automatic entry into next season's Champions League by beating relegated Ajaccio 3-0 at home, with Belgium forward Loïs Openda reaching 20 league goals in his first season at the club.

Defending champion PSG overtook former French powerhouse Saint-Etienne, which won its 10th title in 1981 but was relegated to the second division last season.

SOCCER

PSG has won nine of its 11 titles since Qatari backers QSI took charge 12 years ago, with the first of those in 2013. PSG's other titles were in 1986 and '94.

"This is of course an historic moment for Paris Saint-Germain. This 11th French league title is the reward for all the hard work we have put in over the last 12 years," said PSG president Nasser al-Khelaifi, who has been in control since 2011. "To make Ligue 1 history and overtake Saint-Etienne is a real source of pride." The title will be celebrated next Saturday at Parc des Princes when PSG hosts Clermont in what could be Messi's last game for PSG. He has not taken up the option for an extra year on the contract he signed two years ago.

Messi has felt the ire of PSG fans at times this season after his form dipped following his return from Argentina's victory at the World Cup, and he was suspended by the club this month after an unauthorized trip to Saudi Arabia. But in the end it was his goal that allowed the fans to celebrate - and gave Messi a 43rd career major trophy for club and country.

It was a second league title for PSG coach Christophe Galtier, after he guided Lille to an against-the-odds success in 2021, when his side finished ahead of PSG.

Marseille lost 2-1 at home to Brest but finished in third place and enters the Champions League qualifying rounds.

Marseille is the only French club to win Europe's top competition and fans lit fireworks in the southern port city on Friday night to celebrate the 30th anniversary of its victory against AC Milan.

Fourth place secures entry into the Europa League and Lille moved into pole position after beating Nantes 2-1 at home thanks to two penalties from Canada striker Jonathan David as he reached 24 goals.

Rennes remains only one point behind Lille following a 2-0 home win against Monaco, which dropped from fourth to sixth, with fifth earning a place in the Europa Conference League. Rennes and Monaco are level on points but Rennes has a far better goal difference.

Eight-time champion Nantes is close to being relegated after Auxerre drew 1-1 at French Cup winner Toulouse to stay in 16th place and move two points ahead of Nantes. Four sides go down this season.

Last-place Angers, Ajaccio and Troyes were already relegated.

Alexandre Lacazette stayed in contention to finish as the league's top scorer by netting in Lyon's 3-0 home win against Reims. His 37 goals put him one behind Mbappe.

Angers signed off at home by winning 2-1 against Troyes.

Montpellier lost 3-2 at home to Nice and Clermont beat Lorient 2-0.



PSG's Lionel Messi (centre), challenges for the ball with Strasbourg's Frederic Guilbert (left), and Strasbourg's Kevin Gameiro (right), during the French League One soccer match between Strasbourg and Paris Saint Germain at Stade de la Meinau stadium in Strasbourg, eastern France. (AP)



Nigeria's Samson Lawal (right), and Brazil's Jean Pedrosa compete for the ball during a FIFA U-20 World Cup Group D soccer match at the Diego Maradona stadium in La Plata, Argentina. (AP)

Brazil top Group D at U-20 WC; Italy and Nigeria also advance

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina, May 28, (AP) — Brazil scored two goals late in the first half to beat Nigeria 2-0 Saturday and finish top of Group D at the Under-20 World Cup.

Italy also reached the last 16 of the tournament in Argentina with a 3-0 victory against the Dominican Republic, to finish second in the group ahead of Nigeria - which will also advance as one of the four best third-place teams. All three teams finished with six points, but Brazil stayed ahead of Italy on goal difference.

Nigeria almost opened the scoring in La Plata with an acrobatic volley by Jude Sunday, which hit the crossbar and then the post before being pushed away by goalkeeper Mycael.

Brazil took the lead through defender

Jean's header in the 43rd minute. Only four minutes later, a counterattack put midfielder Marquinhos through on goal and he beat Nigeria's goalkeeper Chijoke Anigboso with a shot between the legs.

SOCCER

Nigeria hit the bar once more in the second half, but the pace of the match was already slower as both teams were certain to go through.

Italy was led by one of the stars of the tournament so far in midfielder Cesare Casadei, who scored twice against the Dominican Republic.

Giuseppe Ambrosino also scored for Italy.

Tsitsipas holds off Vesely

Kostyuk 'booed' at French Open after no handshake with Sabalenka, Evans ousted

PARIS, May 28, (AP) — Unable to sleep the night before her first-round match at the French Open against Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus, the Grand Slam tournament's No. 2 seed, Marta Kostyuk of Ukraine checked her phone at 5 a.m. Sunday and saw disturbing news back home in Kyiv.

At least one person was killed when the capital of Kostyuk's country was subjected to the largest drone attack by Russia since the start of its war, launched with an invasion assisted by Belarus in February 2022.

"It's something I cannot describe, probably. I try to put my emotions aside any time I go out on court. I think I'm better than before, and I don't think it affects me as much on a daily basis, but yeah, it's just - I don't know," Kostyuk said, shaking her head. "There is not much to say, really. It's just part of my life."

That, then, is why Kostyuk has decided she will not exchange the usual postmatch pleasantries with opponents from Russia or Belarus. And that is why she avoided a handshake - avoided any eye contact, even - after losing to Australian Open champion Sabalenka 6-3, 6-2 on Day 1 at Roland Garros.

What surprised the 20-year-old, 39th-ranked Kostyuk on Sunday was the reaction she received from the spectators in Court Philippe Chatrier: They loudly booed and derisively whistled at her as she walked directly over to acknowledge the chair umpire instead of congratulating the winner after the lopsided result. The negative response grew louder as she gathered her belongings and walked off the court toward the locker room.

"I have to say," Kostyuk said, "I didn't expect it. ... People should be, honestly, embarrassed."

Kostyuk is based now in Monaco, and her mother and sister are there, too, but her father and grandfather are still in Kyiv. Perhaps the fans on hand at the clay-court event's main stadium were unaware of the backstory and figured Kostyuk simply failed to follow usual tennis etiquette.

Initially, Sabalenka - who had approached the net as if anticipating some sort of exchange with Kostyuk - thought all of that noise was directed

at her.

"At first, I thought they were booing me," Sabalenka said. "I was a little confused, and I was, like, 'OK, what should I do?'"

Sabalenka tried to ask the chair umpire what was going on. She looked up at her entourage in the stands, too. Then she realized that while she is aware Kostyuk and other Ukrainian tennis players have been declining to greet opponents from Russia or Belarus after a match, the spectators might not have known - and so responded in a way Sabalenka didn't think was deserved.

"They saw it," she surmised, "as disrespect (for) me."

TENNIS

All in all, if the tennis itself was not particularly memorable, the whole scene, including the lack of the customary pre-match photo of the players following the coin toss, became the most noteworthy development on Day 1 in Paris.

The first seeded player to go home left within an hour of the start of play: No. 29 Zhang Shuai lost to Magdalena Frech 6-1, 6-1 in all of 47 minutes. The first seeded man to bow out was No. 20 Dan Evans, eliminated 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 by wildcard entry Thanasi Kokkinakis. No. 11



Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas serves against Jiri Vesely of the Czech Republic during their first round match of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris. (AP)

Karen Khachanov, a semifinalist at the past two majors, came all the way back after dropping the opening two sets to beat Constant Lestienne, a French player once banned for gambling, by a 3-6, 1-6, 6-2, 6-1, 6-3 score in front of a boisterous crowd at Court Suzanne Lenglen. Two-time Slam finalist Stefanos Tsitsipas came within a point of being forced to a fifth set, too, but got past Jiri Vesely 7-5, 6-3, 4-6, 7-6 (7).

Sabalenka called Sunday "emotionally tough" - because of mundane, tennis-related reasons, such as the nerves that come with any first-round match, but more significantly because of the unusual circumstances involving the war.

"You're playing against (a) Ukrainian and you never know what's going to happen. You never know how people will - will they support you or not?" explained Sabalenka, who went down an early break and trailed 3-2 before reeling off six consecutive games with powerful first-strike hitting. "I was worried, like, people will be against me, and I don't like to play when people (are) so much against me."

A journalist from Ukraine asked Sabalenka what her message to the world is with regard to the war, particularly in this context: She can overtake Iga Swiatek at No. 1 in the rankings based on results over the next two weeks and, therefore, serves as a role model.

"Nobody in this world, Russian athletes or Belarusian athletes, support the war. Nobody. How can we support the war? Nobody - normal people - will never support it. Why (do) we have to go loud and say that things? This is like: 'One plus one (is) two.' Of course we don't support war," Sabalenka said. "If it could affect anyhow the war, if it could like stop it, we would do it. But unfortunately, it's not in our hands."

When a portion of those comments was read to Kostyuk by a reporter, she responded in calm, measured tones that she doesn't get why Sabalenka does not come out and say that "she personally doesn't support this war."

Kostyuk also rejected the notion that players from Russia or Belarus could be in a tough spot upon returning to those countries if they were to speak out about what is happening in Ukraine.



Red Bull driver Max Verstappen of the Netherlands celebrates with his trophy on the podium after winning the Monaco Formula One Grand Prix, at the Monaco racetrack, in Monaco. (AP)

Sports

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Verstappen wins Monaco GP to extend lead

Alonso 2nd

MONACO, May 28, (AP): Formula One champion Max Verstappen's lights-to-flag victory at the Monaco Grand Prix gave the Red Bull driver his fourth victory of the season and extended his championship lead to 39 points over teammate Sergio Perez on Sunday.

Spanish veteran Fernando Alonso was a season's best second for Aston Martin as he collected a fifth podium in six races, albeit 28 seconds behind Verstappen, while Frenchman Esteban Ocon secured third place and a rare podium for Alpine.

Red Bull has won all the races so far.

"It's super nice to win it in the way we did today with the weather and everything to stay calm and bring it home," Verstappen said.

MOTOR RACING

For most of the race, he coasted on a dry and narrow track where overtaking is the hardest in F1.

But an incident-free race in Monaco is rare and heavy rain played havoc with about 20 of the 78 laps left. Some drivers had pitted for the wrong medium tires shortly before the downpour and slid around.

"It was incredibly slippery," Verstappen said.

Ferrari's Carlos Sainz Jr. glided sideways into the barriers and was lucky not to damage his Ferrari. Kevin Magnussen lost control of his Haas and Lance Stroll retired after damaging his Aston Martin.

Red Bull had wisely put Verstappen on the versatile and more suited to the wet conditions intermediates on Lap 56 and they carried him to his second win in Monaco. The first was in 2021.

Lewis Hamilton finished fourth for Mercedes and picked up a point for fastest lap. His teammate George Russell was fifth, having earlier almost slammed into Perez as visibility worsened. A serious crash was somehow avoided in a hectic few minutes before the rain eased off.



Red Bull driver Max Verstappen of the Netherlands (left), and Aston Martin driver Fernando Alonso of Spain (right), steer their cars at the start of the Monaco Formula One Grand Prix, at the Monaco racetrack, in Monaco. (AP)

"Braking was extremely fragile," Alonso said. "I think everyone did an amazing job today to keep the cars on track."

Alonso's podium was his 103rd in F1, while Ocon grabbed his third.

"It was a super weekend from everyone at the team," Ocon said. "I hope this is the first of many (podiums this season)."

Russell was given a five-second penalty for rejoining the track in an unsafe manner but had just enough to keep fifth place ahead of Ferrari's Charles Leclerc.

Pierre Gasly (Alpine), a seething Sainz, Lando Norris and Oscar Piastri (both McLaren) rounded out the top 10.

On Saturday, Verstappen just edged out Alonso to deny the 41-year Spaniard his first pole for 11 years.

Primoz makes history

Roglic raises Giro in Rome; Cavendish wins final stage

ROME, May 28, (AP): Primoz Roglic expanded his Grand Tour portfolio by winning the Giro d'Italia on Sunday to add to his three Spanish Vuelta titles.

The former ski jumper became the first Slovenian rider to win the Giro and he did it in dramatic fashion, claiming the lead in the penultimate stage - taking the pink jersey from Geraint Thomas in Saturday's mountain time trial.

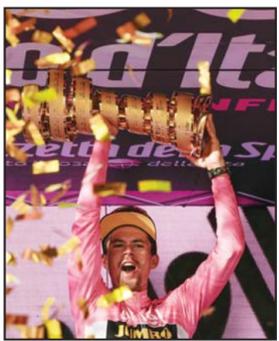
It was the direct opposite of what happened in the 2020 Tour de France, when fellow Slovenian Tadej Pogacar took the lead from Roglic in another penultimate-day mountain time trial.

Riding a pink bike and wearing a pink helmet and pink socks, Roglic took it easy during the mostly ceremonial final stage, a 135-kilometer (84-mile) leg through the cobblestoned streets of Rome that concluded next to the Roman Forum.

Mark Cavendish, who recently announced that he will retire at the end of this season, won the 21st and final stage in a sprint finish.

Roglic, who rides for the Jumbo-Visma team, finished 14 seconds ahead of Thomas and 1 minute, 15 seconds ahead of Joao Almeida in the overall standings.

It's the smallest finishing gap between the top riders in the Giro since



Slovenia's Primoz Roglic holds the overall winner's trophy at the end of the 21st and last stage of the Giro d'Italia, tour of Italy cycling race, in Rome. (AP)

Eddy Merckx won by 12 seconds ahead of Gianbattista Baronchelli in 1974.

CYCLING

Roglic's time trial victory on Monte Lussari was his only stage win of the race.

Bayern present Dreesen as CEO

BERLIN, May 28, (AP): Bayern Munich's firing of club great Oliver Kahn after winning the Bundesliga title has led to a deepening public dispute between the two and dominated questions at his successor's presentation.

Bayern presented Jan-Christian Dreesen as Kahn's replacement as CEO on Sunday, when club president Herbert Hainer defended the decision to dismiss Kahn and sporting director Hasan Salihamidzic the day before.

"Especially in the second half of the season, you could see that we weren't playing as we would have wished," said Hainer, adding that there were also doubts about Kahn and Salihamidzic's ability to turn it around. Former Bay-

ern president Uli Hoeneß was involved in the consultation process.

The timing and manner of the club's decision - Bayern announced the firings shortly after winning a record-extending 11th consecutive league title - have overshadowed the celebrations.

Sunday morning's news conference for Dreesen's presentation also came before Bayern wrapped up the women's Bundesliga title with an 11-1 rout of Turbine Potsdam in the afternoon.

Kahn said in a tweet that he was forbidden "by the club" from attending the game in Cologne or the trophy presentation in Munich and he told Sky TV that "it was the worst day in my life, taking away being able to celebrate with the guys."

White's putback as time expires lifts Boston

Celtics edge Heat in thriller, force Game 7

MIAMI, May 28, (AP): The Boston Celtics were a tenth of a second away from elimination. The Miami Heat were a tenth of a second from the NBA Finals.

Derrick White owned that final moment.

White scored on a putback as time expired and the Boston Celtics moved to the brink of the greatest comeback in NBA playoffs history, holding off the Miami Heat 104-103 on Saturday night to force a Game 7 in the Eastern Conference finals.

"Derrick White, like a flash of lightning, just came out of nowhere and saved the day, man," Boston's Jaylen Brown said. "An incredible play."

White knew it was good. Referees reviewed it, but it didn't take long to give the official word.

Elation for Boston. Devastation for Miami.

"Ball came to me," White said. "I made the shot."

BASKETBALL

Perhaps Boston will call it The Shot. White became the second player in NBA history to hit a buzzer-beater with his team trailing and facing elimination - Michael Jordan's "The Shot" for Chicago against Cleveland in 1989 being the other.

"I was just happy," White said. "Season was on the line. We don't want to go home."

Jayson Tatum scored 31 points, Brown scored 26 and Marcus Smart added 21 for the Celtics, who became only the fourth NBA team to erase a 3-0 deficit in a best-of-seven series and force a deciding game. The others in that club - the 1951 New York Knicks in the NBA Finals, the 1994 Denver Nuggets in the second round and the 2003 Portland Trail Blazers in the first round - all lost Game 7, all on the road.

Boston, however, is going home for its shot at history. Game 7 is Monday night on the Celtics' floor, a matchup that'll decide who meets the Western Conference champion Denver Nuggets in a title series that will start Thursday.

"It's a seven-game series," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "There's nothing better than Game 7s."

Jimmy Butler made three free throws with 3.0 seconds left - the foul was originally called with 2.1 seconds left; referees put 0.9 seconds back on after reviewing the play to see if it was a 3-point try that Al Horford fouled him on - for a one-point Heat lead. It capped a Miami rally from 10 points down with less than 4 minutes remaining.

The Celtics had White inbound the ball on the game's final possession, and he passed to Smart - who missed a 3-pointer. But White sprinted from the inbound spot to the rim, the ball fell into his hands and he got the lay-in away just before time ran out to extend Boston's season.

There had been other buzzer-beaters from players whose teams were facing an elimination game, but before Satur-

Kuwaiti shooter Al-Mudhaf wins World Cup bronze



Kuwait's Khaled Al-Mudhaf (right) celebrates with other winners at the end of Trap competition. (KUNA photo)

ALMATY, Kazakhstan, May 28, (KUNA): Kuwait's Khaled Al-Mudhaf snatched the bronze medal in the Trap Men category of the Shooting World Cup Shotgun, currently held in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

His compatriot Mansour Al-Rashidi came fourth in the Skeet Men category of the same championship, President of the Kuwait Shooting Federation Duaj Al-Otaibi announced

in a press statement.

He lauded the successive achievements of the Kuwaiti athletes in international championships despite fierce competition from the world's top shooters.

Italian shooter Fabbri Massimo came first and won the gold medal and Australian shooter Willett James won the silver medal of the Trap Men competition.

day, only Jordan's came with his team trailing.

Celtics coach Joe Mazzulla was asked what went through his mind at that moment.

"Nothing," Mazzulla said. "Game 7?"

Butler scored 24 points and Caleb Martin had 21 for the Heat, who are

trying to pull off their own improbable trek to the title series by being only the second No. 8 seed to make the NBA Finals. They've now lost as many games this week - three - as they had in their first 14 playoff games this spring combined on the way to ousting No. 1 Milwaukee, then No. 5 New

York and taking what was supposed to be an insurmountable 3-0 lead over the second-seeded Celtics.

"We've got to go on the road and do something special," Butler said. "But we've got a special group."

The Celtics have now won five of their last six East finals games in Miami - a stretch that includes a Game 7 over the Heat last season to reach the NBA Finals.

That one, obviously, ended the Heat season. At least this time, Miami still has a chance.

"I don't know how we're going to get this done, but we're going to go out there and get it done," Spoelstra said. "And that's what the next 48 hours is about. There's been nothing easy about this season for our group, and so we just have to do it the hard way."

The Heat are the 151st team to grab a 3-0 series lead in a best-of-seven. All 150 of the previous clubs finished the job. But the Celtics have made very clear that they have other ideas, and Mazzulla listed a lot of reasons why.

"Faith. Love. Togetherness. Physicality. Belief. Hope," Mazzulla said. "All those things combined. It starts with the locker room. Those guys had a choice to make and they chose to believe in each other."



Boston Celtics guard Marcus Smart (36) takes a shot against Miami Heat guard Max Strus (31) during the second half of Game 6 of the NBA basketball Eastern Conference finals in Miami. (AP)