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HH Crown Prince receives call from Jordan's King Abdullah II

KUWAIT CITY, June 5, (KUNA): His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah received a phone call from

King Abdullah II of Jordan, congratulating him on being appointed as the Crown Prince by an Amiri decree.

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Reach out to embassies in emergencies: Foreign Ministry

Kuwait warns summer travelers of rising thefts

KUWAIT CITY, June 5, (KUNA): The Ministry of Foreign Affairs called on citizens wishing to travel during the summer time to exercise caution during their travel due to the increasing cases of theft of personal belongings and passports.

In a statement, the ministry called on citizens to communicate with Kuwait embassies in the event of any emergency, including the consular communication service center inside and outside the country via the following numbers: Consular center: +965-159

Backup line: +965-22225504 The ministry also expressed wishes for safe travel and return to all.

Visa 18 up

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 5:

According to informed

sources, there is a plan to

increase the percentage of

Kuwaiti employees from

25 percent to 50 percent

in private companies, and

from 30 percent to 60 per-

cent in the private oil com-

They explained that a meeting

was recently held by the private

sector workers union and the

Deputy Director General of Na-

tional Workers Department at the Public Authority for Manpower

(PAM) Najat Al-Yousef with the

participation of the private oil

The meeting concluded with the

suggestion to implement the afore-

mentioned percentage of Kuwaitiza-

tion in the concerned companies and to toughen the penalties against the

violating companies by suspending

or blocking the file of the relevant

company and increasing the value of

the fine by three times more than the

The sources revealed that this

meeting was held because of the lack

of commitment of many companies

in the private sector to the rules as

well as their mistreatment of Kuwaiti

Continued on Page 3

companies union.

current value.

panies.

Minister highlights success

Gulf youth make strides via collaborative efforts

KUWAIT CITY, June 5, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs, and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah affirmed that Gulf youth work is achieving great progress in various field, due to cooperation between youth sponsoring authorities in Gulf countries.



In a press statement on Wednesday, during the celebrations of Gulf Youth Day in its third edition, Al-Huwailah said that this was achieved in implementation of the directives of GCC leaders, considering that the youth are change-makers and future leaders. She affirmed

Al-Huwailah

youth work in Kuwait witnessed a remarkable progress, due to the directives of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, as well as the follow up of His Highness the Prime Miniter Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Sabah, to hone the youngesters' talents.

Al-Huwaila pointed out that Kuwait, represented by the Youth and Sports Authorities, is keen to boost cooperation between Gulf countries in various fields, calling on Kuwaiti and Gulf youth to take advantage of the opportunities and work to achieve their aspirations and

She noted that the joint Gulf work is aimed at exchanging experiences and organizing joint events that provide Kuwaiti and Gulf youth with an opportunity to communicate, cooperate and strengthen bilateral relations, considering that collective work and regional integration are the key to developing Gulf youth work.

Kuwait will spare no effort in caring for Kuwaiti youth and empowering them in various fields by providing them with the necessary skills and knowledge to be innovate and creative, she added, expressing great confidence in their ability to make positive changes in soci-

Al-Huwaila congratulated the Gulf youth on Youth Day, as it is an important occasion to celebrate their achievements in various fields, stressing that they represent a fundamental pillar in the process of development in the Gulf countries

Newswatch

Expat detained for alleged terror plot

KUWAIT CITY, June 5, (KUNA): The Public Prosecution detained a resident on Wednesday for allegedly joining an outlawed group and plotting a hostile act against a foreign state.

Additionally, the expatriate faces accusations of training in the illicit production and use of explosives, violating "the Emirate Status," maintaining social media ties with the outlawed group, and disseminating materials promoting its ideology.

Furthermore, the individual is charged with recruiting foreign fighters, providing explosives training, and conducting firearms training at shooting

Following interrogation, the suspect confessed to the charges. The case is under investigation.

DOHA: The Qatari Cabinet on Wednesday expressed congratulations to His Highness Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah on his appointment as the State of Kuwait's Crown Prince, wishing him success in the senior post service and further prosperity and progress for the Kuwaiti people.

The Qatari news agency said the felicitations were expressed by the cabinet during a session, headed by Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad bin Abdulrahman al-Thani, held at the Amiri Diwan.

QNA said the cabinet lauded the outcome of the official visit, recently paid by the Qatari Amir **Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani** to **Cyprus** and **Greece**. It added that the ministers examined other topics on the session's agenda, namely the Shura Council's adoption of a bill amending the law of Qatar Finan-

cial Center. (KUNA)

KUWAIT CITY: The State of Kuwait welcomes Slovenia's official recognition of the **State Palestine**, which is a positive step in line with concerned international resolutions, said a ministerial statement on Wednesday.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs affirmed that Slovenia's recognition, which supports UNSC resolutions and the Arab peace initiative, would hopefully lead to the creation of an independent Palestinian state within the 1967 borders and east Jerusalem as capital.

The statement reflected Kuwait's firm stance on Palestine as well its calls for more countries to take similar steps for a just and comprehensive solution for the Palestinian cause. (KUNA)

KUWAIT CITY: The Ambassador of the Republic of Mongolia to Kuwait, Sergelin Borev Shadai, stressed on Wednesday his country's keenness to work and enhance cooperation in various fields with

Kuwait, especially in the tourism sector. Shadai said in a press statement issued by the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry after receiving an economic delegation specialized in the tourism sector, headed by the Ambassador, "the main goal of this visit is to review the investment opportunities available in Mongolia in the tourism sector. (KUNA)





Ministry of Health photos Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi honors Ministry of Health's official spokesperson Dr. Abdullah Al-Sanad

Chronic diseases major cause of death: Al-Awadhi

Health Mall initiative boosts wellness in Kuwait

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 5: Chronic diseases are among the most common causes of ill health and death locally and globally; with the World Health Organization (WHO) estimating that 40 million people die annually due to these diseases -- 70 percent of total deaths around the world, says Health Minister Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi.

In his speech during the Healthy Cities Office's honoring of the commercial complexes that won the health-promoting complex accreditation awards; Al-Awadhi pointed out that chronic diseases are considered a burden on public health, economic and social developments, and could drain health and societal resources.

He said the ministry believes that building healthy communities is the cornerstone of improving public health through multi-sector partnerships – governmental, civil institutions,



Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi delivers a speech celebrating and honoring the Healthy Cities Office.

individuals and private sector.

He added the 'Health Mall' initiative is the best example of concerted efforts to improve the health of the population in Kuwait by providing a supportive environment for adopting healthy lifestyles at the malls.

He explained the initiative aims to raise the awareness of visitors and workers in malls about the importance of good health, provide an enhanced environment for practicing and adopting healthy behaviors, protect the environment, and highlight the significance of the private sector's social responsibility in supporting health initiatives.

On the other hand, Head of the Healthy Cities Office at the Ministry of Health Dr. Amal Al-Yahya stated in her speech that the first edition of the health-promoting commercial complexes initiative is a progressive step towards the implementation of the healthy cities project in Kuwait.

She confirmed the approval of six commercial complexes to implement the initiative and four of them are now at the evaluation and accreditation stages, which is regarded as double success for the Healthy Cities Office. She disclosed this is done by applying health mall

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Kuwait 'revokes' citizenship of 12

KUWAIT CITY, June 5: The Council of Ministers has issued decisions to revoke the Kuwaiti citizenship of 12 persons in accordance with the provisions outlined in Articles 10 and 11 of Law 15 of 1959, reports Al-Qabas

These decisions were reached subsequent to the review of cases wherein individuals either acquired citizenship through establishment or naturalization.

The decisions were made with the endorsement of the Supreme Committee tasked with facilitating attainment of Kuwaiti citizenship.

Meteorological system upgrade

Inspection blitz at four co-ops

Commerce Ministry orders price monitoring ahead of Eid Al-Adha

KUWAIT CITY, June 5: The Commercial Control and Consumer Protection Sector at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has instructed inspectors from different departments under it, including the commercial control and emergency teams, to monitor

Energy plans face procedural delays

KUWAIT CITY, June 5: The Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy has failed to achieve self-sufficiency in energy for three main reasons – lack of budget for each energy production project, delay in bidding and contract awarding procedures, and delayed approval of regulatory authorities, reports Al-Seyassah daily quoting reli-

Sources said the total electricity production was supposed to reach 20,962 megawatts in 2022; but this did not happen for the abovementioned reasons. Sources pointed out that the total power production

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prices in the markets, especially now that Eid Al-Adha is fast approaching, reports Al-Anba daily quoting sources.

Sources confirmed that the Commercial Control and Consumer Protection Sector at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Cooperative Sector in the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor collaborated to organize a workshop aimed at exchanging experiences between the inspectors of the two ministries; specifically to compare the prices of fruits and vegetables in cooperative societies and Fartha Market. Sources said this workshop paved the way for fruitful cooperation to enhance transparency and protection of consumers.

As part of the ongoing efforts, the Jahra and Farwaniya Emergency Team in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, in cooperation with inspectors at the Ministry of Social Affairs, carried out a surprise inspection campaign in four cooperative societies. This led to the recording of one violation in a cooperative society and issuance of four warnings to another cooperative.

The team also continued its daily inspection tours, which resulted in recording three seizure reports for shops and commercial

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Kuwait's DGCA, Meteo France sign contract

KUWAIT CITY, June 5, (KUNA): Kuwait's Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Wednesday signed a KD 1.8 million (approx. USD 41.8 billion) contract with Meteo France for project developing Kuwait International Airport meteorological

DGCA's Deputy Director Saad Al-Otaibi told KUNA that the venture part of a bigger plan of 11 projects aiming to develop avia-

The two-part contract, explained Al-Otaibi, includes a detection and warning system for dusty weather and sandstorms, and a second generation system for data analysis.

The contract is valid for some 930 days, followed by a four-year maintenance period.

It was co-signed by DGCA chief Sheikh Humoud Al-Sabah and President of Meteo France, Patrick Benichou.



Kuwait's Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) signed a contract with Meteo France for project developing Kuwait International Airport meteorological system.

Expected weather for next 24 hrs: By Day: Very hot and relatively humid with light to moderate northwesterly wind changing to light variable wind, with speeds of 10-35 km/h.

By Night: Hot to rather hot and

relatively humid with light variable wind to light to moderate southwesterly wind, with speeds of 06-

Weather

28 km/h. Station Max Exp Min Rec **Kuwait City**

Kuwait Airport 28 47 Abdaly 28 Jahra 48 32 Salmivah 43 35 46 Nuwaisib 31 Wafra 26

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

HH the Crown Prince receives congratulations

KUWAIT CITY, June 5, (KUNA): President of Kuwait's Olympic Committee Sheikh Fahad Nasser Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah congratulated on Wednesday, on behalf of Kuwait's sport movement members, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah on being appointed as Crown Prince by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

In a press statement, Sheikh

Fahad wished His Highness the Crown Prince progress, prosperity and further success in serving the country.

He expressed his optimism regarding Kuwait's sport movement, noting that His Highness is considered a prominent supporter towards the movement, making aspirations for a bright future.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahamd Al-Jaber received a congratulatory phone call from UAE President Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed Al Nahyan on the occasion of appointing Sheikh Sabah Kahled Al-Hamad as Crown Prince.

Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed Al Nahyan wished His Highness the Amir good health and wellbeing, and progress and prosperity to the people of Kuwait.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad received a phone call from Chairman of the Yemeni Presidential Leadership Council Rashad Al-Alimi, congratulating him on assuming office.

During the phone call, Al-Alimi wished His Highness the Crown Prince good health and wellbeing and more progress and prosperity to Kuwait and the Kuwaiti people.

In return, His Highness the Crown Prince expressed his sincere gratitude towards the Yemeni leader for his heartfelt sentiments that reflect the deep-rooted relations between Kuwait and Yemen, and wished Yemen and its people more progress and pros-

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad received a congratulatory phone call from Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati on the occasion of appointing him as Crown Prince.

In turn, His Highness the Crown Prince extended his gratitude towards Mikati's sincere gesture that embodies the deep-rooted bilateral relations, as the Crown Prince wished the prime minister health and well-being and further progress and prosperity to the people of

HH Amir congratulates King of Denmark on National Day

KUWAIT CITY, June 5, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations on Wednesday to King of Denmark Frederik X on his country's National Day.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir wished King Frederik X good health and wellbeing and for Denmark and its people more progress and prosperity.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah sent a congratulatory cable to King of Denmark Frederik X, wishing him good health and wellbe-

Also, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a congratulatory cable to King Frederik X on Denmark's National Day.

Foreign Currency Cards included

KFH offers 6 banking products for holiday and travel season

KUWAIT CITY, June 5: During the holiday and travel season, Kuwait Finance House (KFH) offers a variety of products and services tailored to its customers' needs. The bank consistently provides exceptional benefits and innovative solutions designed to fit customers' lifestyles and ensure a smooth banking experience. **Banking Cards**

KFH offers a variety of credit, debit, and prepaid cards that provide convenience and limit customers' reliance on cash for enhanced security. These cards come with spending rewards and benefits, allowing cardholders to enjoy a list of outstanding perks, including discounts and access to VIP lounges.

KFH recently launched a range of new

credit cards, including the Mastercard World Elite, Visa Infinite with a metal finish, Visa Signature, and the Al-Tayseer Diamond card. Additionally, it introduced the Foreign Currency Visa Prepaid Card, designed to simplify travel and online shopping in various currencies. This card allows customers to conveniently load and pay in different currencies, manage their payments directly, and avoid foreign exchange fees. It provides a secure and convenient alternative for travelers to carry their spending money. The card is available in five major currencies: US Dollar, Pound Sterling, Euro, UAE Dirham, Saudi Rival, and Turkish Lira.

Safe Deposit Boxes

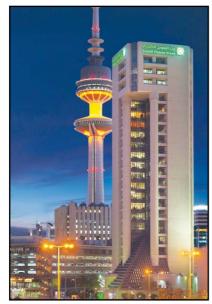
KFH offers its customers peace of mind with its Safe Deposit Boxes. These secure boxes come in three sizes: small, medium, and large. Customers can rent the boxes for short or long terms, ensuring the safety of their valuables and belongings at all times, especially while

Foreign Currencies

KFH offers competitive foreign exchange services for over 25 of the world's most traded currencies, allowing customers to exchange money at afford-

able rates. **International Toll-Free Calls**

KFH offers an international toll-free service in 7 countries: USA, Canada, UK, France, Germany, Türkiye, and Spain. This service allows customers to call KFH's call center 24/7 at no additional charge. Customers calling from these countries will receive priority service from KFH's agents, ensuring a faster response time. To use this service and reach KFH's (Aloo Baitak) Call Center, customers outside



Kuwait Finance House headquarters.

Kuwait can call the following toll-free numbers: USA & Canada (1-800-818-8608), UK (0800 014 8898), France (0805 08 66 20), Germany (0800 181 7080), Spain (900 905 440), Türkiye (908 503 902 170). This is a free service offered for calls from mobiles or landlines only. It does not apply to roaming services.

Opening a Banking Account in Türkiye

KFH customers in Kuwait can open a bank account with KFH-Türkiye and enjoy a variety of benefits. These include free online transfers from their KFH-Kuwait account to beneficiary accounts at KFH-Türkiye, with no SWIFT fees and no minimum balance requirement. Additionally, they can conveniently manage invoices and other payments in Türkiye through KFH's online banking services.

Financing Cars outside Kuwait

KFH offers a convenient service for customers looking to buy a car abroad. Customers can choose their desired vehicle and have it delivered directly to Egypt, Jordan, the USA, or Türkiye through KFH's network of authorized suppliers. This service comes with flexible financing options that comply with KFH's established credit criteria. It simplifies the car buying process and is a strong contender for one of the best financing solutions available.

Saudi cabinet hails strong Kuwait ties

JEDDAH, June 5, (KUNA): The Saudi Cabinet welcomed Tuesday the results of Saudi-Kuwaiti coordinative council that reflected the deep-rooted fraternal relations between the two countries and their peoples in all domains.

This came in a statement carried by Saudi Press Agency (SPA), citing Saudi Minister of Information Salman Al-Dosari after a virtual cabinet meeting led by King Salman bin Abdulaziz in Jeddah.

King Salman got reassured about complete preparations, efforts and arrangements for this year's hajj season, it added, noting that King Salman expressed the Kingdom's pride for serving pilgrims.

The cabinet was briefed on the results of Kingdom's participation in some meetings held on the level of GCC and

Arab League. The cabinet said that it looks forward to further upgrading joint action for wider horizons, in line with the firm historical and fraternal relations and bonds,

according to the statement. The ministers commended the outputs of the 37th ministerial meeting of OPEC+, affirming that the Kingdom and

seven other countries' decision to extend a voluntary cut enhances precautionary efforts made by the OPEC+ coalition, with the aim of backing stability at oil

Kingdom's hosting of World Environment Day activities on Wednesday, affirms the country's leading role locally, regionally and internationally, it said.

The cabinet renewed Saudi Arabia's keenness on continuing supporting international endeavors aiming to achieve security and stability in the region.

The coordinative council meeting was held in Kuwait Monday, under the co-chairmanship of Kuwaiti Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya and his Saudi peer Prince Faisal bin Farhan, with the participation of heads of sub-

The coordinative council underlined the deep-rooted relations between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia in all fields and means of developing them and meeting aspirations of the two countries' leaderships.

The two sides underlined the need of boosting cooperation in political fields and joint coordination on international, regional and bilateral levels.

MoE applies 'strict measures' at secret exam printing press

Rumors about leakage of biology test paper denied

By Abdul Rahman Al-Shammari Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 5: The Ministry of Education applied strict measures at the secret printing press on Wednesday morning under the direct supervision of the Minister of Education, Higher **Education and Scientific** Research Dr. Adel Al-Adwani, and the presence of two undersecretaries Mansour Al-Daihani and Mansour Al-Dhafiri to follow-up the process of the transfer of the exam papers to the headquarters of the exam commit-

On Wednesday, Grade 12 students resumed taking their exams in all sectors - scientific (biology), humanity (philosophy) and religious (Arabic - criticism and rhetoric). In the same context, responsible

educational sources denied the rumors about the leakage of the biol-

They called on students to focus on their studies and stay away from everything that could distract them, as well as adhere to the instructions and guidance provided to them in the exam committees, and not be carried away by the accounts that try to destabilize their educational career, as it can negatively affect their concentration and academic achievement.

The sources affirmed that the Ministry of Education is coordinating with the Ministry of Interior's Cyber Crime Department to monitor suspicious accounts that spread inaccurate information related to the secondary exams, adding that the ministry will not hesitate to take all necessary legal measures with the cooperation of the relevant authorities in this re-

Success

It is worth highlighting that the Grade 12 students of the scientific and humanity sections sat for their exam with all comfort and determination to complete their path to success to take the end-ofterm exam for the second period of the 2023/2024 academic year. The students of the scientific section sat for the biology exam, the humanity section students sat for the philosophy exam, and the religious education students sat for the Arabic language (criticism and rhetoric) exam.

In this regard, the head of the exam committee in Jumana Bint Abi Talib Secondary School Naima Al-Enezi affirmed the keenness of the school administration to prepare in advance for the examination period to offer psychological support to the students, provide all means of comfort in the examination halls, provide the exam committees with all systems and regulations, and ensure all procedures are followed.

She revealed the ongoing cooperation with cooperative societies to provide snacks for female students, adding that a nurse was also arranged to deal with any emergency situations.

Al-Enezi said, "The number of committees for female students in the science class and female students in the humanity class is four each. There is one main committee for students with learning difficulties. The number of female students was 74, divided by 53 in the scientific section and 21 in humanity. There are 44 female home students, divided by 18 in the sci-



Photo by Mohammad Morsi

Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Child Affairs, and Minister of State for Youth Affairs, Dr. Amthal Al-Huwaila during the inauguration of the Community Development Center in West Abdullah Mubarak region.

W. Abdullah Al-Mubarak area residents to benefit

New Community Development Center opens

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff KUWAIT CITY, June 5: During the opening of the Community Development Center in West Abdullah Al-Mubarak, the Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs and the Minister of State for Youth Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwaila affirmed that the center aims to provide its services to

the residents of the area. She highlighted the directives of His Highness the Amir to quickly implement such projects that provide services to citizens in various

Meanwhile, the Acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs Dr. Khaled Al-Ajmi revealed that the beneficiaries of the "People in Debt 2" campaign are more than 2,000 male and female debtors who meet the conditions that were explained previously.

In a press statement issued on the sidelines of the opening of the center, he explained that reservation for the center will be available during the next few days.

The aim of the service is to reduce the burden on citizens and support families in using these centers to serve them, as it is a qualitative and advanced work from the Ministry of Social Affairs, which seeks greatly to provide social services to citizens.

The work of the committee for debtors formed by the Minister of Social Affairs has ended. The data and amounts collected during the campaign have been provided. It is expected that the debts will be paid by the Ministry of Justice's Judgment Implementation Department

very soon. Al-Ajmi said, "In implementation of the state policies and the speech of His Highness the Amir, all doors are open and all fields are available to citizens. What matters to me is that services are provided with high quality and the satisfac-

tion of citizens are met. Our hearts as well as our doors are open to everyone. We welcome any citizen who has any specific

By Fares Al-Abdan on the Events House application suggestion or idea. We are ready to provide all support for everything that serves the state and citizens.

Work strategies change according to developments. We are currently in a new phase of agreement and resolve. We are ready to provide all services based on the new vision and be closer to the citizens. Everything that falls under that will be modified in line with the new vision during the next few days."

Regarding the fight against corruption, he said, "Regardless of the type of corruption, no one who harms or tries to harm public funds will escape. We will carry out the supervisory role in accordance with the law. No person linked to corruption will escape punishment. The ministry is decisive in this matter.

"The principle of cooperative work is to provide service to citizens at a lower cost. The Ministry of Social Affairs seeks to implement all regulations. I would like to stress that cooperative work is a huge, important and qualitative work and will be under the supervision and follow-up of the ministry.'

at large, as it facilitates the easy withdrawal of Eidyas. On its part,

Burgan Bank has always been

committed to participating in and

supporting all initiatives organized

by CBK and KBA to help serve all

customers of the banking sector in

Kuwait.

Burgan Bank joins hands with CBK & KBA for Eidity Campaign ahead of Eid AlAdha

KUWAIT CITY, June 5: In the leadup to Eid AlAdha, Burgan Bank is once again participating in supporting the Eidity campaign in collaboration with the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK), the Kuwait Banking Association (KBA), and KNET. As part of the campaign, a total of 17 ATMs spread across the Bank's Head Office, select branches (Al-Jahra and Al-Adailiya), and a number of malls, including the Avenues, Al Khiran Mall, Al Kout Mall, Marina Mall, Maghateer Mall and 360 Mall, will provide bank customers and the public with cash bills in all denominations. In addition, the Bank is providing customers with Eidya cash bills through its 29 branches across Kuwait, due to



Eidity Campaign flyer.

increased demand during the Eid

The Eidity initiative has been quite successful throughout the past few years, being well received by customers and the public

Every year, Burgan Bank also offers a complimentary Eidya delivery service to its Elite and Private Banking customers, in collaboration with Peacock Concierge. As part of this service, the Bank delivers fresh bank notes in the denominations of the customer's choice and to any location they prefer – be it their home or workplace – to save them the hassle of visiting a branch in per-

entific section and 26 in humanity.

Head of the exam committee in Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah High School, which is affiliated with the Capital Educational Zone, Mutreb Al-Arak stated that the exam committees included three main committees and one special commit-

As for the total number of students, he said there are a total of 132 students with 48 from the humanity section, and 84 from the scientific section.

Al-Arak revealed that the conduct of the exam within the committees was smooth and calm, and the students were reassured.

He affirmed the constant keenness of the Ministry of Education to implement the regulations and systems to ensure the quality of education and the progress of the educational process.

Al-Arak wished all students success and prosperity in their examinations.

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A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'Academic certificates forgery is eroding education system'

"FORGERY of academic certificates is considered the primary factor in the decline of the educational process. These forged certificates are obtained in exchange for a sum of money, in any desired specialization," columnist **Dr Bahija Behbehani** wrote for Al-Qabas daily.

"Subsequently, individuals obtain higher degrees from bogus institutions without exerting efforts to research or study the content of the advanced degrees they hold.

"They lack understanding of the content of the specialization they claim, their minds are rigid, and they lack experience in teaching and transferring knowledge and skills to learners, leading students to resort to cheating to suc-

ceed. "One reason some resort to forging academic certificates is the proliferation of universities advertised on social media platforms, offeruniversity



degrees in a short period for a fee. Some individuals desire higher degrees to advance in their careers and occupy supervisory positions, benefiting from both moral and

material advantages. "Others seek academic titles to secure a prestigious social status. The danger of some obtaining forged certificates lies in providing opportunities for non-specialists to obtain university degrees, falsely qualifying them for tasks they are not competent to perform, leading to the deterioration of education.

"Furthermore, academic promotions are also subject to forgery, necessitating thorough examination of promotion files for each applicant, and strict adherence by the promotion committee to apply the regula-tions precisely to the applicant's file.

"Obtaining an academic promotion without justification is a form of corruption, as the promoted individual receives a significant financial increase added to their salary.
"They also have the opportunity

to occupy a supervisory position for financial gain without possessing the qualifications for that position, and all this money comes from the state's public funds. 37,000 employees in the Ministry of Education have evaded scrutiny of their certificates, while others have resigned preemptively to avoid accountability and punishment, all of which leads to poor quality out-

"Forgery of academic certificates is classified as a crime according to Kuwaiti law: "The perpetrator shall be punished with imprisonment for a period not less than 5 years, along with a hefty fine, and deprivation from holding any position in the public sector for a period not less than 10 years."

"Despite the severity in dealing with cases of certificate forgery, the phenomenon continues to spread in the country. The government must deal firmly and decisively with certificate forgers and academic promotions as they are the main cause of the decline in education in Kuwait."

"The decision to replace street names is seen as historic and democratic, as well as practical and necessary. Many of the individuals after whom streets were named are relatively unknown, and some names may have been chosen arbitrarily without any significant meaning or representation," columnist Abdullatif Al-Duaij wrote for Al-Jarida

"This practice can be seen as evidence of chaos, corruption, nepotism, and favoritism within society, leading to discrimination between citizens based on power or influence.

"Replacing these names with more meaningful and representative ones is considered a correct decision in line with principles of justice, equality, and the characteristics of civilized

"It aligns with the democratic system and aims to ensure that street names reflect the values and contributions of society as a whole.

"However, it's essential to acknowledge that there are individuals whose contributions deserve recognition and praise, not for the sake of glorification, but to honor their valuable contributions to society. Naming statues and objects after such individuals serves to commemorate their deeds and reinforce the importance of their roles in public life.
"While the Council of Ministers'

decision focused on reconsidering street names, it's hoped that this reconsideration will extend to residential areas as well.

"Residential areas, being more widely used and prevalent, should also reflect names that honor individuals who have contributed positively to society.

"It's suggested that naming entire regions after individuals solely based on their status may not always be fair or beneficial for the country, as some names may carry negative connotations or have caused harm rather than

"In summary, the decision to reconsider street names is a step towards creating a more inclusive and representative public space that reflects the values and contributions of

"It's important to strike a balance between honoring deserving individuals and ensuring that names chosen for public spaces uphold principles of justice, equality, and democracy."

"There is no doubt that the decision of His Highness the Amir (May God protect him) to choose His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled for the position of Crown Prince reveals the shrewdness of a leader who broke all expectations, analyses, and speculations that have been buzzing on social media over the past few months", columnist Major General Faisal Al-Jazzaf wrote for Al-Seyassah daily.

"This confirms that His Highness the Amir had depth and insight when making the choice, because the circumstances required such a seasoned personality to support him in leading the upcoming difficult stage.

"His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled has a practical political history. He used to be the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and then became the Prime Minister. He has a long experience in public affairs. He possesses superior shrewdness, and distinguished international relations. For this reason he will be the best help and support for overcoming all obstacles in the next stage.

"This sound choice also revealed the great popular acceptance of Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled's endorsement as the Crown Prince.

"Today it has become imperative

for all of us to unite on one word, and be in one line in order to face the challenges and tackle all obstacles, as well as confront anyone who disturbs the serenity of this new stage in building a new Kuwait that is capable of overcoming its decline due to problems that we all know had led to the current unprecedented decline.

"Your Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, may God bless your work and success. May you be the best support for your guardian, your country, and your people. Kuwait deserves sacrifice, as it is our refuge and safe haven.

"We ask God to protect Kuwait and its people from all harm under the leadership of His Highness the Amir, and His Highness the Crown

Prince (May God protect them). "Also, O God, have mercy on our

righteous martyrs.' — Compiled by PFX Fernandes

and Mahmoud Ateyieh

Customers may receive new Eidia notes

ABK joins CBK and KBA's 'Eidity' initiative

KUWAIT CITY, June 5: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) announced its participation in the Central Bank of Kuwait and Kuwait Banking Association's (KBA) 'Eidity' initiative

which aims to provide Eidia in various Kuwaiti Dinar denominations on the blessed occasion of Eid Al Adha. ABK clarified that

Eidia will be provided to customers who visit any of the Bank's across Kuwait by

branches placing a request

with one of the present employees. Furthermore, ABK will be providing Eidia delivery service for its Elite and Private Banking customers. This is in addition to providing Eidia via the Bank's interactive teller machines (ITMs) in the Al-Khiran and Al Jabriya

Marafi

branches.

ABK's participation highlights the Bank's eagerness to provide convenient banking services to all segments of society and to encourage financial inclusion.

On this occasion, Johair Marafi, General Manager of Retail Banking at ABK, extended her greetings and said, "In cooperation with CBK and KBA, our branches are ready to provide Eidia

across the country."

Marafi continued, "The ABK team is ready to face the increase in customers' withdrawals while ensuring the best banking service and utmost satisfaction at all times. In order for customers to get their Eidia, they may visit ABK branches during official working hours.'

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

Road accident involving 2 vehicles kills 51-year-old Syrian; 15 injured

2 assistant officers fired over G-12 exam leak scandal

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, June 5: A 51-year old Syrian expatriate died, and 14 expatriates of Egyptian, Syrian and Pakistani nationalities as well as a Kuwaiti citizen sustained injuries when two vehicles collided and one of them overturned on the Sixth Ring Road opposite Sulaibiya towards Messila.

According to security sources, when the Operations Room of the Ministry of Interior received information about the accident, securitymen and paramedics rushed to the location.

Upon arrival, they discovered that the driver of the overturned vehicle - a Syrian expatriate - died and 14 other expatriates sustained injuries. The driver of the second vehicle - a Kuwaiti citizen - also sustained injuries.

Paramedics took the injured victims to the nearest hospital, and the body of the deceased was referred to the Forensic Medicine Department. A case was filed for investigations.

2 asst undersecretaries fired: The recent scandal of the leakage of exam papers of Islamic Education for Grade 12 has resulted in the dismissal of two assistant undersecretaries so far, reports Al-Shahed daily.

According to informed sources, investigations in this regard are ongoing.

The Minister of Education, Higher Education and Scientific Research Dr. Adel Al-Adwani had addressed the Ministry of Interior to take the necessary procedures in this regard.

He issued a decision to appoint the Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Development and Activities Mariam Al-Enezi as the Acting Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Research and Curricula along with her current posi-

He also appointed the Director General of Mubarak Al-Kabeer Educational Zone Mansour Al-Dhufairi as the Acting Assistant Undersecretary for Public Education along with his current position.

Previously, Dr Al-Adwani had affirmed the keenness of the ministry to punish whoever is held accountable for the exam leakage irrespective of his position, and highlighted the serious attitude of the ministry to fight corruption.

Officer referred to Prosecution: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (NAZAHA) referred a former supervisor in the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development to the Public Prosecution on suspicion of forgery and embezzling public money, reports Al-Jarida

The bureau confirmed its intention to continue the efforts and procedures regarding examining and collecting inferences and investigations into all serious and complete information.

Travellers cautioned: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has called upon the Kuwaiti citizens who are interested in spending their summer vacation overseas to take care of their personal belongings and passports while they are traveling, reports Al-Shahed daily.

The ministry highlighted the recent increase in the number of theft cases, which require everyone to keep an eye on their

The ministry asked all citizens who travel overseas to contact the relevant Kuwaiti Embassy or consulate in case they face such crimes.

HH Crown Prince

Continued from Page 1

In the phone call, King Abdullah II wished the Crown Prince long-lasting health, and the country of Kuwait and its people further progress and prosperity, under the leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber

In reply, the Crown Prince thanked King Abdullah II for his kind words and wished him good health, and Jordan and its people more growth and success.

Earlier, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received His Highness Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at Bayan Palace

His Highness the Crown Prince also met with First Deputy Prime Minister, Defense Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah at Bayan Palace on Wednesday.

Proposal seeks

Continued from Page 1

workers such as firing them for no reason.

Meanwhile, a recent statistics released by the Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) revealed that the total number of Kuwaitis working in the private sector is 72,591 as of the end of 2023.

On the other hand, a statistics issued by the General Department of Migration in the Ministry of Interior revealed an increase in the number of residents with Article 18 visas in recent years.

This indicates that the measures adopted for addressing the demographic issue are having an adverse effect.

The statistics issued by the General Department of Migration recorded an increase of about 250,431 holders of Visa 18 from 1,248,435 at the end of 2021 to 1,500,776 as of the end of 2023. It also revealed that the number of domestic workers (holders of Article 20 visa) also increased by 194,718 from 591,368 in 2021 to 786,086 in 2023.

Health Mall

Continued from Page 1

standards and obtaining accreditation as a health-promoting commercial complex that guarantees commitment to standards for supporting health, environmental and social development.

She affirmed the initiative is a partnership between the ministry and the private sector, indicating this is one of the goals of the development plan and the new Kuwait vision. She appreciated the efforts of the ministry and the complexes that contributed to the success of the initiative, as well as facilitating the logistical and organizational procedures for implementing the initiative.

Moreover, Director of the initiative Dr. Laila Al-Fuzaie stated that the number of people from various walks of life who visit some complexes is estimated at 40,000 per day and this number remarkably increases during holidays -- around 160,000 to 180,000 per day. She clarified the initiative aims to provide a valuable model for the performance of commercial complexes in terms of promoting human and community health, and preventing chronic non-communicable diseases, by providing a healthy environment that supports the healthy behavior of individuals in shopping places.



One of the tire collection sites.

Al-Qabas photo

Can be used in waste-to-energy projects

Dr Al-Zaidan champions sustainable solutions for used tires in Salmi area

KUWAIT CITY, June 5: Dr. Abdullah Al-Zaidan, Deputy Director General for Technical Affairs at the Environment Public Authority, emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts with relevant authorities to address the issue of used tires in Al-Salmi, reports Al-Qabas

He highlighted the need for sustainable environmental solutions to enhance the country's environmental conditions and foster opportunities for development projects.

In a press statement following a visit to the Al-Salmi area alongside Jawhar Al-Saleh, the appointed Director General of the authority, Dr. Al-Zaidan underscored the potential of used tires as a national asset for development initiatives. He noted their versatility as raw materials for road quality enhancement and their utility in various applications such as thermal insulation and service road paving through recycling.

Dr. Al-Zaidan suggested that, given the high electricity consumption, particularly during summer, these tires could be utilized in waste-to-energy projects to generate electrical energy, thus alleviating the strain on power generation plants. He emphasized the importance of

securing and annexing the area surrounding the authority's possession and storage zone, ensuring compliance with firefighting standards, preventing haphazard tire collection, and establishing water sources. Continuous monitoring and coordination with relevant authorities were also stressed for public welfare.

Dr. Al-Zaidan highlighted the authority's efforts in collaboration with state entities to tackle the tire issue sustainably, including recycling initiatives and adherence to the Basel Convention on Waste, ratified by Kuwait in 2006.

Notably, the Environment Public Authority was mandated by a Council of Ministers' decision to oversee used tire collection sites, with the Municipal Council allocating a collection site in the Salmi area as of February 17,

Energy plans

Continued from Page 1

is still 18,600 megawatts; which prompted the ministry to purchase 500 megawatts from Qatar and Oman through the Gulf Cooperation Council Interconnection Authority (GCCIA) in order to overcome the electricity challenges this summer.

She revealed that over the past few months, the ministry has prepared documents to offer for bidding two of the most important electricity production projects within its budget for the current year one of which is the installation of a gas turbine operating on a combined cycle system to produce 3,600 megawatts at Nuwaiseeb station, which is expected to be completed in 2028 or 2029. Sources said this project was supposed to be operational in the first quarter of 2023, but this did not happen due to the aforementioned obstacles. Sources added this project would have generated electricity surplus that could be sold through the GCCIA with huge economic returns, which would have greatly supported the public treasury.

Sources went on to say that the second project is the installation of a turbine to produce 900 megawatts from the existing Subiya station, which is expected to be

completed in 2026. If this project was implemented on time, the ministry would have achieved self-sufficiency in electricity, sources asserted.

Sources stressed the need to remove all obstacles to energy production projects through the coordinated efforts of the concerned executive and supervisory authorities in order to expedite procedures towards the completion of these two important projects, especially since the population is increasing by six percent every year.

Commerce Ministry

Continued from Page 1

stalls that violated the laws and decisions of

the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. In a related context, the inspection teams conducted a comprehensive inspection tour in commercial markets to monitor prices, considering Eid Al-Adha is fast approaching when the demand for consumer goods is usually high. The inspection tour covered shops selling women's shoes, bags and fabric; where the country of origin of the goods, extent of compliance with pricing regulations, and invoices in Arabic and English were

scrutinized.





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Why deoccupation of Crimea is important for the world?

Municipal Council Committee OKs projects and reorganization plans

Four violations, 11 warnings issued

KUWAIT CITY, June 5: The Capital Committee of the Municipal Council made several decisions in its latest meeting. Chaired by Fahd Al-Abduljader, the committee approved the allocation of space for a modern laboratory building for water analysis in Shuwaikh, under the supervision of the Ministry of Electricity, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Additionally, they agreed to reorganize part of Plot No. 3 in the Sharq region and amend the boundaries of Parcel 72 described in the JW Marriott Hotel (formerly the Le Meridien) in Kuwait City. Furthermore, they approved a company's request to add 750 square meters to Parcel No. 27 in Plot No. 1 in the Sharq area, ensuring additional parking spaces are provided according to the plot's planned use.

Meanwhile, the Kuwait Municipality reported issuing four violations for unauthorized building area increases and 11 warnings in the Al-Funaitees area.

The Engineering Audit and Follow-up Department's supervisory team conducted the first field inspection round in the Al-Funaitees area of Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorate as part of the campaign titled "A Lifetime House Without Violations," launched by the Public Relations Department. This campaign aims to assess compliance with the requirements and specifications of private and model housing build-

Additionally, the Department of Public Cleanliness and Road Occupations in Hawalli Governorate conducted a field tour in the Salmiya area, resulting in 20 violations related to general cleanliness, street vendors, and road works.



Al-Abduljader and Behbehani during the meeting

Geoscientists oppose Jal Az-Zor camping

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 5: The Kuwait Society for Geosciences has urged the relevant authorities to intervene promptly and halt the Municipal Council's decision permitting camping in the Jal Az-Zor region.

Expressing dismay over the council members' unilateral decision without consulting specialists, the society emphasized the potential detrimental impact of camping activities on the region's geological and archaeological treasures.

In a statement, a copy of which has been obtained by Al-Seyassah daily, the association underscored that camping in this historically significant area could lead to the destruction of invaluable geological and archaeological sites, which hold profound importance in Kuwait's heritage and global history.

It highlighted the region's rich heritage, with evidence of human presence dating back thousands of years, from 8,000 to 10,000 years ago.

Furthermore, the society revealed that it had previously petitioned official authorities to include the Jal Az-Zor region in the UNESCO Geological Parks Initiative program, emphasizing its significance for preservation and recognition on an international

1. "HAS the international reaction to the occupation of Crimea been largely symbolic? and what concrete results of your initiatives can you point to?

The international actions against the occupation of Crimea, though sometimes perceived as inadequate, are crucial components of a broader strategy. Since 2014, the majority of UN member states have supported Ukraine's territorial integrity, demonstrating international condemnation of Russia's actions. While economic sanctions have been implemented, their impact has not curbed Russia's ability to militarize Crimea and use it as a strategic military base, partly because many countries continue to engage with Russia eco-

Moreover, the ongoing situation in Crimea resembles the historical aggression of Iraq against Kuwait, utilizing similar propaganda tactics to justify illegal actions. However, Ukraine has shown resilience and tactical success, notably in the military domain where Ukrainian forces, despite lacking a naval fleet, have significantly diminished the capabilities of the Russian Black Sea Fleet. This has facilitated the functioning of the grain corridor, crucial for global food security. The Crimean Platform and global support for Ukraine's sovereignty, including from countries across various continents, underscore a growing international alliance against the violation of the UN Charter. Our efforts, such as the international conference "Crimea Global." aim to galvanize worldwide support and remind the Ukrainian citizens in Crimea that they are not forgotten. We are committed to the reintegration of Crimea into Ukraine, asserting that the violation of international norms poses a threat not only to Ukraine but globally, impacting areas like

energy and food security. The Peace Summit, initiated by Ukraine, is approaching and will be held in Switzerland on June 15-16, 2024. Of course, the deoccupation of Crime is an essential part of the Peace Formula proposed by President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy. Ukraine is trying to involve as many countries as possible in the Summit and in the implementation of the formula. Of course, Russia's aggression against Ukraine is not the only war and not the only challenge to the security, human rights and lives of hundreds of thousands of people. However, this war has perhaps the most destructive potential for the world. And that is why peace, a just and lasting peace, is so important. Therefore, we urge Kuwait to join dozens of other countries and to attend the summit.

2. "How do you assess the effectiveness of Ukraine's strategy for deoccupation and reintegration? What specific failures and successes can you mention?'

It's important to recognize that the ongoing occupation does not signify a failure of our strategies but rather a lack of sufficient international support. Despite the significant disparities in size and resources between Ukraine and Russia, our resilience and strategic military successes, particularly in the Black Sea, showcase our capability and determination.

Our comprehensive strategy, adopted by the Ukrainian parliament in 2021, balances political, diplomatic, and military approaches to deoccupation. Simultaneously, we are forward-thinking regarding reintegration, actively preparing for post-occupation challenges. This includes developing strategies for economic recovery, cognitive deoccupation to reintegrate Crimea culturally, and forming a personnel reserve with specialized training through academic and expert collaborations. These efforts demonstrate our serious commitment to not only reclaim but also effectively reintegrate Crimea into Ukraine's framework.

3. "How effective do you think your advocacy work has been in reducing human rights violations in Crimea, and where has it been less effective?'

It's clear that despite robust international documentation and efforts, challenges persist due to the limitations of the global enforcement system. Notable bodies like the UN General Assembly, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, and the OSCE (the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe.) have consistently reported on the extensive human rights abuses perpetrated by Russia in the region. Ukraine has leveraged every legal mechanism available, including filing complaints with the European Court of Human Rights and the International Court of Justice, and providing evidence for cases at the International Criminal Court (ICC), which resulted in arrest warrants

for Russian officials. However, the enforcement of international judicial decisions remains ineffective. Russia has disregarded directives, such as the International Court of Justice's orders to reinstate the rights of the Crimean Tatars. This non-compliance underscores a larger issue: without regaining control over Crimea, our efforts to curb human rights abuses are fundamentally constrained. The ongoing military aggression by Russia, marked by war crimes and daily missile attacks, exacerbates the human rights situation, making conventional interventions inadequate.

Therefore, the path to effectively addressing these human rights violations is intrinsically linked to restoring Ukraine's territorial integrity. Reestablishing control over Crimea is the only viable solution to halt these abuses and ensure accountability, highlighting the critical need for increased international support and a robust response to uphold international law and human rights.

4. "You have played an important role in the adoption of several important laws, including on indigenous peoples and political prisoners. How do you ensure that these laws will have a real impact?"

In addressing the effectiveness of Ukraine's laws on indigenous peoples and political prisoners, it's important to highlight that these laws are not just symbolic but are accompanied by tangible enforcement mechanisms. For political prisoners, a commission operates to provide financial support to their families, directly benefit-





Abdulaziz Al-Anjeri, (top), during an exclusive interview with Tamila Tasheva.

Abdulaziz Al-Anjeri said:

"We are dedicated at Reconnaissance Research, to bringing critical issues to the forefront of discussion through informed dialogue. This interview with Ms. Tamila Tasheva is part of our mission to engage on significant issues, specially given the upcoming Ukraine peace conference in Switzerland on June 15. We continue to maintain respectful relations with all our international partners, including our friends in Russia, and that commitment remains unwavering,"

Tamila Tasheva became a part of President Zelenskyy's team since 2019 as a Deputy Permanent Representative of the President of Ukraine in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, she worked on the adoption of the Strategy for Deoccupation and Reintegration of Crimea, Law on Indigenous Peoples of Ukraine. She was appointed to the position of a Permanent Representative in April 2022.

ing those affected by the occupation. This represents a concrete manifestation of the

The law recognizing the Crimean Tatars, Karaites, and Krymchaks as indigenous peoples of Ukraine marks a historic step, affirming their rights and identity. However, the full implementation of this law hinges on the deoccupation of Crimea, as the recognition of indigenous status is inseparable from the land that these groups traditionally inhabit.

On the international front, Ukraine is actively working to address the severe violations by Russia, including the illegal transfer of political prisoners to Russian territory – a direct violation of international law. President Zelenskyy has initiated the International Platform for the Release of Civilians Illegally Detained by the Russian Federation, emphasizing the release of all Ukrainian political prisoners as a critical element of his Peace Formula. This effort is bolstered by international cooperation, particularly with Gulf countries such as the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar, who have facilitated prisoner exchanges and the return of deported children. This shows not only the commitment of Ukraine to these issues but also the importance of international partnerships in enforcing these laws and ensuring the security and rights of our

Now the Peace Summit, initiated by Ukraine, is approaching and will be held in Switzerland on June 15-16. Naturally, the deoccupation of Crimea is an essential part of the Peace Formula proposed by President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy. Ukraine is striving to involve as many countries as possible in the Summit and in the implementation of the formula. Of course, Russia's aggression against Ukraine is not the only war and not the only challenge to the security, human rights, and lives of hundreds of thousands of people. However, this war holds a very destructive potential for the world, not just Ukraine. That is why peace - a just and lasting peace - is so important. Therefore, we urge Kuwait to join dozens of other countries and attend the summit.

5: "Skeptics doubt the realism of Crimea's economic recovery plans after deoccupation. How do you confront these doubts and what realistic time frame do you see for recovery?'

It's essential to understand the context of Crimea's economic stagnation under Russian control. For ten years, international sanctions and restricted access to global markets have transformed Crimea from a potentially vibrant region into an economic appendage of Moscow. Our response involves a comprehensive Strategy for the Economic Recovery of Crimea, which is part of Ukraine's broader Post-War Recovery Plan. This strategy outlines a series of initiatives aimed at revitalizing the economy and improving living condi-

law's impact.



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Continued on Page 5

Continuation of annual collaboration with Ministry of Awqaf

Zain keeps Hajj travelers connected with free roaming plan

KUWAIT CITY, June 5: Zain today announces the continuation of its annual collaboration with the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs to present its complimentary promotion for the Hajj season. The company is offering its top roaming plan (Roaming Plus) at no cost to postpaid and prepaid customers who are registered in all of this year's ministry-certified Hajj campaigns.

The announcement came during a visit made by Zain Kuwait Roaming and Wholesale Director, Mohammed Al Sayer, and Zain Kuwait Corporate Relations Department Manager, Hamad Al Musaibeeh, to the office of the Ministry's Assistant Undersecretary for Information & External Relations and Deputy Director for the Kuwait Hajj Delegation, Mohammed Nasser Al Mutairi. Also in attendance was the Ministry's Hajj and Omrah Department Manager, Sattam Al Mezaien.

During the visit, Zain affirmed its commitment to making this yearly initiative a success in partnership with the Ministry. The step seeks to keep pilgrims connected with their loved ones at no cost while they reside at Haji locations in the Kingdom of Saudi



Zain Hajj Roaming flyer.

Arabia.

Zain now offers free roaming internet and voice calls to customers performing Hajj when they subscribe to the postpaid or prepaid Roaming Plus plan (originally at KD 13 weekly). All customers registered in official, Ministry-certified Hajj campaigns will receive a message with the steps to follow to redeem the free offer. The plan includes 30 local minutes, 30 min-

utes to Kuwait, and 30 SMS messages per week, in addition to 3 GBs of daily internet (fair usage policy applies daily after exceeding 3 GB, after which speed is reduced until end of day). The offer runs from 9-22 June and is only valid at Hajj rituals locations.

In a recent announcement, Zain was recognized by the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs to highlight the fruitful collaboration and strategic partnership between the company and the Grand Mosque of Kuwait during the Holy Month of Ramadan this year. The collaboration resulted in presenting several community programs aimed at serving worshippers and Mosque attendees throughout the Holy Month under the umbrella of the Zain Alshuhoor social campaign

The initiatives included daily Iftar meals at the Mosque's Grand Hall, Zain's first Holy Quran Recitation Competition, hospitality and transportation services at the Mosque, Eid breakfast meals during Eid Al Fitr prayers, and more.



Al Mutairi and Al Mezaien with Al Sayer and Al Musaibeeh.

UN 'commends' Kuwait's environmental initiatives

Policies promote sustainable future for all

By Nasser Al-Otaibi

KUWAIT CITY, June 5, (KUNA): **UN Secretary-General's Represent**ative in Kuwait Ghada Al-Taher commended Wednesday the State of Kuwait's role in environmental sustainability as well as contributions to many regional initiatives against desertification, water scarcity and lack of biodiversity.

The New Kuwait Vision 2035 "is a testimony of our future approach," because it aims at transforming the Gulf nation into a financial and commercial hub while equally prioritize environmental sustainability through which the Vision would diversify the economy, lessen dependence on oil and explore renewable energy, Al-Taher, UN Resident Coordinator in Kuwait, said.

She was speaking to KUNA on occasion of the World Environment Day with a theme "Our Land, Our Future, We are Generation Restora-

The State of Kuwait, said Al-Taher, ratified international environmental agreements like the Paris treaty which reflected its commitment

to addressing climate change at global level. Kuwait's national policies, she added, were not only economically flexible but would "promote more green and sustainable future for all."

Kuwait's Environment Public Authority

Ghada Al-Taher, UN Secretary-General's Representative in Kuwait.

(EPA), the national environment strategy and the application of an environment law are testament of Kuwait's environmental approach, she said.

The UN, noted Al-Taher, supported Kuwait young ambassadors' initiative. "We have finished two patches and are getting ready for the third," she said of the initiative which would enable the young ambassadors to becoming supporters of sustainable development and environment.

Al-Taher said celebrating the World Environment Day "is only the beginning of a collective journey towards a sustainable future. This occasion does not only remind us of the pressing environmental challenges we are facing but the accomplishments and commitment that formed our path.'

Why deoccupation

Continued from Page 4

To dismantle the Russian-imposed narratives and systems, we plan to reintegrate Crimea into the global and Ukrainian economic frameworks. We intend to attract international funds, organizations, and investors, alongside Ukrainian entrepreneurs eager to establish businesses in a liberated Crimea. Key to our strategy is fostering a dynamic private sector, with a focus on empowering micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises as innovation and economic diversity drivers, while also attracting large businesses to bring modern technologies and services.

Our preparedness extends to collaborative efforts with state institutions, NGOs, entrepreneurs, and experts to plan and execute these recovery steps effectively post-deoccupation. Highlighting our proactive approach, we have initiated the "We build Crimea" project under the International Crimea Platform, securing commitments from international and Ukrainian businesses ready to invest in Crimea's restoration immediately after its liberation. While acknowledging that recovery won't be instantaneous, we are committed to transforming Crimea into a thriving economic hub, attractive to young people, reformative projects, and global investors, ensuring a gradual but definitive economic resurgence.

6. "Assuming that Crimea is reintegrated into Ukraine, what do you see as the biggest challenges in reconciliation and rebuilding the community there?"

Reintegrating Crimea into Ukraine poses numerous challenges, particularly due to the deep social and psychological impacts of over a decade of separation from the Ukrain-

ian information space and the effects of Russian occupation. The process of reconciliation will need to address divisions among various groups: those who left Crimea either in 2014 or after the full-scale invasion began, and those who stayed; as well as between those who were forced to cooperate with the occupiers and those who resisted. Importantly, there can be no reconciliation with the colonizers, who will be required to leave, with mechanisms in place that comply with international law to manage this transition and counteract

the effects of colonization. The social and psychological landscape in Crimea is characterized by atomization and trauma, compounded by the totalitarian regime's forced ideologization and militarization in various sectors such as education and public life. The prevailing fear and distress among the residents, along with potential destructive acts by retreating Russian forces, similar to past tactics observed in Kuwait, pose significant risks. These could include damage to infrastructure and the environment, which may be exacerbated by Russian disinformation campaigns aimed at destabilizing the region further and undermining Ukrainian authority.

To proactively address these issues, we have established the Cognitive Deoccupation Council, which focuses on formulating and implementing tactical steps for cognitive deoccupation. This includes measures that can already be initiated to prepare for the broader challenges of reintegration and community rebuilding in Crimea, ensuring that the transition is managed with careful consideration of the

complex historical and current circumstances. 7. "How do you ensure that the rights and cultural heritage of the Muslim Crimean Tatar population are properly represented and protected, and also to ensure that their the indigenous Muslim community of Crimea,

voices are heard in the Ukrainian national

discourse?"

Ensuring the rights and preserving the cultural heritage of the Crimean Tatar population, is paramount. They have faced severe political persecution and harassment under Russian occupation. Notably, a disproportionate number of the political prisoners from Crimea are Crimean Tatars, making up about 60% of such prisoners while only representing 15% of the population.

Recognizing the historical and ongoing challenges faced by the Crimean Tatars is critical. This year, we mark the 80th anniversary of the mass deportation of the Crimean Tatar people, an event recognized by Ukraine and some other states as genocide. This historical context underpins our advocacy for their rights and underscores the urgency of deoccupying Crimea to allow indigenous peoples to live freely on their land.

Concrete steps to address these challenges include the operation of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar people within Ukraine, serving as a vital body in any decision-making about Crimea. We have implemented initiatives like the National Crimean Tatar Language Corps project to preserve and integrate the Crimean Tatar language into the digital space. Furthermore, President Zelenskyy's engagement, including hosting an official Iftar with Ukrainian Muslim soldiers and leaders of the Meilis, exemplifies our commitment to respecting and valuing the Muslim community in Ukraine. The full restoration of the Crimean Tatars' rights and cultural heritage can only be achieved through the reintegration of Crimea into Ukraine, underscoring the need for continued international support and focused efforts to liberate the peninsula.

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DECISION

ON SUNDAY, CORRESPONDING TO JUNE 2, 2024,. AT THE BANKRUPTCY DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTER WITH MEMBERSHIP OF JUDGE/ SULEIMAN BIN YOUSEF BANKRUPTCY JUDGE IN THE PRESENCE OF MR. BADER AI-FARSI SECRETARY

IN APPLICATION NO.: 2 / 2023 PREVENTIVE SETTLEMENT LISTED UNDER THE AUTOMATIC NO.: 232185260



Having perused the application and the attached documents,

Whereas, the facts are summarized, as indicated from perusing its papers, and to the extent sufficient to pass this decision that the Applicant Company, which is a Kuwaiti shareholding oke the Bankruptcy Department an application to open preventive settlement procedures against all its creditors, attached to it an explanatory memorandum of the facts of the Application closed Company, submitted on 9/7/ tion, and in its statement, it said th e lacts are summarized, as indicated from persuring its plagers, and to the extent sumicient to pass this decision must the Applicant Company, which is a kuwain shareholding closed Company, summitted on 91/re/226 highly Department an application to open preventive settlement procedures against all its creditors, attached to it an explanatory memorandium of the facts of the Application, and in its statement, it said that its firms that there are reasons that make its expect and fear that it may be unable to pay its debts, according to What is established in the labor cases filled by employees and the commercial first instance cases filled by, whether suppliers or subcontrators and the banks financing the projects, which represents more than 2000 cases better that state of the projects are passed therein, but have not been date, and that there is a state of financial deficit in the Company's financial position according to what is established in the Company's financial statements for the fiscal year ended 31/12/2021, where the losses were an amount of KD 75 000,000 approximately. These losses exceed 75% of the capital. The Company assigned the work for Eutstying the feasibility of its business ongoing to Farma Sary Al Rushood Office, registered ital Markets Authority, and issued a technical report dated 2/12/2022 to the effect that the Company's business is viable, and shall be able to continue to pay its debts that shall be subject to preventive settlement estimated at an amount of KD 75,000,000 approximately. These losses exceed 75% of the capital. The Company's business drawn assigned the work of studying the feasibility of its business origining to Fatiral Sagri Al Hushood Office, registered with the Capital Marfets Authority, and issued at technical report of taded 2712/2022 to the effect that the Company's business is vable, and shall be able to continue to pay its debts that shall be subject to preventive settlement in the normal course of its business. Thus, all the conditions for submitting a preventive settlement application apply to it. Accordingly, the Company held an extraordinary general assembly meeting on 19/2022, and agreed to submit a preventive settlement application. It included in its memorandum an explanation of the preventive settlement proposal, and concluded it with an application to open preventive settlement procedures. It attached with the Application to open preventive settlement procedures. It attached with the Application the originals consolidated financial statements of the Applicant Company for the fiscal year ended 31/12/2021 and the fiscal year ended 31/12/2022, the independent auditor's report on them issued by HLB Kuwaiti Accountant Auditing Office, copies of a statement detailing the bank dues, a statement of the names of the companies and contractors who have dues, and a statement of the employees entitled to amount.

itted to amounts.
sereas, it is established from perusing the attached documents that during the hearing dated 14/6/2023, a judgment was passed in case No. 4439/2021 Commercial/1st instance/43 filed by (1) Khalid Ali Al Kharafi and Brothers instruction and Contracting Company KSCC, (2) Real Estate Construction and Fabrication Company KSC (by joint intervention) ruling for declaring the bankruptcy of the Applicant Company as stated in the judgment wording.
Applicant Company did not accept this judgment, so it challenged it under appeal No. 4583/2023 Commercial/7 and the appeal was not decided on at that time.

If you wand the Application by the Bankruptcy Judge, the Applicant Company submitted the original of the proposed preventive settlement plan report issued by Fatma Sagr Al Rushood Office and attached to it 2 file boxes becoments supporting the proposal.

Addition, some of the major creditors were represented by their attorneys, advocates, before the Bankruptcy Judge when the Application by the hearings. They were Mis Kineait Finance House Criff Bankruptcy Judge when the Application of the major creditors were represented by their attorneys, advocates, before the Bankruptcy Judge when the Application of the major creditors were represented by their attorneys, advocates, before the Bankruptcy Judge when the Application was deliberated during the hearings. They were Mis Kineait Finance House Criff Bankruptcy Judge when the Application of the major creditors were represented by their attorneys.

or occuments supporting the proposal. In addition, some of the major creditors were represented by their attorneys, advocates, before the Bankruptcy Judge when the Application was deliberated during the hearings. They were M/s Kuwait Finance House, Gulf Bank Al Ahili Bank of Kuwait, Bank Muscat, Burgan Bank, and Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait. They adjourned the Application to prepase are reply to the proposed preventive settlement. Kuwait Finance House's attorney submitted three dockets containing copies of documents supporting the indebtedness, and Al Ahili Bank of Kuwait attorney submitted a letter summarizing the indebtedness and the enforcement measures taken against the Applicant Company attached to which were copies of documents supporting them. Burgan Bank attorney submitted a letter commenting on the proposed preventive settlement submitted by the Applicant Company and a docket containing copies of documents supporting them.

of documents supporting the indebtedness, as upporting the indebtedness, as upporting the indebtedness, as upporting the indebtedness.

On 19/9/2023, the Bankruptey Judge passed a decision to address the Bankruptey Committee to examine the Application, and the documents submitted with it and to give its opinion on it as stated in its wording. Accordingly, the Bankruptey Committee is examine the Application, and the documents submitted with it and to give its opinion on it as stated in its wording. Accordingly, the Bankruptey Committee is exactively in view of the Bankruptey Department, and it and ended with the final opinion, as follows:

1. The settlement plan does not include the Company's sability to continue its activity in view of the limancial deficit and the possibility of obtaining the necessary projects to carry out the activity.

2. The submitted plan did not include a statement of future cash lows, including the bases and assumptions used.

3. The plan ones have not include addressing the accommisted losses that exceeded the Company's caption used.

4. The plan was based on collecting funds from debtors and judgments, which carrnot be continued or estimated as it is subject to the discretion of the judicial authorities.

Therefore, it was impossible to give an opinion on the possibility of settlement or to submit air report to the Bankruptcy Department, taking into account the unavailability of the information mentioned above. Whereas, during the leaving dated 1917 (1922a), the Applicant Company was represented by an attorney and cocate and another attorney, and its Chairman appeared in person. The advocate representing the Applicant Company's a delerence memorardum that included a repty and objections to the Bankruptcy Committee's report and its examine the Applicant Company's objections as stated in its wording.

Accordingly, the Bankruptcy Judge passed his decision to re-address the Bankruptcy Committee to examine the Application and the documents submitted with it, to give its opinion on it, and to examine the Applicant Company's objections as stated in its wording.

Accordingly, the Bankruptcy Committee lodged the second report No. 44 dated 6/11/2023 to the Bankruptcy Department, and it ended with the final opinion that based on the Company's replies to the Bankruptcy Committee's observations on its ability to carry out its activity, the Bankruptcy Committee's observations on its ability to carry out its activity and acceptance of the settlement plan by the creditors with a timetable for that purpose.

**Releasing the existing mortgage on the equipment and granting the legal grace period according to the discretion of the Bankruptcy Judge so that the Company can carry out its activity while taking the precautionary measures that prevent the disposal of equipment.

**The executive management continues to manage the Company's business and follow up its claims.

**Execution of the plan to address the accumulated Gossea according to the submitted proposal.

**After lodging the Bankruptcy Committee's second report, representatives of Newal Finance House, Gulf Bank, Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait, Bank Muscat, and Burgan Bank, appeared at the Bankruptcy Department headquarter as detailed in the minutes of the hearings. The representative of Newal Finance House stated during the hearing dated 9/11/2023 that it had perused the Bankruptcy Committee's second report in the political concluded, provided that the observations in the committee's interport are addressed, and stated that its client has agreed to pen the preventive settlement procedures. The representative of Gulf Bank submitted a memorandum during the hearing dated 1/11/2023 and expressed his addressed, and stated that its client has agreed to pen the preventive settlement procedures. The consideration and action according to what develops after the creditors, Al Ahli Bank

each creditor.

On 21/1/2024, the Bankruptcy Judge passed a decision to approve the formation of the Creditors Committee for the Applicant Company (Mushrif Trading and Contracting Company KSCC) and they are as follows: Kuwait Finance House (Chairman of the Committee) and the members Guil Bank, Sefeena Rent A Car. Co., Chowdhury General Trading Company, Ibrahim Al Sayed Morsy Jabr, specifying the name of the Chairman of the Committee and its members, the category of debts represented by each member, their email addresses, names of the representatives of each creditor, their phone numbers and email addresses. The Bankruptcy Judge instructed the Bankruptcy Department to notify the Applicant Company (editor), the creditors, and the Bankruptcy Committee of this decision for Preditors Committee shall, within their days, if possible, as of the date of notification of the decision of the present of the decision of the decision of the present of the decision of the decision of the present of the decision of the present of the decis

the Constitutions and Fauntianist Company 1000. The Camerophy Support of the Constitution of the Constitut

It was also visualisated and the Applicant Company, which ruled that the court has no qualitative jurisdiction to consider the case and to refer it in its status to the Bankruptcy Department of the Court of First Instance. In execution of this decision, the case file was referred to the Bankruptcy Department. The Bankruptcy Judge decided to merge the file of the aforementioned case to the present! Application for correlation, and to adjourn the decision on it until the finalization of the preventive settlement procedures. In addition, the Bankruptcy Judge decided to merge the file of Application for correlation, and to adjourn the decision on it until the finalization of the preventive settlement procedures. In addition, the Bankruptcy Judge decided to merge the file of Application for correlation, and to adjourn the decision on it until the finalization of the preventive settlement procedures. Further, on 17/3/2024, the representatives of the Applicant Company appeared and submitted the original of the preventive settlement procedures. Further, on 17/3/2024, the representatives of the Applicant Company appeared and submitted the original of the preventive settlement process of the preventive settlement procedures. In addition, the Bankruptcy Judge passed his decision instructing the Applicant Company is in the process of setting a date for the creditors' meeting on Thursday, corresponding to 28/3/204, at 1.00 PM at Millennium Hotel. Based on this, the Bankruptcy Judge passed his decision instructing the Applicant Company to invite the creditors' meeting on Thursday, corresponding to 28/3/204, at 1.00 PM at Millennium Hotel. Based on this, the Bankruptcy Judge passed his decision instructing the Applicant Company to invite the creditors' meeting on the process of setting a date for the creditors' meeting on the process. setting a date for the creditors' meeting on I hrusday, corresponding to 28/3/2024, at 13.00 PM at Millennium Hotel. Based on this, the Bankruptcy Judge passed his decision instructing the Applicant Company to invite the credit to the preventile settlement processal and to hold a creditors' meeting to vote on the proposal.
On 31/3/2024, the Bankruptcy Judge passed a decision to extend the period of stay of judicial claims and enforcement procedures taken against the Applicant Company for one month as of 25/3/2024 as stated in the decision.

wording.
On 21/4/2024, the Applicant Company lodged to the Bankruptcy Department the minutes of the creditors' meeting to vote on the preventive settlement proposal dated 10/3/2024, subject matter of the current Application, was held on Thursday 28/3/2024 at Yacout Hall, Millennium Hotel, located in Salmiya, attached to which are six file boxes containing the notifications addressed to attend the meeting, the attendance guide and the regular to the preventive settlement proposal. Then the Applicant Company included in this notification a request for approval of the plan. Accordingly, the Bankruptcy Judge past decision to notify the creditors of the approval of the preventive settlement proposal and the receipt of the minutes of the creditors' meeting to vote on the proposal with all its attackments by publication in the Official Gazette, Vol. No. 1684 on Sunday 28/4/2024, and a copy of the publicage was attached to the file.

as attached to the file.

dent from perusing the minutes of the meeting of the creditors of Mushrif Trading and Contracting Company KSCC to vote on the preventive settlement proposal dated 10/3/2024, subject matter of the current Application, possists of 29 ageas. The Bankruptcy Judge states the most important points included in the minutes as follows:

meeting was held on Thursday, corresponding to 28/3/2024 at 1:00 PM at Yacout Hall, Millennium Hotel, located on the 4th Ring Road, Salmiya, Abu Thaer Alphafari Street, 3rd floor, to vote on the preventive settlement zoal dated 10/3/2024, subject matter of Application No. 2/2023 Preventive Settlement. Bankruptcy Department, and announced to the creditors on 17/3/2024.

"meeting was chaired by Mr. Saad Abdulaziz Ali Al Wazzan, in his capacity as Deputy Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the debtor (the Applicant Company), and Mr. Khaled Suhail Al Ajlan, representative of Kuwait ance House, Chairman and Representative of the Creditors Committee, attended the meeting. The meeting secretariat was undertaken by Mr. Mahmoud Abdulmajeed Mahmoud Hefny, secretary of the Committee, who state the delated at Malfors these minutes.

Finance House, Chairman and Representative of the Creditors Committee, attended the meeting. The meeting secretariat was undertaken by Mr. Mahmoud Abdulmajeea Mammoud Hemy, secretary or the Committee, who undertook the duties of writing these minutes.

Having perused the procedures for invitation to the meeting, the attendance list, and the quorum, the chairman of the meeting announced the attendance of 284 creditors representing an amount of KD 100,015,167 (One Hundred Million, Fifteen Thousand, One Hundred Stays Seven Kuwaiti Dinars only) out of the total debts to the Company amounting to KD 133,307,336 (One Hundred Million, Three Hundred Stays Perusenting of the Company amounting to KD 133,307,336 (One Hundred Hundred Thirty-Three Million, Three Hundred Seven Thousand, Three Hundred Stays Perusenting to KD 133,307,336 (One Hundred Hundred Thirty-Three Million, Three Hundred Stays Perusenting to KD 133,307,336 (One Hundred Hundred Thirty-Stays Washull Dinars only), which is a quorum of 75.0% and all of them are affected creditions. Accordingly, the chairman of the meeting announced the validity of the procedures for holding the meeting and the availability of the legal quorum for the validity of the meeting of the affected creditions in accordance with the provisions of the Bankruptcy Law No. 71 of 2020 and its executive regulations and amendments.

Whereas, a number of creditors present made reservations, the most important of twich was the reservation made by the attorney of the creditor Gulf Bank, Mrs. Norsh Rhodal Abdulaff Alt Houti, where she reserved on the details of the amount due to Gulf Bank set forth in the report issued by Fatma Sagr Al Rushood Office by the amount of KD 37,236,431 and stated that this amount is divided into two parts, a part of this amount of five million.

Kuwaiti Dinars is due to the Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait according to an assignment, and a part of KD 32.236.431 is due to Gulf Bank. This reservation was replied to that the debts of Gulf Bank were verified in the amount stated in the report issued by Fatma Sagr Al Rushood Office and that there is no legally enforceable assignment apainst the Applicant Company. The vote was based on the debt of Gulf Bank by the amount of KD 37.236.431. The categories of creditors and here or en holders of debts usuranteed by mortgage or privilege on normable or real estate except for labor debts in accordance with the law that gives them a lien on all the debtor's assets. There are no holders of substitutions of the company amount to KD 103.397.363, which were divided into three segments, the first of which is "segment (A) banks" and the total ordinary debts of the Company amount to KD 103.907.363, which ower divided into three segments, the first is segment (C) and the total ordinary debts of the Company amount to KD 103.907.363, which were divided into three segments, the first is segment (C) and the total ordinary debts of the Company in the affected aborders. The total ordinary debts of the Company amount to KD 103.907.363, which were divided into three segments, the first is segment (C) and the first interval of the company in the first interval ordinary amount to KD 103.907.363, which were divided into three segments (B) substituted to the Bankstration ordinary amount to KD 103.907.363, which were divided into the segment (B) substituted to the Bankstration (B) ordinary amount to KD 103.907.363, which were divided in the properties of the Company in the future, as detailed in those segments in Appendix (D) ordinary in the future. The total labor privileged debts of the Company issued by Fatma Sagr Al Rushood Office dated 257/22023 and submitted to the Bankstrupty Department.

The total labor privileged debts of the Company are KD 6.259.598, detailed in Appendix (D) of the report on verifying the amounts of the Applicant C

debts less than NJ 10,000, the Company shall pay them in full without any deduction. As for the labour debts more than ND 10,000, 25% of the value of the debt shall be deducted and the balance percentage estimated by 75% shall be paid. The payment shall be made from the amounts received from the final judgment her final pudgment is not to receive all the funds which the debtor may collect from the claims and compensations due, in order for Kuwait Finance House to undertake its role for receiving and distributing lhese funds to the receitors propriorionately according to the collected amounts. The payment agent shall receive the proceeds of the amounts ruled in favour of the Company in the new separate bank account with it, head office, in favour of the Company, and allocated for collecting the amounts due to the Company as a result of the count claims and cases for the compensations against each of the Ministry of Public Works, Public Authority for Industry and Kuwait Oil Company. This account shall not be liable to attachment or execution on it. The account shall be administered and signed for by the payment agent, and shall be used to distribute the amounts deposited therein according to the terms and conditions of the preventive settlement. The Execution Department of the Count of First Instance shall pay all the amounts awarded in favour of the Company as a result of the count claims and cases for the companys to receive the payment against each of the Ministry of Public Works, Public Authority for Industry and Kuward Oil Company, to this account only. The debts shall be paid without preference to one creditor over another, according to the amounts received from the claims and rights due to the Company that it shall receive from all the aforementioned cases, which may take approximately 3 to 5 years as of date for the Company to receive these amounts.

Full payment of the debt is expected within three to five years as of the date of approval and ratification of the preventive settlement proposal.

Full paym

On 23/4/2024, the Bankruptcy Judge passed a decision to extend the period of suspension of judicial claims and enforcement measures taken against the Applicant Company for one month starting from 24/4/2024 as stated in the decision wording.

Whereas, the Bankruptcy Judge passed a decision requesting the Applicant Company, Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait and Gulf Bank to appear at the Bankruptcy Department headquarter to hear their reply regarding the debt related to the assignment insued by Gulf Bank in flavor of the Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait Based on this decision, the adorneum cerpresentatives appeared the Bankruptcy Department headquarter on 25/2024 and the representative of Gulf Bank confirmed what was stated in the minutes of the creditors' meeting dated 28/3/2024 is correct, that Gulf Bank cold in the report issued by Fatma Saqr Al Rushood Office is by the amount of KD 37,226,431 is divided into two parts, one part of this amount of five million Kuwait indirect is due to the Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait and representative of the Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait and that the representative of the Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait and the three is not officer contractual relationship between Mushrif Trading and Contracting Company KSCC and the Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait and that the representative of the Applicant Company confirmed that there is no direct contractual relationship between Mushrif Trading and Contracting Company KSCC and the Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait and that the representative of the Applicant Company soft of Bankrif Contractive Contractive Science and submitted to the Bankruptcy Department. He added that its client of Bankrif Bahrain and Kuwait and that the representative of the Applicant Company soft of Bahrain and Kuwait and that the representative of the Applicant Company submitted the original of an Appendix to the late of Contractive Science and the Bankruptcy Department. He added that its client and Science and the Applicant Company submitted the original of an Appendix to the Jankruptcy Judge decided

the view of what appears in the Application for ratification of the preventive settlement proposal at the meaning according unit enterest nearing according unit enterest nearing according unit enterest nearing according unit enterest nearing according to the preventive settlement. Procedures aimed at reaching an agreement between the debtor and its creditors on a preventive settlement proposal in accordance with the provisions of this Law. Required majority. The majority required to consider the matter submitted to the creditors meeting as approved, and is achieved if the following conditions are met:

1. The attendance of the affected creditor or affected creditors holding more than half of the affected debts at least the meeting in which the vote may be taken.

2. The approval of the numerical majority of the affected creditors since the affected debts at least the meeting in which the vote may be taken.

3. The approval of the numerical majority of the affected or creditors affected parties from voting in the meeting.

3. The approval of the numerical majority of the affected or creditors affected parties from voting in the meeting.

4. Affected creditor. Any creditor whose rights are affected by the outcome of the vote on the matter submitted for discussion and voting at the creditors' meeting, and the outcome of the vote may result in it not obtaining his rights in accordance with his agreement with the debtor.

4. Whereas, it is established by the first paragraph of Article 81 of the Bankruptcy Law issued by Law No. 71 of 2020 that "the debtor shall, within ten days as of the date of approval or rejection of the preventive settlement proposal, notify the Bankruptcy Department, the supervisor, the Bankruptcy Committee and the designated supervisory authority - as the case may be - of that and attach the approved or rejected plan and the minutes of the meetings in which the vote was taken and the documents indicating the notification of the preditors' approval of the plan shall be requested within the notif

2. Compliance with the procedures for the creditors meeting and voting set forth in the preventive settlement procedures.

3. Observing the existing rights of creditors, especially the nights of creditors with mortgage and privilege rights, and equally between the existing rights of creditors.

5. Observing the existing rights of creditors are creditors and the existing rights of creditors.

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9. Obs

<u>Aveo ecological as collows.</u>
To ratify the preventive settlement proposal and instruct the Bankruptcy Department to publish the decision in the Official Gazette, register it and notify the Applicant Company, the Creditors Committee, the Bankruptcy Committee the Central Bank and the General Department of Execution of it within ten days as of the date of passing this decision. To instruct the Applicant Company to disclose it on its website and announce it in two local daily newspapers one of which is issued in English language, with notification of all creditors thereof. To instruct the Applicant Company to lodge proof of the execution of this assignment to the Bankruptcy Department.

Bader Al-Farsi [Signed by Bader Al-Farsi] [Stamp of Bader Abdullatif Al-Farsi, Bankruptcy Department]

The executive writ was delivered to: Mahmoud Abdulmajeed Mahmoud

when requested in accordance with the law.

Signature: [Signed]

Bankruptcy Judge Suleiman bin Yousef [Signed by Suleiman bin Yousef, on: 2/6/2024] [Stamp of Suleiman bin Yousef,

[STAMP OF BANKRUPTCY DEPARTMENT, MINISTRY OF JUSTICE] Court of First Instance

Bankruptcy Department The entity entrusted with execution shall proceed with it when requested. Every authority shall assist in its execution, even by using coercive force, if so

> Date: 2/6/2024 Bankruptcy Department

World News Roundup

Europe

EU braces for foreign disinformation: Voters in the European Union are set to elect lawmakers starting Thursday for the bloc's parliament, in a major democratic exercise that's also likely to be overshadowed by online disinformation.

Experts have warned that artificial intelligence could supercharge the spread of fake news that could disrupt the election in the EU and many other countries this year. But the stakes are especially high in Europe, which has been confronting Russian propaganda efforts as Moscow's war with Ukraine drags on.

Some 360 million people in 27 nations - from Portugal to Finland, Ireland to Cyprus - will choose 720 European Parliament lawmakers in an election that runs Thursday to Sunday. In the months leading up to the vote, experts have observed a

surge in the quantity and quality of fake news and anti-EU disinformation being

peddled in member countries. A big fear is that deceiving voters will be easier than ever, enabled by new AI tools that make it easy to create misleading or false content. Some of the malicious activity is domestic, some

international. Russia is most widely blamed, and sometimes China, even

though hard evidence directly attributing such attacks is difficult to pin down. "Russian state-sponsored campaigns to flood the EU information space with

deceptive content is a threat to the way we have been used to conducting our democratic debates, especially in election times," **Josep Borrell,** the EU's foreign policy chief, warned on Monday. (AP)

Sunak. Starmer clash over tax: British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and opposition Labour Party leader Keir Starmer sparred Tuesday over tax, the cost of living and the country's creaking health system in an inconclusive televised debate ahead of a July 4 election expected to make one of them the country's next leader.

Sunak tried to boost his center-right party's dismal outlook by urging voters to back the stability of continued Conservative government. Starmer hoped to cement his status as favorite by arguing that Britain desperately needs change. Both acknowledged the country's many problems, from fraying public services to a broken immigration system. But neither could say outright, when asked, where the money would come from to fix them. Sunak stressed his stewardship of the economy, which has seen inflation fall to just over 2% from a peak of more than 11% in late 2022. He said should stick with him because his "clear plan" for the economy was working.

Starmer said the election was a choice between more "chaos and division" with the Conservatives and "turning the page and rebuilding with Labour."

Polls currently give center-left Labour a double-digit lead. To win, Starmer must persuade voters who previously backed the Tories that Labour can be trusted with the UK's economy, borders and security. (AP)

'Qilin is most likely behind attack': A Russian cyber gang is believed to be behind a ransomware attack that disrupted London hospitals and led to operations and appointments being canceled, the former head of British cybersecurity said

A group known as Qilin is most likely behind the attack on Synnovis, which provides pathology lab services for several hospitals run by the National Health Service, said Ciaran Martin, former chief executive of the National Cyber Security

Martin said it was one of the more serious ransomware attacks in the UK because it disabled operations.

"It's the more serious type of ransomware where the system just doesn't work," Martin told BBC Radio 4. "If you're working in healthcare in this trust, you're just not getting those results so it's actually seriously disruptive.'

The incident Monday affected King's College and Guy's and St Thomas' hospital trusts, which run several south London hospitals, the NHS said. (AP)

Spain's govt proposes law: Spain's government has proposed a law to protect children from online threats that includes virtual restraining orders for felons, a higher age for opening social media accounts and health screenings for teenagers to detect related emotional disorders.

"The health, well-being and security of our children, as well as the tranquility of our families, are at stake," Justice Minister Félix Bolaños said Tuesday as he presented the proposal at a post-Cabinet press conference. Spain's left-wing minority government will need the support of other parties to make it

Public concern has grown after a string of cases of violence and abuse linked to the internet. Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez has said Spain is facing an "authentic epidemic" of pornography targeted at minors.

Spain's government has banned the use of cellphones in elementary schools and required high schools to justify their use for educational purposes. The government says the average age for children to receive their first cellphone is 11. (AP)

Interpol, FBI break up cyber scheme: A multinational operation by Interpol and the FBI cracked down on attempts in Moldova to sabotage one of the international police agency's key tools, the Red Notice system, officials said Tuesday. Four

people were detained in the eastern European country. The joint sting, which also involved cooperation with French and British authorities, uncovered an international criminal organization with ties to individuals in Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus suspected of cybercrime, Moldova's anticorruption

The notice flags people deemed fugitives to law enforcement worldwide and is one of Interpol's most important tools. The investigation led to the detention of four people for 72 hours on suspicion of interfering with the notices, Dragalin said. (AP)

Knox re-convicted of slander in Italy: An Italian court reconvicted Amanda Knox of slander on Wednesday, even after she was exonerated in the brutal 2007 murder of her British roommate while the two were exchange students in Italy.

The court found that Knox had wrongly accused an innocent man, the Congolese owner of the bar where she worked part time, of the killing. But she will not serve any more jail time, given the three-year sentence counts as time already

Knox, who had returned to Italy for only the second time since she was freed in 2011 to participate in the trial, showed no visible emotion as the verdict was read aloud.

The slaying of 21-year-old Meredith Kercher in the idyllic hilltop town of Perugia fueled global headlines as suspicion fell on Knox, a 20-year-old exchange student from Seattle, and her new Italian boyfriend of just a week, Raffaele Sollecito. (AP)

German far-right party member stabbed: A member of a German far-right party was stabbed and wounded in the southwestern city of Mannheim, German news agency dpa reported Wednesday, only days after a knife attack killed one police

officer and left five other people injured in the same city. Dpa reported that a candidate with the far-right Alternative for Germany, or AfD, reportedly caught somebody trying to tear down an election poster on Tuesday evening. When he confronted that person, he was attacked with a knife. Dpa reported that the candidate was still in a hospital with non-lifethreatening cuts.

The candidate, who was campaigning for Sunday's local elections in the state of Baden-Wuerttemberg, where Mannheim is located, was not identified. The attacker was detained, dpa reported. (AP)



US President Joe Biden walks next to a French honour guard after arriving at Orly airport, south of Paris on June 5. Biden is in France to mark the 80th anniversary

Biden to mark D-Day anniversary in France

United States President Joe Biden will mark the 80th anniversary of the D-Day invasion in France this week as he tries to demonstrate steadfast support for European security at a time when some allies fear Donald Trump threatens to upend American commitments if he wins another term in the White House

The trip comes as the deadliest fighting on the continent since World War II continues in Ukraine and allied countries struggle to find ways to turn the tide against Russia, which has recently gained ground on the battlefield. It is also set against deepening cracks between the U.S. and many European allies over how to manage the ongoing Israel-Ha-

mas war in Gaza.
Biden arrived in Paris on Wednesday morning, and he was welcomed by French officials and an honor guard. On Thursday, he'll visit hallowed ground near the beaches of Normandy, where rows of bone-white headstones mark the graves of US soldiers who died to bring an end to World War II. (AP)



Vedova speaks with reporters after the hearing at the Florence courtroom in Florence, Italy on June 5. An Italian court reconvicted Knox of slander on Wednesday, even after she was exonerated in the brutal 2007 murder of her British roommate while the two were exchange students in Italy. (AP)





America

Phoenix uses ice immersion: The season's first heat wave is already baking the Southwest with triple-digit temperatures as firefighters in Phoenix - America's hottest big city - employ new tactics in hopes of saving more lives in a county that saw 645 heat-related deaths last year.

Starting this season, the Phoenix Fire Department is immersing heatstroke victims in ice on the way to area hospitals. The medical technique, known as cold water immersion, is familiar to marathon runners and military service members and has also recently been adopted by Phoenix hospitals as a go-to protocol, said Fire Capt John Prato.

Prato demonstrated the method earlier this week outside the emergency department of Valleywise Health Medical Center in Phoenix, packing ice cubes inside an impermeable blue bag around a medical dummy representing a patient. He said the technique could dramatically lower body temperature in minutes.

'We've been seeing a severe uptick in the past three years in cases of severe heat illness," said Dr. Paul Pugsley, medical director of emergency medicine with Valleywise Health. (AP)

Arizona man gets 15 yrs: An Arizona man has been sentenced to 15 years in prison for setting fire to a camper trailer that was occupied by a woman who had a court protection order against him.

Yavapai County prosecutors said James Haynes, of Prescott, was originally facing charges of attempted murder, arson, violation of a court order and aggravated harassment after last year's incident. They said Monday that Haynes, 48, en-

tered into a plea agreement and pleaded guilty to charges of arson and criminal damage/domestic violence. Haynes then lit his vehicle on fire and crawled underneath the trailer trying to

reach the woman.

another residence. (AP)

Politics

Trump's lawyers ask judge to lift gag order

Cheaters don't like getting caught: Harris

WASHINGTON, June 5, (AP): US Vice President Kamala Harris spent part of a Tuesday episode of "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" rehashing how she found out about former president Donald Trump's conviction on 34 felony counts in his criminal hush money

She deflected a light-hearted question from Kimmel about whether the people she watched the verdict with "pretending to not be happy" when the conviction was announced. She instead spoke of the six-week deliberations and the 12-person jury, before adding "the reality is, cheaters don't like getting caught."

Blamed

Trump, the presumptive Republican presidential nominee, was convicted on all counts related to a scheme during his 2016 presidential campaign to pay off Stormy Daniels. The former president slammed the verdict as politically motivated, and has blamed it on Biden - while seeking to make himself a political martyr in the eyes of supporters, suggesting that if this could happen to him, similar things might befall them.

Harris' comments came a day after President Joe Biden tore into his predecessor and likely opponent in November's election for sowing doubt in the judicial process,

"It's reckless and dangerous and downright irresponsible for anyone to say that it's rigged just because you don't like the verdict," Biden said at a Greenwich, Connecticut, fundraiser on Monday night.

Meanwhile, Trump's lawyers are asking a New York judge to lift the gag order that barred the former president from commenting about witnesses, jurors and others tied to the criminal case that led to his conviction for falsifying records to cover up a potential scandal.

Authorities said the fire started to spread

after the camper trailer's propane tanks exploded, but the woman was able to escape to

Kim and Bashaw win NJ primaries for Senate seat held by Menendez House race and won a court ruling this year that toppled a unique-to-

TRENTON, N. J., June 5, (AP): Democratic Rep Andy Kim won his party's nomination for a US Senate seat Tuesday in New Jersey, setting up a general election contest against wealthy hotel operator Curtis Bashaw, who defeated a Trumpbacked candidate for the Republican nomination. Incumbent Democratic Sen Bob

Menendez will also be on the ballot after declaring his intention to run as an independent on Monday in the midst of a federal corruption trial. The turmoil surrounding the embattled senator has created the possibility of a headache for Democrats in a state where they haven't lost an election for Senate since 1972.

Kim, a three-term congressman who launched his campaign after charges against Menendez were announced last year, rose to the top in the state's dominant political party over a relatively short period. A former Obama administration national security official, he defeated an incumbent Republican in a 2018

In a letter Tuesday, Trump lawyers Todd Blanche and Emil Bove asked Judge Juan M. Merchan to end the gag order, arguing there is nothing to justify "continued restrictions on the First Amendment rights of President Trump" now that the trial is over.

Among other reasons, the lawyers said Trump is entitled to "unrestrained campaign advocacy" in light of President Joe Biden's public comments about the verdict last Friday, and continued public criticism of him by his ex-lawyer Michael Cohen and Daniels,

both key prosecution witnesses.

Trump's lawyers also contend the gag order must go away so he's free to fully address the case and his conviction with the first presidential debate scheduled for June 27.

New Jersey system widely viewed

as giving political bosses influence

"Leadership is not about the vol-ume of one's voice. It's about the

actions that they take," Kim said in

a phone interview. "People are hun-

gry for a new generation of leader-

ship to step up. They are hungry for

oper, spent hundreds of thousands of dollars of his own money on

the campaign to defeat Mendham

Borough Mayor Christine Serrano

Glassner, who had former president

Democrats' tenuous hold on con-

trol of the Senate means they can

hardly afford a competitive race in a

state widely viewed as safe for the

party. It's unclear how Menendez's

trial will end up and how his candi-

dacy could affect the race. Republi-

cans are eager to exploit his run as a

wedge to divide the Democratic vote.

Donald Trump's endorsement.

Bashaw, a wealthy hotel devel-

a change, in our broken politics

on who wins primaries.

The Manhattan district attorney's office declined to comment.

Merchan issued Trump's gag order on March 26, a few weeks before the start of the trial, after prosecutors raised concerns about the presumptive Republican presidential nominee's propensity to attack people involved in his cases.

Washington 'law' criticized: A new Washington state parental rights law derided by critics as a "forced outing" measure will be allowed to take effect this week after

a court commissioner on Tuesday declined

blocking it. The law, known as Initiative 2081, underscores, and in some cases expands, the rights already granted to parents under state

to issue an emergency order temporarily

It requires schools to notify parents in advance of medical services offered to their child, except in emergencies, and of medi-cal treatment arranged by the school resulting in follow-up care beyond normal hours.

'Water repairs done': City of Atlanta

officials say workers finished repairs on a ruptured water main on Tuesday and that water problems in the city are coming to an end after five days.

They predicted normal pressure would

return by Wednesday morning, although an order to boil water before drinking remained in place in downtown, Midtown and areas "Making progress," Mayor Andre Dick-

ens told reporters at the site of the ruptured pipe. "(I'm) so ready for this to be over. So are the residents around here. By Monday afternoon, the area under the boil-water advisory was sharply reduced after pressure was restored in many areas fol-

lowing Saturday's repair of the first mammoth leak, west of downtown. Water was shut off Tuesday only in the

blocks immediately surrounding that repair



Migrants reach through a border wall for clothing handed out by volunteers as they wait between two border walls to apply for asylum on May 12, 2023, in San Diego. US President Joe Biden has ordered a halt to asylum processing at the US border with Mexico when arrests for illegal entry top 2,500 a day, which was triggered immediately. (AP)

Africa

'Provide more aid'

Kids traumatized by war in Burkina

DAKAR, Senegal, June 5, (Agencies): When armed men entered Safi's village in northern Burkina Faso and began firing, she hid in her home with her four children. The gunmen found them and let them live - to suffer the guilt of survival - after killing her husband and other relatives.

Safi, whose last name has been withheld for security reasons, is among 2 million people displaced in the West African country by growing violence between Islamic extremists and security forces.

About 60% of the displaced are children. Many are traumatized, but mental health services are limited and children are often overlooked for treatment.



he said.

"People often think that the children have seen nothing, nothing has happened to them, it's fine," said Rudy Lukamba, the health coordinator for the International Committee of the Red Cross in Burkina Faso.

He works on a program to help identify and treat traumatized children. It often relies on mothers to spot signs in children as young as 3 or 4. The chances of a successful outcome after treatment is greater when the children have a parental figure in their lives,

Mass killings of villagers have become common in northern Burkina Faso as fighters linked to the Islamic State group and al-Qaida attack the army and volunteer forces. Those forces can turn on villages accused of cooperating with the enemy. More than 20,000 people have been killed since the fighting began a decade ago, according to the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project, a US-based nonprofit group.

Mental health services in Burkina Faso are often

Mental health services in Burkina Faso are often reserved for only the most severe cases. A UN survey published in 2023 showed 103 mental health professionals in the country of more than 20 million people, including 11 psychiatrists.

Community-based mental health services by social workers are expanding, now numbering in the hundreds and supported by a small team of U.N. psychologists. In addition, traditional medicine practitioners in Burkina Faso say families are increasingly turning to them for help with traumatized children.

Conflict

But the need is immense. The UN said surveys by it and partners show that 10 out of 11 people affected by the conflict show signs of trauma.

With no money and fearing another attack, Safi set off on foot with seven children, including her own, across the arid plains in search of safety. They settled in a community in Ouahigouya, the capital of Yatenga province, and sought help.

province, and sought help.

It was there that Safi learned how post-traumatic stress can affect children. They had nightmares and couldn't sleep. During the day, they didn't play with other children. Through the ICRC, Safi was connected with a health worker who helped through home visits and art, encouraging the children to draw their fears and talk about them.

Traditional medicine practitioners are also helping traumatized children. One, Rasmane Rouamba, said he treats about five children a month, adapting the approach depending on the trauma suffered.

Children in Burkina Faso also have lost access to education and basic healthcare in fighting-affected areas.

The closure of schools is depriving almost 850,000 children of access to education, the UN children's agency has said. The closure of hundreds of health facilities has left 3.6 million people without access to

care, it said.

Burkina Faso's government has struggled to improve security.

The country's military leader, Capt **Ibrahim Traoré**, seized power in 2022 amid frustrations with the government over the deadly attacks. He is expected to remain in office for another five years, delaying the junta's promises of a democratic transition.

Áround half of Burkina Faso's territory remains outside government control. Civic freedoms have been rolled back and journalists expelled.

Also:

KHARTOUM: Sudan on Tuesday urged the international community to provide more aid to those affected by the country's raging military conflict, according to a statement by Sudan's Foreign Ministry.

The Sudanese government appeals to the international community for more assistance, "particularly medicines, intravenous solutions, and medical consumables," said the statement.

Since May 10, fierce clashes have erupted in El Fasher, the capital city of North Darfur State, and its surrounding areas between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF), which halted the passage of aid convoys through the Al-Tina crossing with Chad.

The clashes in El Fasher are the latest escalation of the conflict between the SAF and the RSF across the country since April 15, 2023.

The UN World Food Programme has warned that the ongoing war in Sudan "risks triggering the world's largest hunger crisis" in a country that is witnessing the world's largest displacement crisis.

According to the UN, half of Sudan's population -- some 25 million people -- need humanitarian assistance and protection, with nearly 18 million people facing acute food insecurity.

nsecurity.

CAPE TOWN: At least ten people have lost their lives and many others have been displaced due to the devastating floods that have affected the Eastern Cape province in South Africa, local authorities confirmed Tuesday.

"To date, eight people have been reported to have drowned in the recent floods in the **Nelson Mandela** Bay Metro since Sunday," said a statement issued Tuesday by the office of the Eastern Cape provincial police commissioner.

After seven deaths had been confirmed Monday, "the body of the eighth victim, a female that went missing on Sunday in the Rocklands area was found at about 13:00 this afternoon, 4 June, by the SAPS (South African Police Service) K9 Search and Rescue and Diving Units in the Brak River in Rocklands. The next of kin is yet to be informed," said the police.

Meanwhile, the Buffalo City Metro Municipality in Eastern Cape has confirmed two deaths due to the floods.

This takes to ten the total number of people who have died in the province as a result of the recent floods that hit it at the weekend.



In this photo provided by the South Korea Defense Ministry, US Air Force B-1B bomber, (left), and South Korean fighter jets F-15K fly over the Korean Peninsula during the joint aerial drills between South Korea and the United States, South Korea on June 5. (AP)

US flies B-1B bomber for 1st precision bomb drill in 7 yrs as tensions simmer with NKorea

The United States flew a long-range B-1B bomber over the Korean Peninsula on Wednesday for its first precision-guided bombing drill with South Korea in seven years, the South's military said.

The drill - seen as a show of force against North Korea - comes as tensions are rising over the North's recent launches of rubbish-carrying balloons toward South Korea and other provocations.

Wednesday's training involved other advanced US and South Korean fighter jets as well as the

B-1B aircraft, the second US bomber temporarily deployed over the Korean Peninsula this year. The exercise was meant to demonstrate the US security commitment to South Korea and strengthen the allies' joint defense posture, according to the South

Korean Defense Ministry.

During the training, the B-1B dropped Joint Direct Attack Munitions while being escorted by South Korean jets, the first such bombing drill for a US bomber since 2017, a ministry statement said.

It said South Korean fighter jets also conducted live-firing exercises to demonstrate the country's

readiness to punish North Korea if provoked, it said. JDAM bombs include "bunker-busters." JDAM is a guidance system that converts unguided, conventional bombs into more precise, GPS-guided weapons. All US fighter jets, bombers and drones can use JDAMs, and the munitions are among the weapons systems the United States has been providing to Ukraine to help it fight Russia's invasion. (AP)



Children gather in a classroom at school in the village of Dori, Burkina Faso on Oct 20, 2020. More than half of the displaced by growing violence between Islamic extremists and security forces are children, and many are traumatized by their experiences. But mental health services in the West African country are limited, and children are often over-

looked for treatment. (AP)



Sheinbaum



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Lat/Am

Sheinbaum faces challenges: Mexico's newly elected president, the first woman to win the job, faces a long list of challenges, including persistent cartel violence, a deeply divided country, cash-straitened social programs and the long shadow of her mentor, outgoing President Andrés Manuel López Obrador.

But for some analysts it mostly comes down to three things: money, dialogue and the outcome of the U.S. presidential election.

Claudia Sheinbaum, who begins her six-year presidential term Oct. 1, has four months ahead of her to define her administration's agenda. During this time, López Obrador is expected to continue delivering his daily morning press briefings as he tries to solidify his legacy.

The coexistence might be far from easy: He has divided society; she says she wants to unite it. He is a leader of the masses; she is an academic and a scientist.

López Obrador has said he will not interfere with his protege's administration. "I do not aspire to be a 'moral leader,' a 'maximum boss,' a 'caudillo,'" he said Monday.

He has insisted that once his presidency is over, he is going to "talk with the trees, live with the birds." Yet, it was he who announced Monday that current Treasury Secretary Rogelio Ramírez de la O would remain in his post through the next administration in a bid to avoid a market meltdown.. (AP)

Dogs get medals for service: The dogs were quick and precise. One located the drugs and neutralized the person carrying them. Another found explosives hidden under a car's tire.

The dogs - Dayco, Amanda, Apolo, Zeus and Maly - were showing their skills Monday at a military intelligence brigade ceremony south of Ecuador's capital of Quito in which they received decorations for their

Uniformed men stood in formation as the

Asia

Philippine police officers arrested for kidnapping

China seized air-dropped supplies: Manila

MANILA, Philippines, June 5, (AP): The Philippine military chief on Tuesday said the Chinese coast guard seized one of four food packs dropped by a plane for Filipino navy personnel at a territorial outpost that has been surrounded by Chinese vessels in the disputed waters of the South China Sea.

Reinforce

Gen. Romeo Brawner said the Chinese personnel may have suspected the packages contained construction materials intended to reinforce a rusty Philippine navy ship ran aground at Second Thomas Shoal to serve as a Philippine outpost. After discovering the package contained food, they dumped the items, which included rice and biscuits, into the sea. Brawner said.

the sea, Brawner said.

Chinese officials did not immediately comment on Brawner's statement but they have repeatedly said the shoal, where the Philippine military deliberately grounded the navy ship in 1999, belonged to China and have demanded the ship be towed away. Operations to resupply Filipino forces at the grounded ship have led to skirmishes and collisions with Chinese coast guard ships that had damaged Philippine supply boats and injured several Filipino navy personnel.

personnel.

The May 19 airdrops at Second Thomas Shoal by the Philippine military sparked a race by the Chinese coast guard and Philippine navy personnel aboard small motorboats to retrieve the four packages. The Filipinos managed to retrieve three of the floating packages and the Chinese grabbed one, Brawner told reporters in a news conference.

After the Chinese personnel dumped the food items, the Filipino sailors managed to retrieve some at sea but the rice had been soaked wet and could no longer be eaten, he said.

"This action of confiscating our sup-

plies is illegal," Brawner said. "They

The dogs have played "a crucial role in

public security and the fight against organ-

ized crime," said Col Santiago Salazar,

commander of the Calicuchima General In-

canines received their medals.

telligence Brigade.

1st phase of Indonesia new capital 80% 'complete': President Widodo

JAKARTA, Indonesia, June 5, (AP): Indonesian President Joko Widodo on Wednesday said construction of the first phase of the country's ambitious new capital is 80% complete and he will have an office there once clean water is available next month.

"I am very optimistic about the

office. We are still waiting for one more thing, the water, in July," Widodo said in front of the construction site of the new presidential palace in Nusantara on the island of Borneo.

Widodo told reporters during his visit to Nusantara that the new

capital will be officially inaugurated during celebrations for the republic's 79th Independence Day in August.
Widodo has been in Nusantara

since Tuesday, a day after the surprise resignations of the head of his deputy, Dhony Rahajoe, for unexplained reasons. Widodo said the resignations were "personal" and were unlikely to hamper future foreign investment in the project already valued at \$32 billion.

Also:

MELBOURNE, Australia: Austral-

the Nusantara Capital Authority,

Bambang Susantono, along with

ia's online safety watchdog said on Wednesday she had dropped her Federal Court case that attempted to force X Corp to take down a video of a **Sydney** bishop being stabbed.

But eSafety Commissioner Julie Inman Grant said she would continue her legal action in the Administrative Appeals Tribunal against the platform rebranded in 2023 after billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk bought Twitter.

have no right to take our supplies, which are actually food items and some medicines."

Video and pictures issued by the Philippine military showed at least four motorboats maneuvering dangerously close to each other as the occupants struggled to retrieve items floating at sea, including what appeared to be a white plate and food containers. The men could be heard in the video yelling at each other.

Also: ilippines:

MANILA, Philippines: Four police officers assigned in the Philippine capital region have been arrested for kidnapping for ransom that victimized four foreign

"We want to pay fair tribute and recogni-

tion to the dogs" for their role in the military

operations that have intensified following

the declaration of an internal armed conflict

This declaration has allowed Ecuador's

in response to gang violence, Salazar said.

tourists, officials said Wednesday.

Two of the officers onboard

Two of the officers onboard motorcycles flagged down a luxury car carrying three Chinese and a Malaysian over the weekend, while their armed civilian cohorts handcuffed and dragged the four tourists into a van. Two of the Chinese managed to escape and notified authorities, police said.

The remaining captives were beaten by the kidnappers but freed overnight after payment of a 2.5-million-peso (\$43,100) ransom, Interior Secretary **Benhur Abalos** said. Information provided by the freed tourists and images from security cameras led to the arrest of the four police, including a police major, he said.

military to participate alongside police since January in tasks of controlling public order and conducting searches on the streets and in prisons. (AP)

US dampens criticism of Bukele: In 2021, the Biden administration turned down a meeting request with El Salvador's President, **Nayib Bukele**, on a trip to Washington, snubbing the self-proclaimed "world's collected distances" for formal and the self-proclaimed and the self-proclaimed the self-proclaimed to the self-proclaimed the self-proclai

coolest dictator" for fear a photo op would embolden his attempts to expand his power base.

A little more than three years later, it's the United States that's courting Bukele. A high-level delegation led by US Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas

Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, and senior White House and State Department officials, attended Bukele's inauguration in San Salvador on Saturday to a second term.

The visit - unthinkable until recently caps a quiet, 180-degree shift in Washington's policy toward the small Central Amer-

ican nation of 6 million that reflects how the Biden administration's criticisms of Bukele's strong-armed governing style have been overtaken by more urgent concerns tied to immigration - a key issue in this year's US presidential election.

"They've realized what he's been doing works" Damian Merlo, an American advis-

works," Damian Merlo, an American adviser to Bukele who is registered to lobby on the Salvadoran government's behalf, said in an interview from El Salvador. (AP)



In this photo released by Indonesian Presidential Palace, Indonesian President Joko Widodo, (center), talks to journalists after he inspected the presidential palace construction site at the new capital city Nusantara in Penajam Paser Utara, East Kalimantan, Indonesia on June 5. (AP)



SAUDI DUBAI - DFMGI **JAPAN** - Nikkei 225 **EGYPT** - EGX 30 **PAKISTAN** KSE 100

Change Closing pts 11,553.16 -58.87 -5.65 3.980.32 -347.29 38,490.17 -338.70 26.634.30

Business

Other Voices

Manufacturing capabilities enhance China-Kuwait industrial ties

China's high-quality production capacity 'boosts' world economy transformation

By H.E. Zhang Jianwei

Chinese Ambassador to Kuwait

Recently, some people in the world concocted the so-called "Chinese overcapacity" narrative, and some countries even used this narrative as a tool to make groundless accusations against China. As regards the issue of production capacity, an objective, dialectical and rational analysis of this issue through a market and global perspective and based on the laws of economics will make it easy for us to find that the so-called "overcapacity" is untenable and ill-intentioned. In contrast, amid the ongoing transformations unseen in a century in the world, the high-quality production capacity of China has been providing impetus for sustained global economic recovery. It is an important force for the transformation and upgrading of the world economy and a major driver of deepening China-Kuwait cooperation.

China's high-quality production capacity comes from full market competition. The global market share gained by a nation's specific sector is mainly the result of its efforts to utilize domestic resources, leverage its competitive edges and pursue mutually-beneficial cooperation. China's advantages in electric vehicles and other emerging sectors are attributed to its supersize market, the full-fledged industrial system and rich human resources. These advantages also hinge on enterprises' heavy investment in R&D and innovation and entrepreneurs' unremitting efforts. In shape contrast, a few countries have been increasing subsidies to their new energy industries. Under the Inflation Reduction Act issued by the U.S. in 2022, a customer buying a new energy vehicle manufactured in the U.S. may be qualified for up to \$7,500 tax credit. From March 2022 till the end of that year, the European Commission has approved over 1,000 State aid policies of 27 Member States, worth up to 600 million Euros. It is unfair to accuse China of the so-called "unfair competition". What's more, there is no so-called widespread or sustained "overcapacity" in China, nor is there any so-called "export of ex-



Ambassador Zhang Jianwei

cess capacity."In 2023, China's industrial capacity utilization rate achieved growth quarter-by-quarter and was considered normal. Domestic sales of new energy vehicles accounted for 87.3%, whereas exports only accounted for 12.7%. This shows that while fully meeting the domestic demand, China is working actively to offer a wider range of high-quality products to customers of other countries across the world.

China's high-quality production capacity is in the interest of green and innovative transition of regional and global economies. In the face of uncertainty in the world economy, China's new energy industry including electric vehicles and photovoltaic products which have come a long way over the past decade inject sustained momentum into inclusive economic globalization. The International Renewable Energy Agency's report shows that in the past decade, the world average levelized cost for wind power and photovoltaic power has declined cumulatively by more than 60% and 80% respectively, thanks in large part to Chinese innovations, manufacturing and engineering projects. Meanwhile, demand for new energy capacity continues to grow as a result of the increasingly severe global climate change. In this context, new energy products manufactured by China provide important support to such demand in the course of green and innovative

transition of economies. By 2030, the world will need 45 million new energy vehicles, 4.5 times the level of 2022, and the global demand for new photovoltaic capacity will reach 820 GW, about 4 times that of 2022, according to the estimate of the International Energy Agency. China stands ready to work with other countries in the world to seize the opportunities in the great trend of the rapid advance of emerging technologies and add impetus to green and innovative transition across the globe.

China's high-quality production capacity is conducive to sustained economic and social development of Kuwait. Vigorous efforts to develop green industries including new energy are instrumental in helping Kuwait achieve sustained economic and social development. To follow the trend of green economic development across the world, Kuwait has presented the 2060 low-carbon strategy and sought to reach carbon neutrality by 2060. In addition, to meet the growing power demand and get well prepared for the possible power shortage, Kuwait has set the objective of generating 15 percent of electrical energy from renewable sources by the year 2030. In September 2023, H.E. Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China and HH the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah witnessed the signing of multiple agreements on bilateral cooperation on various areas, including new energy cooperation, when they met in Hangzhou. We believe that as China's Belt and Road Initiative and Kuwait's Vision 2035 are better synergized, there is larger room for China-Kuwait cooperation in the future, especially on such emerging sectors as photovoltaic power generation and electric vehicles. We will utilize China's powerful manufacturing capabilities to elevate China-Kuwait cooperation in industrial and supply chains to higher levels. This will contribute to the sustainable development and diversification of Kuwait's economy, boost social and economic development of both nations and improve the wellbeing of the two

Kuwait's PMI hits 4-year high, reports S&P Global

New orders and production see sharp increases

KUWAIT CITY, June 5: The main Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for Kuwait, affiliated with the S&P Global group, reported that Kuwait experienced its strongest production growth in four years last May. The non-oil sector saw sharp and rapid increases in new business and production, levels not seen since the recovery period following the easing of COVID-19 restrictions in mid-2020, reports Al-Rai daily.

According to the S&P Global report, the PMI for Kuwait in May 2024 rose to 52.4 points, up from 51.5 points the previous month. This increase reflects improved business conditions in the non-oil private sector for the sixteenth consecutive month, indicating a rise in business confidence to the highest levels seen since early 2024.

The data showed a sharp expansion in new orders, reaching the highest rate since the study began in September 2018, excluding the peak seen in June and July 2020 after the easing of COVID-19 restrictions. New export orders also increased at a faster pace in the middle of the second quarter of the year.

Commercial activity followed a similar trend, with significant and rapid growth last month. Production has been rising for the past sixteen months, with evidence of expansion in both production and new orders.

The increase in new orders prompted some companies to hire additional employees, though the pace of job creation was marginal. Employee shortages led to a significant accumulation of unfinished business, marking the steepest increase in the study's history.

Procurement costs continued to rise sharply due to increased spending on advertising and higher prices for computer equipment, raw materials, and spare parts. However, the pace of inflation fell to its lowest level since the study began. Employment costs also continued to rise.

Production price inflation remained modest in May, consistent with the previous month. Some companies raised prices in response to higher production costs, while others offered discounts to customers. Companies also increased purchasing activity and stockpiles of supplies.

'Accountants play crucial role in ethical Al use'

ICAEW urges Mideast companies to prioritize data governance and AI in business strategies

KUWAIT CITY, June 5: The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW) has called on companies in the Middle East to reshape their business strategies around the evolving landscape of data governance and the transformative potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

At a recent virtual event, a panel of experts delved into the intricate relationship between data governance, AI, and business innovation. The discussion aimed to equip industry professionals with essential knowledge and best practices to navigate this dynamic landscape. The panelists included:

■ Ian Pay, Head of Data Analytics and Tech, ICAEW

■ Sourav Dey, Senior Manager-Data Analytics, Deloitte ■ Mursleen Iqbal, Financial Con-

troller for Dedicated Networks, Erics-■ Raffaele Tiberio, Partner Data &

Riyad Abbasakoor, Commercial Financial Director, M42 Health

The panel emphasized the increasing importance of robust data governance frameworks in maximizing the potential of AI technologies while mitigating



Hanadi Khalife - Head of Middle East (ICAEW)

associated risks. They highlighted the need for organizations to strike a balance between data accessibility and security, and the vital role of data stewards in ensuring ethical and compliant practices. Adapting to the evolving regulatory landscape was another focal point, urging businesses to proactively

adjust their strategies to drive innovation responsibly.

Building data analytics capabilities within organizations emerged as another critical factor. Panelists stressed the importance of developing talent and expertise within audit and finance teams, encouraging a more collaborative approach between IT, audit, and finance departments to effectively harness the power of data analytics.

Real-world case studies were presented, showcasing best-in-class approaches to data governance and AI adoption. This provided actionable insights for businesses to practice data-

driven decision-making.

Hanadi Khalife, Head of Middle East at ICAEW, said: "In today's datadriven economy, organizations face a dual mandate: harnessing the power of AI to drive innovation while safeguarding data integrity and privacy. As stewards of data, accountants play a crucial role in ensuring the ethical and responsible use of AI technologies. Through collaborative efforts, both within and outside the organization, companies can build a culture that promotes AI responsibility, unlocking new growth opportunities.

Residential sector boosted by new visa options in UAE and Saudi

Prime real estate assets maintain pricing power in GCC markets

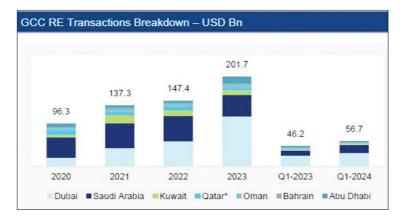
By KAMCO Invest

Drime assets still have pricing power: Real estate trends for prime assets in ■ all sub-segments across leading markets in the GCC remained in demand as of Q1-2024, while classic late-cycle pricing trends play out for secondary assets. For residential real estate, new residency options such as the blue visa and amendments to golden visa requirements in the UAE, and Saudi's premium residency program & RHQ initiative should support the residential sector in key markets within those geographies. In the office market, BFSI (banking, financial services and insurance) and healthcare/pharma along with newer sources of incremental demand such as TMT (Technology, Media & Telecom), AI, Robotics will remain primary drivers of additional take-up of quality spaces in GCC's office markets such Riyadh, Dubai, and Abu Dhabi for the rest of 2024, in our view. Quality and specialized newer stock of industrial warehouse spaces remained in demand throughout the GCC, even as supply tightness began to ease. Rents for high quality warehouse spaces continued to move higher, further widening the rental gap with lower quality spaces. Separately, best-in-class super regional malls and community-linked retail spaces should keep natural vacancy rates of 4%-5% and witness rental growth as retail real estate establishes itself as late-cycle favorites. Saudi & UAE propel GCC RE transacted value growth in Q1-2024: Real estate sale transactions registered in the GCC in Q1-2024 reached USD 56.7 Bn, up 23% y-o-y from USD 46.2 Bn over the same period in 2023, based on our analysis of available official estimates. Saudi was the key growth market for the region, as transacted value (~USD 18.8 Bn) jumped by over 70% y-o-y from strong residential demand across its main cities while Dubai continued its strong growth from 2023 into Q1-2024, as transacted value grew by 22% y-o-y over the same period. Both markets contributed to +85% of the total GCC real estate transacted value in Q1-2024 and were able to offset declines from other key real estate markets from the region. We continue to believe that real estate supply in most segments could quickly get sensitive to market wide headwinds in H2-2024, but also highlight that strong late-cycle pricing outperformance will further continue for unique superior-quality assets in GCC's real estate sub-segments in specific markets as investors become selective and watch overall economic activity and interest rates

RE developer equities outperformed YTD-2024: The Refinitiv GCC Real Estate Total Return Index gained by 3.8% and outperformed the MSCI GCC index (-8.2%) over the first five months of the year, driven by strong performances from real estate indices of Saudi Arabia's RE Management & Development companies (+7.2%), Kuwait (+6.0%) and Dubai (+5.1%). For the rest of 2024, stock price volatility of real estate equities will continue and selecting developer names with strong liquidity on their balance sheets will be preferred as they would be able launch opportunistically and maintain market share of launches. Having said that, we continue to believe that share price sensitivity to potential interest rate cuts and fluctuation of occupancy rates could potentially impact equity prices of secondary income generating properties operators to a larger extent.

Saudi & UAE propel GCC RE transacted value growth in Q1-2024 Real estate sale transactions registered in the GCC in Q1-2024 reached USD 56.7 Bn, up 23% y-o-y from USD 46.2 Bn over the same period in 2023, based on our analysis of available official estimates. Growth in RE transacted value sustained from 2023 when the region's transacted value jumped by almost 37% to USD 201.7 Bn. For Q1-2024, Saudi was the key growth market for the region, as transacted value (~USD 18.8 Bn) jumped by over 70% y-o-y from strong residential demand across its main cities. Dubai continued its strong growth from 2023 into Q1-2024, as transacted value grew by 22% y-o-y in the first quarter of the year, ascribed to the pricing power for leading developers, off-plan demand for luxury properties and both single-family and multi-family homes. Both markets contributed to +85% of the total GCC real estate transacted value in Q1-2024 and were able to offset declines from other key real estate markets from the region. The number of transactions in the GCC moved higher y-o-y as well in Q1-2024 (+12.9%) and reached 165,836 deals, mainly ascribed to a jump of over 44% and 17% witnessed in Saudi & Dubai's RE transactions respectively. These trends pushed the average value per transaction achieved in Q1-2024 for GCC's real estate market up by 17.0% y-o-y, as investors continued to see value for market

leading residential real estate products despite the strong pricing demanded by Nevertheless, the average value per transaction achieved over Q1-2024 for



GCC real estate was down by 3.6% y-o-y, as the mix of transactions included the higher contribution of Saudi transactions where average transaction size was smaller. Having said that average value per transaction in both Saudi and Dubai moved up by 17.9% and 4.0% respectively y-o-y. In Dubai, off-plan transactions continued their strong momentum with off-plan volumes over Q1-2024, however the average value per transaction for off-plan sales was 7.1% lower than the average of full year 2023 estimate, as project launches had a lesser contribution of luxury residences.

Separately in Saudi Arabia, mortgage activity recovered marginally y-o-y over Jan-Apr 2024 both in terms of volumes of new mortgage from banks & finance companies (+4.8%) and value of mortgage (+1.6%), however the market remains sensitive to higher mortgage rates and higher pricing of residential products. In H2-2024, we expect a slower pace of price increases across key residential markets, early signs of which have already been evident in off-plan and resale properties as typical late-cycle stabilization is witnessed. Further, mortgage rates and rental affordability should impact end user ownership trends especially in Saudi Arabia, while new supply type and configuration should remain the important theme in Dubai, both of which should determine the future course of residential

transaction activity in these leading markets, in our view. Late-cycle selectiveness; but still no real supply glut for quality assets

Real estate trends for prime assets in all sub-segments across leading markets in the GCC remained in demand as of Q1-2024, while classic late-cycle pricing trends play out for secondary assets. We continue to believe that real estate supply in most segments could quickly get sensitive to market wide headwinds in H2-2024, however frontline developer balance sheets remain healthy with strong liquidity that should enable them to calibrate swiftly to bring the right product types to the market. Further, we believe that strong late-cycle pricing outperformance will further continue for unique superiorquality assets in GCC's real estate sub-segments in specific markets as investors become selective and watch overall economic activity and interest rates. For residential real estate, new residency options such as the blue visa and amendments to golden visa requirements in the UAE, and Saudi's premium residency program & RHQ initiative should support the residential sector in key markets within those geographies. In the office market, BFSI (banking, financial services and insurance) and healthcare/pharma along with newer sources of incremental demand such as TMT (Technology, Media & Telecom), AI, Robotics will remain primary drivers of additional take-up of quality spaces in GCC's office markets such Riyadh, Dubai, and Abu Dhabi for the rest of 2024, in our view. Quality and specialized newer stock of industrial warehouse spaces remained in demand throughout the GCC, even as supply tightness began to ease. Rents for high quality warehouse spaces continued to move higher, further widening the rental gap with lower quality spaces. Separately, best-in-class super regional malls and community-linked retail spaces should keep natural vacancy rates of 4%-5% and witness rental growth as retail real estate establishes itself as late-cycle favorites.

Fundamental tailwinds to push residential gains in Dubai & Riyadh fur-Key residential markets of Dubai and Riyadh witnessed strong pricing trends in Q1-2024 backed by strong transaction activity and investment demand. Dubai sales price reportedly jumped by 21% as per JLL, supported by healthy off-plan sales and demand from cash buyers (+80% contribution). Luxury developments and related transactions continue to outperform in the off-plan market, leading developers to maintain launch momentum in this segment. In Abu Dhabi, villa prices moved up by 10%-15% y-o-y reportedly by Asteco, with the most significant surge recorded in prime villa communities, as demand for off-plan developments remained strong, particularly from foreign investors. Riyadh residential prices were up by 3.6% for villas and 8.4% y-o-y for apartments, as residential mortgages within Saudi that dominate buyer demand sequentially recovered in Q1-2024 (SAR 22.1 Bn) from Q4-2023 by 12.4%, and almost reached Q1-2023 mortgages disbursed.

Other markets such as Jeddah reportedly witnessed mixed trends, as apartment prices fell 1.1% while villa prices remained broadly stable as per CBRE. In terms of rents, Dubai reportedly witnessed a 21% y-o-y jump in average residential rents as per JLL, while CBRE quoted a similar rental increase and mentioned that tenants chose to renew their existing residential leases rather than initiate newer leases that came with much higher rents. Riyadh also witnessed an increase of actual rentals for housing of 19.3% y-o-y, based on the General Authority for Statistics, as migration from other cities and new expats entering the market drove housing demand. Other rental markets such as Jeddah (+5.9%), Abu Dhabi (+4.0%) and Kuwait (+2.5%) also witnessed increases y-o-y, based on trends from General

Authority for Statistics, JLL and REMI respectively. For the rest of 2024, we expect the pace of price and rental growth across key markets to moderate, but strong activity should continue for unique marketleading residential projects from developers who possess strong brand equity and pricing power. New residency options such as the blue visa and amendments to golden visa requirements in the UAE, and Saudi's premium residency program & RHQ initiative should support the residential sector in key markets within those

geographies. Limited supply deliveries & dropping vacancy rates continue in RHQ markets - Riyadh & Dubai

Prime office spaces in Dubai (+22%) and Riyadh (+8%) witnessed significant rental increases as demand continued for superior quality office premises amongst limited deliveries of supply, while specific industries continued to expand their footprint in these markets. Both markets also represent aspirations of becoming the regional headquarters for corporates. Saudi Arabia's regional headquarters program (RHQ Program) initiatives such as announced tax incentives for foreign companies that locate their regional headquarters in the kingdom, including a 30-year exemption for corporate income tax contributed to 104,000 commercial registrations (business licenses) in Q1-2024, a 59% rise from Q1-2023, bringing the total number of registrations to over 1.45 million across Saudi, based on Knight Frank data. In Dubai, there was notable activity from corporate occupiers, as per JLL, as they reportedly showed a preference for fitted space due to the landlords' reduced contributions to capital expenditures, while some tenants were able to negotiate the amortization of these expenditures into the rental agreement.

Separately, Knight Frank reported that rising demand predominantly from the public sector combined with limited quality supply drove rents in Jeddah's office market higher. A similar trend was witnessed in Abu Dhabi, as per CBRE, as entities with direct and indirect government links remain the largest source of occupier demand in onshore locations, while limited availability of quality stock remains one of the main challenges being faced. Aggregate office space in GCC's key markets is expected to reach 31.08 Mn sq.m by the end of 2024, from 29.21 Mn sq.m in 2023, based on our analysis of consultant data. As a result of the lower supply of quality spaces, prime office spaces in Abu Dhabi (+14%) and Jeddah (+3.8%) witnessed gains in rents y-o-y at the end of Q1-2024. BFSI (banking, financial services and insurance) and healthcare/pharma along with newer sources of incremental demand such as TMT (Technology, Media & Telecom), AI, Robotics will remain primary drivers of additional take-up of quality spaces in GCC's office markets such Riyadh, Dubai, and Abu Dhabi for the rest of 2024, in our view. Further influx of multi-national corporates will drive preference for sustainable and energy-efficient office spaces that are LEED certified, with allocation towards wellness components and better infrastructure

Mexico's incoming admin pledges to reduce budget deficit

Mexico's treasury secretary pledged Tuesday to bring down the federal budget deficits in coming years, after the country suffered a partial meltdown in

the currency and stock markets. Finance Minister Rogelio Ramírez said the federal deficit will be cut from this year's level of almost 6% of gross domestic product, to around 3% in coming

The statement was an effort to

calm markets after the Mexican peso dropped more than 4% on Monday against the U.S. dollar, and the Mexican stock exchange

The peso dropped almost another 1% on Tuesday to close around 17.86 to \$1. The stock market appeared to be recovering about half of Monday's losses in early trading on Tuesday.

But analysts said it would be difficult to achieve such a quick

reduction.
"It is very likely that the defi-cit will continue high next year, which increases the risk of a downgrade of Mexico's sovereign debt rating, if debt levels continue to grow," according to a Banco Base analysis report.

Ramírez also said the government would work to improve the financial affairs of the debt-laden state oil company Petroleos Mexicanos. (AP)

EU urged to stay committed to oppose protectionism

China on Tuesday urged the European Union (EU) to honor its commitment to upholding free trade and opposing protectionism, and work with China to maintain the overall interest of China-EU economic and trade cooperation, state-run Xinhua

News Agency reported.
Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Mao Ning made the comment at a news briefing in Beijing when responding to remarks of Josep

Borrell, the EU's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, that "decoupling" from China is very difficult.

Borrell expressed the hope in a recent interview for continuing mutually beneficial trade with China that is both fair and balanced, according to Xinhua.

Borrell also said that the EU will not follow the US in imposing tariffs on China, and that a trade war must be avoided.

"The China-EU economic and trade relations are mutually beneficial and win-win in nature," said Mao, adding that protectionism only leads to a dead end while openness and cooperation are the correct ways.
She noted that China and the

EU are each other's second largest trading partners, with an average trade value of nearly USD 1.5 million per minute.

Figure however remains at historically high levels

US job openings fall to 8.1 million, lowest since 2021

WASHINGTON, June 5, (AP): U.S. job openings fell in April to the lowest level since 2021. But they remained at historically strong levels despite high interest rates and signs the economy is

The Labor Department reported Tuesday that employers posted 8.1 million vacancies in April, down from a revised 8.4 million in March. The March figures had originally come in at

Still, layoffs fell, and the number of Americans quitting their jobs - a sign of confidence in their prospects - rose

in April. Monthly job openings have come down steadily a peak of 12.2 million in March 2022 - as the economy's recovery from COVID-19 lockdowns left companies desperate for workers but they remain at a high level. Before 2021, they never topped 8 million - a threshold they have now reached for 38 straight months

The high level of job openings reflects a surprisingly strong U.S. labor market. When the Federal Reserve began raising interest rates in March 2022 to combat a resurgence in inflation, the higher borrowing costs were expected to tip the economy into recession and push up unemployment.

Instead, the economy kept growing and employers continued to hire. The United States has averaged a solid 234,000 new jobs a month over the last year. On Friday, the Labor Department is expected to report that employers added another 180,000 jobs, according to a survey of forecasters by the data firm FactSet.

The unemployment rate is expected to come in at 3.9%, which would be the 28th straight month it's been below 4%. That would be the longest such streak since a 35-month run from 1951 through 1953 during the Korean War.

Still, high rates are taking a toll. The economy grew at an annual rate of just 1.3% from January through March, the slowest since spring 2022. Much of the first-quarter slowdown was caused volatile factors such as a surge in imports and a reduction in business inventories. Consumer spending, which accounts for 70% of U.S. economic activity, kept growing but at a slower annual

pace - 2%, down from 3.3% in the last three months of 2023.

The economy had been expected to get a lift from lower rates. The Fed signaled that it planned to cut its benchmark rate three times this year. But the start of the cuts keeps getting pushed back because inflation remains stubbornly above the central bank's 2%

Now Wall Street investors don't expect the first cut until the Fed's September meeting, according to the CME FedWatch tool.

Fed policymakers likely welcome lower job openings - a relatively painless way to cool a hot job market and reduce pressure on companies to raise

wages, which can feed inflation.
"Overall, job openings are still elevated, signaling strong demand for vorkers," said Rubeela Farooqi, chief U.S. economist at High Frequency Economics. "But they continue to move in the right direction, towards pre-pandemic readings, pointing to an ongoing normalization between supply and demand for labor.

GENEVA, June 5, (AP):

Global public debt rose to

a record \$97 trillion last

year, the United Nations

reported Tuesday, with de-

veloping countries owing

roughly one-third of that

- crimping their ability to

pay for basic government

services like health care,

education and climate ac-

formerly known as UNCTAD,

said the value of money owed by

governments rose by \$5.6 trillion

from 2022. In its report entitled "A

World of Debt," the agency said

high interest payments are out-

stripping growth in essential public

forced to choose between servicing

their debt or serving their people,

the report said. "The international

financial architecture must change to

ensure a prosperous future for both

Programs

In the developing world, which is home to 3.3 billion people, 1 in

3 countries spends more on paying

interest than on programs in "critical

areas for human development" such

as health care, education and climate

In 2023, public debt in developing

countries hit \$29 trillion, or about

30% of the total worldwide - an in-

crease from a 16% share in 2010, the

UN Trade and Development said

"cascading crises" and the slug-

gish and uneven performance of

the global economy underpinned

the rapid increase in global public

debt, which is rising at twice the

rate in developing countries than in

The United States, according

people and the planet."

"Developing countries must not be

spending.

Trade and Development

Germany's shortage of skilled workers remains at high level

BERLIN, June 5. (Xinhua): The shortage of skilled labor in Germany remained at a "very high level" in 2023, despite easing slightly, according to an annual report published by the Federal Employment Agency (BA) on Tuesday.

Around one in seven professions are facing a shortage of skilled labor, according to the report. Difficulties filling vacancies were recorded in 183 of around 1,200 professions that were assessed.

The decline in occupations with bottlenecks is "not surprising given the fall in job registrations," said Andrea Nahles, Chairwoman of the Executive Board of BA. "However, even with a recent rise in unemployment, companies are often unable to fill their vacancies due to a lack of skilled labor."

Also, Nahles warned "Due to demographic developments, many wellqualified and experienced skilled workers will continue to leave the labor market in the coming years."

The labor shortage is most pronounced in nursing and healthcare professions, skilled trades, road transport, childcare and social pedagogy. Technical occupations have been particularly affected in the IT sector and construction planning.

Without a shortage of skilled workers, German companies could generate an additional 49 billion euros (53.2 billion U.S. dollars) in 2024 at full capacity, according to a study by the German Economic Institute (IW) from mid-May. However, the gap is "likely to widen even further in the future." IW said According to the study, the cost of lost production potential could rise to 74 billion euros by 2027.

With an ageing population, the Europe's largest economy is highly dependent on immigration. The government has therefore amended the Skilled Immigration Act to make it easier for qualified workers from non-EU countries to seek employment in Germany.

"We are ensuring that the labor and skilled workers that our economy has urgently needed for years can come to our country," said Minister of the Interior Nancy Faeser when the last parts of the amended law came into force at the beginning of June. "This is crucial for the future viability of our country.'

Sides ready to OK deal

Disney set to 'invest' \$17b in Florida parks

ORLANDO, Fla., June 5, (AP): Months after Disney and Gov. Ron DeSantis' appointees agreed to end a protracted legal fight, the two sides are set to approve an agreement that could result in the company investing \$17 billion into its Florida resort and opens the door to a fifth major theme park at Walt Disney World.

The five DeSantis-appointed supervisors who oversee the Disney World district will vote Wednesday on a new development agreement that both sides had agreed to negotiate after a March settlement ended their state court lawsuits against each other.

The agreement between Disney and the Central Florida Tourism and Oversight District would last for the next 15 years. The district provides municipal services such as firefighting, planning and mosquito control, among other things. It was controlled by Disney supporters for most of its five decades until it was taken over by the DeSantis appointees last year.

Under the deal's terms, during the next decade or two, Disney would be approved to build a fifth major theme park at Disney World and two more minor parks, such as water parks. The company could raise the number of hotel rooms on its property from almost 40,000 rooms to more than 53,000 rooms and increase the amount of retail and restaurant space by more than 20%. Disney would retain control of building heights due to its need to maintain an immersive environ-

In exchange, Disney would be required to donate up to 100 acres (40 hectares) of Disney World's 24,000 acres (9,700 hectares) for the construction of infrastructure projects controlled by the district. The company also would need to award at least half of its construction projects to companies based in Florida and spend at least \$10 million on affordable housing for central Florida.

The settlement in March ended almost two years of litigation that was sparked by DeSantis' takeover of the district from Disney supporters following the company's opposition to Florida's so-called "Don't Say Gay" law.

The 2022 law bans classroom lessons on sexual orientation and gender identity in early grades and was championed by the Republican governor, who used Disney as a punching bag in speeches until he suspended his presidential campaign this year.

As punishment for Disney's opposition to the controversial law, DeSantis took over the governing district through legislation passed by the Republican-controlled Florida Legislature and appointed a new board of supervisors. Disney sued DeSantis and his appointees, claiming the company's free speech rights were violated for speaking out against the legislation. A federal judge dismissed that lawsuit in January, but Disney appealed. As part of the March settlement, Disney agreed to put on hold the appeal of the federal lawsuit.

Before control of the district changed hands from Disney allies to DeSantis appointees early last year, the Disney supporters on its board signed agreements with Disney shifting control over design and construction at Disney World to the company. The new DeSantis appointees claimed the "eleventh-hour deals" neutered their powers and the district sued the company in state court in Orlando to have the contracts voided.

Disney filed counterclaims that included asking the state court to declare the agreements valid and enforceable. Those state court lawsuits were dismissed as part of the March settlement.

The UN says global public debt hit a record \$97 trillion in 2023

Developing countries are hard hit

China's growth outlook positive

DBS chief economist optimistic

BEIJING, June 5, (Xinhua): China's economy has shown more positive signals of recovery as a slew of measures rolled out across China to boost the property market have taken effect, said Taimur Baig, chief economist and mandirector of DBS Group Research in a recent exclusive interview with Xinhua.

DBS, Singapore's major banking group, sees the supporting measures announced by the Chinese authorities over the last few months to boost the property market as substantial, said Baig.

"Sorting out China's property related problems will take time, but we're encouraged by the totality of the measures that have been taken in recent months.'

Besides the better-than-expected upturn in China's property market, the resilient trade performance in China also helps propel the world's second-largest economy, said Baig.

"Chinese exporters have been doing pretty well, independent of month to month fluctuations. If you look at trade for the entire first four months of the year, it's been better than expected," he noted.

According to the General Administration of Customs, China's exports in the first four months of 2024 grew by 4.9 percent year on year to 7.81 trillion yuan (about 1.1 trillion U.S. dollars).

On consumption, Baig said the number of travelers and total consumption in China during this

year's Spring Festival, Qingming Festival, and May Day holiday have shown significant recovery compared to the same period of 2019. "Looking ahead, support from the Chinese government, such as subsidies for trade-ins of consumer goods, will lift retail sales growth in the months ahead,'

According to the National Bureau of Statistics, China's GDP in the first quarter grew 5.3 percent year on year, beating expectations. With spiking optimism over China's economy, DBS decided to raise its forecast for China's GDP growth in 2024 to 5 percent from 4.5 percent on the heel of the NBS data.

A report in April by the DBS Group Research pointed out that China's fixed asset investment in the first quarter was picking up, as government initiative aimed at equipment renewal in strategic sectors began to take effect.

Baig noted that due to China's steady economic growth, the country remains a popular destination for foreign investment. Furthermore, the scale and purchasing capacity of Chinese consumers remains a huge draw for global mul-

tinational companies. Most global pharmaceutical giants have a substantial presence in China, and have expansion plans in mind, said Baig, adding that "global consumer goods producers are finding China very profitable for business. We also see those companies having big investment and expansion plans in China for years and decades to come.'

Baig noted that as China is advancing the two-way opening-up of its financial sector, many international financial institutions including DBS are provided with more opportunities to tap into the Chinese financial market.

He said that as China is pushing for high-quality development, impressive innovation achievements have been made by Chinese enter-

According to Baig, China has become a global leader in terms of production capabilities and technology know-hows in electric vehicles, lithium batteries, solar panels and other products.

In the service sector, several cross-border e-commerce companies and financial companies have gained global recognition through innovation.

The expert expressed optimism on China's long-term growth outlook, highlighting that China has been heavily investing in education and R&D to boost innovation and create commercialized applications of the innovation in a costefficient manner.

"When we look at the kind of investment China is doing in educating its population, providing it with skills for the next round of technological waves, as well as the output by Chinese scientists, we are encouraged by the long-term potential of China," said Baig.

Vietnam's major banks say no shortage of gold

HANOI, June 5, (Xinhua): Representatives of four major banks in Vietnam claimed there is no shortage of gold and domestic gold demand will be met, local media reported Wednesday.

The claim was made in response to the media's reports that many gold buyers had to leave empty-handed after lining up for gold purchases.

Vietnam News quoted Nguyen Thi Phuong, deputy director general of the Vietnam Bank for Agriculture and Development (Agribank), as saying that the bank had underestimated the number of residents shopping for gold, which has resulted in some customers having to go home empty-handed.

Residents need no rush to buy gold as the banks will continue to supply the market until the targeted price gap is achieved, she

Phung Nguyen Hai Yen, deputy director general of Joint Stock Commercial Bank for Foreign Trade of Vietnam (Vietcombank), said the central bank had set maximum and minimum quantities for each bank for each trading session. Vietcombank will sell to customers based on demand and the quantity available to the bank.

According to the State Bank of Vietnam, the selling price of Saigon Jewelry Company (SJC)branded gold bullion on Thursday morning was 76.98 million Vietnamese dong (3,028 U.S. dollars) per tael.

SJC gold bar price fell 1.3 percent to 77.98 million dong (3,067 dollars) per tael on Wednesday

to the report, led the world with more than \$33 trillion in public debt last year, trailed by China at nearly \$15 trillion and Japan at

richer ones.

U.N. office said.

\$10.6 trillion. Egypt, Mexico, Brazil and India joined China among developing countries with the most public debt. However, global shocks have jolted economies in Africa, where nedian public debt as a share of economic output has risen to 62% last

With the cost of borrowing increasing in many parts of the world last year, interest on public debt jumped to \$847 billion last year - up 26% from two years earlier, the U.N. office said.

Last month, U.S. President Joe Biden and visiting Kenyan President William Ruto urged economies worldwide to reduce the enormous debt burden crushing developing nations, such as by reducing financing barriers and coordinating debt relief through multilateral financial institu-

A \$1.2 trillion government funding bill passed by Congress in March allows the U.S. to lend up to \$21 billion to an International Monetary Fund trust that provides zero-interest loans to support low-income coun-

"Too many nations are forced to make a choice between development and debt, between investing in their people and paying back their creditors," Biden said.

The African Union, a new G20 permanent member, also has been outspoken on the issue. South Africa will assume the G20 presidency in December, saying it will be "an opportunity to champion the aspirations of emerging markets.'

Philippine inflation rate slightly rises to 3.9 pct in May

MANILA, June 5, (Xinhua): The Philippines' inflation rate rose up to 3.9 percent in May from 3.8 percent in April, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) said on Wednesday.

The May inflation rate brings the national average in the first five months to 3.5 percent.

In a news conference, PSA chief Dennis Mapa said the uptick in overall inflation in May was primarily influenced by the higher year-onyear increase in the index of housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuels, which increased to 0.9 percent during the month from 0.4 percent in He added the faster annual growth

of the transport index, at 3.5 percent in May from 2.6 percent in April, also contributed to the uptrend of the overall inflation.

The food inflation decreased but still reached 6.1 percent in May from 6.3 percent in April. Rice inflation, a significant contributor to overall inflation, decreased to 23.0 percent for the month from 23.9 percent in

The core inflation, which excludes selected food and energy items,

slowed to 3.1 percent in May. To help manage food inflation and enhance food security, the government has agreed to reduce the rice duty rate to 15 percent from 35 percent for both in-quota and out-quota

imports until 2028. The government also approved the extension of the reduced tariff rates on corn, pork, and

mechanically deboned meat until

The Asian Development Bank forecasts inflation in the Philippines to moderate to 3.8 percent in 2024 and 3.4 percent in 2025, falling within the 2 to 4 percent target range of the central bank.

Decelerating global oil prices and an extension in reduced tariffs on major food items, including rice, corn, and pork, will help contain food inflation, according to the









Al Mulla Automobiles presents first look at Mercedes-Maybach

'Redefining automotive excellence in the age of electro-mobility'

Al Mulla Automobiles unveils Mercedes-Maybach EQS SUV in Kuwait

Children's dreams come true with NBK's 'I dream to be' initiative

NBK grant's Yousef Al Sarraf's wish to be an actor

KUWAIT CITY, June 5: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) continues its "I Dream to Be" initiative, a first-ofa-kind initiative that aims at granting wishes for children with severe illnesses around Kuwait, giving them the chance to live their dreams.

Yousef Al Sarraf, who is undergoing treatment at NBK Hospital, has always dreamt to become an actor and meet his favorite character Mohamad Al Hemely. NBK Public Relations approached Al Hemely whom with his theatre group helped in making Yousef's dream come true.

NBK's family arranged for Yousef to attend the "Zombie" show with his family and friends, where he had the chance to share the stage with Al Hemely, sing, dance and entertain.

"Yousef's dream to perform and act is yet another wish granted through NBK's initiative "I dream to be". We are proud to be a part of the children's wishes and expand our



Yousef's dream of acting fulfilled by NBK.

support to them as much as possible to fulfill their dreams." said Joanne Al Abdul Jaleel, NBK Public Relations Manager.

"I dream to be" initiative is a lifetime experience for children," she added. "This initiative is a great way to spread joy and show that there's always a positive side to a difficult situation". NBK gives top priority to children

through its commitment to its corporate social responsibility. NBK works closely with the Kuwait Association for the Care of Children in Hospitals (KACCH), Bayt Abdullah for the Care of Children in Hospice (BACCH) and several other special needs organizations to maximize its reach to all the children in numerous hospitals and schools through its "I Dream to Be"

NBK has been at the forefront of supporting Kuwait's community through a range of initiatives towards education, health, sports and social responsibilities. The establishment of NBK's Children Hospital stands as one of many ongoing corporate social initiatives towards health and children. "I dream to be" aims at focusing and supporting NBK's efforts towards children and addressing their needs as much as

KUWAIT CITY, June 5: Al Mulla Automobiles Co., a member of the Al Mulla Group and the sole authorized distributor of Mercedes-Benz in Kuwait, held a private preview event on May 22nd for the-all-new Mercedes-Maybach EQS SUV. The event was held at the Al Mulla Automobiles Flagship Mercedes-Benz Showroom in Al Rai and attended by its esteemed guests, customers and members of the

The special event was organized to give invited guests a preview of the Mercedes-Maybach EQS SUV prior to its official arrival to Kuwait. The company utilized this occasion to give its guests a broad overview of the Mercedes-Maybach EQS SUV, as well as a personalized tour of the vehicle and its features that help it redefine automotive excellence in the age of electromobility.

The exterior design: Front end typical of the brand, chrome accents and brand emblem as a design element Mercedes-Maybach enriches the dynamic purpose design of the EQS SUV with exclusive elements that give it its very own character. The Mercedes star sits enthroned on the hood, defining the status. The front is characterised by the brand-typical black panel with ver-tical, chrome-plated trim strips in a three-dimensional depth look. The large black panel is smooth closed for the first time. The high-tech element for the radar sensors is fully integrated and no longer visible. Chrome-plated, filigree slats can also be found on the air intake of the humper. The classic air intake of the bumper. The classic MAYBACH lettering is discreetly incorporated into a chrome-plated decorative strip, which forms a unit with the continuous light strip of the standard DIGITAL LIGHT headlights. The Maybach pattern with several small brand emblems can also be found in trim parts of the side bumper. DIGITAL LIGHT welcomes and says goodbye to the driver with a special light show. As a further greeting, an animated projection of the Maybach

pattern shines in all four doors. When viewed from the side, specific features include the bold chrome surrounds on the side windows and the chrome-plated B-pillar trim. This decorative element is an integral part of the Mercedes-Maybach signature and highlights the length of the rear seating area. A Maybach emblem on the D-pillar underlines the high quality. The lettering EQS is subtly integrated into the front window triangle. The pronounced wheel arches with claddings in high-gloss black emphasise the SUV's power and emotional presence. Appropriately, the Mercedes-Maybach EQS SUV rolls on exclusive 21 or 22-inch alloy and forged wheels. The MAYBACH lettering can be found on the integrated, exquisitely designed wheel hub caps. Another eye-catcher are the standard running boards, which are illuminated in the dark. The treads are made of anodised aluminium, which echoes the pinstripe look of the black panel front. The Maybach emblem is also stylishly integrated here.

At the rear, the rear lights underline the exclusive character as a continuous light strip with a two-part helix. The lights are animated across the entire width. There are also chrome trim elements on the tailgate, on the rear apron and the spoiler lip, as well as the

MAYBACH letter-ing. The special appearance of the Mercedes-Maybach EQS SUV also includes the brand-typical two-tone paintwork with a filigree pinstripe. It is applied by hand according to the highest quality criteria and is available in five color combinations: high-tech silver/obsidian black, high-tech silver/ nautical blue, obsidian black/selenite grey, obsidian black/kalahari gold and velvet brown/onvx black

The interior design: The fusion of

tradition and avant-garde The design of the interior also consistently follows the Maybach credo 'What is good must also be beautiful". A highlight for the front passengers is the standard MBUX Hyperscreen with "zero layer" and Mercedes-Maybachspecific start-up animations on all three displays. The overall visual appearance is specially designed for the Mercedes-Maybach EQS SUV in an elegant deep blue. The numerous exclusive features include the animated display of the instrument cluster in "MAYBACH" mode. The pointers in the two tubes are designed like a silk scarf that moves elegantly in the wind according to the speed and driving style. At the same time, the digits change their size and are dynamically faded in or out. The surrounds for the round instruments are in rose gold, which is typical of the brand. An alternative display form to the tubes is the sporty "Pure EV" style. A threedimensional performance bar conveys the respective driving status (driving, accelerating, and charging).

The central display starts with the familiar home screen and the so-called "zero layer". In this basic setting, the navigation map dominates. The driver can carry out 80 percent of the most common interactions directly without changing the application. The system reacts situationally and is personalised with intelligent suggestions and forward-looking offers.

The functional content and operating structure of all three displays correspond to those of the EQS SUV. The appearance can be customised with three display styles (discreet, sporty, MAY-BACH) and three modes (navigation, assistance, service). In the discreet style, the content is reduced as much as possible and harmoniously co-ordinated with the colour change of the se-lected ambient lighting.

The rear passengers experience the same extensive range of infotainment and comfort features with two 11.6inch displays on the backrests of the front seats. With the standard MBUX High-End Rear Seat Entertainment, content can be shared quickly and easily on the various displays. It is also possible to select and modify the navigation destinations from the rear seats. The standard equipment also includes the MBUX rear tablet, which can also be used outside the vehicle, and the MBUX Interior Assist. With the help of cameras, it can recognise the operating requests of the passengers from body and hand movements and carry out the corresponding functions - for example switching on the reading lights.

Natural materials made with perfect craftsmanship create a stylish contrast to the high-tech look. The Mercedes-Maybach EQS SUV comes standard with Maybach Exclusive Nappa leather in the warm colours espresso brown/balao brown pearl. Macchiato beige/bronze brown pearl is optionally available. For an even more sophisticated look, Maybach MANUFAKTUR Exclusive Nappa leather is available as an option in crystal white/silver grey pearl. The leather in all inte-rior colours comes from sustainable processing. Natural woods are available as decorative parts: MANUFAKTUR brown openpore birch wood and brown open-pore MANUFAKTUR walnut wood, as well as MANUFAKTUR piano lac-

quer black flowing lines. The Maybach emblem, which is integrated at various points as a design element, underscores the high-quality appearance that is typical of the brand. It adorns the stainless steel pedal system, the cushions on the headrests, the front seat backrests and, as a projection, the footwell in the rear. In conjunction with the first-class rear, it can also be found on the wood trim between the rear seats. When the trunk is open, it can also be seen on the inner lining of the tailgate. The brand lettering differentiates the steering wheel and welcomes all passengers on the stainless steel door sills in illuminated

The rear: Exclusive lounge with a holistic comfort experience for all the senses

In the rear of the Mercedes-Maybach EQS SUV, the combination of exquisite materials, perfect craftsmanship and exclusive details creates a self-contained feel-good atmosphere for all the senses - the so-called cocooning effect. Like the front seats, the standard Executive seats are equipped with ventilation, massage function and neck and shoulder heating. There is also a calf massage and the Chauffeur Package. As soon as the right rear passenger chooses the reclining position, the front passenger seat automatically moves forward to the chauffeur position. The massage programmes are also available as part of ENERGIZ-ING COMFORT.

With the equipment First-Class Rear, the front centre console continues like a floating band to the rear seats. It was redesigned for the allelectric Mercedes-Maybach EQS SUV. Wooden trim adorns the rear storage compartment for the first time. It complements the wooden trim on the backs of the front seat backrests and between the rear seats, visually reinforcing the co-cooning feel-good atmosphere. Also new is a projector in the centre console that discreetly projects the Maybach emblem onto the floor. As in the Mercedes-Maybach S-Class, the addi-tional equipment includes two thermal cup holders and a shelf for the standard MBUX rear tablet. Four fast-charging USB-C ports and two HDMI interfaces also ensure that travellers can easily use their own digital devices. On request, the centre console can include two folding tables, a cooling compartment and silver-plated champagne goblets.

The air quality: Pollutants stay

ENERGIZING AIR CONTROL Plus with HEPA filter (High Efficiency Particulate Air) ensures good air quality as standard. The air quality sensor supports the fresh air recirculation switch. The air-conditioned circulating air is filtered several times in circulating air mode. The HEPA filter effectively cleans the incoming outside air of fine dust, very small particles and pollen. A special activated carbon in both the HEPA filter and the cabin filter also filters sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides as well as odours.

Luxury graduation experience unveiled by Four Seasons and Harvey Nichols Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, June 5: In an exciting new collaboration, Four Seasons Hotel Kuwait at Burj Alshaya is partnering with Harvey Nichols Kuwait, part of the Alshaya Group, to help graduates celebrate academic achievements in style. Bespoke styling consultations and exclusive beauty treatments combine with world-renowned Four Seasons hospitality for a first-class graduation occasion to remember.

"We are thrilled to partner with Harvey Nichols to offer a bespoke luxury experience that celebrates the important milestone of graduation," said Martin Kipping, General Manager at Four Seasons Hotel Kuwait. "This initiative is about more than just style and beauty; it's about creating lasting memories that honour our guests' achievements.'

Elevating 2024's graduation season, fashion experts will provide personal styling consultations at the Harvey Nichols Kuwait store, located in The Avenues. As further preparation for their special day, graduates can also enjoy complimentary beauty services from partner brands at Harvey Nichols Kuwait.

"We're extremely pleased to partner with the Four Seasons to celebrate every graduate's momentous occasion in style. This first-of-its-kind collabora-



Graduation lounge and sweet treats await guests at Four Seasons x Harvey Nichols event.

tion allows us to support graduates as they embark on their next chapter while also using the power of fashion to make a lasting impression. Together, we'll ensure graduates feel confident and empowered as they step out into their new world," said Saleh Alshaya, President of the Apparel Division - Alshaya

From June 1 to 14, hotel visitors can purchase an array of ready-to-wear accessories at an exclusive Harvey Nichols pop-up boutique. The boutique will feature bags, shoes, jewellery, and cosmetics, as well as the latest 'Eid Capsule Collection'.

To further enhance the experience, the Harvey Nichols pop-up will be accompanied by a 'Graduation Lounge' setfrom June 1 - a bespoke addition for graduates and their families and friends to refresh with graduation-themed pastries and sweet treats for coffee breaks with a smile.

"Our collaboration with Four Seasons Hotel Kuwait allows us to bring our expertise in luxury fashion and beauty directly to the deserving graduates, giving them the opportunity to step out for their graduation ceremony feeling confident and stylish, dressed in stunning designs from coveted names

like Zimmermann, Self-Portrait, and Rotate. We will also be providing complimentary makeovers by some of the most popular beauty brands we house, ensuring they look and feel their absolute best on this momentous occasion," said Julie Howett - Business Director at Harvey Nichols Kuwait.

The Graduation Package is available for all graduates celebrating at the hotel during the graduation season. Package highlights include:

An invitation for a personalized styling consultation with a Personal Shopper at Harvey Nichols Kuwait for all graduates

Complimentary beauty services, such as professional makeup application on their graduation day, for all graduates purchasing from featured partner beauty brands (terms and conditions apply)

■ A complimentary facial voucher featuring one of Harvey Nichols' premier skincare brandsfor graduates booking a suite at the hotel during the graduation ceremony(one complimentary voucher per booking per stay)

For more information about the graduation celebrations with Harvey Nichols at Four Seasons Hotel Kuwait or to make a reservation, please call

Malabar Gold & Diamonds utilizes Brink's cash services

KUWAIT CITY, June 5: Malabar Gold & Diamonds, the 6th largest jewelry retailer globally with over 350 showrooms across 13 countries, have extended their partnership with Brink's Inc., a leading provider of cash and valuables management, digital retail solutions, and ATM Managed Services, to utilize their cash management services in the UAE &precious metal storage

facilities globally.
"Brink's Global Services has been Malabar Gold & Diamonds' exclusive logistics partnerfor several years, and we are very excited to expand our longstanding partnership with them. By broadening the scope of our partnership to cash management services across our retail stores in the UAE and precious metal storage facilities globally, we are further optimizing our efficiency in retail operations and drivingMalabar Gold & Diamonds' global growth", commented Mr. Shamlal Ahamed, MD-International Operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds.

Through Brinks' state-of-the-art cash management solutions, Malabar Gold & Diamonds' retail stores in the UAE will optimize cash resources,



Malabar Gold & Diamonds expands partnership with Brink's for cash management.

improving liquidity and streamlining cash-related operations. By utilizing these solutions, Malabar Gold & Diamonds can enhance their financial performance, minimize risk, and maintain better control over their cash reserves.

"The signing of this agreement is a great example of the strong partnership between Brink's and Malabar Gold & Diamonds. We look forward to many more years of successful collaboration

as we continue to grow our businesses alongside each other," commented Mark Eubanks, President and CEO of Brink's.

"Malabar Gold & Diamonds has always been a pioneer in the adaptation of technology and our latest venture with Brink's, a name that is synonymous with security, trust and excellence, is a testimony to our never ending strive for innovation. The advantages that the Brink's cash management services and

precious metal storage facilities offers us will add another layer of efficiency to our global operations, aiding us on our path to become the world's no 1 jewelry retailer", commented Mr. Abdul Salam K.P. Vice Chairman of Malabar Group.

With access to Brinks' sophisticated vaults, Malabar Gold & Diamonds will be able to access precious metals across key trading locations, boosting their global growth.

LuLu Hypermarket goes green for World Environment Day

KUWAIT CITY, June 5: In a commendable display of environmental responsibility, LuLu Hypermarket, the region's leading retailer, actively participated in World Environment Day on 5 June. Recognizing the day as a global platform to raise awareness and encourage positive environmental practices in the community, LuLu Hypermarket held a variety of engaging 'green' activities across all their outlets in the country

In an extension of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative, the hypermarket's activities on World Environment Day were focused on fostering environment-friendliness among customers. Informative sessions were conducted to raise awareness among the public on the detrimental effects of plastic pollution and the need to reduce plastic usage. The sessions also offered simple yet effective strategies for minimizing the use of plastics in daily life.

In addition to dedicated green checkouts, LuLu Hypermarket underlined the environment sustainability message further by showcasing an array of eco-friendly products across all their outlets. This extensive display aimed to highlight available alternatives to traditional, plastic-based items. The display included bamboo cups, plates, and even plastic-free plates.

Special kiosks were also set up throughout the outlets, specifically promoting the use of reusable bags. Jute and paper bags were prominently displayed, encouraging customers to adopt more sustainable shopping practices.



Photo during the event

Muhammad Ali's childhood home turned museum up for sale

LOUISVILLE, Ky., June 5, (AP): The pink house where Muhammad Ali grew up dreaming of boxing fame - and where hundreds of fans gathered for an emotional send-off as his funeral procession passed by decades later - is up for sale.

The two-bedroom, one-bathroom house in Louisville was converted into a museum that offered a glimpse into the formative years of the boxing champion and humanitarian known worldwide as The Greatest. The house went on the market Tuesday along with two neighboring homes - one was turned into a welcome center-gift shop and the other was meant to become a short-

The owners are asking \$1.5 million for the three properties. Finding a buyer willing to maintain Ali's childhood home as a museum would be "the best possible result," co-owner George Bochetto

"This is a part of Americana," said Bochetto, a Philadelphia attorney and former Pennsylvania state boxing commissioner. "This is part of our history. And it needs to be treated and respected as

The museum opened for tours shortly before Ali's death in 2016. Bochetto and his business partner at the time renovated the frame house to how it looked when Ali - known then as Cassius Clay lived there with his parents and younger brother.

"You walk into this house ... you're going back to 1955, and

you're going to be in the middle of the Clay family home," Bochetto told The Associated Press during a 2016 interview.

Using old photos, the developers replicated the home's furnishings, appliances, artwork and even its pink exterior from Ali's days living there. The museum featured videos focused on the story of

Ali's upbringing, not his storied boxing career. "To me, that's the bigger story and the more important story," Bochetto said in an interview last week.

Ali got his start in boxing after his bicycle was stolen. Wanting to report the crime, the 12-year-old Ali was introduced to Joe Martin, a police officer who doubled as a boxing coach at a local gym. Ali told Martin he wanted to whip the culprit. The thief was never found, nor was the bike, but Ali became a regular in Martin's gym.

Ali lived in the home when he left for the 1960 Olympics. He returned as a gold medal winner, launching a career that made him one of the world's most recognizable figures as a three-time heavyweight boxing champion and globetrotting humanitarian.

The home became a worldwide focal point on the day of Ali's burial, when hundreds of people lined the street in front of the house as his hearse and funeral procession slowly passed by.

Despite its high-profile debut, the museum ran into financial troubles and closed less than two years after opening. The museum is situated in a western Louisville neighborhood several miles from downtown, where the Muhammad Ali Center preserves his humanitarian and boxing legacies.

As efforts to reopen the childhood museum languished, offers to move the 1,200-square-foot (111-square-meter) house to Las Vegas, Philadelphia and even Saudi Arabia were turned down, Bochetto said.

"I wouldn't do that because it's an important piece of Louisville history, Kentucky history and I think it needs to stay right where it is," he said.

Las Vegas real estate investor Jared Weiss bought the Ali childhood house - then rundown and vacant - in 2012 for \$70,000 with plans to restore it. Three years later, Weiss formed a partnership with Bochetto, who acquired a half interest in the project. Both were avid fans of Ali, and they spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on the restoration project. They also purchased the two neighboring homes, financed a documentary, subsidized museum operations and incurred expenses for all three properties. Weiss has since died and his wife is the project's co-owner, Bochetto said.

Now, Bochetto said he's hoping they'll find a buyer with the "marketing and operational know-how" to make the museum a

"I want to make sure that it continues in that fashion and never goes back to where it's abandoned or dilapidated," he said. "That should never have happened."

Variety



This image released by Sony Pictures shows Will Smith, right, and Martin Lawrence in 'Bad Boys: Ride or Die.' (AP)

Film

Smith and Lawrence reunite in 'Ride or Die'

'Bad Boys' return to redeem legacy Jersey" cast member was convicted woman's boyfriend in exchange for

By Jake Coyle

6 P ad Boys: Ride or Die,' the fourth installment Din the Will Smith-Martin Lawrence actioncomedy series, is about a fight to redeem a tarnished legacy.

No, not that one. The reputation of Conrad Howard (Joe Pantoliano), the beloved captain of detectives Mike (Smith) and Marcus (Lawrence), has been posthumously besmirched. After his death, Conrad is framed as an informant for a Mexican drug cartel as a way to cloak more sinister corruption. Our detectives set out to clear his name.

Of course, the real image restoration that's going on here is for Smith. "Ride or Die" was in development in 2022 when Smith strode onto the Oscar stage and smacked Chris Rock. The film was temporarily put on hold. Options were weighed. But 2020's "Bad Boys for Life" made a hefty \$424.6 million before COVID-19 shut down theaters. Watcha gonna do?

The result is the first movie Smith has made in that era defined as Post Slap. Here he is, back in the driver's seat and flying around the Miami waterfront with Lawrence riding shotgun. That's to say: Smith is very much back in his element.

"Ride or Die," which opens in theaters Thursday, is an attempt to pretend there haven't been any bumps in the road along the way. More than that, this "Bad Boys," coming 29 years after the original, would like very much to act as if nothing much has changed in not just the last two years but in the previous three decades.

Some signs of age is creeping in "Ride or Die." Marcus has a heart attack on the dance floor and Mike is suffering from panic attacks. But with the exception of a drone or two, this is a movie that feels like it exists in the 1990s. Jerry Bruckheimer is still a producer, while original director Michael Bay has, as he did in the previous one, steps aside for Adil El Arbi and Bilall Fallah. (Bay returns for a cameo.) But "Ride or Die," set against Miami nightclubs and alligator-crawling hideouts, has largely stuck to its old buddy-cop formula with all the requisite explosions and slow-mo'ed car chases

mixed in. As before, the key is the comic chemistry and endearing bond between Smith and Lawrence. And, really, as much as the response to "Ride or Die" is sure to be taken as a referendum on Smith's recalibrated drawing power, Lawrence is the MVP of these movies. It's his manic comic energy that propels them.

Presence

The schtick may be a little stale at this point, but no one can deliver a line like "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang!" in a gunfight with quite the same panache. "Ride or Die," scripted by Chris Bremner and Will Beall, knows to prioritize crafting ripe situations for Lawrence. After his heart attack, Marcus wakes up with a new zest for life and a foolhardy feeling of invincibility.

The same might have once been said of Smith's bulletproof screen presence, of course. Here, Smith seems a little less cocksure than he once did; those panic attacks keep coming for Mike. Smith is also playing more of a straight-man to Lawrence. If the slap caused a reassessment of Smith as a movie star, "Ride or Die" is the kind of the tailor-made vehicle that reminds you there haven't been many better male American action stars in the last few decades

None of this is enough to lift "Ride or Die" beyond its paint-by-numbers plotting, or prevent the film from being inevitably tethered to the Slap not least because the film climaxes with Marcus smacking Mike with an open hand. But the directing duo of Adil & Bilall keep the pace moving quick enough to prevent you from dwelling too much on ridiculous details - like that Mike, as revealed in the last film, is the father to an imprisoned cartel assassin named Armando (Jacob Scipio), a prominent character this time around. And silliness is more of a feature than a bug in movies like "Bad Boys."

You end up questioning less why Smith and Lawrence are still making "Bad Boys" movies than wondering why such breezily watchable genre movie-star platforms more or less don't exist any longer. This summer will also bring back "Beverly Hills Cop," with Eddie Murphy, another reminder that - outside something like the "Fast and Furious" films - the movie industry just hasn't produced anything like these guys for years now. Will Smith might not be going anywhere, after all.

"Bad Boys: Ride or Die," a Columbia Pictures release, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association for "strong violence, language throughout and some sexual references." Running time: 115 minutes. Two and a half stars out of four.

Also:

LOS ANGELES: Jim Henson died in 1990 at the age of 53 but his Muppet creations and their rambunctious spirit have long outlived him. Ron Howard's "Jim Henson Idea Man" is an attempt to document the life and imagination behind one of the most beloved entertainers. Howard made the film with the involvement of the Henson family and use of its extensive archive.

Meanwhile, George Clooney's "The Boys in the Boat" is an almost daringly old-fashioned sports drama that makes "Seabiscuit" look comparatively cutting edge. It tells the true-life tale of the University of Washington rowing team who in 1936 reached the Olympics in Berlin. In her review, AP National Writer Jocelyn Noveck wrote that "Clooney has gone for stirring and a bit stodgy, pleasing and a bit predictable." (AP)

performers and producers. (AP)

shows online, such as "Black Girl Stuff," and "The Life of Draco," **SANTA FE, N.M.:** An incumfeaturing rapper Big Draco. bent district attorney pursing an The move comes as Combs' repinvoluntary manslaughter charge utation has been sullied following against Alec Baldwin fended off several lawsuits filed late last year a Democratic challenger in New that raised allegations of sexual assault and rape on the part of one Mexico's primary election on of hip-hop's most recognizable Tuesday to ensure her reelection.





who backed Donald Trump's failed efforts to overturn the 2020 election won the GOP nomination for a state Senate seat. And Democrats ousted a state senator accused of sexual harassment as voters picked their partisan favorites to reshape a Democraticled Legislature, with all 112 seats

In other results, a Republican

up for election in November.

The votes in the first Senate election since redistricting in 2021 hold implications for Native American communities, the state's oil industry and the #MeToo movement.

New Mexico has a closed primary system that limits participation to voters who register with major parties, leaving out

Independent or unaffiliated voters, but not Libertarians.

Making it through to the general election might hinge on small margins because of generally low turnout. More than 205,000 ballots were cast in early, absentee and in-person voting as polls closed at 7 p.m., out of about 1.3 million registered voters. (AP)

NEWARK, N.J.: The ex-husband of a "Real Housewives of New

Tuesday on charges he hired a reputed mobster to assault the

a free, lavish wedding reception.

A federal jury found **Thomas**

Manzo of Franklin Lakes guilty of

conspiracy, falsifying and conceal-

ing documents, and committing a

Housewives" cast member Dina

Manzo faces up to 46 years in

violent crime in aid of racketeering activity. The ex-husband of "Real"

prison when he's sentenced Oct. 15.

Federal prosecutors have said

Thomas Manzo, 59, hired **John Perna** - whom they described as

a soldier in the Lucchese Crime

Family - to commit the July 2015

attack. Perna's wedding reception

was held the following month at a

restaurant in Paterson partly owned

by Manzo, prosecutors said. Perna pleaded guilty in Decem-

ber 2020 to committing a violent

crime in aid of racketeering activ-

ity and received a 2 1/2-year sen-

tence. He was freed last August.

LOS ANGELES: Sean "Diddy"

Combs has sold off his stake in

Revolt, the media company the

rapper and entrepreneur founded

over a decade ago. Shares in Revolt held by Combs,

who served as the company's chair,

have been fully redeemed and retired,

the Los Angeles-based company said

Tuesday a statement on its website.

entertainment company, which he

In the statement, CEO Detavio

Revolt didn't disclose how

much Combs was paid for his

stake in the hip-hop news and

Samuels noted that when he

joined the company in 2020 he

realized "our mission is bigger than any individual."

in the company, which streams

Revolt also announced a new ownership structure that will give its employees an equity stake

founded in 2013.

Dina Manzo's boyfriend is now

her husband. (AP)

People & Places

Books

Passion project

Patterson completes Crichton's 'Eruption'

NEW YORK, June 5, (AP): When "Jurassic Park" author Michael Crichton died from cancer in 2008, he left behind numerous unfinished projects, including a manuscript he began 20 years ago about the imminent eruption of Mauna Loa, the world's largest active volcano.

Crichton's widow Sherri, who is CEO of CrichtonSun, tapped another millions-selling author - James Patterson- to complete the story. "Eruption" is now in stores.

Patterson is very familiar with co-authoring. In recent years he's published a novel with Bill Clinton and Dolly Parton, and often shares writing responsibilities on his other novels.



For "Eruption," Crichton says she gave Patterson all of her husband's research and he came back with an outline. Some of the story needed to be brought forward to present day. "We talked probably every few weeks," Sherri Crichton says. "It was so much fun to read. It would be hard to tell what was Crichton and what's Patterson's.'

Crichton

Besides "Eruption," four novels have been published under Michael Crichton's name since his death, some with the help of other writers. Sherri Crichton says to expect "other Michael Crichton adventures" in the future.

Crichton spoke with The Associated Press about her husband's legacy. Answers have been edited for clarity and brevity.

AP: You've worked hard to preserve Michael's archive. Why is that important to you?

Crichton: When Michael died I was pregnant with our son. I was like, "How am I going to raise our son with him not knowing his father?" So I had to go searching for Michael, and I found him through his papers, which is so remarkable. It gives me so much joy to bring things like "Eruption" to life, because it really does allow John Michael the opportunity to really know his father. That's why I do what I do. It's for the love of him and Michael's daughter Taylor.

AP: What did you discover from those papers? Crichton: Michael had structure and discipline. He was constantly moving all of his projects around. When he wrote "Jurassic Park" he was also writing four or five other books at the exact same time. He charted everything. How many words he wrote in a day, how many pages, how did that compare to other days, how long it took. Then he would have different charts that would compare what one book was doing compared to, say, for instance, "Fear' or "Disclosure." Then he would have another chart that would track the amount of time it would take to publication, the amount of time it took to sell the movie rights, then for the movie to be released.

AP: Sometimes when people are so cerebral, they struggle socially. Did Michael?

Crichton: The person I knew was this incredibly kind, loving, humble, wonderful man that was a great father and incredible husband and fun to be around. I will say he was famous for his his pregnant pauses. When writing a book, the pauses would be longer. You didn't know if he was really at the table. He was working something out and he would isolate to land that plane.

At first it was very shocking when he was in the zone, but I learned to very much respect that. Like, "I'm not going anywhere. He's not going anywhere. And I can't wait to read the book.

AP: When do you feel closest to Michael? **Crichton:** I still live in our home. I still have the office, which is at home. I honestly feel that he's always in the other room writing. I really don't ever feel disconnected to him. And our son is such the spitting image of him. John Michael has never known his father, and he has some of the exact characteristics of Michael. He's very cerebral. He's very articulate. He's a sucker for a great book and research. And he's a really good writer.

You know you've got some juice in the publishing world when you get top billing on a book nearly 16 years after your death. "Eruption" is the completion of a partial manuscript found by the late Michael Crichton's wife, Sherri, and finished by James Patterson.

That pedigree is sure to make it a summer bestseller, and fans of both authors will read it with relish. The short chapters — there are 109 of them in 419 pages — propel the plot at a furious pace.

The plot itself revolves around the imminent eruption of the Mauna Loa volcano in Hawaii. Dr. John MacGregor ("Call me Mac") is the scientist in charge at the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory (HVO), and when he calls a press conference to announce that the largest active volcano on Earth is going to erupt soon, that furiously paced plot, pardon the pun, explodes.

This being a Crichton/Patterson story, there's much more at stake than the life of Pacific islanders during a natural disaster. Turns out the U.S. military has a secret buried at Mauna Loa and let's just say that when it comes to the fate of civilization it

makes lava look like a hot, runny creamsicle. The book's characters are straight out of central casting. In addition to Mac, there's Jenny Kimura, the lead lab scientist at the HVO, "32... Ph.D in earth and planetary sciences from Yale, well-spoken, very attractive." And Col. James Briggs, "60s, white-haired, trim, and fit." Throw in a couple more volcanologists practiced at gallows humor and a smart teen who Mac has taught how to surf, and you have all the elements of a summer blockbuster coming in a couple years to a

But is the book any good? That's a tougher question. It's formulaic, sure, and the writing won't win any prizes, but it's a thrill and the pages practically turn themselves. There are real character casualties, giving the story some emotional weight, but there are also a lot of scenes seemingly written with a movie in mind. So while some may quibble over whether there are more productive ways to spend a few hours, when Jenny turns to Mac and says, "I don't want to die," readers everywhere will cheer when Mac replies, "You're not going to. Not on my watch."



The singer Blondshell performs the Talking Heads song 'Thank You for Sending Me an Angel' at 'A Night of 'Stop Making Sense," at the Pantages Theatre, Tuesday, June 4, in Los Angeles. (AP)



Olivia Cooke attends the premiere of HBO's 'House of the Dragon' Season 2 at the Hammerstein Ballroom on Monday, June 3, in New York. (AP)





Variety

NEW YORK: Former Manhattan prosecutor Linda Fairstein and Netflix announced Tuesday they've settled the defamation lawsuit she filed four years ago over her portrayal in the streaming service's miniseries about the five Black and Latino teenagers known as the now-exonerated Central Park Five.

Fairstein had argued that the 2019 fourpart series "When They See Us" defamed her by portraying her as a "racist, unethical and attributed actions, responsibilities and viewpoints that were not hers.

The case was expected to go to trial later this month. Fairstein said in a statement that "the decision to conclude this fight was not an easy one," expressing confidence she would have presented a "compelling case to the jury." While Fairstein will not receive any money as part of the settlement, Netflix has agreed to donate \$1 million to the Innocence Project, a nonprofit that works to exonerate people who've been wrongly convicted.

Viewers of the series will also now see a disclaimer that states, "While the motion picture is inspired by actual events and persons, certain characters, incidents, locations, dialogue, and names are fictionalized for the purposes of dramatization." (AP)

MOUNDSVILLE, W.Va.: The Moundsville Daily Echo, a small, independent daily newspaper in northern West Virginia, has stopped publication after 133 years and publisher Charlie M. Walton said Tuesday

he was "exploring options."

Walton told The Associated Press by telephone that the newspaper published its last edition Thursday and he locked the doors Friday afternoon.

Walton said he and two part-timers were the only employees at the newspaper and his efforts to expand the staff were unsuccessful.

"We simply cannot get anybody to work there," Walton said. "I've been advertising for years for people. I don't get any resumes. It's just been a disaster to find anybody to even work part time.'

The Daily Echo, published weekdays, was delivered by mail and had no website. It was founded in October 1891 by James Davis Shaw. His son, Craig Shaw, took over in 1917 and grandson Sam Shaw followed in 1951. For more than 40 years, Sam Shaw was the publisher, editor and chief reporter who collected the days' news by bicycle. (AP)



'Stop Making Sense' reimagined

Bon Jovi's 'Forever,' a victory lap

LOS ANGELES, June 5, (AP): Forty years after they ran away with our hearts and into rock history, Bon Jovi is back with a reflective new album taking stock of all the boys from New Jersey have accomplished.

Perhaps the biggest news is that there's a new Bon Jovi album at all. After years of experiencing vocal issues, singer Jon Bon Jovi underwent surgery on his vocal cords in 2022 and wasn't at all sure of what the results would be. They turned out fine. His voice has

a slight affectation to it, mostly on protracted vowel sounds, but the charisma and the mischievousness is still there, as are a few successfully hit high notes that are an encouraging "Living Proof" is the best Bon Jovi

song in nearly 20 years. It brings back the talk box device that was such an integral part of "Livin' On A Prayer" and "It's My Life," and the song has the kind of catchy chorus that burrows deeply into your brain after hearing it just once.

Opener "Legendary" is one of many songs here that look back contentedly and approvingly at the band's career ("Right where I am is where I wanna be," Bon Jovi sings.) It's followed by "We Made It Look Easy," with similar sentiments

Bon Jovi struck crossover country gold on 2007's "Lost Highway," and they score again here with the countrytinged "Waves."

At least one song on this album will truly be played forever at wedding receptions: "Kiss The Bride," Jon's ode to his soon-to-be married daughter, who he first introduced to us as a 5-year-old in 2000's "I Got the Girl." Fathers of daughters: I dare you to listen to this song and not cry.

The album comes amid much speculation over whether original guitarist Richie Sambora will ever return to the fold. The solos here by current guitarist Phil X are unexceptional, and certainly don't make a case against an eventual Sambora reunion.

"Forever" is a well-deserved victory lap.

BUCHAREST, Romania: Romania's

luxury fashion house Louis Vuitton to

acknowledge that a traditional Romanian

minister of culture says she will ask French

In 1984, Talking Heads ' concert film and live album "Stop Making Sense" captured the alt-rock quartet at the height of their powers.

Forty years later, a new 4K restoration of the film is streaming on MAX, and A24 Music has released "Everyone's Getting Involved: A Tribute to Talking Heads' Stop Making Sense."

The album features contributions from 16 recording artists covering each track on "Stop Making Sense."

The sheer variety of talent - everyone from Miley Cyrus to the National - is appropriate for a band that freely incorporated punk, funk, global pop and early in-hon elements. This tribut lessly inventive band should please old fans and inspire some new ones. Cyrus comes in like a wrecking

ball on the first track, reimaging the spare "Psycho Killer" as a full-blown dance anthem. She makes some bizarre changes to the lyrics: "I love you psycho killer / I'm-a love you forever / You know I'll never run away," she sings. The others play it a little safer.

The National follow the opening track with an earthy rendition of the lovely ballad, "Heaven." Later, Paramore offers a faithful rendition of "Burning Down the House." Both are meticulously executed, but it is hard not to wonder what greater risks might have vielded.

Lorde offers a different angle on "Take Me to the River." Where Talking Heads vocalist David Byrne's reedy vocals register as a plea on his band's take on the Al Green song, Lorde is clearly in control and delivers lyrics like commands.

Girl in red's "Girlfriend is Better" alters the narrative - kicking off with the chorus instead of the first verse, like in the original version.

Norah Jones, gently backed by Canadian band BadBadNotGood, treats "This Must Be the Place (Naive Melody)" like raw honey. Talking Heads composed the song by switching instruments among the bandmates, and the new rendition is faithful to the playful nature of the original.

The tribute also features some terrific contributions from up-and-coming

Blondshell, the musical moniker of Los Angeles musician Sabrina Teitelbaum, shines on "Thank You for Sending Me an Angel" with soaring vocals over power chords.

The Linda Lindas follow Blondshell with an energetic rendition of "Found a Job." They play it fast and tight and, among the artists on this tribute, perhaps best capture the goofy fun that was so central to the Talking Heads' appeal.

Some of the artists take the transformation further.

haunting "Life During Wartime," conveying the soul-crushing exhaustion of protracted conflict. The listener believes it when he sings, "This ain't no party / This ain't no disco.'

And on "Swamp," the experimental musician Jean Dawson delivers altcountry backwater terror that would have been at home on the soundtrack of the first season of "True Detective."

The sum of it all is a varied but remarkably coherent album from a broad array of artists that's a testament to the enduring excellence of "Stop Making

Also:

LOS ANGELES: On Friday, June 7, one of the most exciting voices in contemporary country music, Carly Pearce, will deliver a new album, "Hummingbird." It is her first since 2021's "29: Written in Stone," a continuation of her EP "29," which chronicled her divorce from singer-songwriter Michael Ray. That's important to note, because it gives additional context to this release: Still concerned with grief and loss, but now energized by a new sense of autonomy and hope, Pearce's songwriting is as sharp as ever. The title track is deeply-felt bluegrass; "fault line" recalls 70s country a la **Tammy Wynette** and George Jones. She also co-produced the album with collaborators Shane McAnally and Josh Osborne.

"We will request that Louis Vuitton recognize the heritage and cultural value

blouse directly inspired items in one of its 2024 collections.



In this March 18, 2016 file photo, the childhood home of Muhammad Ali is seen in Louisville, Ky. The house where Ali grew up dreaming of boxing fame is up for sale. The house was converted into a museum offering a glimpse into the boxing great's formative years. It went on the market Tuesday, June 4, along with two neighboring homes. (AP) – Details Page 11 (10/012)

of the traditional blouse model with ribbons," Raluca Turcan wrote on Facebook late Monday, adding that it's an opportunity for international recognition of the "inestimable value" of Romanian

The blouse in question is known in Romanian as an "IE" (pronounced "E-eh"), which typically has intricate embroidery and tassels and is widely recognized as a symbol of the country's rich folk culture. In 2022, the garments with a specific style of embroidery were added to a UNESCO list of intangible cultural heritage. (AP)

NEW YORK: Big Sean, Camila Cabello, Doja Cat, Hozier, Keith Urban, Gwen Stefani, New Kids on the Block and Paramore are among the performers this fall at the 2024 iHeartRadio Music Festival in Las Vegas, which will be broadcast live.

The lineup for the two-day event, which will take place Sept. 20-21 at the T-Mobile Arena, also includes Shaboozey, The Black Crowes, Thomas Rhett and best new artist Grammy winner Victoria Monét.

Ryan Seacrest will host, and fans can hear it all via iHeartMedia radio stations or watch it streaming on Hulu.

The general public can buy tickets starting June 14 on AXS.com, with Capital One cardholders able to get access beginning June 12 at 1 p.m. ET/10 a.m. PT. (AP)

Exploring robust cybersecurity measures to protect sensitive data

solutions by stc sponsors 'Cyber First Kuwait' conference

KUWAIT CITY, June 5: solutions by stc, the specialized business arm of Kuwait Telecommunications Company stc, sponsored the "Cyber First Kuwait" as the official 'Digital Partner' of the conference. Organized by Events First Group (EFG) in collaboration with the National Cyber Security Center and the Central Agency for Information Technology (CAIT), the conference marks a significant step towards securing Kuwait's digital future in line with New Kuwait Vision 2035. solutions by stc's sponsorship of the conference aligns with the Company's ongoing support towards the Kuwaiti community, leveraging its expertise and experience to empower platforms that bring together like-minded individuals within the evolving digital world.

Held at the Radisson Blu Hotel, the conference outlined a transformative journey towards a digitally secure and sustainable future for Kuwait. The increased digitization witnessed across various sectors, both government and private, have highlighted the urgent need for robust cybersecurity measures to protect sensitive data. In response to the rising cyber threats, the Kuwaiti government has established the National Cyber Security Strategy, prioritizing and safeguarding the nation's cybersecurity landscape. This strategy, coupled with proactive measures from the private sector, is driving Kuwait's cybersecurity market towards remarkable growth.

The Cyber First Kuwait conference gathered cybersecurity experts, including professionals in Information Security, Risk, Compliance, Forensics, and Cyber Law. The event aimed to foster collaboration across public and private sectors to battle the efforts of malicious attacks and strengthen Kuwait's cybersecurity resilience.Representatives from stc, Eng. Fahad Al Ali CTO and Acting - CEO of e-Portal Holding, Eng. Issa Al-Suwait- GM Cyber Security of stc ,Ali Al Yaseen GM –Sales and Business solutions and directors from the Business Sales and Products teams along with the Corporate Communications Teams, attended the conference. During the conference, solutions by stcshowcased its comprehensive cybersecurity solutions, with a team of specialists addressing queries and concerns

raised by the attendees visiting the Company's booth. solutions by stc also participated in a panel discussion titled "Leveraging AI to Address Cyber-Attacks and the Evolving Threat Landscape", where Eng.Issa AlSuwait, GM of Cyber Security at stc, shed light on the power of AI and its role in mitigating the threats faced by Kuwait's cyber landscape. The discussion covered the role of AI in threat detection through enhanced capabilities, identifying patterns, and swiftly recognizing anomalies in the evolving cyber-threat landscape. The panel also highlighted the effectiveness of AIdriven response strategies through the exploration of their impact on mitigating cyber threats. Additionally, challenges and benefits of AI-drive behavioral analytics were discussed, along with the importance of adaptive AI models that are significant to continuous learning and adaptation to combat new cyber threats.

Environment

solutions by stc highlighted in a statement that it will remain committed to supporting the technological and digital infrastructure in Kuwait by providing cuttingedge solutions that enhance the country's cybersecurity ecosystem. By participating in key conferences and initiatives, solutions by stc will to contribute towards building a secure and resilient digital environment in line with Kuwait's Vision 2035. With the rapidly evolving digital world, solutions by stc actively explores the latest technological tools and systems to keep pace with advanced cybersecurity threats and possible malicious attacks. Moving forward, the Company will continue to introduce the latest cybersecurity solutions to support and provide 360-protection to its B2B customers.

solutions by stch as also built and solidified its reputation as one of the key players in the market offering comprehensive connectivity, ICT, IoT, and enterprise solutions to support network, infrastructure, and application needs. Through its active and progressive approach, it has grown into a powerful one-stop shop for business and wholesale solutions, catering to the needs of government and corporate entities nationwide and across the region.



stc and solutions by stc's management stand out at the conference.



Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi with the Kuwait Synthetic Sclerosis Patients Association members during marking of World Multiple Sclerosis Day.

'Sclerosis Patients Association serves more than 3,000 patients'

Health minister unveils plans for MS treatment center

KUWAIT CITY, June 5, (KUNA): Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi announced Tuesday the formation of a technical committee in prepare for establishing a center specialized in treating multiple sclerosis (MS) within the Al-Sabah Medical District, which should include a scientific research department. During a celebration held by the Kuwait Synthetic Sclerosis Patients Association, marking World Syndrome Day, which coincides on May 30th annually, Minister Al-Awadhi said that the Ministry will spare no effort in helping (neurosclerosis) patients.

Al-Awadhi added that the State of Kuwait is "one of advanced countries in treating MS and provides neurological clinics in all hospitals, as well as keeping up with the latest treatments," stressing keenness to meet the needs and requirements of patients and reach the highest quality standards in the service provided.

The minister noted, "the Sclerosis Patients Association serves more than three thousand patients and has been spreading awareness in Kuwaiti society since its founding in 2010.

For his part, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Kuwait Sclerosis Patients Association, Yosef Al-Kandari, praised the "distinguished services" provided by the Health Ministry to MS patients, including all treatments, hoping as well to speed up the establishment of this specialized center.

Algorithm block proposed

NY considers regulating kids' social media feeds

NEW YORK, June 5, (AP): New York lawmakers on Tuesday said they were finalizing legislation that would allow parents to block their children from getting social media posts curated by a platform's algorithm, a move to rein in feeds that critics argue keep young users glued to their screens.

Democratic Gov. Kathy Hochul and Attorney General Letitia James have been advocating for the regulations since October, facing strong pushback from the tech industry. The amended version removes provisions that would have limited the hours a child could spend on a site. With the legislative session ending this week, Albany lawmakers are making a final push to get

The algorithmic feeds are designed as dopamine for kids," Assembly sponsor Nily Rozic, a Democrat, said Tuesday. "We are trying to regulate

that design feature. The legislation in New York follows actions taken by other US states to curb social media use among children. Republican Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis signed legislation banning social media accounts for children under 14 and requiring parental permission for 14- and 15-year-olds. Utah in March revised its policies, requiring social media companies to verify the ages of their users, but removing a requirement that parents consent to their child creating an account. A state law in Arkansas that also would have required parental consent was put on hold last year by a federal judge.

Protect

Supporters say New York's Stop Addictive Feeds Exploitation (SAFE) For Kids Act, which would prohibit algorithm-fed content without "veri-fiable parental consent," is aimed at protecting the mental health and development of young people by shielding them from features designed to keep them endlessly scrolling.

Instead of having automated algorithms suggest content classified as addictive and based on what a user has clicked on in the past, young account holders would see a chronological feed of content from users they already fol-

Rozic said the New York bill doesn't attempt to regulate the content available on social media, only "the vehicle that supercharges the feed and makes it more addictive.

Critics of the bill, including the Surveillance Technology Oversight Project, warn it could make things worse for children, including leading to internet companies collecting more information about users.

US CDC recommends using antibiotic as morning-after pill for STD prevention

NEW YORK, June 6, (AP): Some people should consider taking an antibiotic as a morning-after pill to try to prevent certain sexually transmitted diseases, US health

officials recommended Tuesday.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention finalized its endorsement of taking doxycycline after unprotected sex as a way to prevent chlamydia, gonorrhea or syphilis infections.

CDC officials called it the first new prevention tool against sexually transmitted infections in decades, and said innovation is badly needed. Rates of syphilis, chlamydia and gonorrhea have been rising for years, although the latest data suggested chlamydia and gonorrhea cases stopped rising in 2022.

Studies have demonstrated doxycycline works in that group, but there's not sufficient evidence to make the same recommendation for other people, agency officials said. Officials call the treatment doxy PEP, short for doxycycline postexposure prophylaxis. Doctors can write a prescription for one dose of 200 milligrams of doxycycline to be taken within three days of unprotected sex, the CDC said.







Reflective side of Irving has been front and center in playoff run with Mavs

Celtics stars feel better equipped to tackle 2nd chance

Sun become 7th team in WNBA history to start the season 9-0



New York Liberty's Breanna Stewart (30) drives to the basket as Chicago Sky's Isabelle Harrison (20) defends during the second half of a WNBA basket-ball game in Chicago. (AP)

Liberty get past Sky for fourth straight win

Contract extended to 2026

Perez stays at Red Bull in F1

MILTON KEYNES, England, June 5, (AP): Sergio Perez is staying with Red Bull after signing a two-year contract extension with the Formula 1 team through 2026.

The Mexican driver's contract had been due to expire at the end of this season. There was speculation he might be replaced after difficulty matching the pace of his teammate and defending champion Max Verstappen.

Connecticut (9-0) hosts New York on Saturday, looking to become the fourth team to start 10-0. The Minnesota Lynx hold the WNBA record with 13 straight wins to begin the 2016 season.

BASKETBALL

BASKETBALL

Weshington for his defending champion Max Verstappen. The 34-year-old Perez, nicknamed "Checo", has not won a race since the Azerbaijan Grand Prix in April 2023, even as Verstappen sealed last year's title with a record 19 wins. However, Perez has won praise for his defensive driving to keep rivals off Verstappen's back, especially when he held up Lew-

is Hamilton before Verstappen took his first title in Abu Dhabi in 2021. Verstappen leads the standings this season with 169 points ahead of Ferrari's Charles Leclerc with 138. Perez is fifth with 107.

MOTOR RACING

"I want to thank everyone for all the trust they are putting in me, it is a lot and I want to pay it back with excellent results on track, and off track," Perez said in a team statement. "I think we have a lot of work to do, we have a lot more Championships to win together."

With seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton leaving Mercedes for Ferrari next year, Red Bull could be the only one of F1's three biggest teams to keep the same lineup for 2025.

The two-year extension also means Perez will drive under the new rules being introduced in 2026, when cars will be more reliant on the electric component of their hybrid systems. "Now is an important time to con-

firm our lineup for 2025 and we are very pleased to continue working together with Checo. Continuity and stability are important for the team and both Checo and Max are a successful and robust partnership," team principal Christian Horner said.

Perez has been with Red Bull since 2021 and has won five races with the team, and one more with Racing Point in 2020.

I. Sabrina Ionescu added 24 started 3 of 16 from the field. The Liberty, who won their responded by scoring 33 points

Liberty to victory over the Chicago Sky, who lost rookie Angel Reese to an ejection in the fourth quarter.

Peese was thrown out with 2:31 re-

Reese was thrown out with 2:31 remaining after receiving two technical fouls following a brief interaction with

an official. Sabrina Ionescu added 24 points for the Liberty, who won their fourth straight.

New York opened the game on an 21-6 run after making five of its first seven 3-pointers, while Chicago



Phoenix Mercury guard Natasha Cloud drives to the basket against Seattle Storm guard Jewell Loyd (24) as center Ezi Magbegor (13) and Mercury forward Liz Dixon (20) watch during the second half of a WNBA basketball game in Seattle. (AP)

started 3 of 16 from the field. The Sky responded by scoring 33 points in the second quarter to get within 49-48 at the break.

New York started the fourth quarter on a 15-2 run, including 10 straight points, to extend its lead to 80-68. Stewart and Ionescu each scored six points in the frame.

Storm 80, Mercury 62

In Seattle, Ezi Magbegor scored 13 of her 21 points in the first quarter, Skylar Diggins-Smith added 17 points and Seattle won their fifth straight game with a victory over Phoenix.

On the day Seattle (6-3) announced a contract extension for Magbegor that will keep her with the team through the 2025 season, the forward from Australia sparked the Storm to a fast start. The 13 points in the first quarter were the most Magbegor has scored in any quarter of her career, as she hit her first six shots before a miss.

Jewell Loyd finished with 15 points, seven rebounds and six assists, and Seattle led by as many as 21 in the first half on its way to the easy victory.

BOSTON, June 5, (AP): For almost the entirety of their time together in Boston, Jayson Tatum and Jaylen Brown have been linked.

They were drafted by the Celtics third overall in back-to-back years.

They possess similar skillsets - two explosive and skilled wing players with an ability to score from nearly every spot on the court.

And they both have been central to the success of a Celtics team that has reached the NBA Finals for the second time in three seasons. It helped Brown earn the NBA's first \$300 million contract last summer. And, Tatum is expected to get one this offseason.

The team has branded the All-Stars as "The Jays" in a marketing campaign shown during games that pitted them against one another in mini competitions.

It has created natural comparisons between them along the way, fostering an atmosphere in which fans and sports pundits alike have tried to parse out which one of them is better, whose spot is most untouchable on the roster and which of them is more pivotal to the Celtics' success as they prepare to lead the team to the franchise's 18th NBA title.

BASKETBALL

It reached a new level last week during a segment on ESPN's "Get Up" in which panelists debated whether the 26-year-old Tatum expressed excitement or disappointment while watching the 27-year-old Brown garner Eastern Conference finals MVP honors

"I think it's unfair to both of them," Celtics coach Joe Mazzulla said of what he viewed as an attempt to manufacture friction between the two stars.

But even as Tatum and Brown have distinguished themselves as the most important players on Boston's roster and the keys to the Celtics' fate in their NBA Finals matchup with the Dallas Mavericks, Mazzulla has hope that people will start viewing them differently.

"They're, like, two completely different people. They're two completely different players," Mazzulla said. "They're great teammates, they love each other and they go about winning and they go about their process in a different way. Why they have to always be lumped together I think is unfair."

think is unfair."

Tatum and Brown, along with Al Horford, are the only returning start-



Dallas Mavericks guard Kyrie Irving gets off a shot against the Minnesota Timberwolves during the first half of Game 5 of the Western Conference finals in the NBA basketball playoffs in Minneapolis. (AP)

ers from the 2021-22 team that lost to the Golden State Warriors in six games in the Finals after holding a 2-1 series

While Horford has taken on mostly a reserve role this season, backing up 7-footer Kristaps Porzingis, Tatum and Brown have taken their play up a notch.

Tatum's scoring numbers have remained steady from the regular season (26.9 per game) into the playoffs (26.0), while his rebounding has increased from 8.1 to 10.4 per game in the postseason. Brown, too, has seen jumps in those categories, going from 23.0 points and 5.5 rebounds per game to 25.0 points and 6.1 rebounds in the playoffs.

Tatum believes they've both used lessons from the 2022 NBA Finals' loss, as well as last year's conference finals loss to Miami, to grow into players more equipped to accomplish their championship goal this time around.

"Obviously, we've been there before, we came up short," Tatum said. "You don't always get a second chance, so really just looking at it as a second chance and trying to simplify things as much as we can."

And being each other's biggest cheerleaders, too.

After Brown made a game-tying 3-pointer late in Game 1 of the conference finals matchup with Indiana to send the game to overtime in an eventual Celtics' victory, the highest praise came from Tatum.

"Big time players make big time plays," Tatum said of Brown.

Unhappy end to PSG career

Mbappé elated at joining Real

PARIS, June 5, (AP): Kylian Mbappé spoke Tuesday of his "immense pleasure" at finally joining Real Madrid and felt his time at Paris Saint-Germain came to a sad end.

Madrid has reached a widely expected deal with the France star, bringing together a prolific scorer and a record 15-time Champions League winner.

"Finally, it's official, I am going to be a Real Madrid player for the next five years. It's an immense pleasure, a dream coming true, a lot of emotions," Mbappé said at a pre-match news conference in Metz where France hosts Luxembourg on Wednesday ahead of the European Championship. "I'm very, very happy (and) relieved, very proud to be joining a club where I've always

dreamed of being."
Mbappé's seven years at PSG came to a somewhat difficult end, and his final season started and ended amid tensions

He was left out of a pre-season tour to Japan in July after not taking up the option of a one-year contract extension, and then initially left out of the squad as the club insisted he could not leave for free and would be sold.

Mbappe was dropped from the squad for the opening league game of the season and feared he would not be playing at all.

"I was told that, I was made to understand it, things were very clear. I was aggressively spoken to. I was convinced I would not play (that season)," said Mbappé, who praised the intervention of coach Luis Enrique and PSG's soccer advisor Luis Campos on his behalf. "Without them I would never have played."

Mbappé informed club president Nasser Al-Khelaifi in February that he was leaving at the end of the season. But when the player made it official that he would not sign another deal with PSG, he did so in a video posted on X and not through the club's communications department.

There was no ceremony prepared by the club for Mbappé's final home game against Toulouse, where he was jeered by some fans. "I wasn't unhappy at PSG, that

"I wasn't unhappy at PSG, that would be to spit in the soup (to be ungrateful)," Mbappé said. "(But) some things and some people made me unhappy."

Mbappé did not give names.

His relationship with Al-Khelaifi reportedly grew increasingly tense when it became clear Mbappé would not sign a contract extension, despite PSG offering him the most lucrative deal in the club's history when he signed a new contract in 2022.

SOCCER

Although he scored 44 goals in 48 games and won the French league and French Cup double, Mbappé was not always at his best this season.

He was largely ineffective in the Champions League semifinal defeat to Borussia Dortmund, failing to score in both legs and trudging off the field after PSG went out.

"Someone who's happy has more

"Someone who's happy has more chance of playing well but there are no excuses for some of my performances," Mbappé said. "It wasn't as high as my usual standards. Yet just to play, to win trophies was my biggest pride. But next season I won't be satisfied with a season like that."

Although tensions at PSG affected him, Mbappé said that someone in his position should not complain too much.

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UNCASVILLE, June 5,

(AP): DeWanna Bonner

had 20 points and eight rebounds, Brionna Jones add-

ed 15 points and the Connecticut Sun beat the winless

Washington Mystics 76-59

on Tuesday night to become

the seventh team in WNBA

history to start a season with

All of the previous six teams to

Washington (0-9) set a franchise

Tyasha Harris added 14 points and

record with nine consecutive losses

to start a season. The Mystics return

Alyssa Thomas had seven points, sev-

en rebounds and seven assists for Con-

necticut. Bonner reached 20 points for

season-high 14 points, to go with nine

rebounds, for Washington. Myisha

the first time this season when Stefanie

Dolson made a 3-pointer with 2.9 seconds left to give Washington a 33-32 lead. It was Washington's first lead

The Sun took control after the break

by outscoring Washington 26-10 in the

third quarter. The Mystics were 2 of 15

from the field in the period, including

Liberty 88, Sky 75

a season-high 33 points and grabbed

14 rebounds to lead the New York

In Chicago, Breanna Stewart scored

Washington finished with a season-

0 for 8 from inside the arc.

Rookie Aaliyah Edwards scored a

Connecticut trailed at halftime for

the fifth time this season.

Hines-Allen added 10 points.

since 6-4.

low point total.

home to play Chicago on Thursday.

begin 9-0 reached the WNBA fi-

nine straight wins.

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Yohannes scores in debut

US down South Korea as Olympics Ioom

ST. PAUL, June 5, (AP): Sixteen-year-old Lily Yohannes scored in her national team debut and the United States defeated South Korea 3-0 in an exhibition.

Crystal Dunn and Sophia Smith also scored for the U.S., playing its second game under coach Emma Hayes. Hayes was named coach last November but remained in Europe to finish the season with Chelsea. She replaced Vlatko Andonovski, who stepped down after the U.S. was knocked out of the Women's World Cup last summer in the round of 16.

The U.S. also won the first friendly match over South Korea 4-0 on Saturday in Commerce City, Colorado. Mallory Swanson and Tierna Davidson each had a pair of goals.

Hayes will now turn her attention to selecting an 18-player roster for the U.S. Olympic team. The U.S. opens the Olympics on July 25 against Zambia in Nice.

Hayes made sweeping changes to the starting lineup for Tuesday's match played in steady rain at St. Paul's Allianz Field. Only captain Lindsey Horan and Jenna Nighswonger also started on Saturday. Alex Morgan, who did not play in the first match against South Korea because of a minor injury, was among the starters.

Dunn, making her first start at forward since 2017,

scored in the 13th minute off a cross from Nighswonger. Dunn, who has played primarily at left back in recent years, had not scored since October 2018. She has 25 career goals.

XXXXXXXXXX

Casey Murphy preserved the lead when she dove to push away a free kick in the 30th minute.

Smith scored her fourth goal of the year in the 67th

Smith scored her fourth goal of the year in the 6/th minute at a tight angle off a backheel pass from Swanson.

Yohannes, who plays for Dutch club Ajax, got her goal just 10 minutes after coming into the game as a substitute, scoring from out front through traffic on a cross from Trinity Rodman in the 82nd. Yohannes became the third-youngest player to score for the national team.

Midfielder Rose Lavelle played in her 100th match for the United States.

The national team has two more matches before leav-

The national team has two more matches before leaving for France. They'll play Mexico on July 13 at Red Bull Arena in New Jersey before a sendoff match against Costa Rica in Washington D.C.

Vacancy Announcement Embassy of Nepal in Kuwait is hiring "Office Secretary" on contractual basis. Number: 1

Eligibility:

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Fluent in English and Arabic (spoken and written)
General Computer skill (Office Package, English)

and Arabic typing and translation)

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England, Scotland share points at T20 World Cup

Netherlands rout Nepal



Tim Pringle of the Netherlands bowls against Nepal during an ICC Men's T20 World Cup cricket match at Grand Prairie Stadium in Grand Prairie, Texas. (AP)

5th manager

Conte confirmed as Napoli coach

MILAN, June 5, (AP): Antonio Conte was confirmed as the new Napoli coach on Wednesday, making him the team's fifth manager in little more than a year for the deposed Serie A champion.

Napoli announced Conte signed a three-year contract, which Italian media reported will earn the former Italy coach six million euros (\$6.5 million) a season plus bonuses.

"Napoli is a club of huge importance on the international stage, Conte said in a statement. "I'm happy and excited by the idea of taking my seat in the Napoli dug-

"I can certainly promise one thing: I'll give my all to develop the team and the club. I'm fully committed to the task at hand, as are my staff."

Conte, a league title winner in



his native Italy, has been from dugout for more than year after leaving Tottenham mutual consent in March 2023.

England and

parture came shortly after a post-match rant against his players and club ownership. It was not the first time Conte made public outbursts against his bosses, having done so several times at previous clubs and earning himself a reputation for being fiery.

Napoli lifted its first Serie trophy in more than three decades - since the days of Diego Maradona - in 2023, after running away with the league under Luciano Spalletti.

However, Spalletti departed after saying he needed a year off, only to become Italy coach after Roberto Mancini's shock resignation. Napoli went on to be one of the worst defending champions in the league's history.

SOCCER

Rudi Garcia, Walter Mazzarri and Francesco Calzona all had stints as coaches but Napoli went from bad to worse and finished the season in 10th place to miss out on all European competitions.

"I'm so proud that Antonio Conte is Napoli's new coach," club president Âurelio De Laurentiis said. "Antonio is a top coach and a leader, so I'm convinced that we'll be able to rebuild the foundations in the way that we need to following the conclusion of the cycle that led us to Scudetto glory last year after many years at the top of Ital-

ian soccer.
"An important, new chapter in Napoli's history gets underway today.'

De Laurentiis also posted a photo on X of him and Conte signing the contract, which runs until June 30, 2027. He captioned it "Benvenuto Antonio!" ("Welcome An-

Napoli also published photos on Instagram of Conte superimposed

on famous views of the Italian city. Conte's last job in Italy was with Inter Milan, which he left in 2021. shortly after steering the team to its first Serie A title in 11 years in his second season in charge.

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, June 5, (**AP**): champion **Defending** England and Scotland shared the competition points after their Twenty20 World Cup cricket opener ended in a no result because of rain.

England went into Tuesday's game as a heavy favorite at Bridgetown Barbados but Scottish chances increased significantly when rain set in.

Scotland openers George Munsey and Michael Jones made a spirited 90-0 in a revised 10-over innings before England's target was recalculated up to 109 in 10 overs under rules devised for rainshortened matches.

But rain prevented any further play, making it the first washout of the June 1-29 tournament.

Netherlands had a six-wicket win over Nepal in Tuesday's other game at Grand Prairie, Texas.

The first ever T20 international between England and Scotland had already twice been interrupted before rain intensified.

"There's no easy games at all, but we were confident," England captain Jos Buttler said. "The disappointment is for everyone - both sides and all the crowd here."

Scotland captain Richie Berrington said it was frustrating not to get a chance to challenge Eng-

CRICKET

land's batters on a tricky wicket.

"It would have been interesting to see how the weather affects the pitch," he said. "I think if we'd bowled well, we certainly had an opportunity there.'

Rain had kept the players off the field first for nearly an hour after Scotland won the toss and elected to bat. Jones (45 not out) and Munsey (41 not out) negotiated the pace threat of Mark Wood and Jofra Archer in the power play before rain returned in the 7th over with Scotland at 51-0.

Munsey got a lucky escape on 16 before the second rain interruption when Buttler took a well judged running catch at third man only to see Mark Wood had been no-

balled for over-stepping the crease.

On resumption, Munsey and
Jones hit another 39 runs off the remaining 22 balls as spinner Adil Rashid gave away 26 off the two

Barbados-born Archer made his T20 World Cup debut for England after returning from injury and had showed glimpses of his full fitness during a recent 2-0 series victory against Pakistan. He bowled two overs for 12 runs, but both Scottish openers batted with confidence against him under overcast condi-

Netherlands beat Nepal with eight balls remaining in a tight contest that was also delayed by

The Dutch opted to bowl first and dismissed Nepal for 106 in 19.2 overs, led by captain Rohit Paudel's 37-ball 35.

Tim Pringle (3-20 in four overs) and Logan van Beek (3-18 in 3.2 overs) did the damage as Nepal lost wickets at regular intervals on a surface suited for fast bowlers.

Dutch opener Max O'Dowd led the successful chase, hitting 54 not out in 48 balls as his team finished on 109-4 in 18.4 overs.

Sompal Kami, Dipendra Singh Airee and Abinash Bohara took a wicket apiece. Nepal's hopes were briefly raised when Netherlands dropped to 80-4 in the 16th over after Bohara bowled Netherlands captain Scott Edwards (5).

But O'Dowd and Bas de Leede (11 not out) shared an undefeated 29-run partnership for victory.

India and Ireland meet in New York in the first of Wednesday's three games. Australia takes on Oman at Bridgetown, Barbados and Papua New Guinea is against Uganda in Providence, Guyana.



Scotland's George Munsey plays a shot from a delivery of England's Moeen Ali during an ICC Men's T20 World Cup cricket match at Kensington Oval in Bridgetown, Barbados. (AP)



Chief Guest, D.K. Dileep receives a plaque of appreciation from an official

ICSK Salmiya hosts 'Beyond the Rim' seminar on basketball

The Indian Community School, Salmiya, initiated a one-day seminar entitled 'Beyond the Rim' exclusively and inclusively for students aged 10-18 from all different branches of ICSK schools administered and charioteered by Dr. Binumon Principal & Senior Administra-

The session was led by the esteemed Chief Guest, D.K Dileep, a renowned sports advisor, organizer, and motivational trainer.

Dileep illuminated the gathering with insights into the technical aspects of basketball, emphasizing the importance of vigilance on the court and the virtues of fair play. His engaging briefing captivated the audience, comprising students eager to learn.

Students were actively involved in live practice sessions, receiving hands-on guidance on adhering to the game's rules. The opportunity for one-on-one interaction with Dileep further enriched the experience, infusing the session with energy and enthusiasm.

The presence of all Physical Education teachers added a dynamic dimension to the event, amplifying the spirit of camaraderie and learning. The ICSK is committed to fostering innovation for

student development, recognizing the significance of both sports and academics in holistic growth. The seminar was impeccably organized and orchestrated under the meticulous direction of the Vice-Princi-

pal, Mrs.Susan Rajesh Pothan reflecting ICSK's dedication to nurturing well-rounded individuals. Deputy Vice-Principal Mrs Mini Shaji Joseph pro-

posed the vote of thanks. The event was compered by

Veteran out to show he's still a force

Ronaldo back in the global spotlight at Euro 2024

LISBON, June 5, (AP): Cristiano Ronaldo had tears in his eyes as he walked off the field and seemingly into international retirement.

Motivational trainer Dileep demon-

strates to participants during the

It was the 2022 World Cup and Portugal had just lost to Morocco in the quarterfinals, a shocking result that left Ronaldo inconsolable.

He was nearly 38 years old. Unarguably past his best. No longer a guaranteed starter for his country.

Was this the last time the soccer world would see Ronaldo - one of the game's greatest-ever players - in a Por-We really shouldn't have underesti-

mated him.

Eighteen months later, Ronaldo is still scoring hat tricks, still breaking records, still owning that will to win and self-belief - not to mention the toned physique - which has long set him apart from pretty much anyone else.

And still a key member of the Portugal team heading to the European Championship in Germany as one of the tournament favorites.

Indeed, Portugal coach Roberto Martinez, who was hired weeks after the World Cup, has retained the 39-year-old Ronaldo as captain.

SOCCER

"For us, he brings that experience," Martinez said, "but, more than anything, probably the biggest surprise is that he approaches every day as a new way to be the best, a new way to keep impressing.

The Euros represent an opportunity for Ronaldo to remind soccer fans that he is still a force in the game.

Since the start of 2023, he has been playing in Saudi Arabia, pretty much out of the global spotlight and in a league that has thrown money at some high-profile - if maybe over-the-hill superstars to generate attention and change the impression of soccer in the

kingdom. Ronaldo, earning a reported \$200 million a year, is still pouring in the goals - he was the top scorer in the Saudi Pro League with 35, a record in that division - even if critics have been quick to point out the low standard of

play in the country. "We don't make choices based on where the players play," said Martinez, who could not be more impressed with what Ronaldo has been doing in Saudi. "He has become a central figure of

a new project and the important thing for us, as a national team coach, is that he has been able to carry on scoring goals," Martinez said. "His stats are better than anything,

subjectively, that you can say. He's been the top goal scorer in 2023 in world football and he makes a total new beginning in a league that in the next few years is going to be talked Ronaldo committed himself to Por-

tugal even though it looked like his time with the national team was up after being benched for its knockoutstage games at the World Cup. However, Portugal changed coaches

Martinez came in for Fernando Santos - and Ronaldo felt he still had plenty more to offer, not least adding to his world record of goals scored in men's internationals that now stands at 128.

In a qualifying group for the Euros that didn't feature any of Portugal's top rivals, Ronaldo started nine of the Arbitration hearing to start on Monday

City reported legal action against Premier League has potential to change the face of English soccer

MANCHESTER, England, June 5 (AP): Manchester City's reported legal action against the Premier League has the potential to change the face of English soccer

At a time when the most popular league in the world is trying to clamp down on out-of-control spending, the removal of its Associated Party Transaction (APT) rules could pave the way for never-before-seen excess and, it's feared, ultimately kill competition.

City is already England's most dominant team of recent times, having won six of the last seven leagues and an unprecedented four in a row.

Backed by the ruling family of Abu Dhabi, it is one of the richest clubs in the world and has spent exorbitantly on star players like Erling Haaland and Kevin De Bruyne. If restrictions over its spending powers were relaxed, City's dominance is only likely to grow, with fewer rivals able to com-

The league introduced ATP rules in December 2021 after Newcastle was bought by Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund.

The rules dictate that commercial deals with organizations linked to a club's ownership represent "fair mar-

Regulations prevent clubs from artificially inflating deals to gain an "unfair advantage over domestic com-

One of City's main sponsors is Abu Dhabi-based Etihad Airways. Saudibacked Newcastle is sponsored by Saudi firm Sela, which is owned by

It is reported that City claims it is

10 games and scored 10 goals - only

behind Belgium's Romelu Lukaku

(14). He was captain whenever he

In short, Martinez fully believes in

Ronaldo, a player he describes as "an

iconic figure of the game," heading

into what will be the striker's record-

extending sixth European Champion-



Rodri celebrates with the Premier League trophy on an open top bus during a trophy parade in Manchester, England after winning their fourth successive Premier League title. (AP)

the victim of "discrimination."

If ATP rules are proved to be unlaw-

An arbitration hearing is reportedly due to start on Monday and will last for two weeks.

ful and scrapped, there is the potential for sponsorship deals to be vastly inflated going forward without regulation from the league. The concern is the possibility that

clubs could take advantage of commercial deals with companies linked to their owners and, if abused, that could artificially distort revenues. That would be a problem for the

league's profit and sustainability regulations (PSR), which are designed to control spending in relation to reve-

"He keeps making the difference,"

Martinez said, "and I think that, for us,

this is a wonderful example for young

Key is whether Ronaldo will be

trusted - and he has the all-round fit-

ness and sharpness - for the biggest

Portugal has been drawn in a benign

games. He wasn't in Qatar, after all.

losses of up to 105 million pounds (\$133 million) over a three-year period. In its most extreme case, without regulation, a club could hypothetically set the value of sponsorships at any figure that would allow it to meet PSR requirements. City has been accused by the league

nues and currently allow clubs to make

of more than 100 alleged rules breaches including financial wrongdoing. If upheld, it could face a fine, points deductions or even expulsion from the league. City denies the charges. City was banned from European competition by governing body UEFA in 2020 for breaching its Financial Fair

Play rules, including "overstating its sponsorship revenue." The ban was overturned on appeal at the Court of Arbitration for Sport. The Premier League's competitiveness is among the main reasons why

it is so popular around the world and earns billions of pounds in broadcast revenue. At a time when even mega-rich ri-

vals like Manchester United are struggling to compete with City, a strengthening of its already vast spending powers runs the risk of widening the gap between the top and the rest. Top-flight clubs meet on Thurs-

day for their annual general meeting where, among other issues, a spending cap will be discussed to help increase the competitiveness of the league.

They will be given the chance to trial an "anchoring" system, which will limit clubs to spending only a multiple of the combined prize money and cash from TV rights earned by the lastplaced team in the league.

the Czech Republic and tournament debutant Georgia. But, what if Portugal plays France or the Netherlands in the quarterfinals, as could happen according to the knockout bracket: Does

Ronaldo start then? A big difference to the World Cup is that his backup, Goncalo Ramos, hasn't been a regular starter at Paris Saint-Germain since his move from Benfica. He isn't pushing Ronaldo for a starting place as much as he was in Qatar, where he arrived in red-hot

form. Martinez seems willing to forgo some of Ronaldo's limitations - his inability to press as well as others, for example - because he is still so dangerous in front of goal.

Ronaldo has a long list of exciting midfielders and wingers ready to feed him chances - Bruno Fernandes, Rafael Leao, Diogo Jota, Bernardo Silva, Joao Felix. With holding midfielder Joao Palhinha protecting so well a defense that conceded just two goals in the entire qualifying campaign, there's so much to like about Portugal's chances in Germany.

onel Messi, grab all the limelight at the World Cup by leading Argentina to the

Ronaldo saw his longtime rival, Li-

Maybe there's one more big major tournament left in Ronaldo, too.



In this file photo, Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates at the end of the Euro 2024 Group J qualifying soccer match between Portugal and Slovakia at the Dragao stadium in Porto, Portugal. (AP)



By Khaled El Anzi Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

SOCCER

Al-Ahmad International Stadium last

November, to stay in the running for qualification, and to break a year-long

winless streak against India, including a draw and a penalty shootout loss in the Indian International Championship

Preparation for this match included a week-long training camp in Bangkok

before arriving.

Rui Pinto shared his optimism for

a good match in a press conference

yesterday. Pinto stated, "Both teams

are vying for a ticket to advance to the

He added, "We've faced the Indian

national team three times in the past

year, resulting in two draws and one

loss. Technically, these matches have

Pinto emphasized the recent devel-

pment and progress of football in

Kuwait, expressing confidence in their

preparations and the players' ability to

highlighted the team's readiness, stat-

ing that all players are prepared to per-

form at a convincing level to achieve a

positive result. He anticipates a strong

and competitive match from both

Qatar and second place in Group A,

marginally ahead of Afghanistan on

goal difference, and takes on last-place

Kuwait in Kolkata. A win would take

India is eight points behind leading

Meanwhile, Bandar Buresli also

next stage of the qualifiers.

been evenly balanced."

deliver a satisfactory result.

Arabia.

Kuwait coach Rui Pinto holds a press conference on the eve of a key joint World Cup and Asian Cup qualifier against India in Kolkata.

DOMS

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Kuwait seek 'redemption', qualification against India

Sunil Chhetri plays last game

Scotland lose Doak from Euros

FARO, Portugal, June 5, (AP): Scotland lost another attacking option for the European Championship on Tuesday when teenage Liverpool winger Ben Doak was ruled out by injury.

Doak joined target man Lyndon

Dykes on the growing injury list three days after the Queens Park Rangers forward was injured in training.

Scotland coach Steve Clarke has given a first call-up to 21-year-old Tommy Conway from English secondtier club Bristol City as a replacement,

the Scottish soccer federation said. Conway could face Finland in a final warm-up game Friday ahead of Scotland playing Euro 2024 host Germany in the opening game on June 14 in Munich. The group includes

Hungary and Switzerland. Doak also is yet to make his debut for Scotland, and had not played for Liverpool since December because of a knee injury. Still, the 18-year-old Doak was seen as a promising option with pace off the bench after impressing in Europa League games.



Kuwait junior volleyball team of poses for a group photo with the technical staff



Kuwaiti players hold their final training session.

India close to the last stage of continental qualifying for the first time.

"It's a huge game," India coach Igor Stimac said. "The careers of the boys can change with this game. I want them to enjoy and do their best in the

It is also the last match for Sunil Chhetri, who will retire after his 151st international appearance. Of the players still active, only Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi have scored more international goals than Chhetri's 94.

'Every training that I do with the national team, I'm just going to enjoy it,' the 39-year-old Chhetri said when he announced his retirement last month. "I don't feel that pressure. The game demands pressure. Against Kuwait, we need the three points to qualify for the third round. But in a strange way, I don't feel the pressure.'

Intensive training for junior volleyball team 'ahead' of the Arab & Asian Championships

By Khaled El Anzi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 5: In preparation for upcoming international competitions, including the Arab U-18 Championship in Jordan from July 1 to 13, and the 15th Asian Championship in Bahrain from July 26 to August 5, the Board of Directors of the Volleyball Association has approved a training plan for the junior national team. This plan is overseen by national coaches Khaled Al-Mutairi and his assistant Mishal Al-Sabti.

Nayef Al-Flekawi, Head of the Training and National Teams Committee, explained that the training plan is divided into two phases. The first phase, conducted locally, is an intensive program designed to enhance the players' physical fitness and technical and tactical skills in preparation for the Arab Championship. Following this, the team will attend an external training camp in

Turkey from July 15 to 26 before participating in the Asian Championship in Bahrain.

Al-Flekawi emphasized the Association's commitment to providing all necessary resources to ensure the national teams are well-prepared for international competitions.

Junior team coach Khaled Al-Mutairi confirmed that the techni-

VOLLEYBALL

cal staff is focused on preparing the players comprehensively for the upcoming Arab Championship. The initial emphasis is on improving physical fitness and technique, with the training program set to expand later in the month to include tactical aspects. This will help finalize the playing strategies and the main lineup for the Arab Championship.

Germans happy for Euros: Nearly 32 percent of Germans expressed their excitement and happiness that the European Football Championship (EURO 2024) would be held in German

stadiums, recent YouGov poll re-

Best of the Rest

According to the poll, 12 percent of respondents were "very concerned" about possible terrorist attacks, with 35 percent considering the potential threat "worrying." The poll added that 12 percent were "not at all concerned," 24 percent

their opinion. Regarding citizens' interest in the football tournament, the survey indicated that 46 percent were "not interested" in the tournament, 11 percent rejected it being held in their country, and 11 percent did not reveal their opinion on the

were "somewhat concerned," and

16 percent were guarded to reveal

event. Regarding the concerns of possible terrorist attacks, nearly half of Germans fear possible terrorist attacks during Euro 2024 which would begin in nine days. Speaking at a news conference

on Tuesday, German Interior Minister Nancy Faeser said that German authorities have no indications of terrorist attacks, stressing that her country is "well prepared"

to host the tournament. This came at a time when preparations are underway for the

tournament, which would begin on June 14 and end on July 14.



Kabak out of Euro 2024: Turkey defender Ozan Kabak will miss the European Championship after tearing a cruciate ligament in his right knee in a friendly against Italy, the Turkish Football Association said on Wednesday.

Kabak was injured after challenging Italy forward Mateo Retegui for the ball shortly before halftime in the friendly, which finished 0-0.

The Turkish federation confirmed Kabak was out of its Euro 2024 squad and didn't name a replacement.
The 24-year-old former Liver-

pool defender plays in the Bundesliga for Hoffenheim, which said he would spend "many months" in recovery.

"This is an unbelievably bitter piece of news and a personal trag-edy for Ozan," Hoffenheim managing director Alexander Rosen said in a statement, adding Kabak dreamed of playing for Turkey in Germany at Euro 2024. (AP)

Saudi Arabia need point in Pakistan to advance

South Koreans aim for a momentum shift in World Cup Asian qualifying

SINGAPORE, June 5, (AP): After a tough 2024 so far, Son Heung-min and his South Korea teammates can change momentum with a win over Singapore on Thursday that would be enough to secure a spot in the last round of World Cup Asian qualifying.

South Korea remains on course for its 11th successive World Cup appearance but is still without a permanent coach after Jurgen Klinsmann was fired in February following the team's disappointing performance at the Asian Cup.

RIO DE JANEIRO, June 5, (Xinhua): A

first-half goal from former Chelsea and

Atletico Madrid striker Diego Costa

fired Gremio to a 1-0 away win over

Huachipato in their Copa Libertadores

the sixth minute by nodding home at

the far post after Franco Cristaldo's

cross. The Chilean outfit dominated

possession and had 18 shots on goal

but were unable to find a way past

The result guaranteed Gremio a

Gremio, who are working through a

place in the competition's last 16

backlog of matches after their games

were suspended for almost a month because of severe floods, will play

while Huachipato were eliminated.

Costa put the Brazilian side ahead in

Group C clash on Tuesday.

Gremio's

Agustin Marchesin.

Hwang Sun-hong, the initial interim coach, didn't get a permanent appointment after South Korea failed to secure qualification for the Olympics for the first time since 1984.

Now Kim Do-hoon is in charge for the games two games in six days against Singapore and China in Group C, with the South Koreans needing just one point to progress to the next stage.

"We will have to present our fans with the direction we want to take," Kim said. "And we must do it with our

their final Copa Libertadores group

game when they host Estudiantes on

Bruno Gomes and Lucas Alario

scored either side of halftime as

Internacional claimed a 2-0 away win

over Real Tomayapo in their Copa

Sudamericana Group C clash on

Gomes put the visitors ahead just

after the half-hour mark by blasting a

shot into the top-right corner after

Alario saw his tame penalty attempt saved by goalkeeper Alex Arancibia

in the 88th minute but the Argentina

made amends a minute later by send-

ing a close-range header beyond

Hyoran Dalmoro's cross.

Costa sends Gremio into Copa last 16

action on the pitch, rather than with

With English Premier League stars such as Son of Tottenham Hotspur and Hwang Hee-chan of Wolver-

SOCCER

hampton Wanderers on the roster, South Korea's game at Singapore National Stadium is a 50,000-seat

The top two teams from each of the nine groups in the second round progress to the next group stage where six of Asia's increased automatic allocation of eight World Cup places will be on offer. The first 48-team men's World Cup will be co-hosted by the United States, Canada and Mexico in

Two more World Cup entries from Asia will be decided in a subsequent group stage in October 2025. An Asian confederation team also can advance in the intercontinental playoffs sched-



South Korea midfielder Ji Soyun (10) and United States defender Sam Staab (2) compete for possession of the ball during the first half of an international friendly soccer match in St. Paul, Minn. US won 3-0. (AP)
— See Page 14

uled in March 2026. In Group G, Saudi Arabia needs a point in Pakistan to advance but opposing coach Stephen Constantine

is promising a tough test for Roberto

Mancini's squad in Islamabad. Pakistan is already eliminated after four consecutive losses and a -19 goal differential, but is relying on a home advantage to upset the Saudis.

"It's Saudi, they're a massive team, but they are going to come here and play on a nice bumpy ground and we'll give them hell," Constantine said.

Indonesia is second in Group F and on the brink of an historic first appearance in the final round of Asian quali-

Indonesia is four points clear of third-place Vietnam and a win against the already qualified Iraq will be enough to advance.

"Iraq's squad is very good," Indonesia's coach Shin Tae-yong said. "However, this is a home game so I will maximize everything so that in the match we will get good results.' The Palestinian squad is second in

Group I, five points behind Australia, and needs only a draw against Lebanon on Thursday to ensure it progresses to the next stage.

Due to the security situation in Gaza, the game will take place in Doha, Oatar.

Australia, Japan, Iraq, Uzbekistan, United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Iran have already secured spots in the third stage with two games to spare.

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Argentine goalkeeper

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