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Opinion

Loyal Crown Prince, the ruling house is a symbol...take care of it

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

THE caliber of a person is determined by how he endures and overcomes hardships; hence, such a person is the right choice for handling major tasks.

He is capable of facing challenges.

Based on this, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah chose His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah as the Crown Prince, because the man has proven throughout his work in public affairs that he is worthy of such an arduous and difficult task.

Without a doubt, the people want to be reassured about this position,



Al-Jarallah

consider.

This comes after the measures taken by His Highness the Amir to calm the situation, which undoubtedly brings stability to society and prompts it to pay attention to useful affairs that serve the future of the country.

Indeed, these measures warmed the hearts of the people and gave them hope. This is the reason why joy spread to everyone; because they were not accustomed to this throughout the years of ordeals due to parliamentary encroachment on the powers of the executive authority, attempt to hijack the decision of the State as a whole and exploit it for illegal personal gains.

We reiterate our statement: For many years, we have not seen an empowering decision like this that changed the political and economic features of the country, and put it on the right path.

Therefore, hope was pinned on a crown prince who holds a certain degree of national responsibility, has clean hands and sobriety. The choice of His Highness the Amir was the acclaimed Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled.

According to information, the ruling family will meet with His Highness the Crown Prince today. His Highness must realize that custom prevents family members from competing with people in commercial businesses.

This is because they are from the ruling house and its symbol. Their coming together on common ground is an urgent necessity. It is important that they live a decent life, not needing anyone, especially since some of them live in hardship; while it is known that monarchy countries train the royal family members to be ready to rule until the seventh king or Amir.

The country is fine. It has enough wealth to help prevent members of the ruling family from interfering in the work of others. Money has also been found to create people by spending on good education and continuous training

to assume responsibilities. Just as this applies to the general

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KUWAIT CITY, June 9, (KUNA): The head

of the Kuwaiti pilgrimage expedition Dr.

Badr Al-Mutairi on Saturday affirmed that all

preparations had been fully taken to host and

the Ministry of Al-Awqaf and Islamic Affairs,

lauded efforts of the congregation members

for facilitating travel and the planned services

Dr. Al-Mutairi, also the Undersecretary of

serve the State of Kuwait pilgrims.

rites of the adherents

He was talking

to KUNA during a

visit to the expedition

headquarters in Holy

Makkah, with the at-

tendance of the deputy

chair of the expedi-

tion and the assistant

information and ex-

ternal relations, of the

undersecretary

at the sacred sites

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Kuwait Amir receives Crown Prince, PM at Seif Palace





His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received, Sunday, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah (left) at Seif Palace. His Highness the Amir also received His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah (right), Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Acting Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yusuf Saud Al-Sabah, and Deputy Chief of the National Guard Sheikh Faisal Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Update civil ID address or risk KD100 fine: PACI

397 deleted

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff **KUWAIT CITY, June 9: The**

Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) has warned that failure to amend the address in the civil identification card could lead to a fine not exceeding KD100 as per Law No. 32/1982.

PACI recently published an announcement on the Official Gazette 'Kuwait Al-Youm' about the deletion of the addresses of 397 people based on the house owner's acknowledgment or due to the demolition of

the building.
It urged all those whose residential addresses were deleted and whose names were published in the gazette must register the new address and submit the supporting documents within 30 days from the date of publication. It stressed that failure to register the new address warrants a fine not exceeding KD100 as per Law No. 32/1982.

In this context, PACI recently announced the launching of a new service through the unified government application, 'Sahel'. It disclosed that the

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Smoke rises after Israeli attacks in the Nuseirat refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip on June 8, 2024. Israeli forces on Saturday rescued four hostages from the Nuseirat refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip, where, according to Palestinian sources, a bloody Israeli assault took place, killing more than 200 people and wounding more than 400 others. (Xinhua)

Overhaul eyed

Kuwait evaluates health fee policy

KUWAIT CITY, June 9, (Agencies): The Ministry of Health is currently and exemptions for patients in hospitals and health centers to pave the way for updating them in the coming period, reports Al-Anba daily.

The ministry recently issued a circular to exempt the holders of valid cards issued by the Central Agency for Remedying Illegal Residents Status (CARIRS) from all kinds of health fees as per Ministerial Decision No. 68/2011.

In other news, Minister of Health Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi recently is-sued a ministerial decision to transfer the technical subordination of the public relations departments, units and divisions in the health districts and central departments to the director of the Public Relations and Health Media Department in the ministry, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

274 Palestinians killed in Israeli raid

Kuwait condemns Israeli assault on Gaza camp

Newswatch

Kuwait pilgrims set for Hajj: Al-Mutairi KUWAIT CITY: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah Sunday sent a cable to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, expressing sincere congratulations on his Bharatiya Janata Party's win of legislative elections and on taking the oath as Prime Minister for a new

> His Highness the Amir praised the good historical relations between the two friendly countries, wishing the Indian Prime Minister good health, wellness, continued success and prosperity, and for India further progress and prosperity. (KUNA)

DOHA: Kuwait's Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya headed on Sunday the Kuwaiti delegation participating in the 160th GCC Foreign Ministerial Council meeting held in Doha.

The Foreign Ministry said in a statement that the meeting discussed the items on the agenda and the decisions that support and enhance the process of joint Gulf action in various fields. Views were also exchanged on regional and international issues, especially the war on

KUWAIT CITY, June 9, (Agencies): The State of Kuwait has strongly condemned and denounced the recent Israeli occupation assault on Al-Nuseirat camp, the Gaza Strip, which led to the slaughter of over 200 innocent civilians.

According to a statement by the Foreign Ministry, Kuwait deemed this act, which also led to the injury of hundreds, as a violation of international and humanitar-

Kuwait reiterated its condemnation of this heinous criminal act and called on the international community and the UNSC to halt the barbaric aggression on the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip that killed, so far, over 36,000 unarmed civilians.

Kuwait also called for enabling the delivery of muchneeded humanitarian aid to the Palestinian people.

The Secretary General of the Cooperation Council for the Arab states of the Gulf (GCC), Jassem Al-Budaiwi condemned on Sunday the Israeli occupation's brutal attack on the Nuseirat Camp in Gaza, which killed and

injured hundreds of Palestinians.

Al-Budaiwi stated that this attack was terrorism that targeted innocent and defenseless people with unprecedented brutality, he added that this barbaric attack demonstrated the Israeli occupation's terrorism and their complete disregard for all international conventions and humanitarian values.

He called on the international community to assume its historical and moral responsibilities and take immediate actions to stop these horrific crimes against the Palestinian people.

He stressed that the GCC countries stand in solidarity with the Palestinian people in their struggle for freedom and to live in peace and he further reiterated the firm positions of the GCC regarding the Palestinian cause, and their support for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on the 1967 borders, with its capital in East Jerusalem, in accordance with the Arab Peace Initiative and international legitimacy resolutions.

Continued on Page 5

CAIRO, June 9, (KUNA): The Arab League held a consultative meeting with member states permanent delegates on Sunday, headed by Mauritania, to evaluate Arab cooperation forums with countries and regional groups.

Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the International Political Affairs Sector Dr. Khaled Manzalawi said in a press release that the meeting discussed member states views and proposals regarding Arab cooperation forums in order to coordinate collective efforts to serve issues of common interest.

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Participants are seen at the conclusion of Dakhla International Film Festival in Morocco on Saturday, where the Kuwaiti film 'Amakor' was showcased. - See Page 12

Arab League holds consultative meet

Gaza and the Palestinian issue.

Continued on Page 5

Dr. Al-Mutairi

Ministry of Al-Awqaf, Mohammad Al-Mutairi, along with heads of the tasked commissions.

He also praised their devotion, punctual tasks and adherence to the timetables, stressing on the necessity to pursue the mission with a team work's spirit.

Earlier in Kuwait, the Ministry of Health

vices for the Kuwaiti Hajj expedition had arrived in holy Makkah. Dr. Abdullah Al-Sanad, the MoH official spokesman said in a statement to KUNA that

all of expedition's medical equipment had

declared that the whole team of medical ser-

'Adhere to Saudi laws'

been set up.

The MoH clinics will open on Sunday with start of the Kuwaiti pilgrims' arrival, he said, affirming that the ministry will secure all medical needs for the devotees namely the elderly

and those suffering from chronic diseases. The ministry had declared that 41 health prevention centers had been set up to immunize the pilgrims.

Chief of Kuwaiti pilgrimage mission Dr. Bader Al-Mutairi on Sunday stressed the need to adhere to the special systems and laws in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

This came in a statement to KUNA by Dr. Al-Mutairi, also the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Al-Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, following a meeting between the head of the mission and his deputy and assistant undersecretary for information and external relations of the Ministry of Al-Awqaf Mohammad Al-Mutairi, along with heads of the tasked commissions.

Dr. Al-Mutairi expressed his thanks to the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Kuwait Prince Sultan bin Saad Al-Saud and to the staff of the Saudi Embassy in Kuwait for their cooperation and coordination with the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs.

He also expressed his thanks to all the parties participating in the mission for their dedication and work.

For his part, Consul General of Kuwait in Jeddah and its Permanent Representative to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Mohammad Al-Mutairi confirmed in a similar

Prayer Timings

Fajr 03:13 Asr... Maghrib .. 18:46 Sunrise .. 04:48 Zohr...... 11:47 Isha 20:18

Oca

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:

By Day: Very hot, partly cloudy and humid especially over coastal areas with light to moderate freshening at times southerly wind to southeasterly wind, with speeds of 12-42 km/h.

Weather

By Night: Hot to rather hot and humid especially over coastal areas with light to moderate southeasterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 10-35 km/h and some scattered clouds will

Station Kuwait City **Kuwait Airport** Abdaly Jahra Salmiyah Nuwaisib

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



HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled receives the First Deputy PM, Minister of Defense and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yusuf Saud Al-Sabah and the governors.



HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled receives First Deputy PM, Minister of Defense and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yusuf Saud Al-Sabah, Chief of the General Staff of the Army, Undersecretary of the Ministry of



HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled receives HH the PM Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Other Voices

Abu Suleiman and 50K donations

By Ahmed alsarraf

, along with others, played a piv-Lotal role in founding the Association for the Defense of Public Money nearly three decades ago. Upon my successful election to the Board of Directors, I took on the responsibility of serving as its inaugural treasurer. In a gesture of support, I contributed two thousand dinars to cover the as-

sociation's initial expenses, echoing the generosity shown to us by esteemed supporters at the time.

bution proved sufficient sustain the association's opera-



tions for several months, reflecting my dedication to our noble cause.

However, a troubling incident compelled me to reassess my position on the board. One day, the association's president and another board member, the latter having served as a representative in the recently dissolved National Assembly, approached me with a check issued in my name for 50 thousand dinars.

They informed me that they had solicited this donation from a prominent individual to support the asso-

ciation's financial needs. I found their actions and approach disconcerting. I refused to accept the check, tendered my resignation, and

conveyed my concerns. I emphasized that accepting such a sizable donation, particularly from a member of the state institution, could compromise the association's integrity. It risked creating a conflict of interest whereby the association might feel hesitant to scrutinize the benefactor's actions regarding public funds, should the need arise in the future.

I firmly believe that maintaining the independence and impartiality of our organization is paramount. We must uphold our principles and remain steadfast in our commitment to safeguarding public funds without any external influence or compro-

Following my resignation, the Association for the Defense of Public Money continued its operations un-

der new leadership. While it successfully achieved formal recognition and made some strides in its efforts, it fell short of the ambitious goals set forth by its founders and outlined in its statutes. Regrettably, to my knowledge, the association has not been as effective as hoped in uncovering instances of misuse of public funds over the past two decades.

Furthermore, it appears that the association has not developed a comprehensive program for the preservation of public funds, complete with a well-defined action plan and time-

There has also been a lack of initiatives aimed at disseminating the culture of safeguarding public funds through specialized training or awareness campaigns conducted by the association.

However, there remains hope that the association will evolve and improve in the future. It is imperative that it redoubles its efforts to fulfill its mission and enhance its effectiveness in protecting public funds.

With concerted action and a renewed commitment to its founding principles, the association can play a pivotal role in promoting transparency, accountability, and responsible stewardship of public resources.

As the number of individuals seeking assistance with financial and health challenges grew, many voiced frustrations about discriminatory practices by certain charitable organizations based on religion and sect.

Feeling disheartened by the lack of change, I took action in early 2018 by publishing an article offering to donate fifty thousand dinars to establish a non-profit, non-affiliated charitable organization dedicated to assisting those overlooked by other associa-

Shortly after the article's publication, I received a call from Yahya Al-Bassam, a respected figure in the community, expressing interest in discussing the matter further. Recognizing his seniority, I agreed to meet

During our meeting, Mr. Al-Bassam, accompanied by his son Sulaiman Al-Bassam, the international director, presented a donation of fifty thousand dinars. Grateful for his trust and generosity, I initially declined the donation, as the association had yet to be established. However, I gladly accepted the donation once the organization was officially formed.

With time, Mr. Al-Bassam, affectionately known as "Abu Suleiman," became one of the association's most significant benefactors. His initial phone call and generous contribution marked a pivotal moment, not only in my life but also in the lives of the countless individuals who received impartial assistance from the association, devoid of personal or material gain. His support helped transform the organization into a beacon of hope for those in need.

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Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled being congratulated on his appointment

His Highness the Crown Prince receives top officials

KUWAIT CITY, June 9, (KUNA): His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah received Sunday at Seif Palace His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad

His Highness the Crown Prince also received Deputy head of Kuwait National Guard (KNG) Sheikh Faisal Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

He also received Kuwait First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yusuf Saud Al-Sabah,

Governor of Hawally Ali Salem Al-Asfar, Governor of Farwaniya Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah, Governor of Assima Sheikh Abdullah Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah, Governor of Mubarak Al-Kabeer and Acting Governor of Al-Ahmadi Sheikh Sabah Bader Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah and Governor of Al-Jahraa Hamad Jassem Al-Mheisen Al-Habshi.

He also received Chief of Staff of Kuwait's Armed Forces Air Marshal Bandar Al-Muzayyen, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior Lieutenant General Sheikh Salem Nawaf Al-

Ahmad Al-Sabah, KNG Undersecretary Lieutenant General Hashem Al-Rifai, Acting General Director of Kuwait Fire Forces Lieutenant General Khaled Fahad and Director for Human Resources and Information Technology at the Interior Ministry Sheikh Mubarak Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah.

During the meeting, they congratulated His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled on being appointed as Crown Prince by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-

MoH unveils 'new requirements' for pharmacist, asst professions

Dr Al-Awadhi issues Ministerial Decision No. 160/2024

KUWAIT CITY, June 9: Minister of Health Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi recently issued Ministerial **Decision** No.160/2024, specifying the requirements for obtaining a license to practice pharmacist and assistant professions in the public and private sectors, reports Al-Anba daily.

Article One of the decision stipulates the cancellation of Decision No. 88/2024 on amending Article Three of Ministerial Decision No. 395/1997 about the executive regulations of Law No. 28/1996 to be as follows:

The requirements for obtaining a license to practice the pharmacist profession are:

1. The applicant for a license to practice pharmacist profession must hold a valid and accredited Pharmacology certificate.

2. The applicant for assistant jobs must hold a valid and accredited certificate in his field of specialization.

3. The applicant must submit

the experience certificate which must be authorized by the relevant 4. The applicant must be committed to good behavior and must

not have been subjected to penalties for crimes against honor unless he is rehabilitated. 5. The applicant must pass the medical test according to the mea-

sures defined by Higher Health Council in the Ministry of Health. 6. The Kuwaiti applicant for pharmacist license must present a valid Kuwait Pharmacology Soci-

ety membership card. 7. The license to practice pharmacist profession and assistant jobs is nullified in the following cases:

■ Death of the license holder, ■ If the holder is found guilty of committing a crime against honor unless he is rehabilitated,

■ If he is reported by the relevant department in the Ministry of Health that he unable to do his work due to health problems, ■ If he committed immoral acts

that negatively affected his job and reputation.

The pharmacists and those occupying assistant jobs in public institutions are allowed to obtain a temporary license for one year until they submit their accredited academic certificates.

Meanwhile, those who wish to obtain a license to work in the private sector must fulfill all of the abovementioned requirements and pay the fees stipulated in Decision No. 278/2019.

The license is cancelled upon termination of the contract with

Abdullah Al-Mahri leads remarkable consensus

MC reconstitutes panels in unprecedented session

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 9: In continuation of the pace of cooperation demonstrated by the current Municipal Council since its formation in 2022; the council, headed by Abdullah Al-Mahri, recently held its first extraordinary session for the third session of the 13th legislative term; during which it reconstituted its sub and main committees by acclamation amidst remarkable consensus and unprecedented flexibility among the members.

The council completed the formation of its main committees by acclamation in accordance with Article 27 of Kuwait Municipality Law No. 33/2016, which stipulates that the council shall form the following committees from among its members for a period of two years:

Eng Muneera Al-Amir as Technical Committee chairperson, Abdullah Al-Enezi as rapporteur with Dr. Hassan Kamal, Fahad Al-Khaneen, Eng. Alia Al-Farsi, Eng. Abdullatif Al-Daei and Khaled Mufleh Al-Mu-

tairi as members. Fahad Al-Abd Al-Jader as Legal and Financial Committee chairperson, Walid Al-Dagher as rapporteur with Sharifa Al-Shalfan, Ismail Behbehani and Khaled Mufleh Al-Mu-

tairi as members. Eng. Alia Al-Farsi as chairperson of the Environmental Affairs Committee, Sharifa Al-Shalfan as rapporteur with Walid Al-Dagher, Abdullah Al-Enezi, Fahad Al-

Khanin as members. Saud Al-Kandari as chairperson of the Objections and Complaints Committee, Fahd Al-Abduljader as rapporteur with Ismail Behbehani, Abdullah Al-Enezi, Nassar Al-Azmi as members.

Farah Al-Roumi as Engineering Professions Committee chairperson, Eng. Abdullatif Al-Daei as rapporteur with Munira Al-Amir, Ismail Behbehani and Dr. Hassan Kamal as

Abdullatif Al-Daei as Reform and Development Committee chairperson, Ismail Behbehani as rapporteur with Sharifa Al-Shalfan, Farah Al-Roumi, and Eng. Alia Al-Farsi as The acclamation of governorate

committees is in accordance with Article 26 of Kuwait Municipality Law No. 33/2016, which stipulates that the council shall form a subcommittee for each governorate of five members for a period of two years. In all cases, a member may not participate in more than two committees.

The internal regulations deter-



Photo by lehab Qurtal

Municipal Council members during the session.

mine the powers of these committees and the controls for holding their meetings and issuing their decisions. Dr. Hassan Kamal was acclaimed

as Capital Governorate Committee chairperson, Eng. Alia Al-Farsi as rapporteur with Ismail Behbehani, Sharifa Al-Shalfan, Fahad Al-Abd Al-Jader as members. Nasser Al-Jadaan as Hawally

Governorate Committee chairperson, Saud Al-Kandari as rapporteur with Dr. Hassan Kamal, Farah Al-Roumi and Walid Al-Dagher as members.

Nassar Al-Azmi as Ahmadi Governorate Committee chairperson, Saud Al-Kandari as rapporteur with Nasser Al-Jadaan, Fahad Al-Khanain, and Fahad Al-Abduljader as members.

Khaled Mufleh Al-Mutairi as Farwaniya Governorate Committee chairperson, Walid Al-Dagher as rapporteur with Abdullah Al-Enezi, Munira Al-Amir and Alia Al-Farsi as members.

Abdullah Al-Enezi as Jahra Governorate Committee chairperson, Munira Al-Amir as rapporteur with Ismail Behbehani, Khaled Mufleh Al-Mutairi and Abdullatif Al-Daei as members. Fahad Al-Khanain as Mubarak

Al-Kabeer Governorate Committee chairperson, Nassar Al-Azmi as rapporteur with Farah Al-Roumi, Sharifa Al-Shalfan and Abdullatif Al-Daei as members.

In this regard, Municipal Council President Abdullah Al-Mahri said after the special session that acclaiming the positions of the main and subcommittees indicates the extent of the great

consensus among the members, and this in itself is an achievement. He pointed out that the members, during the past two years of the council's life, worked in the spirit of one team, each of them putting his practical and scientific experi-

ences for everyone to benefit from,

as this cooperation resulted in issu-

ing approximately 500 decisions in

Al-Mahri called on the council members to complete the process of achievements they started. He stated that the number of remaining transactions and proposals referred to the committees is very small, especially since the members were keen to complete them as soon as possible in accordance with the required technical and engineering standards.

He concluded by emphasizing that the council as a whole is working at a rapid pace and urged the members to continue to exert more effort, whether in committees or main sessions.

Municipal Council member Fahad Al-Abduljader praised the positive atmosphere that prevailed in the extraordinary session. He stressed that the spirit of cooperation prevailed in the work of the council over the past two years.

"From the first day, we were keen to work in the spirit of one team. We applied democracy and succeeded in completing exceptional achievements. Perhaps, the decisions of the council and its committees that were taken during the session are the best evidence of this. The council issued 266 decisions in the first round and more than 200 decisions in the second round. The Legal and Financial Committee, which I chaired throughout the previous period, held 16 meetings in the first round and 14 meetings in the second round, and completed all the topics in its agenda," he added.

He went on to say that "the Capital Governorate Committee also held 19 meetings in the first and second rounds. We accomplished everything in its agenda. This is due to the insistence and determination of the council members to complete the journey toward achievements. We will arrange the papers during the summer vacation and there will be meetings in preparation for the third session.'

the employer, death of the holder. cal report, if the holder is proven if the holder is proven incapable of to have committed a crime against doing his job according to a medihonor, and if the holder does not

practice the profession for 30 consecutive days after obtaining the license without a valid excuse.

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A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'Need to develop clear plan for kids to spend summer vacation'

"WITH summer vacation approaching, many parents find themselves facing a major challenge: How can they occupy their children's free time in a useful and enjoyable way," columnist Nada Muhalhal Al-Mudhaf, wrote for Al-Qabas daily.

"While summer vacation seems like a great opportunity to relax and unwind, it can also be a risky period if not planned well, as too much leisure time can lead to psychological problems for children and their engagement in undesirable behaviors.

"Planning ahead for summer vacation helps provide children with a clear structure, reducing the emptiness and boredom they may feel. When children lack directed activities, they are more likely to engage in nonconstructive or even dangerous

activities. "Among these risks are the following:

'Exposure inappropriate programs electronic games -- Spending a long time in front of screens can lead to children being exposed to inap-



Al-Mudhaf

propriate content, including pornographic programs and violent games. 'Psychological deterioration -- Feeling empty and bored can lead to isola-

tion and loneliness, which negatively affects children's mental health. 'Engaging in behavioral problems --Children may look for unhealthy ways to occupy their time, such as engaging

in behavioral problems or experiment-

ing with dangerous things' "Always free time is not only vacation within the country in which you live, even when traveling if you do not have a clear and organized itinerary, even the educational purpose of traveling with your children, you will find yourself in a big gap that may require more effort and guidance from you to get rid of the damage that you must pay

attention to before it happens. . "Summer vacation is a great opportunity to promote growth and development in children, but this requires good awareness and planning on the part of

"By developing a clear and directed plan, parents can help their children spend an enjoyable and productive summer vacation, away from the risks they may face as a result of leisure.'

"Everything seems susceptible to leaking these days - from exams to statements, from news to our everyday lives. It's a constant dance between what's public and what's private," columnist Dr Turki Al-Azmi wrote for **Al-Rai** daily.

"In the midst of it all, as we approach the blessed days of Dhul-Hijjah, it's worth reflecting on our deeds. Have we truly upheld goodness and offered sincere advice?

"I recall a time when a friend urged me to shower praise and compliments with ulterior motives in mind. My response was simple: 'Do not teach me hypocrisy'!

"We aspire to be a nation built on sincerity and genuine counsel, walking the path of reform as best we can. But what benefit do those who leak information or spread rumors truly gain? To them, we echo Khalid bin Al-Walid's words: 'It's your paper, fill it with whatever you want'.

"Let's not forget the wisdom of the Prophet's advice to Ibn Abbas - that ultimately, our fate is in God's hands, regardless of others' intentions.

"We're weary of those who excel in sweet talk for selfish gain, for they do not build but destroy.

"As we cautiously hope for better days ahead, let's remember our responsibility to fear God in our actions and

"Silence is warranted when uninformed, but offering genuine advice based on truth is crucial. We must strive to rectify societal issues, armed with understanding and practical solu-

"And in our fight against corruption and misinformation, may we see accountability upheld by the law for all, without exception.

"May God accept our good deeds and guide us to righteousness. Amen."

"How remarkable have been the steps and decisions of Your Highness the Amir (May God protect you) since assuming the helm of the State of Kuwait! Your important decisions have steered Kuwait through turbulent times, yielding significant political outcomes. Amidst the ambiguity of all appearances and the changes in leadership, your leadership has fostered anticipation and optimism for stability and security. The region keenly observes the direction of the current regime of Kuwait, admiring the wisdom, sagacity, and steadfastness exhibited in managing the affairs of the country," columnist Mohammad Ali Al-Naqi wrote for Al-Seyassah daily.

"As for the Kuwaiti people of all age groups, they are filled with happiness because of the successive decisions that regulate the conditions of Kuwaiti society at all levels and the political life, as well as to suspend the Constitution for a period of four years, thereby relieving people from the waste and chatter of those who hide behind the cloak of constitutional immunity.

"It was a new blessed day with the issuance of the Amiri order by His Highness the Amir (May God protect and preserve him) to nominate His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah as the Crown Prince. He was born in 1953, and he is the second son of Sheikh Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-

"With a rich history steeped in the realm of politics and diplomatic ventures, he has traversed the corridors of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the United Nations, and the Kuwaiti Embassy in the sisterly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as well as the headquarters of the Gulf Cooperation Council in Ri-

"Subsequently, he assumed various ministerial roles in several stages, serving as Minister of Social Affairs and Labor, Minister of Information, Minister of Justice, and Minister of Endowments and Islamic Affairs.

"He then took over the portfolio of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to be at the center of global activity on the international scene. During this tenure, he was honored with prestigious international awards, notably receiving the King Abdulaziz Medal of the First Class from the late Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd bin Abdulaziz, in 1998.

"His Highness the Amir's announcement of the nomination of Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled as the Crown Prince elicited positive responses from all segments of Kuwaiti society at every level and the situation has become very joyful for them.

"Congratulations to His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled. We ask God Almighty to guide your steps in your journey under the leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishaal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah (may God protect and care for them, and guide their steps on the paths of goodness and development)."

"Some malicious X users are trying to stir up the ashes to ignite the fire from under them. They are trying to recall the situation when His Highness the Crown Prince was the Prime Minister, especially about who stood with him and who stood against you, about who accused his government of corruption, and about who voted for non-cooperation, and tried to collect signatures," columnist Talal Al-Saeed wrote for Al-Seyassah daily.

"What we must know is that each stage has its own circumstances, and each interpellation has its own motives and goals. Every member of the National Assembly is keen about the success of his interpellation by any means. Without a doubt, the government of His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled was subjected to clear injustice at that time when he was the target, and not his government or its performance, which by the way was below the standard level, but it is a page that has been

turned and had its pros and cons. "We now say to His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled that, "We are all with you." Despite whoever supported your government at that time and whoever opposed it, Your Highness has surpassed that stage to enter the very narrow circle of decision-making, or the triangle of rule concerned with every loyal Kuwaiti, regardless of your previous positions.

"Your Highness the Crown Prince, strike with an iron fist anyone who tries to divide the ranks, or tamper with national unity, even if he wears the cloak of a faithful advisor. Your Highness knows very well whether this organized incitement is based on love for your noble person, or hatred for the other side.

"Your Highness the Crown Prince, today you are like a father to everyone, whether they are your age, older, or younger than you. The heart of a father is always merciful and compassionate towards his children. A ruler does not hold a grudge against his people no matter how much they insult him at

any time.
"We are following and monitoring everything that is published by virtue of our work. We see that some of them do not have the ability to distinguish between one era and another. Some others do not know how to apologize, and the majority are proud of their sin. They think that you will not accept their apology. So we ask - forgive those who have wronged you. Get closer to those who have distanced themselves from you. This is because the road is very long, and the challenges are many and great. Rallying around the leadership is one of the most important national

"Your Highness the Crown Prince, you have a good example in the father of all, His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad (May God protect him), as he was most subjected to serious insults, cursing, swearing, and stabbing. However, he was at peace with himself, and even with his enemies. He does not bear grudges, and he responds to insults with kindness. He currently enjoys a high position as a caring father to every Kuwaiti. History has passed over those who were hostile to him, so that they may go away with the wind, but Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad remains an immortal leader. May you always be safe."

— Compiled by PFX Fernandes and Mahmoud Ateyieh

Explore your future ...

KBA hosts career expo for Military Service recruits



A photo from the event.

Al-Qabas photo

KUWAIT CITY, June 9: The Kuwait Banking Association, in collaboration with the National Military Service Authority, organized the second annual exhibition showcasing career opportunities for conscripts joining the National Military Service on June 3-4, 2024, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The event was graced by the presence of Lieutenant General Pilot Bandar Salem Abdullah, Chief of the General Staff of the Army, and Major General Ahmed Rashid Awad, Chairman of the National Military Service Authority.

Also in attendance were Dr. Yaqoub Al-Rifai, Secretary General of the Kuwait Banking Association, and Sadiq Al-Abdullah, Chairman of the Union's Human Resources Committee and General Manager of the Human Resources Sector at the Commercial Bank of Kuwait, alongside leaders from Kuwaiti banks.

Dr. Al-Rifai emphasized the commitment of the Union and Kuwaiti banks to providing suitable job opportunities for recruits based on their experience and skills, facilitating their contribution to Kuwait's national service.

Highlighting the significance of the Kuwaiti banking sector, Dr. Al-Rifai noted its pivotal role in driving development both locally and regionally. He highlighted that Kuwaiti banks are the largest employers of national labor in the private sector, employing over 79% of local bank workers. Dr. Al-Rifai commended the banking sector's efforts in educating, training, and qualifying young national cadres for bank employment, particularly through competency programs supervised by the Central Bank of Kuwait.

Court upholds death sentence for 3 in Al-Rashidi, Al-Zaatari's killings

Police officer given 2 years jail with hard labor

By Jaber Al-Hamoud, Munif Naif Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, June 9: The Court of Appeals upheld the ruling of a lower court that sentenced to death a citizen and an Egyptian for the premeditated murder of Mubarak Al-Rashidi.

In previous sessions, the court questioned the defendants -- friends of the victim -- about the premeditated murder, but they denied committing the crime; while the prosecution denounced the crime and demanded for maximum penalty for the perpetrators.

It had earlier been reported that securitymen found Al-Rashidi's body inside a container in Salmi desert more than two months after his disappearance. His two friends, the citizen and the Egyptian, were accused of killing him at a camping site in Kabad, transported his body and burned the tent before the latter left for his country.

Royal member gets 'death': The Court of Appeals upheld the death sentence imposed on a ruling family member for murdering Abdulaziz Al-Zaatari.

On the evening of April 10, Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorate witnessed a horrific crime as a young man -- Abdulaziz Al-Zaatari -- was killed after a person fired 12 bullets at him in front of his house until he fell dead. The killer was hidden under a protective helmet. After kill-

ing the victim, he fled to an unknown destination. It is worth noting that officers from the Criminal Security

Sector in the Interior Ministry arrested the suspect and obtained the weapon used in the crime.

Police officer gets 2-year jail: In a deterrent ruling for security personnel by the Criminal Court, a police officer was sentenced to two years in prison with hard labor for breaking the jaw of a suspected drug user during the latter's arrest, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The court refrained from pronouncing punishment for the suspected drug user and imposed KD300 bail for the possession of psychotropic substances.

According to the case file, the Public Prosecution charged the suspected drug user with possessing methamphetamine with the intention of using it without proving that he is legally allowed to do so. He allegedly assaulted a public sector employee – a corporal who arrested him and injured him as mentioned in the attached medical report and as stated in the investigations.

The police officer was also charged with intentionally inflicting harm on the accused, the injuries of whom were described in the forensics report, stating this caused him severe physical pain.

Considering he is a public employee, the policeman used cruelty against the accused by assaulting him.

Lawyer for the accused drug user, Attorney Abdul Mohsen Al-Oattan, argued that the confession of the officer was invalid because it contradicted the truth. He also cited the technical evidence in the documents, and that the arrest and search of his client were invalid because it went beyond the legal frame-

Al-Qattan also confirmed that the elements of the crimes of inflicting severe physical pain and using cruelty against his client were present as proven in the flash drive attached to the case documents, showing the officer kicking his client and that the officer admitted kicking his client's face.

2 die in traffic accidents: Over the weekend, two tragic traffic accidents claimed the lives of two Arab residents in separate incidents.

In the first accident, authorities received a distress call reporting a collision on the Wafra Farms Road. Responding swiftly, rescue teams from the Wafra Police Station and Fire Station rushed to the scene, but could do nothing to rescue the the Arab man whose vehicle had run out of

control and collided with the electric pressure pole. In the second incident, authorities were alerted to a motorcycle overturning in the Mahboula area.

The rider, an Arab man, succumbed to his injuries before help reached him.

Forensic experts were called to the scene to gather evidence, and the body was later transferred to the Forensic Medicine Department.

Motorists with expired insurance: The Ministry of Interior, under the leadership of Major General Yousef Al Khadda, the Assistant Undersecretary for Traffic and Operations Affairs, has initiated a crackdown on motorists who drive vehicles with expired insurance documents, reports Leveraging modern traffic camera technology deployed in

security patrols and installed along various roads, the Traffic and Operations Sector has seized 176 vehicles that were either wanted or lacked valid insurance since the implementation of the new system. In tandem with this effort, the sector has conducted compre-

hensive traffic and security campaigns aimed at maintaining order on public roads and residential areas. These campaigns, conducted throughout the past week, resulted in the issuance of 31,086 violations and the impounding of 176 vehicles and 26 motorcycles.

Additionally, 43 violators of laws and reckless motorists were apprehended, with 18 juveniles referred to the Juvenile Prosecution for driving without licenses. Furthermore, the operations led to the arrest of 31 individuals wanted for various security and criminal offenses, including violations of residency laws, as well as the apprehension of three cases involving the possession and use of narcotics.



The video clip that led to the arrest of the man (left).

Mol photos

Arab man faces deportation for theft

KUWAIT CITY, June 9: The Ministry of Interior said personnel from the Criminal Investigation Department have arrested an unidentified Arab man for stealing shoes of worshipers, reports Al-Jarida

The man was caught after his pic-

ture went viral on social media showing him stealing shoes from a mosque in the Salmiya area. The Interior Ministry added the accused was referred to the competent authorities to take the necessary measures against him in preparation for his deportation from the country.

MoSA told not to renew contracts of employees hired on daily wages

KUWAIT CITY, June 9: According to informed sources, the chairman of Civil Service Commission (CSC) sent a letter to the undersecretary of Ministry of Social Affairs regarding the non-renewal of the contracts of employees who were hired on the basis of wages, and that December 31, 2024 is the deadline for terminating their contracts, reports Aljarida daily.

They explained that the Ministry of Social Affairs had addressed CSC in April asking to allow the ministry to renew for one year the contracts of 68 non-Kuwaiti employees who were hired on the basis of wages including those working in social welfare homes. However, CSC approved the renewal of the contracts of only 30 employees out of the requested 68. These renewed contracts are to be terminated by the end of this year. CSC had also demanded that these 30 employees should not include any new employees, and that the contracts meet the requirements specified in CSC's decision No. 5/2007 in addition to providing the necessary budget for the

Meanwhile, the Minister of Social Affairs and Family and Children Affairs and the State Minister for Youth Affairs Amthal Al-Huwaila held recently a tour of the Public Authority for the Disabled Affairs (PADA) office along with the Acting Chairman of PADA Al-Humaidi Al-Mutairi, Deputy Chairman for Medical, Psychological and Social Services Amer Al-Enezi, and Deputy Chairman for Educational and Rehabilitation Services Mubarak Al-Badah.

Al-Huwaila visited the reception lounge and the departments allocated for the completion of transactions in order to study the work process.





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Kuwaiti interest peaks as Thai hospitals showcase healthcare expertise

Thailand promotes advanced, affordable medical tourism

By Fares Abadan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 9: The Thai Ambassador to Kuwait HE Ekapol Polpipat has emphasized Thailand's commitment to maintaining its status as a premier global destination for medical tourism, citing the country's modern hospitals, excellent facilities, highly experienced doctors, and advanced technology -- all offered at reasonable and affordable costs. He highlighted the short wait times as another key benefit.

He made this statement during the 'Communication Forum in the Field of Medical Services, Health Care, and Wellness in Thailand 2024,' which was organized by the Thai embassy in conjunction with the 13th 'Medica Kuwait' exhibition and conference held from June 6 to 7.

Ambassador Polpipat noted that the event serves as a platform for representatives from five Thai hospitals --Bangkok Hospital, Bangkok Hospital Phuket, BPK9 International, Sukhumvit Hospital, and Piavit Hospital -- to showcase their expertise and services.

services. Thailand is recognized as one

of the top destinations globally for

medical treatment and procedures,

attracting tourists seeking to invest in

"For patients requiring ongoing

treatment, there is now a long-term

medical visa," Polpipat stated, high-

lighting that private hospitals in

Thailand excel in providing well-

trained, experienced doctors and prac-

titioners, equipped with the latest

The medical staff's ability to com-

municate effectively, often with the

help of interpreters, further enhances

problems, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Nonetheless, the citizens must book

an appointment through the "Sahel"

application. A periodic report on the

outcomes of these meetings will be

submitted to Al-Dabbous for review.

their health and well-being.

advanced technologies.

the patient experience.

Municipality requires officials to

address citizen concerns weekly

He also mentioned that Kuwaiti partners are eager to rediscover Thailand's medical services, wellness offerings, and tourism opportunities, aiming to strengthen collaborative relationships. Thailand's unique cultural heritage, delicious cuisine, and stunning landscapes make it an appealing destination for Kuwaitis.

Polpipat stressed the rapid growth of tourism in Thailand, with many patients expressing their appreciation for the country's excellent medical

KUWAIT CITY, June 9: The Director

General of Kuwait Municipality, Saud

Al-Dabbous, has issued an administra-

tive circular requiring all officials to

receive citizens every Sunday to listen

to their suggestions and address their



Photo by Samer Shaqair

Thai Ambassador poses for a group photo during the 13th 'Medica Kuwait' exhibition and conference.

Kuwait University summer semester 2023/24 kicks off

KUWAIT CITY, June 9: Kuwait University is gearing up to kick off its summer semester for the academic year 2023-2024 tomorrow today with classes scheduled to run until July 25, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Early registration for courses had already commenced, and the Deanship of Admission and Registration has been actively offering new sections to accommodate student demand. The university has allocated the first three days of the summer semester for course withdrawals and additions, allowing students to fine-tune their study sched-

Students have expressed their desire for more course offerings and increased seat availability, particularly in the literary colleges where courses tend to fill up quickly due to high demand.

In response to student needs, the university administration is in close communication with scientific departments to explore the possibility of opening additional study classes, especially in faculties such as arts and education.

This proactive approach aims to ensure the smooth progression of the educational process and prevent delays in students' graduation.

While there are university regulations governing the preparation of the summer academic schedule and the assignment of courses to professors, efforts are being made to stay within budget constraints while meeting the

Kuwait, China strengthen bilateral cooperation for mutual prosperity

Bilateral relations expand in AI and renewable energy

KUWAIT CITY, June 9: During the tenth session of the ministerial meeting of the China-Arab Cooperation Forum in Beijing, Kuwait's Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya emphasized the constructive cooperation between Kuwait and China across various domains, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Notably, the focus areas include sustainable development, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, climate change mitigation, regional security, combating terrorism and extremism, and ensuring freedom of navigation, among others.

Chinese Ambassador to Kuwait, Zhang Jianwei, highlighted the significance of Kuwait as an important partner for China in the Gulf

Cooperation Council region. Over the past five decades, bilateral relations between China and Kuwait have witnessed substantial development, characterized by mutual support on core

issues and strategic partnership establishment in Jianwei noted that Kuwait was the first country in

the region to sign cooperation agreements within the Belt and Road Initiative framework. These agreements have yielded significant outcomes in energy, trade, infrastructure, culture, and other sectors. Noteworthy projects completed through this cooperation include the new headquarters building for the Central Bank of Kuwait, university city, oil refinery, residential area, and the Seventh Ring



109 cases unveiled

PADA in relentless efforts to safeguard public funds

KUWAIT CITY, June 9: Mubarak Al-Badah, Deputy Director of the Public Authority for Disabled Affairs, highlighted the authority's relentless efforts in safeguarding public funds and ensuring accountability, reports Al-Jarida

Al-Badah revealed that since 2017, 109 files have been referred to the Public Prosecution regarding suspected incidents of facilitating the misappropriation of public money and forgery.

Additionally, the authority has filed 337 lawsuits to recover unlawfully spent sums of money, amounting to hundreds of thousands of dinars. Al-Badah emphasized the authority's success in recovering significant amounts of money that were spent in violation of the law, underscoring the inviolable nature of public funds.

Al-Badah further detailed the legal proceedings undertaken by the authority, highlighting that the Legal Affairs Department plays a pivotal role in representing the authority before the judiciary. Notably, out of 10,337 cases filed by or against the authority, a remarkable 71% have been won by the authority, demonstrating the validity of its legal procedures.

Regarding cases filed against the authority, Al-Badah mentioned the challenge of administrative decisions rejecting medical committee rulings on disability status. He emphasized the authority's adherence to legal protocols and cited a Court of Cassation ruling affirming the authority's jurisdiction in determining disability

Al-Badah attributed the authority's success in legal matters to the introduction of an efficient case follow-up system and the meticulous organization of case files. These measures have expedited legal processes and bolstered the authority's ability to protect public funds and uphold the rights of disabled individuals.

Looking ahead, China is committed to working closely with Kuwait to implement joint projects and deepen cooperation in various fields such as renewable energy, investment, digital economy, and artificial intelligence. Jianwei expressed confidence that under the leadership of both countries' leaders, bilateral relations will continue to flourish, contributing to regional development and prosperity.

the China-Arab Regarding Cooperation Forum, this year marks its twentieth anniversary, with the recent ministerial conference in Beijing being of paramount importance.

Frameworks

President Xi Jinping proposed five cooperation frameworks to accelerate the establishment of a shared future community between China and Arab countries. Notably, President Xi reiterated China's steadfast support for the establishment of an independent State of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital.

In conclusion, Kuwait's role in hosting the third Arab-Chinese Summit in 2030 underscores its commitment to enhancing Chinese-Arab cooperation.

China remains dedicated to strengthening friendship, implementing agreements, and deepening practical cooperation with Arab countries, including Kuwait, for mutual benefit and global governance advancement.

■ Comprehensive road maintenance

■ General maintenance of the First

Ring Road, including the third, fourth,

and fifth intersections, and King Fahd

in Jahra Governorate (Zone 2) for dura-

in Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorate

in Farwaniya Governorate (Zone 2) for

in Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorate

(Zone 1) for duration of 1,095 days.

(Zone 2) for duration of 1,095 days.

in the Capital Governorate (Zone 2) for

in Hawalli Governorate (Zone 2) for du-

in Al-Ahmadi Governorate (Zone 2) for

duration of 1,095 days.

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tion of 1,095 days.

Bidding window will span 30 days

CAPT to float tenders for 18 road projects

KUWAIT CITY, June 9: The Central Agency for Public Tenders will float 18 projects today focusing on extensive road maintenance across all governorates and highways, reports Al-Rai daily quoting reliable CAPT sources.

The sources disclosed, "The bidding window will span 30 days from the commencement of the announcement for companies to submit their proposals.'

Upon the completion of the bidding phase and subsequent approval processes, including scrutiny by the Audit Bureau, the awarded companies will commence road maintenance operations.

The projects encompass maintenance initiatives for 12 roads in various gover-

norates and six highway segments. Outlined below are the sanctioned project drafts:

Comprehensive road maintenance in Jahra Governorate (Zone 1) for duration of 1,095 days.

■ Comprehensive road maintenance in Farwaniya Governorate (Zone 1) for duration of 1,095 days.

■ Comprehensive road maintenance in the Capital Governorate (Zone 1) for duration of 1,095 days.

■ Comprehensive road maintenance in Hawalli Governorate (Zone 1) for duration of 1,095 days. ■ Comprehensive road maintenance

in Al-Ahmadi Governorate (Zone 1) for

duration of 1,095 days.

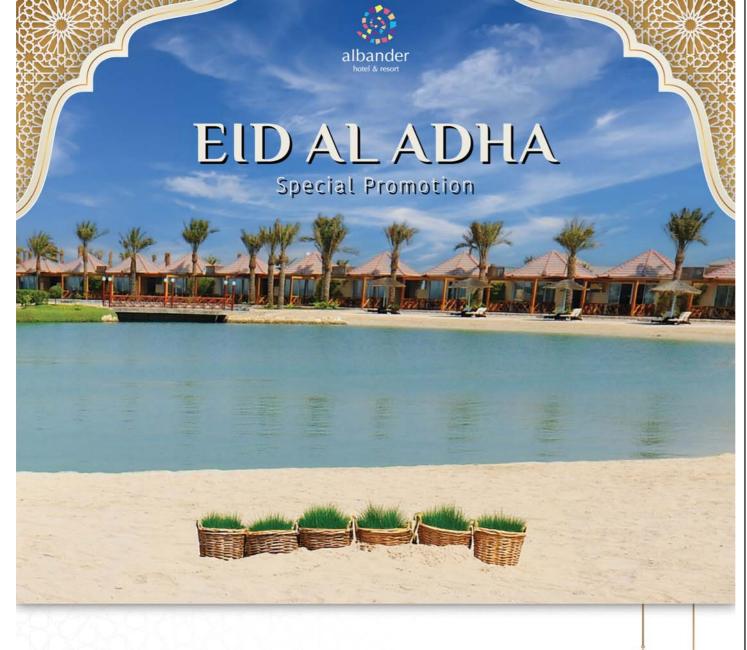
■ General maintenance of the Sixth

and Seventh Ring Roads.

■ General maintenance of King Fahd Road and Fahaheel Road. ■ General maintenance of Subbiya

Road. ■ General maintenance of Abdali

Road and Jahra Road. ■ General maintenance of Salmi



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Cutting-edge solution to safeguard coastal biodiversity

Kuwait unveils innovative system to prevent fish deaths, red tides

KUWAIT CITY, June 9: Dr. Abdullah Al-Zaydan, Deputy Director General of the Technical Affairs Sector at the Environment Public Authority, has unveiled the final stages of an innovative system designed to provide early warnings for fish deaths and red tides, while monitoring marine conditions, reports Al-Rai daily.

Developed in collaboration with the Environment Public Authority, various state agencies, and the Kuwait Scientific Research Center, this system aims to combat fish deaths effectively and equip decision-makers with timely information for swift action.

This groundbreaking scientific and monitoring system, as highlighted by Al-Zaydan in a statement to Al-Rai, represents a significant step forward in assessing Kuwait Bay's environmental landscape.

It enables continuous monitoring of fish deaths and red tide occurrences, pinpointing prevalent areas. Al-Zaydan emphasized the importance of this initiative in addressing escalating environmental challenges posed by population growth, infrastructure pressures, and detrimental practices impacting marine ecosystems.

The establishment of water quality laboratories plays a pivotal role in this system, facilitating the identification



Dr. Abdullah Al-Zaydan, (right) Deputy Director General of the Technical Affairs Sector at the Environment Public Authority, explains how the innovative system woks

of phytoplankton types and quantities responsible for red tide occurrences.

Al-Zaydan attributed the onset of fish deaths in 1999 to the deterioration of coastal water quality stemming from human activities. With Kuwait Bay requiring approximately 45 days to replenish its waters, this system becomes indispensable in safeguarding marine biodiversity, which stands as the nation's second-largest revenue source after oil.

Citing reasons behind fish deaths, Al-Zaydan highlighted the illicit use of rain outlets for wastewater disposal, leading to nutrient enrichment and subsequent phytoplankton blooms. Aerial surveys conducted on Kuwait Bay underscored the adverse impact of such practices, directly contributing to red tide occurrences and oxygen depletion.

Remote sensing systems, supported by satellite imagery, further enhance monitoring capabilities, detecting red tide concentrations in specific areas such as Shuwaikh, Sulaibikhat, and Doha.

Al-Zaydan elucidated on the mortality process, attributing it to phytoplankton adhering to fish gills, exacerbating oxygen depletion in water. The integration of three key elements -- quantitative and qualitative phytoplankton studies, routine coastal water quality monitoring, and red tide extent assessment via satellite imagery -- fortifies the system's efficacy.

Addressing the recurring phenomenon of fish deaths, particularly during April and May, Al-Zaydan underscored the detrimental effects of untreated water discharge on coastal ecosystems. Since 2017, such incidents have persisted, underscoring the urgency for proactive measures.

Al-Zaydan emphasized three key recommendations: conducting environmental load studies on Kuwait Bay, enhancing agency efficiency, and fostering inter-agency collaboration. He highlighted the system's capacity to identify fish death hotspots and their timing, facilitating prompt intervention and environmental improvement.

Acknowledging the efforts of national cadres overseeing laboratory monitoring, Al-Zaydan revealed the United Nations' commendation, affirming their exceptional performance

Minister Al-Mashaan announces new assignments and decisions

KUWAIT CITY, June 9: In a recent announcement, Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for Mu-

nicipal Affairs, Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan, unveiled a series of new assignments and decisions aimed at revitalizing various sectors within the Ministry, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Dr. Al-Mashaan

The restructuring initiative, part of an overarching policy to inject fresh perspectives and expertise, includes appointments to key positions and changes in responsibilities. Among the notable decisions, Al-Mashaan designated Muhannad Al-

to benefit Gulf countries grappling

Minister overhauls board for

café 'development' strategy

with a 99 percent rating. He also underscored the potential for this system Khayyat, Director of the Roads and Networks Maintenance Department in Hawalli Governorate, to assume the additional role of Assistant Undersecretary for the Government Center for Inspections, Quality Control, and Research Sector.

Similarly, Muhammad AlAnazi, Director of the Major Projects Follow-up Department, was tasked with the duties of Assistant Undersecretary for the Construction Projects Affairs Sector.

Furthermore, Khaled Al-Azmi, currently serving in the Administrative, Financial, and Legal Affairs Sector, will take on the responsibilities of Director of the Administrative Services Department within the same sector.

Additionally, Fatima Hamza Ali, Head of the Architecture Department in the Design Department, will temporarily assume the role of Director of the Implementation Department in engineering projects.

with similar environmental challenges, emphasizing Kuwait's pioneering role in laboratory development.

Deal comprising 11 development projects

French envoy praises contract to develop meteorological systems at Kuwait Airport

KUWAIT CITY, June 9: Following the signing of a contract worth 12.8 million dinars between the The Directorate-General of Civil Aviation and the French company Meteo France for the development of meteorological systems at Kuwait Airport, French Ambassador Claire Leflecher expressed satisfaction, stating that "France is pleased to witness the expansion of its business in Kuwait," reports Al-jarida daily.

She emphasized that such contracts contribute to strengthening the robust bilateral relations between the two

Leflecher highlighted the excellence of French companies and their willingness to collaborate with Kuwaiti partners, noting the presence of numerous French companies in Kuwait that have demonstrated their capability to meet the requirements of Kuwaiti projects.

Regarding the significance of the agreement, she mentioned that it marks



H.E. Claire Leflecher, French Ambassador to Kuwait

the second collaboration in the meteorological field within a short period, following a previous agreement signed last December between the French company STERELA and Civil Aviation.

The contract, signed by Sheikh Hamoud Al-Mubarak, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Civil Aviation, and Patrick Benigno, Executive Director of Meteo France, aims to implement an ambitious plan comprising 11 development projects for the air transport sector.

The project encompasses two main components: a warning system for local dust and sandstorms with consultations, and a second-generation system for processing meteorological data. The duration of the contract spans 930 days, followed by a four-year period for warranty and maintenance.

Al-Otaibi, Acting Director General of the DGCA, underscored the importance of the project in enhancing aviation safety and public health by alerting to approaching storms and assessing air quality.

He elaborated on the components of the meteorological data processing system, which includes nine subsystems for data acquisition, archiving, storage, processing, forecasting, and production, as well as systems moni-

New leadership appointed The plan should include studying the

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 9: The Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Child Affairs, and the Minister of State for Youth Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwaila issued a decision to

dissolve the Board of Directors of the Social Fund for Popular Cafés and appoint a new board.

According to an informed Dr Al-Huwaila source, the new board will be composed of a number of representatives from the Ministry of Social Affairs and sev-

eral experts. The Board of Directors is responsible for preparing a development achieve the goals for which it was established, after which the plan will be presented to the minister for approval.

general situation of popular cafés, presenting the administrative and financial situation of the fund, and developing the administrative and financial regulations related to the fund's work in a way that contributes to raising the level of its performance in accordance with what is required by the principles of governance and good management. Periodic quarterly reports must be

submitted to the minister with a summary of the work of the Board of Directors and its decisions during the past period, in addition to the necessary recommendations and proposals to further develop the work of the fund and improve the level of services provided to patrons of popular cafes. A monthly remuneration will be paid

to the chairman and members of the fund's board of directors for their work. It will be determined by the board, provided that the Board of Directors meets at the invitation of its Chairman, at least once a month and whenever necessary.

Its decisions shall be issued by a majority of the votes present. In the event of a tie, the vote on the side of the President shall prevail. The Board of pertise in the field of the fund's work in exchange for a financial reward without any other financial rights or benefits.

Senior roles unveiled

Minister of Education reshuffles leadership

KUWAIT CITY, June 9: The Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education, Dr. Adel Al-Adwani, has issued several significant decisions regarding appointments in senior positions, reports Al-



of the assignment of Hessa Al-Mutawa, Assistant Undersecretary for Public Education, and the appointment of Mansour Al-Dhafiri, Director

Qabas daily.

These

sions

deci-

include

termination

General of Mubarak Al-Kabeer Region, to assume the responsibilities of the Assistant Undersecretary for Public Education. Moreover, the Minister of Educa-

tion has appointed Maryam Al-Anazi, Assistant Undersecretary for the Edu-Sector, to take on the role of Undersecretary for the Educational Research and Curriculum Sector.

Plastic recycling app introduced

Lebanese Embassy official urges pollution mitigation

By Fares Al-Abdan

KUWAIT CITY, June 9: Chargé d'Affaires at the Lebanese Embassy Ahmed Arafa pointed out that "talking about environmental problems and the dangers of pollution in our contemporary world is no longer far from the reality of people and their suffering. This is an awareness and environmental symposium par excellence; focusing on plastic recycling, because the spread of plastic waste harms the environment, health and the public. We must confront this imminent danger and think about how to limit the damage resulting from it within the framework of improving the quality of human life and able future for next generations." achieving the sustainable development goals adopted by all member-

states of the United Nations." He explained that reducing the use of plastic or recycling it by converting worthless plastic into valuable materials would fundamentally support many sustainable goals.

He added: "Starting from here, it is our duty to have sustainability at the core of our daily practices and to bear the responsibility as individuals and as a group. We have to cooperate with others to live in a healthy environment, guarantee the safety of others and protect the natural environment of water, air and organisms; thus, ensuring our safety and a better and more sustain-

On Saturday, Director of Public Security Lieu-

tenant General Mohammad Al-Bassami stressed that security of the homeland, the pilgrims and the

holy sites are red lines affirming that the security

forces will deal firmly against any illegal acts or

The security forces' priority is safeguarding the

security and safety of the pilgrims as they perform

the rituals at the various sacred locations, said

Lieut. Gen. A-Bassami, who was speaking during

a news conference organized by the Saudi Minis-

try of Interior -- grouping officers of the squads

He indicated that the security troops will set up

checkpoints around the holy sites and ensure that

incoming people carry the proper papers to per-

form the rites. He has also indicated that there will

For his part, Major General Mohammad Al-

Omari, the commander of emergency forces, said

the squads would maintain order and security in

Holy Makkah and Medina, prevent violators of the

regulations from reaching the rites' sites, manage

commander of air security, indicated that drones

would scour the pilgrims' throngs to ensure their

Dr. Hmoud Al-Faraj, the commander of the

The head of the passports personnel, Dr. Saleh Al-Merbe, affirmed that transactions for the arriv-

Continued from Page 1

Hajj civil defense, has affirmed that preventive

supervision in the capital and the holy places will be intensified and that humanitarian services will

'Address Availability' service enables the user to

inquire about the availability of a residential ad-

dress in its records and amend the status if neces-

In other news, the Public Authority for Civil

Information (PACI) has vehemently denied the

rumor about the collection of fees for the authen-

tication process on 'My Identity' (Kuwait Mobile

the application for free; including authentication,

e-signature and sending notifications.

PACI stressed that it provides services through

sary in order to avoid paying the stipulated fine.

Air Vice Marshal Abdulaziz Al-Draijan, the

the throngs and organize the Satan stoning rite.

unhindered movement.

offered for the pilgrims.

Update civil

als have been proceeding perfectly.

be preventive measures against possible crimes.

bids against the pilgrims' safety.

assigned to maintain the Hajj security.

Meanwhile, Executive Director for Operations at Umniah Plastic Collection Company Farah Shaaban said the Umniah environmental application is non-profit and it is the first application of its kind in the country for collecting plastic and instilling the concept and behavior of sorting plastic waste, stressing that

Shaaban made the announcement in the recently concluded public awareness seminar organized by the wait on the occasion of 'World Environment Day' under the auspices of the Lebanese Embassy in the State of

everyone should benefit from it.

Lebanese Women's Council in Ku-

Kuwait condemns

Continued from Page 1

At least 274 Palestinians were killed and hundreds more were wounded in the Israeli raid that rescued four hostages held by Hamas, Gaza's Health Ministry said Sunday. The military said its forces came under heavy fire during the complex daytime operation deep inside the territory.

The killing of so many Palestinians, including women and children, in a raid that Israelis celebrated as a stunning success because all four hostages were rescued alive, showed the heavy cost of such operations on top of the already soaring toll of the 8-month-long war ignited by Hamas'

densely populated areas or inside Hamas' labyrinth of tunnels, making rescue attempts extremely complex and risky. A similar raid in February rescued two hostages while leaving 74 Palestinians dead.

The operation deep into Nuseirat, a built-up refugee camp in central Gaza dating back to the 1948 Arab-Israeli war, was the largest rescue since Oct. , when Hamas and other militants stormed across the border, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and taking around 250 hostage.

Arab League

pointed out the importance of setting a comprehensive strategy that includes specific objectives and implementation to achieve the forums' goals, Manzalawi added.

Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the Arab League Ambassador Talal Al-Mutairi headed the Kuwaiti delegation.

In other news, the Arab Parliament has called for an end to genocide, ethnic cleansing, and forced displacement at the hands of the Israeli occupation against the Palestinian people in the

Medical team ready to serve Kuwaiti pilgrims

KUWAIT CITY, June 9: The Ministry of Health has announced that the medical team tasked to provide health services to Kuwaiti pilgrims is now in Makkah, Saudi Arabia, reports Al-Shahed daily.

Official spokesperson of the ministry Abdullah Al-Sanad has confirmed the completion of preparations in clinics for the pilgrims and the necessary permits have been obtained from the Saudi authorities.

He affirmed the clinics started operating on Sunday,

coinciding with the arrival of the Kuwaiti pilgrims. He stressed that the ministry is committed to provide the best services and healthcare for the pilgrims including precautionary, protection and therapeutic procedures; especially the elderly and those with chronic diseases.

He added that vaccines are available in 41 health centers in various governorates for the pilgrims to take before traveling to the holy places.

Loyal Crown

Continued from Page 1

public, it also applies to the youths of the ruling family, so why not invest part of the money in preparing them to assume responsibilities?

Your Highness the Crown Prince, what prevents any member of the Sabah Family from needing to compete with people in the housing lottery and having his own home, neither entering political competitions nor forming lobbies -whether they are members of Parliament or activists in public affairs, as such acts tear the family apart and dissipate its decision-making process? For sure, Kuwait has suffered a lot from this.

Consequently, it is important to allocate a fund for members of the ruling family. This fund must be supervised by those who have an impeccable and good reputation, and who have the strength that qualifies them to set strict rules in this regard.

In countries similar to our system, those who make mistakes are held accountable by members of the ruling family and they have their own rules; rather, their own constitution due to their peculiarity. This is what the people are hoping to achieve.

May Almighty Allah grant you success, O Your Highness the Crown Prince. You are worthy of this great mission.

Kuwait pilgrims

Continued from Page 1

statement the consulate's preparations for Hajj through its plans that were put in place early to facilitate and ease the work of the Supreme Hajj

The meeting was attended by representatives of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Information, Ministry of Interior, the General Fire Force, the Public Authority for Youth, the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition, and Kuwait Red Crescent Society at the mission headquarters in Makkah.

The meeting discussed topics related to the services provided to the pilgrims of Kuwait and reviewed the Hajj mission plan.

Oct. 7 attack. Scores of hostages are believed to be held in

Continued from Page 1

During the meeting, the permanent delegates

He stressed that this meeting represents an important step to enhancing cooperation and communication between Arab countries and regional

Gaza Strip, the West Bank, and Jerusalem.



World News Roundup

Europe

Bulgarians cast ballots

MIns 'vote' on final day of EU elections

BRUSSELS, June 9, (AP): Tens of millions across the European Union voted Sunday in EU parliamentary elections in a massive exercise of democracy that is expected to shift the bloc to the right and redirect its

The war in Ukraine, migration, and the impact of climate policy on farmers are some of the issues weighing on voters' minds as they cast ballots to elect 720 members of the European Parliament.

Surveys suggest that mainstream and pro-European parties will retain their majority in parliament, but they will lose seats to hard right parties like those led by İtalian Premier Giorgia Meloni, Hungarian leader Viktor Orban, Geert Wilders in the Netherlands and Marine Le Pen in France.



that we will manage to avoid a shift to the right and that Eusaid in Berlin.

rope will somehow remain united," voter Laura Simon EU lawmakers have a say in issues from financial rules to climate and agriculture policy.

That would make it harder for Europe to pass legislation and could at times paralyze decision-making in the world's biggest trading bloc. "I do hope

They approve the EU budget, which bankrolls priorities including infrastructure projects, farm subsidies and aid delivered to Ukraine. And they hold a veto over the appointment of the powerful EU commission.

This elections come at a testing time for voter confidence in a bloc of some 450 million people. Over the last five years, the EU has been shaken by the coronavirus pandemic, an economic slump and an energy crisis fueled by the biggest land conflict in Europe since the Second World War. But political campaigning often focuses on issues of concern in individual countries rather than on broader European interests.

Cycle

Sunday's voting marathon winds up a four-day election cycle that began in the Netherlands on Thurs-

An unofficial exit poll there suggested that Wilders' anti-migrant hard right party would make important gains in the Netherlands, even though a coalition of pro-European parties has probably pushed it into sec-

Casting his vote in the Flanders region, Belgian Prime Minister Alexander De Croo, whose country holds the EU's rotating presidency until the end of the month, warned that Europe is "at a crossroads" and "more under pressure than ever."

Since the last EU election in 2019, populist or farright parties now lead governments in three nations - Hungary, Slovakia and Italy - and are part of ruling coalitions in others including Sweden, Finland and, soon, the Netherlands. Polls give the populists an advantage in France, Belgium, Austria and Italy.

"Right is good," Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, who leads a stridently nationalist and anti-migrant government, told reporters after casting his ballot. "To go right is always good. Go right!"

After the election comes a period of horse-trading, as political parties reconsider in their places in the continent-wide political alliances that run the European legislature.

The biggest political group - the center-right European People's Party (EPP) - has moved right during the present elections on issues like security, climate

Among the most watched questions is whether the Brothers of Italy - the governing party of populist Meloni, which has neo-fascist roots - stays in the more hard-line European Conservatives and Reformists group or becomes part of a new hard right group that could form the wake of the elections.

Also:

SOFIA, Bulgaria: Bulgarians are choosing a new parliament Sunday while also participating in European Union elections that have been overshadowed by domestic political instability and economic inequality as well as growing concern over the war in nearby

It was Bulgaria's sixth parliamentary election in three years. There were worries that voter fatigue and wide disillusionment with politicians who do not fulfill promises to fight corruption and introduce reforms could result in a low turnout and another fragmented

Preliminary results are expected Monday in the voting for the 240 seats in the National Assembly and for 17 members in the European Parliament.

The front-runners in the National Assembly elections were seen as the GERB center-right party led by three-time Prime Minister Boyko Borissov and the reformist coalition We Continue the Change-Democratic Bulgaria.

After running neck and neck in last July's election, the two rival groups sought to break the political stalemate by forming an uneasy governing coalition, but it survived only nine months.

In heated campaigning for the latest election, both parties leveled charges of corruption against the other, and analysts saw little chance of the two trying to work together again.

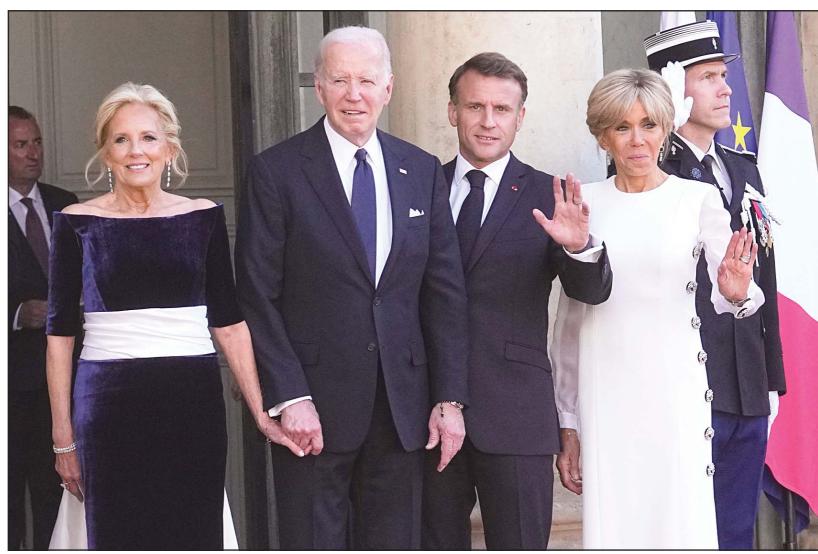
KYIV, Ukraine: Ukraine on Sunday said its forces hit an ultra-modern Russian warplane stationed on an air base nearly 600 kilometers (370 miles) from the front lines, after its Western allies allowed Kyiv to use their weapons for limited strikes inside Russia. Kyiv's main military intelligence service shared

satellite photos it said showed the aftermath of the attack. If confirmed, it would mark Ukraine's first known successful strike on a Su-57 fighter plane, a twin-engine stealth fighter lauded as Moscow's most advanced military aircraft. In one photo, black soot marks and small craters can

be seen dotting a concrete strip around the parked aircraft. According to the Main Intelligence Directorate of Ukraine's Ministry of Defense, the strike took place on Saturday at the Akhtubinsk base in southern Russia. some 589 kilometers (366 miles) from the front line.

It wasn't immediately clear what weapons were used, but the airfield's distance from Ukraine suggests that it was likely hit by drones.

The strike comes after the United States and Germany recently authorized Ukraine to hit some targets on Russian soil with the long-range weapons they are supplying to Kyiv. Ukraine has already used US weapons to strike inside Russia under newly approved guidance from President Joe Biden that allows American arms to be used for the limited purpose of defending Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city.



US President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden, (left), French President Emmanuel Macron and his wife Brigitte Macron pose before a state dinner on June 8 at the Elysee Palace in Paris. Biden said France was America's 'first friend' at its founding and is one of its closest allies more than two centuries later as he was honored with a state visit Saturday by Macron aimed at showing off their partnership on global security issues and easing past trade tensions. (AP)



Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, left, leader of the ruling Fidesz party and his wife, Aniko Levai cast their votes at a polling station during the European Parliament and the local elections in Budapest, Hungary, June 9, 2024. (AP)



America

SDakota shooting kills 3: A shooting in a Sioux Falls neighborhood left three people dead and two others injured early Saturday,

Police said they have a suspect in custody. They said there does not appear to be any further danger to the community. The

investigation is ongoing.

Police said in a news release that they found the victims around 2:45 a.m. while responding to a call about a disturbance, the Argus Leader reported. The injured were taken to a hospital to be treated. Their wounds were not believed to be life-threat-

Authorities did not release any additional details. Sioux Falls police did not respond to three phone messages left with dispatchers or to a social media message from The Associated Press. (AP)

Shooting suspect dies in jail: A suspect who was being held in a California jail on charges connected to a 2022 mass shooting in the state capital died in his cell Sat-

urday, according to police and his attorney. The 29-year-old male inmate died while in custody at the Sacramento County Main Jail around 2:15 am, the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office said in a statement posted on social media.

The San Francisco Chronicle reported public defender Norman Dawson identified the man as Smiley Martin, his client who was awaiting trial on three felony charges stemming from an April 3, 2022, shooting in Sacramento that killed six people and wounded 12 others, including two of the alleged shooters.

Jail deputies were conducting a cell check and found an unresponsive inmate. The deputies and then fire department personnel attempted life-saving procedures but he was pronounced dead, the sheriff's office said. The Sacramento County Coroner's Office will determine the cause of death and release the man's name after notification of his next of kin, according to the sheriff's office, which said it will investigate.

Martin was "fighting to defend his innocence in the preliminary hearing process" at the time of his death, Dawson said in a written statement. (AP)



NJ businessman testifies: A New Jersey businessman took his star turn on the witness stand in the bribery case against Sen Bob Menendez on Friday, telling a jury he believed he had a \$200,000-to-\$250,000

Politics

Deportation flights scarce

Some nationalities escape Biden asylum ban

SAN DIEGO, June 9, (AP): The Border Patrol arrested Gerardo Henao 14 hours after President Joe Biden suspended asylum processing at the US border with Mexico this week. But instead of being summarily deported, he was dropped off by agents the next day at a San Diego bus stop, where he caught a train to the airport for a flight to Newark, New Jersey.

Henao, who said he left his jewelry business in Medellin, Colombia, because of constant extortion attempts, had one thing working in his favor: a scarcity of deportation flights to that country. Lack of resources, diplomatic limitations and logistical hurdles make it difficult for the Biden administration to impose its sweeping measure on a

Policy

The policy, which took effect Wednesday, has an exception for "operational considerations," official language acknowledging the government lacks the money and authority to deport everyone subject to the measure, especially people from countries in South America, Asia, Africa and Europe who didn't start showing up at the border until recently. The Homeland Security Department said in a detailed document outlining the ban that "demographics and nationalities encountered at the border significantly impact" its ability to deport people.

Thousands of migrants have been deported under the ban so far, according to two senior Homeland Security Department officials who briefed reporters Friday on condition that they not be named. There were 17 deportation flights, including one to Uzbekistan. Those deported include people from Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador,

Guatemala, Peru and Mexico. Henao, 59, said a Border Patrol agent told him about the ban after he was picked up Wednesday on a dirt road near a high-voltage power line in the boulder-strewn mountains east of San Diego. The agent processed release papers ordering him to appear in immigration court Oct 23 in New Jersey. He casually asked Henao why he fled Colombia but didn't pursue that line of questioning.

US may be less prepared for poll threats than it was four years ago

WASHINGTON, June 9, (AP): With only five months before voters head to the polls, the US may be more vulnerable to foreign disinformation aimed at influencing voters and undermining democracy than it was before the 2020 election, the leader of the Senate Intelligence Committee said.

Sen. Mark Warner, a Virginia Democrat, based his warning on several factors: improved disinformation tactics by Russia and China, the rise of domestic candidates and groups who are themselves willing to spread disinformation, and the arrival of artithe rapid creation of images, audio and video difficult to tell from the real thing. In addition, tech companies have rolled back their efforts to protect users from misinformation even as the government's own attempts to combat the problem have become mired in debates about surveillance and censorship.

As a result, the US could face a greater threat of foreign disinformation ahead of the 2024 election than it did in the 2016 or 2020 presidential election cycles, Warner said. "We may be less prepared 155

days out in 2024 than we were

under President Trump (in 2020)," Warner told The Associated Press in an interview Monday.

Noting similar campaigns in 2016 and 2020, security officials, democracy activists and disinformation researchers have warned for years that Russia, China, Iran and domestic groups within the U.S. will use online platforms to spread false and polarizing content designed to influence the race between Trump, a Republican, and President Joe Biden, a Democrat.

Warner's assessment of America's vulnerability comes just weeks ter ton security officia Intelligence Committee that the US has greatly improved its ability to combat foreign disinformation. Several new challenges, howev-

er, will make safeguarding the 2024 election different than past cycles.

Al programs have already been used to generate misleading content, such as a robocall that mimicked the voice of Biden telling New Hampshire voters not to cast a ballot in that state's primary. Deceptive deepfakes created with Al programs have also popped up ahead of elections in India, Mexico, Moldova, Slovakia and Bangladesh.

"It was nothing," Henao said at a San Diego transit center, where the Border Patrol dropped off four busloads of migrants in a four-hour span Thursday afternoon. "They took my photo, my fingerprints and that was it.

Many migrants released that day were from China, India, Colombia and Ecuador. One group included men from Mauritania, Sudan and Ethiopia.

"Hello, if you are arriving right now, you have been released from immigration custody and you can go to the airport," a volunteer with a bullhorn told the migrants, directing them to a lightrail platform across the parking lot. "You can go for free if you don't have money for a taxi or an Uber.'

Under the measure, asylum is sus-

court in the afternoon, providing key testimony

against Menendez and two other businessmen

charged in a conspiracy along with Menendez's

wife. Next week, Menendez's lawyers will get

pended when arrests for illegal crossings reach 2,500 a day. It ends when they average below 1,500 for a week

Border officials were told to give the highest priority to detaining migrants who can be easily deported, followed by "hard to remove" nationalities requiring at least five days to issue travel documents and then "very hard to remove" nationalities whose governments don't accept US flights.

The instructions are laid out in a memo to agents that was reported by the New York Post. The Associated Press confirmed its contents with a US official who spoke on condition of anonymity because it has not been publicly released.

to cross-examine the naturalized US citizen.

the comment about truth in English. (AP)

"Next week we get the truth," Menendez said just before stepping into a car that carried him away from Manhattan federal court, where he has been on trial for the last month. Although he generally speaks briefly in Spanish each day leaving court, he made

Fla warns of shark dangers: Authorities are using boats to patrol the ocean and warning swimmers about sharks this weekend along Florida's Gulf Coast, where a woman and two teenage girls were hurt in

two separate shark attacks on Friday. The attacks off beaches in the Florida Panhandle led authorities to temporarily close several beaches to swimmers on Friday. Beaches were reopened Saturday, with flags warning of high hazards.

"All I can say is that these incidents are very rare," said Demian Chapman, a scientist and director of the Center for Shark Research at the Mote Marine Laboratory and Aquarium in Sarasota, Florida.

"It's even more rare to have two events in one day involving three people," he told The Associated Press on Saturday. "That's astronomically low odds of that happening.'

In Walton County, the sheriff's office, fire department and the state's wildlife agency were working together to patrol the water with boats and the shore with vehicles, the South Walton Fire District said in an update Saturday. (AP)

deal in 2018 for the Democrat to pressure the New Jersey attorney general's office to stop investigating his friends and family. Jose Uribe testified in Manhattan federal



This photo provided by Wyoming Highway Patrol shows a damaged section of Teton Pass near Jackson, Wyoming on June 8 that officials said had 'catastrophically failed.' Aerial photos and drone video of the collapse show the Teton Pass road riven with deep cracks, and a big section of the pavement disappeared altogether. The road was closed at the time of the collapse. (AP)

Lat/Am

'Activities intense'

Haiti's new premier Conille hospitalized

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti, June 9, (AP): Haiti's newly selected prime minister, Garry Conille, was hospitalized late Saturday in the capital of Port-au-Prince just days after arriving in the country, the government

It wasn't immediately known why Conille was hospitalized.

The office of the prime minister said in a statement that Conille was feeling slightly unwell "following a week of intense activities." It did not provide further details except to say that Conille was stable and that he thanked those who visited him and wished him well.

Louis Gérald Gilles, a member of the transitional presidential council that recently chose Conille as leader of the troubled Carib-



bean country, told The Associated Press that he was at the hospital but unable to provide further information. A person close to Conille,

who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media, told AP that he was with the prime minister when he noticed Conille, who he said is asthmatic and sometimes uses an inhaler, appeared to have

trouble breathing. The person said he called highranking officials and told them Conille needed to be taken to the hospital. A spokesman for Conille did not return messages

AP journalists observed high-ranking officials entering the hospital, including Frantz Elbé, director of Haiti's National Police. Also present was Bruno

Maes, UNICEF's representative in Haiti. A handful of curious onlookers gathered outside the hospital as authorities blocked the street with tinted-

Prepares

Conille was chosen as prime minister May 28 after a convoluted selection process. He faces an arduous task as Haiti's newest leader, including quelling widespread gang violence as the country prepares for the UN-backed deployment of a Kenyan police force, a move that was delayed in part because Haiti lacked a premier after former Prime Minister Ariel Henry stepped down April 25.

Henry was on an official visit to Kenya when gangs launched coordinated attacks Feb 29, burning police stations, shooting at the country's main international airport and storming Haiti's two biggest prisons, releasing more than 4,000 inmates. The violence left Henry locked out of the country and eventually led to his resignation.

Conille arrived in Haiti on June 1, having worked outside the country until recently as UNICEF's regional director for Latin America and the Caribbean, a post he assumed in January 2023. He previously served as Haiti's prime minister from October 2011

to May 2012 under then President Michel Martelly. Conille has been meeting with multiple officials and visiting various parts of Port-au-Prince since arriving, including climbing into an armored vehicle wearing a helmet and flak jacket to go along on a patrol with officers from Haiti's National Police.

Earlier Saturday, Conille toured Haiti's main international airport, which recently reopened after gang violence forced it to close for nearly three months. On Friday, he met with leaders of the private business sector as well as the country's two telecommunications

Conille also had been meeting regularly with the transitional council as they debated who should be appointed to Haiti's new Cabinet.

Also:

QUITO: Ecuadorian President Daniel Noboa said on Friday that the militarization of the country's violent coastal city of Manta had a positive effect on containing homicides.

Earlier this week, Noboa directed the joint command of the armed forces and the general command of the national police to temporarily operate in Manta to address the surge of violence following a series of armed attacks that left several dead.

Noboa added that the armed forces and the national police have recognized the "severity" of the security

Manta has seen more than 150 homicides so far this year due to the growing presence of organized crime gangs linked to drug trafficking, according to police

The military has been deployed nationwide since the president declared an "internal armed conflict" against organized crime on Jan 9.

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay: Nearly five decades after Uruguayan security forces seized Amelia Sanjurjo from the street, disappearing the newly pregnant woman into the maw of the military's prison system, she received a proper burial on Thursday in her hometown of Montevideo.

The bone fragments of Sanjurjo - described as a kind, patient and disheveled-looking employee at a publishing house and member of Uruguay's Communist party - were exhumed exactly a year ago from a military base in a small southern town in Uruguay. She was finally identified last week after investigators took DNA samples from her maternal aunt and nephews in Uruguay, **Spain** and **Italy** in hopes of finding a match.

The revelation was as thrilling as it was grim. Forensic teams have only recovered the remains of five other disappeared people in Uruguay since excava-tions began in 2005. The vast majority of the nearly 200 people kidnapped and killed during the country's dictatorship remain unidentified.

The search for bone fragments, teeth and shreds of clothing, investigators say, is the hardest part, given that members of the dictatorship deliberately destroyed DNA in an effort to deny that detainees were tortured and killed.

"Each new identification is a joy. It's a recognition of a great task that is carried out quietly by a whole group of professionals, archaeologists, anthropologists, geneticists, historians," said Carlos Vullo, the genetic lab director of the Argentine Forensic Anthropology Team, which assisted with Sanjurjo's identification.

In downtown Montevideo on Thursday, somber crowds thronged the small wooden box that held Sanjurjo's remains outside Uruguay's Republic University, home to the forensic investigators that identified her using genetic testing. Some hugged. Others wept.

Representatives of the relatives of Uruguay's disappeared paid tribute to Saniurio's late father and sister. who they said devoted their lives to searching for Sanjurjo and died without getting answers.



A South Korean military vehicle with loudspeakers is seen in front of the barbed-wire fence in Paju, near the border with North Korea, on Feb 15, 2018. South Korea announced on June 9 it would resume anti-North Korean propaganda loudspeaker broadcasts in border areas in retaliation to the North sending over 1,000 balloons filled with trash and manure over the last couple of weeks. Inset: South Korean soldiers dismantle loudspeakers that set up for propaganda broadcasts near the demilitarized zone separating the two Koreas in Paju, South Korea, on May 1, 2018. (AP)



Former leader of Move Forward party Pita Limjaroenrat, right, talks to reporters during a news conference at the party's office in Bangkok on June 9. (AP)



Africa



US pulls troops from Niger: The US

has started pulling out troops and military equipment from Niger after failing to reach an agreement with the West African nation to keep its bases there. A US Air Force C-17 Globemaster III

946 service members as well as the sensitive military equipment from the US bases 101 and 201 in Niger, according to a joint statement by the Nigerien Army and the US Department of Defense on Saturday. The statement was signed by Colonel

transported Friday more than 269 out of

Mamman Sani Kyaw, Commander of the Nigerien Land Forces, and Major General Kenneth Ekman of the US Department of Defense.

"This flight exemplifies the productive cooperation between the US and Nigerien armed forces through the Joint Disengagement Commission, which is tasked with overseeing and coordinating the orderly and safe withdrawal of US forces from Niger,' reads the statement.

Washington and Niamey had previously announced that the process of withdrawing US forces would end by September 15.

"Both US and Nigerien officials are dedicated to completing a safe, orderly, and responsible withdrawal by September 15, 2024. They emphasize their commitment to the protection and security of American forces during this process," added the statement. The two sides pledged to make every ef-

fort to make the withdrawal process a success and stressed the continuation of cooperation in areas of common interest, indicating that this withdrawal will not affect the current relations between the two countries.

It is noteworthy that the military junta in Niamey, which came to power following a political transformation on July 26, canceled the military cooperation agreement with the United States last March, demanding the withdrawal of French and American forces.

Last April, Washington agreed to withdraw its forces from Niger, where about 650 American soldiers were stationed in addition to hundreds of contractors. The American military presence in Niger began in 2012 when the United States

with Niger. Since then, about 1,100 American soldiers have participated in the fight against jihadists in the Sahel region and they have a large drone base in Agadez. (KUNA) 4 workers killed in Kenya: Gunmen in northern Kenya fatally shot four construc-

signed a military cooperation agreement

tion workers at a hospital site near a refugee camp and the border with Somalia where a militant group is active, police said Saturday.

A group of eight workers were resting on Friday when they were attacked, leaving four shot dead at close range, a police of-

ficial who declined to be named due to the

sensitivity of the issue told The Associated

Press. The other four workers escaped unharmed, the official said. The hospital construction site is near

Asia

Thailand's Move Forward braces for court case

South Korea restarts loudspeaker broadcasts

SEOUL, South Korea, June 9, (AP): South Korea on Sunday resumed anti-North Korean propaganda loudspeaker broadcasts in border areas in retaliation for the North sending over 1,000 balloons filled with trash and manure over the last couple of weeks.

The move is certain to anger Pyong yang and could trigger retaliatory military steps as tensions between the wardivided rivals rise while negotiations over the North's nuclear ambitions remain stalemated.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff confirmed that the military conducted a loudspeaker broadcast Sunday afternoon. It didn't specify the border area where it took place or what was played over the speakers.

"Whether our military conducts an additional loudspeaker broadcast is entirely dependent on North Korea's behavior," the Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement.

Hours earlier, South Korean national security director Chang Ho-jin presided over an emergency meeting where officials decided to install and begin the broadcasts from loudspeakers. The South had withdrawn such equipment from border areas in 2018, during a brief period of engagement with the North under Seoul's previous liberal government.

Chang and other South Korean security officials berated Pyongyang for attempting to cause "anxiety and disruption" in South Korea with the balloons and stressed that North Korea would be "solely responsible" for any future escalation of tensions.

Filled

The North said its balloon campaign came after South Korean activists sent over balloons filled with anti-North Korean leaflets, as well as USB sticks filled with popular South Korean songs and dramas. Pyongyang is extremely sensitive to such material and fears it could demoralize front-line troops and residents and eventually weaken leader Kim Jong Un's grip on power, analysts

South Korea has in the past used loudspeakers to blare anti-Pyongyang broadcasts, K-pop songs and international news across the rivals' heavily armed border.

In 2015, when South Korea restarted loudspeaker broadcasts for the first time in 11 years, North Korea fired artillery rounds across the border, prompting South Korea to return fire, according to South Korean officials. No casualties were reported.

Last week, as tensions spiked over the trash-carrying balloons, South Korea also suspended a 2018 agreement to reduce hostile acts along the border, allowing it to resume propaganda campaigns and possibly restart live-fire military exercises in border areas.

South Korean Defense Minister Shin Won-sik in a meeting with top military commanders called for thorough preparation against the possibility that the North responds to the loudspeaker broadcasts with direct military action, the South Korean Defense Ministry said in a statement.

North Korea continued to fly hundreds of balloons into South Korea over the weekend, a third such campaign since late May, the South's military said.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said it detected the North launching around 330 balloons toward the South since Saturday night and about 80 were found in South Korean territory as of Sunday morning. The military said winds were blowing eastward on Saturday night, which possibly caused many balloons to float away from South Korean territory.

Hazardous

The South's military said the balloons that did land dropped trash, including plastic and paper waste, but no hazardous substances were discovered.

The military, which has mobilized chemical rapid response and explosive clearance units to retrieve the North Korean balloons and materials, alerted the public to beware of falling objects and not to touch balloons found on the ground but report them to police or military authorities.

In North Korea's previous two rounds of balloon activities, South Korean authorities discovered about 1.000 balloons that were tied to vinyl bags containing manure, cigarette butts, scraps of cloth, waste batteries and waste paper. Some were popped and scattered on roads, residential areas and schools. No highly dangerous materials were found and no major damage has been reported.

The North's vice defense minister, Kim Kang II, later said his country would stop the balloon campaign but threatened to resume it if South Ko-

rean activists sent leaflets again. In defiance of the warning, a South Korean civilian group led by North Korean defector Park Sang-hak, said it launched 10 balloons from a border town on Thursday carrying 200,000 anti-North Korean leaflets, USB sticks with K-pop songs and K-dramas, and \$1 U.S. bills. South Korean media reported another activist group also flew balloons with 200,000 propaganda leaflets toward North Korea on Friday.

Kim in recent years has waged an intensifying campaign to eliminate South Korean cultural and language influences. In January, Kim declared the North would abandon its longstanding goal of a peaceful unification with the South and rewrite its constitution to cement the South as a permanent enemy. Experts say Kim's efforts to reinforce the North's separate identity may be aimed at strengthening the Kim family's dynastic rule.

North Korea's balloon campaign is also possibly meant to cause a divide in South Korea over its conservative government's hard-line approach to North Korea.

Liberal lawmakers, some civic groups and front-line residents in South Korea have called on the government to urge leafleting activists to stop flying balloons to avoid unnecessary clashes with North Korea. But government officials haven't made such an appeal in line with last year's constitutional court ruling that struck down a law criminalizing an anti-North Korea leafletting as a violation of free speech.

Also:

BANGKOK: The former leader of Thailand's progressive opposition Move Forward party vowed on Sunday to keep fighting as the party faces a court case that could result in its dissolution.

The Constitutional Court has agreed to rule on whether the party violated the constitution by proposing to amend a law that forbids defaming the country's royal family. The petition requested the party's dissolution and a 10-year ban on political activity by its executives. The court has not said when it will rule on this case.

Pita Limjaroenrat, the former leader of Move Forward, laid out the details of the party's legal defenses that have been submitted to the court at a news conference on Sunday. "If there is a rule of law in Thailand,

I'm extremely confident" the party's arguments will prevail, he said.

Pita said the Constitutional Court does not have jurisdiction to rule on this case and that the petition filed by the Election Commission did not follow due process because Move Forward was not given an opportunity to defend itself before the case was submitted to the court.

The petition was filed after the same court ruled in January that the party must stop advocating changes to the law, known as Article 112 in Thailand's criminal codes, which protects the monarchy from criticism by imposing penalties of three to 15 years in jail per offense. That ruling did not set any punish-

ment for the party.

Kenya's largest refugee camp, Dadaab, and the border with Somalia where the al-Shabab militant group is based. Garissa county has in the past been attacked by al-Shabab militants who cross through the porous border.

Local police say the Friday attack may have been staged by an armed group that had warned the contractor to stay away from the area, which they consider their turf.

Northern Kenya has in recent days seen violence that has left several people dead in



Police guard outside the hospital where Haiti's newly selected prime minister, Garry Conille was hospitalized in Port-au-Prince, Haiti on June 8. Louis Gérald Gilles, a member of the transitional presidential council that recently chose Conille, said he was en route to the hospital and did not have further information. (AP)

different locations.

On Wednesday, police at the Mandera border point recovered an improvised explosive device that was about to detonate. Last week, two herders were killed at a watering point also in Mandera area by gunmen. In April, five people were killed in a donkey cart explosion in Elwak town.

The government says security operations in northern Kenya have been increased.

The recent attacks have forced the government to suspend plans to reopen the 700-kilometre (434-mile) Kenya-Somalia border that was closed in 2011, though illegal crossings are still rampant. (AP)

Algeria convenes electorate: Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune on Saturday signed a presidential decree convening the electorate ahead of the presidential elections scheduled for September, the

Algerian presidency said in a statement. On March 21, Tebboune announced plans to hold early presidential elections on Sept. 7, following a meeting with the speakers of the parliament's upper house, the Council of the Nation, and lower house, the People's National Assembly, as well as other high-

Tebboune was elected in December 2019 for a five-year term and can run for a second and final term in accordance with the Algerian constitution. However, the president has not yet made any public announcement regarding a second term. (Xinhua)

Boursa Kuwait sees selective selling pressure, index drops

KFH tops trading activity

By Mahmoud Shendi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 9: Selective selling pressure on leading stocks contributed to a decrease of 6 points in the general index of the Boursa Kuwait.

Throughout the week's trading, the main indices displayed mixed performances, with a decline in market value and trading activity. Kuwait Finance House (KFH) emerged as the

most active stock for the week. The Premier Market Index experienced a slight decrease of 0.17%, closing the week at 7669.28 points, down by 13.32 points compared to the previous session

The market value of shares by the end of trading reached 41.449 billion dinars, reflecting a 0.10% decrease from the previous week.

The general market index concluded trading at 7,045.16 points, a decline of 0.10% or 6.76 points from the previous week. Conversely, the main market index saw a slight increase of 0.28%, closing at 5,974.48 points.

The main market 50 index ended

in positive territory, with a growth of 0.26%, equivalent to 15.08 points, finishing the week at 5805.97 points.

Trading activity saw a decline in 6 sectors, with healthcare leading the losses at 3.41%, while 7 sectors, led by industrial, experienced gains of approximately 4.10%.

Kuwaiti Al-Sakab stock recorded the highest weekly decline at 19.64%, whereas "Arkan" led the gainers with 18.03%. KFH, despite a 1.10% decline, contributed significantly to trading activity with a volume of 63.48 million shares and liquidity worth 46.04 million dinars, executed through 7.46 thousand transactions.

Overall, trading indicators collectively decreased, with liquidity falling by 26.95% to 243.63 million dinars, quantities declining by 26.36% to 979.44 million shares, and the number of transactions decreasing by 14.98% to 71.01 thousand.

The Kuwait Stock Exchange closed trading with the general index declining by 3.8 points to 7,045.16 points, a decrease of 0.05%.

A total of 158.9 million shares were traded through 12,891 cash transactions worth 41 million Kuwaiti dinars; the main market index decreased by 25.57 points to reach 5974.48 points, a decrease of 0.4%, while the Premier Market index rose 1.7 points to 7669.28 points through the trading of 63.5 million shares via 7,341 deals worth 29.6 million dinars.

Simultaneously, the Main 50 index experienced a decline of 35.09 points, reaching 5805.97 points, marking a decrease of 0.60%. This movement occurred through the trading of 69.3 million shares via 3609 cash transactions, amounting to 8.19 million dinars (approximately 24.9 million dollars).

During this period, companies such as Unicap, Bayan, Al-Nakheel, and Al-Rabita saw the most significant increases, while companies like Madar, Skb K, Markaz, and Aabar experienced the most substantial declines.

It's worth noting that the Stock Exchange attracted new foreign investments

Compliance issue arises

Kuwait urged to address oil revenue dependency & risks

KUWAIT CITY, June 9: According to the latest weekly economic report, OPEC+ convened its most recent meeting to bolster market equilibrium by regulating supply, thereby ensuring price stability, reports Al-Jarida daily.

This cooperative effort involves major oil-exporting nations both within and outside OPEC, notably Saudi Arabia and Russia, respectively. Currently, their combined production stands at approximately 18 million barrels per day, with projections suggesting an increase to around 20.4 million barrels per day by 2026.

However, certain members, including Russia, Iraq, and Kazakhstan, failed to adhere to agreed-up-on production cuts of 2.2 million barrels per day starting from January 2024. Nevertheless, they pledged to compensate for this shortfall by the end of the month.

The meeting concluded with a reaffirmation of the voluntary production cuts set in motion in April 2023, amounting to 1.65 million barrels per day until the end of

Additionally, the extension of the secondary voluntary reduction

initiated in November 2023, totaling 2.2 million barrels per day until September 2024, was agreed upon. Thereafter, a gradual restoration of production will occur until September 2025, contingent upon market conditions.

Amidst prevailing uncertainty, the decision-making process remains adaptable, acknowledging the fluidity of market dynamics, particularly leading up to the implementation of changes in September.

Highlighting Kuwait's heavy reliance on oil revenues and the inherent risks of such dependence, Al-Shall has underscored the importance of addressing unproductive expenditures.

These risks include potential price downturns stemming from disagreements within OPEC+ and the broader market challenges despite previous production cuts. Kuwait's future production forecasts fall short of expectations, posing significant challenges to its revenue streams.

Consequently, delays in implementing necessary economic reforms could exacerbate financial pressures over time

IE University to develop tailored programs for NBK

NBK signs exclusive 'collaboration' agreement with IE University, Spain

KUWAIT CITY, June 9: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) has signed an exclusive collaboration agreement with IE University, Spain – a globally recognized institution based in Spain and known for its innovative approach to higher education. The agreement covers several areas including talent development, promoting corporate innovation, developing and implementing integrated solutions, and leveraging the University's capabilities in applied and academic research.

The signing ceremony was held at NBK Headquarters in the presence of Mr. Emad Al-Ablani, General Manager - Group Human Resources at National Bank of Kuwait, and Mrs. Irina Deneanu, Director, Corporate Relations Middle East Region at IE University, along with executives from both parties.

The agreement focuses on areas such as talent development, and will see IE University developing a tailored program to cater to the specific needs of NBK. This will be achieved through IE's customized training design unit which leverages knowledge and materials from its training programs, Master's programs from any of the five schools and the Executive Education Additionally, it includes promoting Corporate Innovation by designing, developing and implementing comprehensive innovation solutions together with NBK, and bringing IE University's capacity, knowledge closer to

Through this agreement, NBK will also gain access to the applied research resources and capabilities of IE University, as well as priority invitations to register and attend the University's events and annual open lectures.

Moreover, the agreement also includes aiding children of NBK Employees in master's and undergraduate programs at IE University, which offers an innovative environment with the constant presence of important fig-



Emad Al-Ablani and the Director of Institutional Relations for the Middle East at IE University, Irina Deneanu, during the signing of the agreement in the presence of Maryam Alnassrallah from the administration.

Al-Ablani: We have unwavering dedication to providing exceptional professional development opportunities to our employees

■ A key milestone in developing and upskilling our human resources as per the highest quality and excellence

■ Collaboration includes aiding the children of NBK employees in undergraduate studies at IE University

■ Agreement covers several areas including talent development and promoting corporate innovation

ures from the academic and business world.

Furthermore, IE shall facilitate and support access of all employees of NBK Group (Kuwait and IBGlocations) to its training programs.

Meanwhile, NBK shall facilitate and support access by its employees to the training which IE offers, particularly allowing working hours which are compatible with the study needs of its employees who are admitted and who

Commenting on this collabora-

tion, Al-Ablani said: "This collaboration is a key milestone in developing and upskilling our human resources as per the highest quality and excellence standards by partnering with leading international universities and experts, with a view to further elevate their career."

"This partnership demonstrates our culture and vision of investing in the human capital and striving to develop well-qualified national banking leaders according to the latest and highest international standards," he remarked.

Trade policy restrictions pose challenges for international businesses

KPMG report identifies top risks for global organizations in 2024

KUWAIT CITY, June 9: Fighting an uphill battle to achieve long-term sustainability, international organizations are witnessing a slow-down in growth. KPMG's latest report, Top risks forecast: Bottom lines for business in 2024 and beyond, aims to issue a caution on the multifaceted, complex challenges that organizations operating across boundaries and looking to grow globally must overcome in a time of increasing divergence on regulation, conflict, technological advancement, and political uncertainty

Dr. Rasheed Al-Qenae, Chairman of the KPMG Middle East, South Asia, and Caspian (MESAC) region and Managing Partner, KPMG in Kuwait, said, "Although a series of global risks and events such as the COVID-19 pandemic have hardened leaders, more unaddressed challenges remain in different directions - be they as geopolitical uncertainties, complex regulations, climate change, and uneven adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) globally,"talking about the current risk landscape.

The report highlights the three biggest risks for businesses right now, known as 'bottom lines', which are an-

totaling 93.3 million dinars in the first

five months of 2024. This was supported

by active purchasing operations from in-

stitutions and companies, resulting in net

ticipated to impact operations in 2024 and the near future: 1. Trade policy restrictions: Glob-

al trade restrictions have been on the rise, with approximately 3,000 restrictions imposed, nearly tripling since 2019. This trend of protectionist trade policies poses challenges for organizations operating in international markets. Such restrictions can create barriers and hinder economic growth, affecting supply chains and market access. Organizations should be prepared to navigate these trade policy restrictions and explore alternative strategies to mitigate potential disruptions.

2. Vulnerability calling for operational resilience: The geopolitical landscape is characterized by increasing vulnerability, driven by various factors such as rapid technological advancements, climate change, and geopolitical tensions. In 2023, a staggering 91 countries were involved in some form of conflict, a significant increase from 58 in 2008. This escalation of conflict has a profound impact on the global economy, with conflict estimated to have a 12.9 percent im-

buying and selling transactions of about

96.1 million dinars. Institutions and com-

panies made purchases amounting to

Dr. Rasheed Al-Qenae

pact on global GDP. To mitigate the risks associated with vulnerability, organizations must prioritize operational resilience. This involves implementing proactive risk management practices, conducting scenario planning, diversifying supply chains, and strengthening cybersecurity measures.

3. AI Governance Gaps: AI has become a transformative force across industries, with investment in AI increasing more than fivefold between 2013 and 2023. While AI presents immense opportunities, it also brings about

governance gaps that organizations must address. Ethical and responsible AI deployment is crucial to maintain trust among stakeholders. Organizations should prioritize transparency, accountability, and fairness in their AI systems to mitigate potential risks and ensure its responsible integration into their operations. A standout finding, the Energy and

Natural Resources sector emerged as the 'most exposed' to risks, helmed by volatility in the Middle East and the increasing politicization of access to minerals and crucial resources. The Infrastructure and Financial Services industries were second and third, respectively, considering both sectors are at risk of gaps in AI and growing economic headwinds. These findings were imminent in the heat map developed by KPMG professionals after looking at the biggest risks on individual key industries.

KPMG's analysts also found that, compared to the other sectors, the Energy and Natural Resources sector had the leastFinancial Performance Index (FPI) score.A measure of financial health,this score was calculated based on the data from over 40,000 compa-

totaling 140.9 million dinars and

sales around 144.6 million dinars.

Additionally, net purchases by for-

eign investment funds reached about

nies globally. The sector's low score is indicative of its underperformance and potential financial unsteadiness. It calls for companies operating in the space to reconsider their strategies, effectively manage risks, and make necessary adjustments to cope with the evolving market conditions. According to the International

Monetary Fund (IMF), the restrictions on global trade have increased three-fold compared to 2019 and point at the new reality that companies are faced against. The report underlines that to overcome these roadblocks, CEOs must adopt a five-step approach: (i) conduct a comprehensive risk assessment;(ii) stay informed and monitor geopolitical developments; (iii) diversify supply chains; (iv) enhance operational resilience; and foster strong stakeholder relationships.

"Despite the hurdles, business leaders can still put in place mea-

sures that will help ensure C-suite executives as well as others in similar positions maintain a sharp focus on supply chains while navigating complex national industrial policies and trade measures.

813 thousand dinars. These funds

made purchases totaling 3.4 million

dinars, compared to sales of 2.6 mil-

800.5 million dinars, with sales totaling ly 3.6 million dinars, with purchases **ECB** adjusts monetary policy amid inflation concerns

704 million dinars.

On the other hand, net sales by in-

dividuals amounted to approximate-

US manufacturing contracts as job market shows signs of cooling

By National Bank of Kuwait

ISM Manufacturing PMI

Manufacturing in the US contracted for the second month in a row, as seen by the latest ISM publication. Where the manufacturing PMI came in at 48.7 in May, down from 49.2 in April, and below expectations of 49.8. The new orders index dropped from 49.1 in April to 45.4 in May, while the production index came in at 50.2 down from 51.3. Furthermore, the prices index registered 57.0, down from 60.9, while the backlog of orders index registered 42.4 compared to 45.4 previously. The figure is considered the 18th contraction figure seen in the last 19 months, highlighting the slowdown in US manufacturing activity amid the current tight monetary policy by the Fed. The US dollar index was seen trading at around 104.63 following the

JOLTS Job Openings

The number of job openings in the US continued to decline in April, reaching its lowest point in 3 years, as they decreased to 8.06 million from the previous month's revised 8.36 million reading. This suggests a slowdown in hiring but layoffs are still low. While this could be a sign of the labor market returning to pre-pandemic levels, it might also indicate a broader economic slowdown. The Federal Reserve is looking for this cooling effect to fight inflation, but they likely won't cut interest rates based on just one month of data. Job openings are still higher than pre-pandemic times, but interpreting the data is difficult due to lower survey response rates and a changed labor

ADP Non-Farm Employment Change

In the US, the ADP non-farm employment report indicated that the US private sector added 152k jobs in May, down from 188k the previous month and below expectations of 173k. The report comes following other employment measures such as the JOLTS job openings, which were also slightly lower than expectations at 8.06M compared to 8.36M previously. Meanwhile, the ISM services index rebounded in May, with the index showing a 54.8 print, up from 49.4 in April, and beating expectations of 51.0. Improvements were seen in business activity and new orders, while prices paid eased slightly for the month.

Unemployment Claims

The US Department of Labor reported a slight increase in unemployment claims. New claims for unemployment benefits rose by 8,000 to a seasonally

Rates - 9th June 2024 This Week's Expected Previous Week Levels Open High Close Maximum EUR 1.0849 1.0798 1.0915 1.0800 1.0860 1.0846 1.2817 1.2721 157.47 156.70 154.53 0.9040 0.8865

adjusted figure of 229,000 for the week ending June 1st. This was slightly higher than the economist's prediction of 220,000 claims. This comes after a period of interest rate hikes by the Federal Reserve intended to curb inflation and cool down the economy. Despite the uptick, the number of claims remains relatively low compared to historical levels. This suggests the labor market is still in a strong position. Economists believe this strength is reflected in the low numbers for continuing claims, which track individuals who are still receiving benefits after their first week. This data indicates that people who lose their jobs are able to find new employment fairly quickly.

Non-Farm Employment Change The U.S. job market continued to be strong in May 2024. There was a significant increase in nonfarm payroll employment, exceeding expectations by a wide margin. This growth of 272,000 jobs outpaced the average monthly gain seen over the past year. However, the unemployment rate ticked up slightly to 4.0%, though it remained relatively low. It's worth noting that the labor force participation rate also dipped a bit. On the positive side, average hourly earnings grew at a faster pace than anticipated, suggesting some wage growth for workers. This increase continued a trend of rising wages over the past year. Overall, the data paints a picture of a healthy job market with new positions being created, although there

might be a slight shift in labor force participation. The US Dollar index closed the week at 104.885.

Monetary Policy Statement

The European Central Bank (ECB) recently announced a reduction in interest rates, signaling a shift in their monetary policy approach. This move comes after several months of holding rates steady, and was expected by the

market. The interest rate reduction, which amounts to a quarter of a percentage point (25 basis points), reflects a belief that the period of stricter monetary controls can be relaxed somewhat. However, The ECB also revised its inflation forecasts upwards, now predicting inflation to average around 2.5% for this year and 2.2% for next year. This suggests that the ECB is still cautious about inflation, despite the rate cut. ECB President Christine Lagarde emphasized that this is a moderation, not an elimination, of restrictions. She acknowledged there will be challenges ahead in reaching the ECB's target inflation rate of 2%, and that the bank will be closely monitoring economic data to determine future actions.

The EUR/USD currency pair closed the week at 1.0800.

BOC Rate Statement

The Bank of Canada cut its interest rate for the first time in over 4 years down to 4.75% from 5% previously, signaling confidence that inflation is falling towards its 2% target. This makes Canada the first G7 country to reduce rates. The bank hinted at further cuts if inflation keeps easing as Bank of Canada Governor Tiff Macklem clearly stated that "If inflation continues to ease, and our confidence that inflation is headed sustainably to the 2% target continues to increase, it is reasonable to expect further cuts to our policy interest rate." Economists see this as the start of a potential easing cycle, with markets pricing in another potential rate cut for the Bank of Canada in

The USD/CAD currency pair closed the week at 1.3764.

Asia-Pacific Australian GDP q/q

The Australian economy grew at a slower pace of 0.1% in Q4 2023, compared to the upwardly revised 0.3% growth in Q3. This fell short of market expectations of 0.2% growth. This marks the 10th consecutive quarter of growth, but the weakest in the past six quarters. Several factors contributed to the slowdown, including subdued domestic demand, a further decline in fixed investment, and a drag from net trade where imports significantly outpaced exports The AUD/USD currency pair closed the week at 0.6582.

Kuwait Kuwaiti Dinar

USD/KWD closed last week at 0.30620.

Ghana retains top spot

Ghana has retained its position as Africa's top gold producer and the 11th biggest producer globally, with four million ounces in 2023, the Ghana Chamber of Mines

During its annual general meeting on Friday, the Chamber said the gold production of the West African country rose from 3.7 million ounces in 2022 to four million ounces in 2023.

The country recorded a significant increase of 70.6 percent in small-scale production, said President of the Chamber Michael Akafia. "However, large-scale gold mining declined from 3.1 million ounces in 2022 to 2.9 million ounces in 2023." (Xinhua)

Fitch raises Cyprus' credit rating by a notch to BBB+

The Fitch agency said Saturday it has raised Cyprus' credit rating by a notch to BBB+.
It cited the country's heightened ability to withstand financial shocks, the government's commitment to keeping its finances in order and a strengthened banking sector thanks in part to the lowest bad loan ratio since the global financial crisis.

Fitch said in a statement that it also lists the island nation's outlook as positive.

The agency said household and corporate debt in Cyprus continued to fall last year, coming very close to the European Union average. It also pointed to the country's "very strong fiscal performance" in the last two years, with a primary surplus to reach 4.5%, which it called "by far the highest" among countries that use the euro as their currency.

Public debt is expected to fall to 70.6% of gross domestic product this year and to 65.1% in 2025 thanks to high growth and large budget surpluses. Although the Cyprus' debt level is still relatively high, the government has managed to reduce it "at one of the sharpest rates in the eurozone" and

among other countries that the agency rates. Other factors for the upgrade include relatively high income per capita and credible policies backed by the European Union and the eurozone.

Cyprus' economic growth accelerated this year, and Fitch projects overall growth to reach 3% this year and 2025. Fitch did note a large current account deficit due to low savings relative to investment and warned that ratings could change if there was a "structural fiscal loosening.

A 2013 financial crisis forced Cyprus to seek a multibillion-euro bailout from its eurozone partners and the IMF that included a seizure of savings over 100,000 euros in the country's largest bank and the shuttering of its second biggest bank. The seized deposits were used to prop up Cyprus' ailing banking sector. (AP)

Preparations for 7th CIIE well underway

German enterprises embrace business opportunities in China

STUTTGART, Germany, June 9, (Xinhua): Amid a sluggish global economic recovery, German executives voiced their dedication to enhancing their market presence in China during a promotion event for the China International Import

Expo (CIIE) held in Stuttgart. German enterprises are leveraging the CIIE to align their development with the demands of the Chinese market, according to the executives at the event, which gathered about 150 Chinese and German officials, business representatives, and

trade delegates. "Since joining the CIIE in 2018, we have successfully introduced the concept of deep cleaning into the Chinese market and led the market positioning of several of our products, unlocking new opportunities," said Tobias Wahl, board chairman of the Hawk brand at Karcher Group, at the promotion event.

Germany's Karcher Group, a leader in the cleaning industry, has participated in the CIIE for six consecutive years. Over time, the expo has spurred Karcher to continuously boost its investments in China.

"In recent years, Karcher has maintained a double-digit growth in the Chinese market. Our cumulative investments in China have reached 2 billion yuan (276 million U.S. dollars), accelerating our transition from exhibitors to investors," said Wahl, adding that the group has expanded and optimized its factories and integrated high-quality industry resources to advance localization strategies.

He added that this year, the company will showcase many pioneering products, featuring green, intelligent, and innovative concepts, at the 7th CIIE.

Preparations for the 7th CIIE are well underway and German enterprises lead Europe in both the number of exhibitors and the exhibition space. Seventy-five companies have signed up, covering more than 26,000 square meters at the venue, according to Wu Zhengping, deputy director general of the China International

Currently, renowned German companies such as Siemens, Bayer, SAP, Mercedes-Benz, and Volkswagen have confirmed their participation at the event.

"Bayer deems the Chinese market pivotal within its global strategic landscape, with the import expo serving as a crucial conduit for Bayer to engage with the market dynamics, facilitate exchanges, and cultivate collaborations across various fronts," said Zhang Lei, vice president of communications at Bayer China.

"By committing early to the import expo, Bayer underscores its unwavering dedication and confidence in the Chinese market. We anticipate further leveraging its platform to expedite the realization of our innovative endeavors," said

Walter Doring, chairman of the Academy of German Hidden Champions, highlighted China's remarkable achievements in development and innovation, which, he said, has opened up new cooperation prospects for Germany.

So far, over 90 percent of some 500 leading German enterprises have engaged in partnerships with China, said Doring, adding that collaboration with China is indispensable for any enterprise aiming to lead the global market.

In a survey conducted by the German Chamber of Commerce in China among German enterprises about their future prospects, most respondents believed that within the next five years, they will have a bright and prosperous future in the industry, according to Michael Schumann, chairman of the Board of the German Federal Association for Economic Development and Foreign Trade

More than half of the companies surveyed are planning to expand their investment in China, Schumann said in an interview with Xinhua.

German companies have significantly increased their investments in China lately. According to China's Ministry of Commerce, German investment in China increased by 48 percent in the first quarter of this year.

In January, German luxury carmaker Audi AG launched pre-mass production at its first production base for purely electric vehicles in China.

In March, a Mercedes-Benz and BMW joint venture was established in Beijing, aiming to build at least 1,000 supercharging stations and around 7,000 high-power charging piles by 2026.

And in May, Volkswagen (China) Technology Co. held a groundbreaking ceremony for its third-phase project in Hefei, capital of east China's Anhui Province.

Market nervous

pursue changes

MEXICO CITY, June 9, (AP): Mexico's outgoing president pledged Friday to press ahead with judicial reforms despite nervousness among investors and suggestions from his own handpicked successor that he should go slow.

President Andrés Manuel López Obrador said he would pursue 20 constitutional changes after his Morena party won a two-thirds majority in Congress in Sunday's elections, including making all judges run for election and enshrining a series of unfunded benefit mandates in the Constitution.

Sunday's elections ensured that Claudia Sheinbaum, the candidate of López Obrador's Morena party, will be the next president. Sheinbaum had spent most of the week talking to international financial organizations and investors, trying to calm markets after a 10% drop in the value of the peso.

She suggested Thursday the reforms had not yet been decided and should be subject to dialogue.

"It has not yet been decided," Sheinbaum said Thursday. "My position is that a dialogue will have to be opened, the proposal must be debated.

But on Friday López Obrador mocked any opposition to the changes. He called critics of the reforms "the promoters of nervousness," and claimed that big corporations were worried about losing judges who he claimed are protecting them. At present, judges are appointed or approved by legislators.

"There are justices who are employees of the big corporations," López Obrador said at his morning press briefing. "They have some judges on their keychains, adding "justice is above the markets."

Analysts say the president is angry that the country's judiciary has blocked several of his previous reforms because they were ruled unconstitutional.

Markets did not seem reassured Friday. The peso closed at 18.36 to \$1, about 10% below where it was the week before the elections. Mexican stocks also closed off about 2.7% Fri-

day.
"Everything indicates that the volatility in Mexican financial markets will continue," said Gabriela Siller, director of analysis at Nuevo Leonbased Banco Base, noting that Mexico could take a rhetorical bruising in the runup to the U.S. presidential elections.

But most worrisome to markets is that López Obrador's Morena party won a two-thirds majority in Congress, which would allow them to pass changes to the Constitution, like the judicial reform, as well as mandates for a series of yet-unfunded government benefit programs.

López Obrador pledged Friday to continue to press for 20 constitutional changes, including one that would undo the country's current system of individual retirement accounts and the elimination of most independent government oversight and regulatory

Sheinbaum has spoken by phone or in person this week with officials from the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the head of the BlackRock investment company, after the peso plunged and the stock market briefly dipped on Monday.

But the questions remains of how much influence López Obrador will continue to exert after Sheinbaum takes office Oct. 1.

López Obrador has previously said he will retire from politics entirely upon leaving office. But on Friday he said he would continue talking on the phone with Sheinbaum if she calls, and pledged "to continue using my right to dissent, all my life.'

Any questions about how devoted Sheinbaum remains to her political mentor, López Obrador, were erased Friday when she wrote in her social media accounts Friday that "tears came to my eyes from emotion" when the president congratulated her on her

Markets are also concerned about Mexico's current budget deficit

Obrador vows to US jobs report strong, but spells bad news for inflation and interest rates

Economy added 272,000 nonfarm payroll workers in May

By Matthew Rusling

WASHINGTON, June 9, (Xinhua): Newly released **U.S.** jobs report was strong but spelled bad news for record-high inflation and interest rates.

The U.S. economy added 272,000 nonfarm payroll jobs in May, soundly beating analysts' expectations of 180,000, according to data released Friday from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

"It was another very strong report ... Wages grew at a 4.1 percent annual rate over the last three months, the same as the last year," Dean Baker, a senior economist at the Center for Economic and Policy Research, told Xinhua.

High inflation, interest rates In ordinary economic times, a strong labor market is welcomed by all. But as inflation -- particularly prices of food, energy, homes and rent -- stands at levels not seen in decades, Friday's stronger-than-expected jobs report is good news for workers, but bad news for their wallets.

This is particularly the case among young people and low-income earners. "Everything is expensive, especially food," Janice Jones, a 20-year-old student, told Xinhua in a coffee shop in Washington DC.

In last month's consumer sentiment report carried out by the University of Michigan, inflation expectations in-



A worker at Reata Engineering and Machine Works programs a Mazak Variaxis machine used to make semiconductor pieces on Feb. 15, 2024, in Englewood, Colo. On Friday, June 7, 2024, the U.S. government issued its May jobs report. (AP)

Participants' one-year inflation outlook increased 0.3 percent from the previous month to the highest level in six months.

The five-year outlook increased only 0.1 percent but reversed a months-long

trend of lower estimates for inflation. Joanne Hsu, director of the consumer sentiment survey, said consumers expressed worries that "inflation, unemployment and interest rates may all be moving in an unfavorable direction in the year ahead."

The jobs report was also bad news for interest rates, according to some

"Stronger than expected jobs numbers make it highly unlikely that the Fed will cut interest rates next week at its policy meeting," Desmond Lachman, a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, told Xinhua.

With unemployment still close to a 50-year low and inflation proving to be stickier than expected, the Fed will feel it lacks assurance that a rate cut will not endanger its mandate of 2 percent inflation, Lachman said.

As the Fed will not want to risk being charged with having a political motivation, the chances of a rate cut before the November election are also

lessened, Lachman said. Political outcome

As Americans head to the polls in November, the high cost of rent, home ownership, food and other items -which has surged since the previous elections -- will be on their minds.

For the third year in a row, the percentage of Americans naming inflation as the most important financial problem facing their family has reached a new high of 41 percent, up from 35 percent a year ago and 32 percent in 2022, according to a Gallup poll released last month.

Brookings Institution Senior Fellow Darrell West told Xinhua earlier that inflation is giving opposition candidate and former President Donald Trump. who is mired in lawsuits, an opportunity to criticize President Joe Biden.

Currently, the bombastic billionaire is leading Biden in all of the key battleground states -- Wisconsin, Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania, North Carolina and Nevada, according to the latest Real Clear Politics poll

Here's what to do if you're at risk

Credit card delinquencies are rising

NEW YORK, June 9, (AP): Seriously overdue credit card debt is at the highest level in more than a decade, and people 35 and under are struggling more than

other age groups to pay their bills. The share of credit card debt that's severely delinquent, defined as being more than 90 days overdue, rose to 10.7% during the first quarter of 2024, according to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. A year ago, just 8.2% of credit card debt

was severely delinquent. If you're experiencing delinquency, or at risk of it, experts advise speaking with a nonprofit credit counselor and negotiating with your creditors directly. Here's what you should know:

Bruce McClary, senior vice president at the National Foundation for Credit Counseling, says that anyone at risk of delinquency should reach out as soon as possible for help from a nonprofit credit counselor, some of whom can be found through his organization. The consultation is free, and a non-judgmental counselor can give guidance towards a long-term solu-

Nonprofits can also help create debt management plans that have lower interest rates, no late fees, and a single payment each month, McClary said. These plans may come with maintenance fees, which vary, but the fees are offset by the overall savings on the debt. McClary urged borrowers to be careful of scammers and for-profit debt consolidation companies, which often charge much higher fees than nonprofit organizations. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has a helpful breakdown comparing

Martin Lynch, president of the Financial Counseling Association of America, echoed this advice.

"Taking that first step and contact-

ing a counselor is difficult for many people," Lynch said. He emphasized that consumers in debt should do their best to "first, relax," and then to be as forthcoming as possible about their circumstances with the counselor.

free, who will listen to you describe your situation," he said. "You can share your concerns without being judged for falling into difficulty. Both Lynch and McClary urge borrowers to reach out directly to credit card companies to negotiate interest

'You'll be talking to someone for

rates, fees, and long-term payment plans, noting that it's in the companies' best interests if you pay before the debt goes into collections. "The best thing to do is to reach out, give an honest assessment of your ability to pay over time, and ask what options are available to you both 'on and off-the-menu," McClary said. This

McClary and other experts stress that most credit card companies and other lenders have hardship programs available for cases like these. Such options gained visibility during the COVID-19 pandemic, when more companies publicly advertised that consumers facing difficulty may skip or defer payments without penalties.

kind of phrasing can give creditors an

opening to offer more flexibility, he

The average annual interest rate on a new credit card is 24.71%, according to LendingTree, the highest since the company began tracking in 2019. That's in part because the Federal Reserve has raised its key interest rate rate to a 23-year high to combat the highest inflation in four decades, which peaked at 9.1% in June 2022.

Simultaneously, pandemic-era aid such as stimulus payments, the child tax credit, increased unemployment

long-term growth of property sector BEIJING, June 9, (Xinhua): A combination of tailored policies targeting home transactions and home inventory destocking was announced by Chinese authorities in mid-May, and it has led to

new development model. Over more than a decade, cityspecific measures were implemented in China to place strict rules on home transactions to curb rapidly rising home prices. A major pillar of the Chinese economy, the sector is gearing up for readjustment amid a market cooldown and industry policy change.

a resurgence in sales and growing rec-

ognition of the sector's transition to a

China on May 17 announced new policies to prop up the property market, including policies to cut minimum downpayment ratios, abolish the commercial mortgage rate floors for first and second homes, and establish a re-lending facility that supports local state-owned enterprises to use those funds to buy commercial homes for af-

fordable housing.

A white list mechanism also seeks to help cash-strapped developers access credit, complete housing projects, and ensure homes are delivered to buyers. Sales uptick

China's 'policy package' to help the

The market has responded quickly to the new policies aimed at boosting home sales. În big cities in east China's Jiangsu Province, popular housing projects have seen numbers of potential home buyers return.

In Jiangsu's Changzhou city, a local kindergarten caretaker who provided his surname as Si just bought his first home in the city's Zhonglou District. Si acquired a 30-year loan of 840,000 yuan (about 118,133 U.S. dollars) to buy the home, which cost a total of 1.33 million yuan. Thanks to lowered mortgage rates, he said he would save more than 40,000 yuan on loan inter-

"Now that I've bought the apartment, my next plan is to register my hukou

(permanent household residency registration) in Changzhou, and then my child can enroll at a school here and stay with me," he said.

In Shanghai's Jiading District, property sales director Xiao Xianxing told Xinhua that his company's new property project saw its client numbers return on May 28, the day Shanghai implemented revised measures aimed at propping up the property market. And on the day the project opened its sales, 85 percent of homes were sold.

Shanghai's specific measures included easing home-purchase restrictions for non-Shanghai residents, allowing families with two or more children to purchase an additional home, and lowering the minimum downpayment ratio for individual commercial housing mortgages. Xiao said that these measures increased buyer demand for bigger or additional homes, leading to a rise in sales.

have now exceeded their pre-pandemic revolving balances and debt. He cau-

6.5% of consumer debt, according to a Bank of America Global Research report, but the increase in delinquencies appears to be outpacing income

benefits, and a moratorium on student loan payments has ended. Wage gains haven't all kept up with inflation, which hits lower-income consumers harder, and rent increases have eaten into savings some consumers may have built up during the early years of the

Silvio Tavares, CEO of Vantage-Score, a credit score modeling and analytics company, said that delinquencies

levels, and that renters are especially vulnerable to falling behind. "Younger and less affluent people

are experiencing challenges," he said. "And high interest rates are having an effect.

Tavares said the most important thing a borrower can do is to know their credit score and keep up with payments to avoid paying additional interest on

tioned consumers not to over-extend themselves with "buy now, pay later" loans, which are increasingly available "at every checkout." Credit cards only make up about

What's On





Some of the tourist destinations in Russia

Explore Russia – a popular touristic destination for Arabs

By H.E. Vladimir Zheltov Ambassador of Russia

KUWAIT CITY, June 9: In line with the established traditions Kuwaitis as well as other Gulf Arabs prefer to escape the summer's extreme heat and sandstorms to spend their vacations in moderate climate destinations. One of them is Russia which is developing at astonishing pace as a new touristic heaven. More and more Kuwaitis make Russia their preferred choice for private and family travels yearround. Nowadays the number of Kuwaitis visiting our country annually stands at almost 10 thousand, many of whom visited Russia several times. In fact, one trip is not enough to explore the world's largest country with its huge cultural and historical heritage as well as remarkable geographical landmarks that lure foreign tourists from all over the globe, including Arabs.

Russia has something to offer for all types of visitor and to meet every taste. Its biggest cities (Moscow, Saint Petersburg, Nizhny Novgorod, Kazan) host the world's top attractions many of which are included in the UNESCO World Heritagus liter. age list. Among them are architectural gems, including museums like the Moscow Kremlin, Saint Petersburg's Hermitage, theatres such as Bolshoi (Moscow) and Mariinskiy (Saint Petersburg). Absolutely must see destinations - two Russian capitals: Moscow with its historical flair of Tsarist times and Saint Petersburg famous for its "White nights" and imbued with the spirit of the Russian Empire.

For lovers of tasteful food, Russia has a variety of cuisines to offer. Wide range of options from traditional Russian cafes to luxurious world-acclaimed restaurants

are there to satisfy tourists of all tastes and incomes. Besides, nowadays food festivals have become a distinct feature of modern Russian cities.

For those who admire nature and wilderness Russia is a source of uncountable adventures and explorations. The vast territory from the Baltic Sea in the West to the Pacific Ocean in the East encompasses different time and climate zones with huge natural diversity. Frozen expanses under the magnificent "Northern lights", endless forests, mighty rivers, deep lakes, picturesque mountains with smouldering volcanoes, boundless seas make for a variety of sights worth seeing at least once in a lifetime. Hunting and fishing are also available and popular options for the fans of these activities.

Russia has a developed transport infrastructure to make it possible to cross its vast territories. High-speed railroads linking major cities and airports make your ourneys around Russia quick and comfortable. The country's hotels range from luxury to more affordable options.

And most importantly, Russia is closer than you think. It takes less than 5 hours to get to Moscow from Kuwait City by the direct flights operated by the Jazeera Airways company. And the visa process is easy and fast since everything can be done online - via electronic-visa.kdmid.ru website. The electronic visas are issued within 4 days only.

Being Russia's Ambassador to Kuwait I fully support the choice of thousands of Kuwaitis to visit my country. I'm glad that this number is on the rise with many new Kuwaiti friends planning their trips for this summer and upcoming New Year

Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait opens smart branch at 'The Warehouse'

KUWAIT CITY, June 9: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) is excited to introduce its new smart branch at 'The Warehouse', available until 3 October 2024. This endeavor reflects the Bank's commitment to enhancing its competitive edge through ongoing digital transformation efforts.

The Bank's new branch will offer customers a range of top-tier self-service options, operating from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., seven days a week.



ication to fostering financial inclusion and exceptional customer service across Kuwait. It

efficient services, aiming to Johair Marafi bolster customer satisfaction and welcome more individuals into our expanding

Marafi emphasized that the inauguration of the new branch aligns with the growing need for utilizing digital technologies in financial and banking activities. The branch aims to elevate the Bank's services, provide added value to all customers, and deliver ex-

ceptional banking experiences. She emphasized that the new smart branch represents a notable addition to the Bank's network. This highlights ABK's ongoing commitment to conduct-



The new smart branch at 'The Warehouse'

ing market research to enhance its services, products, and solutions for all customer segments in Kuwait. In conclusion, Marafi affirmed that ABK has made

significant progress in its digital transformation strat-

egy, demonstrated by the introduction of various digital services, the revamped website.

Since its establishment in 1967, ABK has progressed to become one of the leading Kuwaiti banks in the region that offers a wide array of personal, corporate, and private banking products and services. ABK also provides a broad range of local, regional, and global investment solutions and services through its subsidiary, ABK Capital.

Across the region, the Bank offers individuals and corporates the convenience of comprehensive banking and financial services in the Egyptian market through ABK-Egypt's network of 48 branches.

This is in addition to ABK's three branches located in Dubai, Abu Dhabi, and Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) in the United Arab Emirates, servicing both Kuwaiti and Emirati individual and corporate clients.

ABK is a strong supporter of Central Bank of Kuwait and Kuwait Banking Association's 'Let's Be Aware' awareness campaign. Through its various initiatives, the Bank aims to promote financial inclusion by educating Kuwaiti society about customer rights, responsibilities, and the different types of banking and special needs services. Additionally, ABK consistently provides strategic information on how to avoid banking and financial fraud, loan application requirements, digital services, and more.

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 Kuwait.

Innovative approach to enhance rider welfare

talabat launches 'Make a Wish' campaign for delivery riders

KUWAIT CITY, June 9: In a bid to enhance the well-being of delivery riders, talabat, the leading technology company, has launched the "Make a Wish" campaign this May. This innovative initiative, part of talabat's social responsibility program, aims to fulfill the personal wishes of riders, showing gratitude for their dedication and hard work.

Commenting on the campaign, Abdullah Al Mansour, Director of Communications, Public Affairs, and Corporate Responsibility at talabat Kuwait, said: "Our success is deeply rooted in the efforts and dedication of 3rd party delivery riders. Through the "Make a Wish" campaign, we seek to express our profound gratitude and appreciation in a unique and meaningful way."

The campaign gathered individual wishes from delivery riders, which ranged from personal gifts like electronic devices and household appliances to financial support for personal goals such as wedding expenses or Umrah trips. Drivers expressed immense happiness with this generous initiative, reflecting talabat's deep appreciation for their continuous efforts.

Mr. Al Mansour emphasized that this



Photo from the campaign

initiative aligns with the company's social responsibility strategy, highlighting that a rider's welfare is a key priority to the company. He noted talabat's commitment to providing the necessary support to improve their working and living conditions, recognizing the chal-

lenges they face.
The "Make a Wish" campaign is one of several initiatives launched by talabat to strengthen relations with delivery riders. The company aims to create a positive and motivating work environ-ment for the riders by offering ongo-

ing training programs to develop their skills, along with rewards and incentive programs to ensure their satisfaction and motivate them to deliver the best possible service to customers.

It serves to note talabat's numerous initiatives dedicated to the health, safety, and wellbeing of delivery riders. One if its ongoing investments within this vein includes talabat's rest-stations across Kuwait, purposely set up for delivery riders. With several of them built so far, the fully equipped stations were designed to provide shelter for riders evading harsh weather conditions or looking to take a short break between rides to enjoy some refreshments and snacks.

Concluding his remarks, Mr. Al Mansour reiterated that talabat remains keen on listening to riders to acknowledge their needs and aspirations, the same way it listens to its staff members. Even as third-party logistics partners, talabat views these riders as an integral part of its extended family and a key factor in the company's continued success. talabat reaffirms its ongoing plans to continue developing initiatives that support their interests and well-being.

Visa shares key findings on Fintech landscape in GCC

TESS Payments receives social impact award in VEI Kuwait & Qatar

KUWAIT CITY, June 9: Visa has announced the winners of the Kuwait and Oatar edition of the 2024 Visa Everywhere Initiative (VEI), a global open innovation program and competition for fintech startups to pitch their solutions to solve tomorrow's payment and commerce challenges. In addition to monetary prizes, VEI winners receive global exposure, and validation from one of the world's most trusted brands.

First place and prize money of KWD12,300 (\$40,000) for Kuwait and Qatar went to Qatar-based TESS Payments, which provides eCommerce merchant acquiring services across Qatar, supporting banks, PSPs, and a diverse range of merchants. The fintech company will now participate in the CEMEA regional finals for the Visa Everywhere Initiative, which will take place on July 23, competing for a total of KWD6,000 (\$20,000).

The other winners and prizes of the Kuwait and Qatar edition of VEI are:

■ VEI Qatar and Kuwait 2nd place (KWD7,700/\$25,000): Kem (Kuwait), a financial services platform that al-



Photo from the event.

lows anyone to send money to anyone in their contacts instantly and easily allows businesses to accept payments and manage their business.

■ VEI Qatar and Kuwait 3rd place (KWD4,600/\$15,000): Krti (Kuwait), an AI driven app that is looking to modernizing the rewards and payment ■ VEI Qatar and Kuwait Audience Favorite Award (KWD3,000/\$10,000): Kem (Kuwait), the provider of a Kuwait-based P2P mobile send and re-

ceive application. The inaugural edition of VEI introduced the Impact Prize to the competi-

tor whose solution has a positive social impact on the communities it operates in. Examples include initiatives that boost financial inclusion, promote sustainability, or safeguard the environ-ment. TESS Payments also won the Social Impact Prize for Kuwait and Qatar and received KWD3,000 (\$10,000) in prize money

Shashank Singh, Visa's Vice President and General Manager for Kuwait and Qatar said: "We are thrilled to celebrate the winners of the inaugural edition of the Visa Everywhere Initiative in Kuwait and Qatar. Congratulations to Qatar's TESS Payments on being our first-place winner who will now also compete at next month's CEMEA regional finales. Congratulations also to Kem and Krti, representing Kuwait who picked up second and third place as well as the audience favorite. The competition this year was exceptional, showcasing the innovative solutions our finalists brought forward. We are enthusiastic about the potential impact these solutions will have on transforming the payments landscape in the region.

Revised draw schedule and prizes

Gulf Bank unveils winners of 'AlDanah' account draw

KUWAIT CITY, June 9: As part of its ongoing commitment to reward its customers, Gulf Bank has announced the 10 monthly winners of the AlDanah account draw for May 2024. Each lucky winner will receive a prize of KD 1,000. The winners are:
1. Aayah Dahir Mostafah Alkhames

(Minor)

2. Faisal Abdul Ghafoor

3. Mishal Dekheel Mudhhi Alenezi 4. Meshil Fayez Mekhaeil Farnsis

5. Zahra Abbas Alag Alaboudi 6. Abdulsalam Aref Badi Albaqaawi

7. Mohammad Khalifah Sultan Al-

hadeed Aal Binali

8. Hamad Rashed Khaled Alkhother

9. Ali Nasser Ali Saraj 10. Mohammed Abdulla Ali Alwazan Gulf Bank recently made two significant announcements regarding its prizes. Firstly, to divide the KD

100,000 prize among 100 winners, with each receiving KD 1,000 instead of one winner taking the full amount. Secondly, to increase the annual grand prize from KD 1.5 million to KD 2 million, earning it a place in the Guinness World Records as the largest cash prize linked to a bank account globally.

Following these adjustments, Gulf Bank has revised its AlDanah Millionaire account draw schedule. Now, there will be two major draws held annually, each granting a grand prize of KD 2 million. Additionally, there will be a semi-annual draw with a KD 1 million prize, along with monthly draws where 10 winners will each receive KD 1,000.

Furthermore, a separate draw for KD 100,000 will take place, with the winner announcement scheduled for April 18, 2024. Furthermore, on October 17, 2024, there will be another draw where 100 lucky winners will each receive a prize of KD 1,000. The deadline for participation and deposits for this draw is June 30, 2024.

It is worth mentioning that the semiannual draw for the AlDanah Millionaire Account, where the winner of the KD 1 million prize will be announced, is scheduled for July 18, 2024. Representatives from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Ernst & Young, will be present at the event.

Gulf Bank announced the grand

prize winner of the annual draw for the AlDanah Millionaire account on February 1 2024, for the first time, following the increase in the prize's value to KD 2 million in 2023. This is part of the bank's continuous efforts to reward its customers and foster a culture of savings within the community.

Renowned as one of the top savings accounts in Kuwait, the AlDanah account offers numerous benefits, including periodic draws with substantial prizes. Gulf Bank's AlDanah account offers monthly opportunities to win KD 1,000 to ten lucky winners, in addition to two quarterly draws with KD 100,000 prizes each, a semi-annual draw prize of KD 1 million and a grand draw prize of KD 2 million.

One of the many advantages of the AlDanah account, is being the only account in Kuwait that transfers the customers' chances of winning from the previous year to the next, as part of a program that rewards customers for their loyalty to Gulf Bank.

In order to increase one's chances of winning, customers must maintain a minimum of KD 200 in their accounts, or deposit continuously to increase their chances of winning. Al-Danah account holders are eligible to win Gulf Bank's monthly, quarterly, and annual AlDanah draws.

Gulf Bank's vision is to be the leading Kuwaiti Bank of the Future. The Bank is constantly engaging and empowering its employees as part of an inclusive and diversified workplace in recognition of every employee's role in delivering customer excellence and serving the community at large.

With its extensive network of branches and innovative digital services, Gulf Bank is able to give its customers the choice of how and where to conduct their banking transactions, all while ensuring a simple and seamless banking experience.

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



AlDanah account poster

20 customers winning cash prizes

KFH announces winners of AlRabeh draw for May 2024

KUWAIT CITY, June 9: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) announced the winners of the AlRabeh draw with 20 customers winning cash prizes worth KD1,500 each for the 21st and 22nd week of 2024. Additionally, KFH announced Shilwan Al-Hajri as the monthly winner of 1 kilo Gram of KFH Gold for the month of May 2024.

The winners of KD 1,500 each are: Mustafa Hanoun, Muaweah Al-Shurfa, Ibrahim Al-Enezi, Shamael Shamsaldeen, Muteb Al-Mutairi, Hussain Maarafi, Shaikhah Al-Ajmi, Samer Al-Khatib, Sulaiman Al-Mudhyan, Mohammad Al-Tammar, Falah Al-Ajmi, Zaid Al-Mutairi, Salman Al-Sabah, Zuhour Shabankarah, Maha Al-Mutairi, Fahad Al-Azmi, Shaimaa Hassan, Falah Al-Saeb, Mousa Al-Wadi, Eidah Awwad.

The AlRabeh campaign provides prizes and draws that offer customers several chances of winning "weekly, monthly and quarterly". The campaign crowns 536 winners throughout the

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

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

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

Regarding the terms and conditions of the prizes and draws, a customer is able to deposit 3 salaries during the 3 months prior to the draw, and the minimum balance of the account should not be less than KD 50 at the end of each month during the 3 months prior to the draw. Ten draws take place on a weekly basis for amount of K.D 1,500 for 10 winners each, 1 KG of KFH gold will be drawn monthly for one winner and K.D 25,000 for one winner every quarter, reaching a total number of 536 winners during the year.

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



The campaign visual

'The Apprentice' struggles for US distribution after Cannes buzz

NEW YORK, June 9, (AP): Two weeks after its much-anticipated premiere at the Cannes Film Festival, a film about Donald Trump in the 1980s is still seeking distribution in the United States.

In Cannes, "The Apprentice" unveiled a scathing portrait of the former US President as a young man. The film, starring Sebastian Stan, chronicles Trump's rise to power in New York real estate under the tutelage of Roy Cohn (Jeremy Strong), the defense attorney who was chief counsel to Joseph McCarthy's 1950s Senate investigations of suspected communists

"The Apprentice," directed by the Danish Iranian filmmaker Ali Abbasi, immediately sparked controversy. After its premiere, Trump's reelection campaign spokesperson, Steven Cheung, called the movie "pure fiction" and said the Trump team would file a lawsuit "to address the blatantly false assertions from these pretend filmmakers.'

Whether influenced by that threat or not, "The Apprentice" is yet to secure distribution from either a major studio or a leading streaming service - none of whom have put in a bid on the movie. While the film has picked up international distribution in most territories worldwide, it doesn't yet have a home in the country where Trump is running for

Though high-profile films typically find buyers either before or shortly after their festival debuts, negotiations can drag on. A spokesperson for the film's sales team declined to comment. A person close to the film

who requested anonymity because they weren't authorized to comment publicly said there are numerous offers for the film domestically.

Earlier this week, Abbasi's frustration seemed to boil over on X, the social media platform. In a response to a news article blaming a stream of sequels and remakes on the recently dismal performance of films at the box office, Abbasi offered "a new proposition."

"Its not a (expletive) sequel nor is it a (expletive) remake," wrote Abbasi. "Its called #The_Apprentice and for some reason certain power people in your country don't want you to see it!!!"

Convicted

Representatives for Trump didn't respond to requests for comment. Last Thursday, Trump was convicted of 34 counts of falsifying business records arising from what prosecutors said was an attempt to cover up a hush money payment to porn actor Stormy Daniels just before the 2016 presidential election.

One scene in the film is especially explosive. Late in the movie, Trump is depicted raping his wife, Ivana Trump (played by Maria Bakalova). In Ivana Trump's 1990 divorce deposition, she stated that Trump raped her. Trump denied the allegation and Ivana Trump later said she didn't mean it literally, but rather that she had felt violated.

Variety earlier reported alleged behind-the-scenes drama surrounding "The Apprentice." Citing anonymous sources, the trade publication reported that billionaire Dan Snyder, the former owner of the Washington Commanders and an investor in "The Apprentice," has pressured the filmmakers to edit the rape scene. Snyder previously donated to Trump's presidential campaign.

Attorneys for Snyder didn't respond to requests for comment. Releasing "The Apprentice" in most years could be challenging. In

an election year, it's a potential lighting rod. Distributors would be faced with the option of launching it either shortly before the election in November or after it.

"The Apprentice" received largely positive reviews in Cannes but didn't factor into the festival's juried awards. Strong's performance was particularly praised as a possible awards contender. At the film's premiere, Abbasi argued for the movie's direct ap-

proach, saying "there is no nice metaphorical way to deal with the rising wave of fascism." The following day, the filmmaker shrugged off the threat of a law-

"I don't necessarily think that this is a movie he would dislike," said Abbasi. "I don't necessarily think he would like it. I think he would be surprised, you know? And like I've said before, I would offer to go and meet him wherever he wants and talk about the context of the movie, have a screening and have a chat afterwards, if that's interesting to

anyone at the Trump campaign."

Variety



'Bridgerton' cast and producers pose at the 'Bridgerton' Season 3 global premiere at Alice Tully Hall on May 13, 2024, in New York. Even when hit TV series like 'The Crown' or 'Bridgerton' have wide appeal, Netflix still tries to cater to the divergent tastes in its vast audience. (AP)

product.

pandemic lockdowns.

film at Syracuse University.

data in their archives.

Netflix's secret recipe for success

Silicon Valley meets Hollywood magic

changes are meant to package all the information that

might appeal to a subscriber's tastes in a more concise

format to reduce the "gymnastics with their eyes," said

Patrick Flemming, Netflix's senior director of member

like a small thing, but it can make a huge difference,

especially as people looking to save money start to win-

now the number of streaming services they have.

What Netflix is doing with its previews may seem

Last year, video streaming services collectively suf-

fered about 140 million account cancellations, a 35%

increase from 2022 and nearly triple the volume in

2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic created a boom

in demand for entertainment from people corralled at

home, according to numbers compiled by the research

Streaming

rate, but last year its streaming service gained 30 mil-

lion subscribers - marking its second-biggest annual

increase behind its own growth spurt during the 2020

a crackdown on viewers who had been freeloading off

Netflix subscribers who shared their account passwords.

But the company is also benefiting from the technologi-

cal know-how that helps it to keep funneling shows to

customers who like them and make them think the ser-

vice is worth the money, according to J. Christopher

Hamilton, an assistant professor of television, radio and

very, very strategic," Hamilton said. "They are definite-

ly ahead of the legacy media companies who are trying

to do some of the same things but just don't have the

level of sophistication, experience nor the history of the

Netflix's nerdy heritage once was mocked by an en-

"It's a little bit like, is the Albanian army going to

Not long after that put-down, Netflix began mining

tertainment industry that looked down at the company's

take over the world?" former Time Warner CEO Jeff

Bewkes said of Netflix during a 2010 interview after

being asked about the threat Netflix posed at the time.

its viewing data to figure out how to produce a slate

'What they have been doing is pretty ingenious and

Part of last year's subscription growth flowed from

Netflix doesn't disclose its cancellation, or churn

Television

LOS GATOS, Calif., June 9, (AP): Although its video

streaming service sparkles with a Hollywood sheen,

Netflix still taps its roots in Silicon Valley to stay a step

than 300 miles away from Hollywood, frequently

reaches into its technological toolbox without viewers

even realizing it. It often just uses few subtle twists on

the knobs of viewer recommendations to help keep its

270 million worldwide subscribers satisfied at a time

when most of its streaming rivals are seeing waves of

"Bridgerton" have wide appeal, Netflix still tries to ca-

ter to the divergent tastes of its vast audience. One part

of that recipe includes tailoring summaries and trailers

about its smorgasbord of shows to fit the personal inter-

summary or video trailer for "The Crown" highlighting

the relationship between Princess Diana and Charles,

while another viewer more into political intrigue may

be shown a clip of Queen Elizabeth in a meeting with

action might see a trailer of the title character immersed

in water during one of her epic swims, while a comedy

fan might see a lighthearted scene featuring some amus-

ing banter between the two stars, Annette Bening and

deep understanding of viewing habits it gleans from

crunching the data from subscribers' histories with its

service - including those of customers who signed up

in the late 1990s when the company launched with a

DVD-by-mail service that continued to operate until

Netflix's chief product officer, said while discussing the

nuances of the ways Netflix tries to reel different view-

ers into watching different shows. "The North Star we

have every day is keep people engaged, but also make

"It is a secret sauce for us, no doubt," Eunice Kim,

Netflix is able to pull off these variations through the

For an Oscar-nominated film like "Nyad," a lover of

So someone who likes romance might see a plot

Even when hit TV series like "The Crown" or

cancellations from inflation-weary subscribers.

ests of each viewer.

Margaret Thatcher.

Jodie Foster.

last September.

The Los Gatos, California, company, based more

ahead of traditional TV and movie studios.

British TV presenter Michael Mosley was found on a Greek island Sunday morning after a days-long search.

A police spokesman, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of an ongoing investigation, said a body was found on a rocky coast by a private boat and that formal identification was pending. Mosley's

Mosley's wife said in a state-ment that her husband took the wrong route on a hike and collapsed in a place where his body couldn't easily be seen. Mosley went missing on the island of

"Michael was an adventurous man, it's part of what made him so special," Dr. Clare Bailey Mosley said. "It's devastating to have lost Michael, my wonderful, funny kind and brilliant husband. We had an incredibly lucky life together. We loved each other very much

island of Symi, who she said worked tirelessly to find him.

"Some of these people on the island, who hadn't even heard of Michael, worked from dawn till dusk unasked," she said. "My family and I have been hugely comforted by the outpouring of love from people from around the world. It's clear that Michael meant a huge amount

Lefteris Papakalodoukas, the island's mayor, told The Associated Press he was on the boat with members of the media representatives when they saw a body some 20 meters above the Agia Marina beach. "We zoomed with the cam-

The mayor said that Mosley appeared to have fallen down a steep slope, stopping against a fence and lying face-up with a few rocks on top of it. (AP)

NEW YORK: Howard University is cutting ties to Sean "Diddy' **Combs**, rescinding an honorary degree that was awarded to him and disbanding a scholarship program in his name, after a recently released 2016 video that appeared to show him attacking the R&B singer Cassie.

'Mr. Combs' behavior as captured in a recently released video is so fundamentally incompatible with Howard University's core values and beliefs that he is deemed no longer worthy to hold the institution's highest honor,' a statement from the university's

She thanked the people of the

eras and saw it was him," he said.

Board of Trustees said. The statement said the board voted unanimously Friday to accept the return of the honorary degree Combs received in 2014. "This acceptance revokes all honors and privileges associated

periences



Combs

An email seeking comment was

listing honorary degree recipients of Howard University," it said.

The board also directed university administrators to cut financial ties to Combs, including returning a \$1 million contribution, ending the scholarship program and dissolving a 2023 pledge agreement with the Sean Combs Foundation.

sent to a Combs spokesperson by The Associated Press on Saturday.

Combs admitted last month that he beat his ex-girlfriend Cassie in a hotel hallway in 2016 after CNN released video of the attack. In a video statement posted on social media, he said he was "truly sorry" and his actions were "inexcusable."

"I take full responsibility for my actions in that video. I was disgusted then when I did it. I'm

of original programming that would attract more sub-

scribers - an ambitious expansion that forced Time

Warner (now rolled into Warner Bros. Discovery) and

other long-established entertainment companies such as

Walt Disney Co. into a mad scramble to build their own

Although those expansions initially attracted hordes

of subscribers, they also resulted in massive losses that

have resulted in management shakeups and drastic cut-

backs, including the abrupt closure of a CNN streaming

What Netflix is doing with technology to retain sub-

scribers to boost its fortunes - the company's profit rose

20% to \$5.4 billion last year - now is widening the di-

vide with rival services still trying to stanch their losses.

came profitable after an overhaul engineered by CEO

Bob Iger, but he thinks more work will be required to

capability," Iger said at a conference earlier this year.

"We're now in the process of creating and developing

all of that technology, and obviously the gold standard

Netflix isn't going to help its rivals by divulging its

secrets, but the slicing and dicing generally starts with

getting a grasp on which viewers tend to gravitate to

certain genres - the broad categories include action,

adventure, anime, fantasy, drama, horror, comedy, ro-

mance and documentary - and then diving deeper from

In some instances, Netflix's technology will even try

to divine a viewer's mood at any given time by ana-

lyzing what titles are being browsed or clicked on. In

other instances, it's relatively easy for the technology to

figure out how to make a film or TV series as appealing

as possible to specific viewers. If Netflix's data shows

a subscriber has watched a lot of Hindi productions, it

would be almost a no-brainer to feature clips of Bol-

lywood actress Alia Bhatt in a role she played in the

US film, "Heart of Stone" instead of the movie's lead

that you prefer in front of you," Kim said. "Part of that

is the content recommendations themselves, but it's

also about how we present the content to you.'

"We want to do a really good job putting the things

Disney's 4-year-old streaming service recently be-

"We need to be at their level in terms of technology

streaming services.

catch up with Netflix.

there is Netflix.'

actress, Gal Gadot.

disgusted now," Combs said. (AP) A lawsuit filed last year by Cassie, whose legal name is Cassandra Ventura, set off a wave of similar cases and public allegations against Combs. That lawsuit was settled. (AP)

ATHENS: The body of missing

family confirmed his death Sunday. Symi on Wednesday afternoon.

and were so happy together.'

to so many of you.'

with the degree. Accordingly, the Board has directed that his name Mosley be removed from all documents

People & Places

Music

'45 years strong'

Black Music Month marks its evolution

LOS ANGELES, June 9, (AP): Every June since the 1970s, across the United States, musicians, fans and industry professionals celebrate Black Music Month. It's an opportunity to highlight the contributions of Black artists and position Black art at the center of American culture across popular music and beyond.

Black Music Month's origins trace back to 1979. In that year, a decade after the Civil Rights era, President Jimmy Carter designated June a time to celebrate the cultural and historical significance of Black musicianship and held the first ever Black Music Month celebration on the White House lawn. That makes 2024 its 45th annual commemoration.

But what inspired Black Music Month in the first place, and how has it evolved?

Black Music Month was originally founded in 1979, but not by President Carter. Credit goes to Philadelphia soul pioneer Kenny Gamble of Gamble and Huff and a couple of other associates, said Naima Cochrane of the Black Music Action Coalition, an advocacy organization founded in June

2020 following a music industry blackout in response to the murder of George Floyd. "Black Music Month was founded out of an organi-

zation called the Black Music Association," she says. Gamble based his organization, founded in 1978, on the Country Music Association because he saw how much power and influence they held in the country music business, Cochrane explains. He aimed to do the same with Black stakeholders in the music industry. Those included promoters, retailers, bookers, venue owners, executives, artists and household names like Rev. Jesse Jackson and Motown Records founder Berry Gordy.

Black Music Month, coincidentally, was brought forth by Gamble, Cleveland radio DJ Ed Wright, and media strategist Dyana Williams.

History

"Black Music Month was originally created to promote, protect, and perpetuate the business of Black music, not just to celebrate Black music," says Cochrane. "The tagline was originally 'Black music is green,' and it was meant as a way to drive retail sales to increase awareness for the artists but honestly, really to increase the business of Black music, and not just to celebrate the history of Black music.

"It's evolved into something different over the years... The original intention has gotten lost," she says. "The original purpose of the month was to prove that the business of Black music was profitable.

Each June, Black Music Month is recognized with a presidential proclamation.

"During Black Music Month, we celebrate the Black artists and creatives whose work has so often been a tidal wave of change - not only by defining the American songbook and culture but also by capturing our greatest hopes for the future and pushing us to march forward together," President Joe Biden's 2024 proclamation read. "Black music is a staple of American art and a powerhouse of our culture - that is why we must continue to open doors for the next genera-

This year, Biden will once again celebrate Black Music Month with a Juneteenth concert featuring Patti LaBelle, Gladys Knight, Charlie Wilson, Kirk Franklin, Anthony Hamilton, Brittney Spencer, Trombone Shorty and more.

Under the Obama Administration, Black Music Month was re-named African-American Music Appreciation Month but it's since gone back to its roots.

Black Music Month "is an acknowledgement that Black music is an original American artform and has influence in almost every other American art form. But it was designed to drive the business of Black music to Black stakeholders," Cochrane added.

In the years since its origins, Black Music Month has often been used as a salute to Black music excellence: 30 days to celebrate Black musicianship across media platforms, museums, streaming platforms, and beyond. But some fear that concentrating the observance might have limiting effects.

Followers

"I always felt conflicted: happy to see the uplifting of Black artists but disappointed that Black Music Month only benefitted superstars (and ostensibly turned the other 11 months over to white musicians), 4AD Records label manager Nabil Ayers wrote of Black Music Month in 2021.

"Musically, the Black Music Month that I knew in the '90s and 2000s focused on the artists who could potentially sell the most records," he continued. "But the reality is that it costs money to make music, and financial support for artists matters now more than ever.

Of course, there are varying opinions. In 2016, Philadelphia resident Branford Jones started They Have the Range, a popular Instagram account with one million followers, dedicated to showcasing Black singers.

"When I created it, Black music programming wasn't really there," he says, noting a few other performance pages that "weren't posting everyday Black people," and a modern-day dearth of shows like "Soul Train" or BET's "106th and Park.'

"For They Have the Range, every month is Black Music Month," Jones says, laughing. "But it's important to have a Black Music Month, especially in a time where so many people are trying to erase historical context. ... We know how much Black folks have contributed to the world when it comes to music.

He cites the Hulu series "The 1619 Project" as an influence: "One of the things they said about Black music is that it's uncatchable. Every single decade, (Black music) has been able to shift, change, and lead

For him, Black Music Month is an opportunity for celebration that can endure all year long - and it feels especially poignant that it lands in the month that also holds Juneteenth.

Also:

LOS ANGELES: This June, A&E's "Biography" series returns with a few specials on '80s rock and roll greats: Bret Michaels, Dee Snider, Sammy Hagar and Sebastian Bach among them. Michaels is kicking things off on Sunday, June 16 - or June 17, for those looking to stream on the A&E App, AETV.com and video on demand platforms - with an episode that documents his rise to fame in the glam-metal band Poison, his career as a reality TV star (VH1's "Rock of Love with Bret Michaels," "Celebrity Apprentice") and beyond.



The poster of Kuwaiti film 'Amakor.'



Morocco's Dakhla International Film Festival participants.

KUNA photos



Dakota Fanning, (left), and film subject Dr. Ann Burgess, (right), attend the 'Mastermind: To Think Like a Killer' premiere during the Tribeca Festival at the SVA Theatre, Friday, June 7, in New York. (AP)

Variety

NEW YORK: Colson Whitehead's latest literary honor feels very much at home.

The author's "Crook Manifesto," a crime story set in 1970s Harlem and centered on a beleaguered furniture store owner, is this year's winner of the Gotham Book Prize for an outstanding work about New York City. The \$50,000 award was established four years ago by bookstore ownerphilanthropist Bradley Tusk and political strategist Howard Wolfson.

"Crook Manifesto is a portrait of a man, but also his city," Whitehead, a native New Yorker, said in a statement Wednesday. "Capturing the dynamism of my hometown and its crazy citizens is at the heart of the project, so I can't express how lovely it is for the book to be recognized by the Gotham Book Prize.

In a joint statement, Tusk and Wolfson praised Whitehead's novel as the kind of book they had hoped to celebrate, one that captures "the city in all of its complexity."

PHNOM PENH: The representatives of media and think tanks from Southeast Asia have made a joint appeal for combating fake news, saying that it has fueled societal

Film

Fest spotlights Gulf cinema

Kuwaiti film 'Amakor' shines at Morocco's Dakhla Festival

DAKHLA, Morocco, June 9, (KUNA): The 12th edition of the Dakhla International Film Festival concluded over the weekend, featuring an eclectic selection of cinematic masterpieces from across the globe. Notably, the Kuwaiti film "Amakor" emerged as a standout, captivating both audiences and critics and highlighting the richness of Gulf and Kuwaiti cinema.

Zine El-Abidine Charafeddine, president of the festival, expressed his pride in showcasing films from the Gulf region, particularly Kuwait and the UAE, in this year's lineup. Speaking to KUNA, he emphasized the festival's role in acquainting Moroccan and African audiences with the dynamic realm of Gulf cinema, citing "Amakor" as a prime example.

Directed by Kuwaiti filmmaker Ahmad Al-Khudari, "Amakor" delves into the story of a young man grappling with amnesia following a

life-altering accident. Its exploration of themes such as identity and resilience deeply resonated with viewers, solidifying its status as a festival

highlight. Abdullah Al-Tararwah, one of the stars of "Amakor," expressed his delight in representing Kuwaiti cinema in the feature films category. In an interview with KUNA, he underscored the importance of showcasing Kuwaiti cinematic achievements on an international platform, reaching audiences and critics across Africa, the Arab world, and Europe.

Produced by Ahmad Al-Khudari and written and directed by Mohammad Al-Muhaiteeb, "Amakor" has received widespread acclaim at various Arab and international festivals. With its compelling narrative and exceptional performances, the film continues to draw attention to the creativity and talent inherent in Kuwaiti cinema.

divisions and obstructed informed public

Kin Phea, director general of the Inter-



national Relations Institute of Cambodia (IRIC), an arm of the Royal Academy of Cambodia, said on Saturday that the joint call was made during a gathering titled "Third Mekong Journalism Training Workshop on The Role of Media in Combating Disinformation and Fake News in (Artificial Intelligence) AI Context for Regional Peace, Stability, and Prosperity" in Phnom Penh, capital of Cambodia, on June 5-6. The workshop, organized by the IRIC

in partnership with the Club of Cambodian Journalists, was attended by more than 70 media practitioners and academics from several Southeast Asian countries such as Cambodia, the Philippines, Malaysia, and Indonesia, he said. (Xinhua)

Books

D-Day history

Mosley delivers a gritty noir tale

NEW YORK, June 9, (AP): It's 1970 in Los Angeles, and Easy Rawlins has come a long way since Walter Mosley launched his series about this Black private detective with "Devil in a Blue Dress."

In that first novel, published in 1990, we met Easy as a young World War II vet. It was 1948, he'd just moved to Los Angeles after losing his job at a Houston defense plant, and he was struggling to pay his bills. Now, in "Farewell Amethystine," the 16th book in the series, Easy is a 50-year-old family man, lives in a nice house, and is

the owner of a three-man private detective agency

However, he's still a Black man in a city where driving a nice car or walking in a white neighborhood is grounds for



arrest – or even a beating. The story begins the way so many hardboiled crime novels have over the decades. A beautiful woman walks into the detective's office and asks for help. Her name is Amethystine Stoller. Her ex-husband, a forensic accountant, has gone missing, and she wants Easy to look for him.

Disappear

As Easy presses her for details, he grows uneasy. He can tell she's lying about something. More than that, she reminds him of his first love, a grown woman who bedded him when he was just a boy and then disappeared. He looked for her for

years and has never forgotten her.

He's reluctant to take Amethystine's case, but he's drawn to her. The book's title, however, tips off readers that their budding love affair is unlikely to work out.

Easy soon discovers that her ex's disappearance has something to do with gangsters, a Las Vegas casino and, eventually, a series of mur-ders. For help, Easy turns to Melvin Suggs, his lone friend in the LAPD, but learns that Suggs is in hiding, betrayed by corrupt officers in the department. So now, in addition to searching for Amethystine, Easy has a second problem on his hands.

Fans of this series may be disappointed that Easy's dangerous friend Mouse makes only a cameo appearance. However, the detective's old pal Fearless Jones is on hand to watch Easy's back.

Mosley's plotting can be a bit hard to follow at times - much like the work of Raymond Chandler, whose detective character, Philip Marlowe, worked the mean streets of Los Angeles in the 1940s. As with Chandler's books, however, the main attraction of the Easy Rawlins novels is the superb prose. Mosley's dialogue, much of it straight out of Watts and Compton, is pitch perfect, and some passages have the sensuous rhythm of a basement slow dance.

Writing about the Allied invasion of Normandy, Garrett M. Graff is treading onto familiar history with his latest book.

From books by historian Stephen Ambrose to films like Steven Spielberg's "Saving Private Ryan," there's ample works chronicling the June 6, 1944, landing during World War II that ultimately led to the downfall of Nazi Germany.

But in "When The Sea Came Alive: An Oral History of D-Day, Graff weaves together hundreds of eyewitness accounts to create a history that stands alongside those works, expanding readers' understanding of D-Day and offering a new, complete portrait in time for the 80th anniversary commemora-

The oral history begins with a look at the planning of the operation, going back to 1943, and the buildup of personnel and equipment in the months leading up to the operation.

Graff uses a wide array and diversity of voices that give a fuller picture of the lead-up to the invasion, as well as the fighting itself. The book excels in highlighting the experiences of Black soldiers who landed on D-Day beaches and women who were part of the story, such as correspondent Martha Gellhorn.

But it should come as no surprise that the most harrowing portions of the book remain the landing and the battles that occurred on D-Day itself, with vivid first-hand account. Graff skills at sifting through the accounts and documents propel the action throughout the book.

Graff's book is a testimony to the value in preserving memories from grand historical events, demonstrating how much can be unearthed from even the most familiar stories.

AHA accredited program aims to enhance stroke care at Adan Hospital

MoH introduces 'advanced support for stroke cases' training program

KUWAIT CITY, June 9: In an effort to bolster the skills of medical pro-fessionals in effectively managing stroke cases, the "Advanced Support for Stroke Cases" rehabilitation program has been inaugurated at the Adan Training Center within Adan Hospital. This initiative, accredited by the American Heart Association, aims to elevate the proficiency of the medical team in dealing with stroke patients with heightened effectiveness and efficiency. as reported by the Al-Rai

newspaper. Dr. Abdul Rahman Al-Mutairi, the Undersecretary of the Minis-try of Health, welcomed Dr. Niran Al-Naqeeb, Director of the Medical Staff at Al-Adan Hospital, along with representatives from the American Heart Association, to oversee the commencement of the training program. Approximately 35 specialists from both governmental and private sectors, spanning primary health care to secondary and specialized care, participated in the program. The initiative equips them with the skills necessary to identify, evaluate, and manage stroke cases while addressing skill gaps and implementing international Stroke Center certification programs. This strategic endeavor ensures the alignment with the latest therapeutic protocols to enhance patient care and the quality of health services offered within treatment facilities.

The comprehensive program covers various facets of stroke management, ranging from early diagnosis and assessment to immediate therapeutic intervention and the handling of critical cases. Given that stroke remains a leading cause of death and disability worldwide, the launch of this program underscores the Ministry of Health's commitment to enhancing the quality of healthcare delivery for patients.

This significant initiative marks a pivotal step forward in the continuous pursuit of excellence in stroke treatment and reaffirms the dedication of healthcare professionals to improving patient outcomes and overall healthcare service standards.

Early insulin works for Type 2

China's supercomputer helps fight diabetic complications

GUANGZHOU, June 9, (Xinhua): Chinese scientists, leveraging one of the world's fastest supercomputers, have identified a promising therapeutic strategy for treating diabetic complications.

The Tianhe-2 supercomputer in south China's Guangdong Province, ranking 16 among the global top 500 fastest computers published last month, has been used as a platform for drug discovery.
Supported by Virtual Screening on

Tianhe-2 (VSTH), a high-throughput screening platform running on Tianhe-2, the team led by researchers from Sun Yat-sen University has found that 2MBC, a branched-chain acylcarnitine, can significantly speed up the rate of blood clot formation in the body.

Diabetes ranks among the most prevalent chronic conditions worldwide. It has the potential to trigger a cascade of complications including blood clot formation, a leading contributor to both disability and mortality within the diabetic population.

The researchers have found that 2MBC exerts a direct influence on platelets, augmenting their capabilities for aggregation, spreading, and contraction, and the effect is present in both rodents and human.

The chemical is a metabolite originating from the gut microbiota, and therefore, pre-treatment with antibiotics to clear the gut bacteria effectively halts this metabolic conversion, according the study published recently in the journal Cell Metabolism.

This discovery paves the way for novel therapeutic targets and innovative strategies in combating complications associated with metabolic disorders like diabetes, said the researchers

Also, the Tianhe-2 team has vowed to enhance the drug discovery platform, capitalizing on the rich data resources and the platform's superior performance to catalyze groundbreaking innovation in the field of biomedicine.

Chinese scientists have demonstrated the effectiveness of early insulin therapy for newly diagnosed patients with type 2 diabetes (T2D), which can reduce the risks of stroke and hospitalization due to heart failure compared to those who have not received the treat-

A joint research team led by Professor Weng Jianping from Anhui Medical University, and scientists from the University of Science and Technology of China, Southern Medical University, and Peking University, conducted a 24-year observational study on the treatment of 5,424 T2D patients across

They found that newly diagnosed T2D patients who underwent the therapy experienced a 31 percent reduced risk of stroke and a 28 percent lower risk of hospitalization due to heart failure.

This study further demonstrates the effectiveness of early insulin therapy in improving biomarkers related to low-grade inflammation and endothelial function, which are known indicators of cardiovascular risk, in newly diagnosed T2D patients.

This provides compelling evidence for adopting early insulin therapy as a first-line treatment option for newly diagnosed patients.

The findings were published in the international journal of Signal Transduction and Targeted Therapy in early

Also:

HARARE: At an acupuncture clinic in Harare, Zimbabwe's capital, Charity Karekwaivanane remained calm as acupuncture needles pierced her body.

"Ît's a mystery that I got healed by those needles. I did not know what they would do to my body. I don't have any pain anymore. I am okay,' the 69-year-old grandmother who had suffered from back pain for more than a decade told Xinhua after receiving

The acupuncturist, Richard Mutingwende, a Zimbabwean licensed acupuncturist, opened the clinic after witnessing first-hand the wonders of ancient Chinese medical treatment.

With acupuncture, Mutingwende has a tool to fulfill his passion for relieving others from pain.

"Chinese treatment works wonders, it's like magic," Mutingwende told Xinhua. "It gives instant results, especially to conditions that don't have solutions when it comes to other systems of medicine. So you find many people come here as a last resort after trying quite several medical systems.'

Mutingwende is among a group of 10 medical professionals who graduated from traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) and acupuncture personnel training course by Chinese doctors in Zimbabwe in 2022.

The training program, the first of its kind in Zimbabwe, was held at the Zimbabwe-China TCM and Acupuncture Center at the Parirenyatwa Group of Hospitals (PGH) in Harare.



Pakistani Ambassador Malik Muhammad Farooq and Dr. Mohsin Mahmood pose with PWF and SPDK members.



Dr. Mohsin Mahmood demonstrates proper technique of CPR during the seminar.

Students learn life-saving skills

Pakistan Women's Forum holds CPR seminar

By MahRukh Omer

KUWAIT CITY, June 9: Pakistan Women's Forum (PWF), Kuwait in collaboration with the Society of Pakistani Doctors in Kuwait organized a seminar "CPR, Basic Life Support" on Thursday, June 6, at the Kuwait Medical Association Hall Jabriya. H.E. Malik Muhammad Farooq, the ambassador of Pakistan to Kuwait, graced the event as a chief guest. The seminar was attended by the students and faculty of International School of Pakistan and Britain International Academy as well as PWF members and their families.

The seminar was conducted by Dr. Mohsin Mahmood (Consultant Physician and American Heart Association (AHA) certified Advanced Cardiac

Life Support (ACLS) Instructor). The event began with the opening remarks by Mrs. Nighat Tariq, president, PWF, followed by Dr. Shuja Ud Din Muhammad, president, SPDK's remarks. Dr. Mohsin Mahmood started his presentation about basic life support for unconsciousness/coma, choking, burns, bleeding, heart attack, and then proceeded with the demonstration of CPR procedures. Question and answers were also addressed during the demonstration. The seminar was of high interest for the students.

H.E. Malik Muhammad Farooq was invited on stage to receive a token of appreciation from the presidents of PWF and SPDK followed by his speech. Shortly after H.E.'s speech, appreciation certificates were presented to the faculty and students of International School of Pakistan, Britain International Academy and Gulf Pakistan English School. Honorary Shields were presented to Dr. Shuja Ud Din

Mohammad, president, SPDK, and guest speaker Dr. Mohsin Mahmood. Last but not the least students were

provided the golden opportunity to partake in hands on CPR practice on dummies under the supervision of Dr. Mohsin Mahmood.

Refreshments were served followed by a group photo. The Presidents of both the organizations extended their gratitude towards the media i.e. Irfan Shafiq and Imran Zaffar for their outstanding coverage of the event. Mrs. Nighat Tariq highly appreciated Mrs. Shazia Arshad, general secretary PWF, for her efforts in communicating with the faculty of International School of Pakistan and Britain International Academy for attending the seminar, Marukh Omer for presenting the event and organizing media coverage and CELT Institute volunteers for their

Malawi to boost children immunization

Pakistan reports 5th case of polio in 2024

ISLAMABAD, June 9, (Xinhua): Pakistan reported the fifth polio case so far this year after a child was paralyzed in Quetta city of southwest Balochistan province and eventually died, the Pakistani Health Ministry said Saturday.

The affected two-year-old child developed an onset of paralysis on April 29 in his legs, the ministry said in a statement, adding that "he became progressively ill with weakness spreading to his arms, and unfortunately passed away in a hospital in the southern port city of Karachi a few weeks later.'

The samples taken from him, his brother, and his cousin, who live in the same house, confirmed the presence of

wild poliovirus type 1, said the statement. The virus isolated from the samples belongs to the imported YB3A cluster of WPV1, it added.

The government is focusing its efforts on closing the outbreak and enhancing polio vaccine and routine vaccination coverage rates in the province to ensure strengthened immunity for children, the ministry said. More than 50 environmental samples have tested positive for poliovirus this year in Balochistan, including 21 from the provincial capital Quetta alone, according to the statement.

Also:

MALAWI: Malawi on Friday received a donation of cold chain equipment from Africa Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) in partnership with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to boost immunisation for children in the country.

The equipment, valued at 147,000 U.S. dollars, includes 722 vaccine carriers, six freezers, 10 vaccine refrigerators, 12 cold boxes, seven solar-powered refrigerators and spare parts.

Regional Coordinator at Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Lul Pout Riek said that the donation aims to assist Malawi in expanding its immunization program by improving the conservation and storage capacity of vaccines.

This support represents the first phase of **Africa** CDC's commitment to Malawi, with subsequent phases focusing on completing the vaccination of healthcare workers and vulnerable groups, as well as building a robust workforce of community health workers, he added.

Health literacy

UN: Support early childhood growth

BEIJING, June 9, (Xinhua): A new public campaign was jointly launched by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Center for Women and Children's Health of the National Health Commission (NHC) and other partners on Feidau to give shildren the best start in life. Friday to give children the best start in life.

The campaign, known as "Parent with Purpose, Nurture their Future,' aims to build awareness on the importance of early childhood development (ECD), and to equip parents and caregivers with the knowledge, skills and tools to give their children the best start in life, by providing nurturing care during the first six years.

Early childhood, throughout the first six years of life, is an important time for shaping a child's development and setting a solid foundation for their future.

As part of this initiative, a three-month digital and media campaign has started, which will provide practical advice for parents and caregivers on ECD. It will include interactive activities, such as a competition for parents to share their own experiences, and an online resource center providing information and tips. It will also be promoted in ECD centers, hospitals and health centers across China.

Development

"Early childhood development is a holistic project that requires the joint efforts of all sectors of society," said Xu Zongyu, director general of the National Center for Women and Children's Health.

"We need to enable the public, especially parents, to understand the importance of early childhood development, to acquire knowledge and skills, and to take care of young children scientifically to promote their health and allround development," Xu said. Figures from the NHC showed that

in 2023, the infant mortality rate and mortality rate of children under 5 in China stood at 4.5 per 1,000 and 6.2 per 1,000, respectively, down 16.7 percent and 17.3 percent from 2020.

"Every child has the right to the best start in life," UNICEF Representative to China Amakobe Sande said. "Early childhood, during the first six years of life, is a critical window of opportunity to shape the trajectory of a child's development and build a firm foundation for their future through nurturing care. As these children thrive, their communities also grow and prosper, benefitting the whole of society.

While the campaign is mainly targeted at parents and caregivers, UNI-CEF is also working with the private sector and government to advocate for policies and funding to support families. These include workplace policies, such as parental leave and flexible working, that make it easier for working parents to care for young children; and child benefits such as tax breaks and benefits for families with children.

Also:

CHINA: China has released a threeyear action plan to further raise health literacy for all citizens from 2024 to 2027, the National Health Commission (NHC) said on Thursday.

Health literacy levels among Chinese citizens should be raised by an average of around 2 percentage points each year during this period, according to the plan jointly issued by the NHC, the National Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine and the National Disease Control and Prevention Administration.

Major measures to achieve this goal include better promotion of the subject, regulating the release and dissemination of health information, building talent forces, and stepping up social advocacy and mobilization in this regard, the plan noted.







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

Colombia rout sloppy US 5-1

Endrick fires, Brazil edge Mexico in Copa America warmup

WASHINGTON, June 9, (Agencies): Teenage forward Endrick struck in the 96th minute as Brazil survived a late scare to overcome Mexico 3-2 in its pre-Copa America friendly in Texas on Saturday.

Brazil took the lead in the fifth min-ute at Kyle Field in College Station when Savio set up Andreas Pereira, who coolly danced around two defenders before sending a low shot into the

Arsenal forward Gabriel Martinelli doubled the advantage by receiving Yan Couto's cross and firing a firsttime effort from the edge of the sixyard box past goalkeeper Julio Gon-

Mexico reduced the deficit in the 73rd minute through Julian Quinones, who met Alexis Vega's cross with a sliding finish at the far post.

El Tri was suddenly re-energized as it began to dictate possession while rushing forward in waves. Guillermo

Martinez equalized in the second minute of stoppage time with a low shot from an acute angle that beat goalkeeper Alisson at his near post.

But Brazil was jolted into action and Endrick, a 61st-minute substitute for Evanilson, restored his team's lead with a glancing header that flew into the far corner following Vinicius Junior's diagonal cross.

SOCCER

17-year-old Endrick, who will join Real Madrid from Palmeiras next month, has now scored three times in his past three international outings for

Earlier on Saturday, Colombia continued its impressive run of results with a 5-1 rout of the United States in their friendly at Commanders Field in Landover, Maryland.

The Cafeteros has now gone 22

matches without defeat, 18 of which have been under the stewardship of Argentine Nestor Lorenzo, who replaced Reinaldo Rueda as manager in June 2022.

The Copa America will be played in the United States from June 20 to July

Matt Turner kept falling to the field, the American goalkeeper punching the ground in frustration.

A defensive lapse by Antonee Robinson and aimless defensive play by Johnny Cardoso, Tim Weah and Cameron Carter-Vickers led to four goals in an embarrassing 5-1 defeat to Colombia in a Copa America warmup match on Saturday.

"I'm going to apologize to the fans," Turner said. "That's not what we're about. And, yeah, we need to bounce back in a big way." Since a 5-1 loss to Czechoslovakia in the 1990 World Cup, the U.S. had given up that many goals only in a 5-0 loss

Gold Cup final. It was the Americans' first four-goal loss since a 4-0 defeat in a 2016 World Cup qualifier at Costa Rica that caused the U.S. Soccer Federation to fire coach Jurgen Klinsmann.

"We're not framing it as a lesson learned. We're actually framing it as a wakeup call. Really poor performance against a top team," U.S. coach Gregg Berhalter said. "From the 75th minute on, it was I think a lack of respect for our opponent, the game of soccer and what we were doing." Jhon Arias put Colombia ahead in the sixth minute after the ball deflected to him when Robinson tried a sliding clearance without checking who was near. Rafael Santos Borré doubled the lead with a spectacular overhead kick in the 19th. The U.S. had not given up two goals in the first 20 minutes since a March 2016 World Cup qualifier.



Mexico's Edson Alvarez (left), and Brazil's Andreas Pereira compete for possession of the ball during the first half of an international soccer friendly match, at Texas A&M's Kyle Field in College Station, Texas. (AP)

Dornoch 'pulls off' an upset to win the 1st Belmont Stakes run clean run with win



Dornoch, (6), with Luis Saez (up, second from left), stays with the pack at the start of the 156th running of the Belmont Stakes horse race in Saratoga Springs, N.Y. (AP)

'No one believed in this horse'

SARATOGA SPRINGS, June 9, (AP): When Luis Saez first rode Dornoch at Saratoga Race Course last summer, he told trainer Danny Gargan, "You have the Derby winner."

While that did not come true, Dornoch made good on that optimism Saturday by winning the first Belmont Stakes at Saratoga, hugging the rail and holding off Mindframe to spring a major upset in the Triple Crown finale at odds

The horse co-owned by World Series champion Jayson Werth won the Belmont five weeks after a troubled trip led to a 10th-place finish in the Kentucky Derby. This time, Dornoch sat off leader Seize the Grey, passed the Preakness winner down the stretch and held on for a 1 1/2-length victory.

HORSE RACING

"I would put it right up there with winning on the biggest stage. Horse racing is the most underrated sport in the world, bar none," said Werth, who won Major League Baseball's championship with the Philadelphia Phillies in 2008. "It's the biggest game: You get the Derby, the Preakness, the Belmont. We just won the Belmont. This is as good as it gets in horse racing. It's as good as it gets

It's the first win in any Triple Crown race for Gargan and the second in the Belmont for Saez, who said he never lost faith in Dornoch.

"He's one of the top 3-year-olds in the country, and we've always thought it," Gargan said. "We let him run his race, and he won. If he gets to run, he's

Olympic 100-meter champ Jacobs defends Euro title

ROME, June 9, (AP): The Paris Olympics are less than 50 days away and defending 100-meter champion Marcell Jacobs still hasn't dipped under the 10-second mark in nearly two years.

He's got another gold medal to hang

around his neck, though. Jacobs clocked a season-best 10.02

to win on his home track and defend his European Championship title.

"The times are not what's important in these competitions, it's the result that counts," Jacobs said. "The goal is to be in my best form in two months when it counts even more and I know that I still have a lot of work to do.' The Texas-born Italian looked smoother in his semifinal heat when he ran 10.05 despite easing through the finish.

"Considering how I felt in the semifinal, we had calculated that I could have ran between 9.92 and 9.95," Jacobs said. "So when I saw the display I wasn't very happy. But at the same time, as I said, medals count more than times. Medals remain forever." After the final, Jacobs was shaking his left calf, which he said was due to a cramp that he felt toward the end of the race, not an injury.

"I had three goals entering this season; to stay healthy, to defend my European title and to win at the Olympics again," said Jacobs, who dropped his longtime coach last year and moved to Florida to train with American coach Rana Reider. "So far so good." Jacobs led an Italian 1-2 with Chituru Ali taking silver in a personal-best 10.05, and Romell Glave of Britain claiming bronze in 10.06.

ATHLETICS

The last time Jacobs broke the 10-second mark came in August 2022 when he won in 9.95 at the previous Euros in Munich.

Jacobs succeeded Usain Bolt as Olympic champion three years ago in Tokyo when he ran 9.80.

Jakob Ingebritsen, the Norwegian world champion whose father was recently accused of abusing one of his other children, won the 5,000 in 13:20.11 by surging ahead in the final 100 meters.

It was Ingebritsen's fifth European

title from the 1,500 to 5,000 - to go with his Olympic gold in the 1,500. Greek long jumper Miltiadis Tentoglou confirmed he's intent on defending his Olympic title by improving his own championship record with consecutive leaps of 8.65 in his final two

It was Tentoglou's third consecutive European title. He also won the world title last year.

Italian 19-year-old Mattia Furlani took silver with 8.38 to improve his world under-20 record and Simon Ehammer of Switzerland claimed bronze with 8.31 The long jump was held on a raised platform directly in front of one side of the Stadio Olimpico stands.

Cyrena Samba-Mayela of France set a championship record of 12.31 in the 100 hurdles for the best time in the world this season, a positive sign for the host country entering the Paris Games.

Leonardo Fabbri, another Italian standout, won the shot put before his home crowd with a championship record 22.45.

Gargan doesn't think if the race were at the usual distance the result

"I don't think anybody was getting to him," Gargan said. "I'd have to watch it again. I kind of got excited jumping around there when he got clear. I didn't see anybody really mak**Dream start hot, beat Sky**

Liberty 'halt' Sun's

UNCASVILLE, June 9, (AP): Sabrina Ionescu scored 24 points, Jonquel Jones added 22 and the New York Liberty handed the Connecticut Sun their first loss of the season 82-75 on

The Liberty clinched the Eastern Conference bid to the Commissioner's Cup final by virtue of having the tiebreaker over the Sun. New York won the cup title last season.

New York fell behind by five early in the fourth quarter but tied it on a layup by Betnijah Laney-Hamilton and a 3-pointer by Jones. Later in the quarter, Ionescu made her first field goal since the first quarter, giving New York a twopoint lead, and Breanna Stewart hit a 3-pointer to make it 69-64 with 5 1/2 minutes to go.
With 93 seconds left, Tyasha

Harris hit a 3-pointer to get the Sun within 76-75. Jones answered with a 3, and Ionescu scored in the paint to give the Liberty an 81-75 lead with 43 seconds left.

Stewart finished with 13 points and Laney-Hamilton had 10 for New York (10-2). Laney-Hamilton had six assists and Ionescu, Jones and Stewart had five each as the Liberty had 27 assists on 31 made shots.

BASKETBALL

Six Connecticut players scored in double figures, led by DeWanna Bonner with 16 points. Brionna Jones scored 13, DiĴonai Carrington 12, Tiffany Mitchell 12 and Tyasha Harris 11. Alyssa Thomas had 10 points, 12 rebounds and seven as-

The six double-figure scorers accounted for all but one of Connecticut's points and six players combined to score all of New York's

Led by Ionescu, who scored 10 points on 4-for-4 shooting with two 3-pointers, the Liberty shot 69% in the first quarter and led 28-18 heading to the second.

After trading baskets to open the second quarter, the Sun went on a 10-0 run to tie it at 30, the last three points coming on a layup and free throw from Mitchell.

The score was tied at 39 at half-

A 10-footer by Carrington gave the Sun a 46-45 lead three minutes into the second half. Connecticut went on to build a 54-47 lead but



Phoenix Mercury guard Kahleah Copper, center, is fouled by Seattle Storm guard Jordan Horston, right, while guard Jewell Loyd (24) helps defend during the second half of a WNBA basketball game in Seattle. The Storm won 80-62. (AP)

New York kept it close and trailed 60-57 heading to the fourth quarter.

Tina Charles scored 22 points, Cheyenne Parker-Tyus added 18 and the Atlanta Dream beat the Chicago Sky 89-80.

Allisha Gray scored 14 points for Atlanta (5-4) and Aerial Powers 11. Rhyne Howard finished with 10 points, 10 assists and six rebounds.

Diamond DeShields hit a pull-up jumper to make it 4-2 a minute into the game but Chicago missed six consecutive shots and committed three turnovers as the Dream ripped off a 15-2 run - capped when Gray made back-to-back 3-pointers - be-fore Angel Reese made a layup that cut the Sky's deficit to 17-8 almost five minutes later.

Atlanta (5-4) hit 12 of 22 from the field in the first quarter and led 29-15 going into the second.

Reese finished with 13 points, 13 rebounds and five steals. The 6-foot-3 rookie had her third consecutive double-double and her fourth of the season for Chicago (4-6). Kamilla Cardoso and Dana Evans also scored 13 points apiece and Marina Mabrey added 12.

Lindsay Allen converted a threepoint play to cap a 7-0 spurt and cut the Sky's deficit to 78-75 midway through the fourth quarter but Charles answered with two free throws. Parker-Tyus followed with a layup and then two free throws and Howard hit a deep 3-pointer that made it 87-79 with 1:42 left.

SUISSE BONVIN

Berke Akcam of Turkey and Julien Bonvin of Switzerland compete in a men's 400 meters hurdles heat at the European Athletics Championships in Rome. (AP)

always going to be tough to beat."

It's the sixth consecutive year a different horse won each of the three Triple Crown races. Sierra Leone, the Derby runner-up who went off as the favorite, was third and Honor Marie fourth.

Dornoch paid \$37.40 to win, \$17.60 to place and \$8.10 to show. Todd Pletchertrained Mindframe paid \$6.80 to place and \$4.20 to show and Sierra Leone paid \$2.60 to show after a jumbled start and more directional problems.

There were no such issues for Dornoch, who triumphed at the track known as the graveyard of favorites for its penchant for upsets.

"No one believed in this horse," Gargan said. "It's speechless. He's such a talented horse.'

Despite there not being a Triple Crown on the line, it's a historic Belmont because the race was run at Saratoga for the first time in the venue's 161-year history. It returns next year while Belmont Park undergoes a massive, \$455 million reconstruction with the plan for the Triple Crown race to go back to the New York track in 2026.

Having it at Saratoga necessitated shortening the race to 1 1/4 miles from the usual "test of the champion" 1 1/2mile distance that has been a hallmark of the Belmont for nearly a century. The temporary change contributed to getting more quality horses into the field who previously ran in the Kentucky Derby, Preakness or both. At 1 1/4-mile distance, Dornoch crossed the wire in a time of 2:01.64.

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PHILADELPHIA, June 9, (AP): Chet Walker, a seven-time All-Star forward who helped Wilt Chamberlain and the Philadelphia 76ers win the 1967 NBA title and later starred for the Chicago Bulls,

has died. He was 84. The National Basketball Players Association confirmed Walker's death, according to NBA.com. The 76ers, Bulls and National Basketball Retired Players Association also extended their condolences on social media on Saturday. Walker was part of Chicago's inaugural class for its Ring of

Honor in January.
"His skill, dedication and contributions to the game made a lasting impact on the sport of basketball and the city of Chicago," the Bulls said in their statement.

"Chet Walker will forever be remembered as a true Chicago Bulls icon."

Nicknamed "The Jet," Walker

had career averages of 18.2 points and 7.1 rebounds over his 13 seasons in the NBA. His teams made the playoffs every year he was in the league.

Walker, a 7-time All-Star forward who helped the 76ers win the 1967 NBA title, has died

He was inducted into the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame in 2012.

Walker, a Mississippi native, went to high school in Benton Harbor, Michigan, before playing college ball at Bradley University in Peoria, Illinois. He was a

Braves, helping the team win the 1960 NIT championship. His No. 31 jersey was retired by the school

two-time All-American with the

The 6-foot-7 Walker was selected by Syracuse in the second round of the 1962 NBA draft. He averaged 12.3 points in his first season before the Nationals moved to Philadelphia and were renamed the 76ers.

In his fifth season, Walker aver-

aged 19.3 points and 8.1 rebounds in 81 games. With Chamberlain, Hal Greer, Billy Cunningham and Walker leading the way, the deep 76ers went 68-13 during the regular season. They eliminated Cincinnati and Boston in the playoffs before defeating Rick Barry and San Francisco for the 1967 NBA

The 76ers said Walker "made a profound impact" on Philadelphia and the NBA.

Spain thump Northern Ireland

Modric's Croatia edge Portugal in Euro warmup while Ronaldo rests

BARCELONA, Spain, June 9, (AP): Luka Modric scored a penalty to help Croatia beat Portugal 2-1 while Spain thumped Northern Ireland in the runup to the European Championship.

The friendly matches were the last for Spain and Croatia before they open the tournament against one another on June 15 in Berlin. They are in a tough Group B along with Italy and Albania.

Spain fine-tuned its attack with a 5-1 rout of Northern Ireland. Pedri González led the way with his first two goals for his nation.

Portugal has one more friendly against Ireland on Tuesday - before it starts the competition against the Czech Republic on June 18 in Leipzig. Portugal is the favorite in Group F that also includes Turkey and Georgia.

Cristiano Ronaldo never left Portugal's bench, with coach Roberto Martínez tapping Gonçalo Ramos to spear his attack

Ronaldo joined Portugal on Friday after finishing his club campaign with Al-Nassr in Saudi Arabia. The 39-year-old is set to make a record sixth appearance at the European Championship. Men's soccer all-time leading scorer with 128 goals, Ronaldo helped Portugal win the European title in 2016.

Modric beat goalkeeper Diogo Costa to open the scoring in the eighth minute at Portugal's National Stadium near Lisbon. The 38-year-old Real Madrid midfielder was sent to the penalty spot after Vitinha fouled Mateo Kovacic in the area

Halftime substitutes Diogo Jota and Nelson Semedo linked up to equalize for the hosts in the 48th, with Semedo



Spain's Pedri celebrates scoring his side's 3rd goal during the international friendly soccer match between Spain and Northern Ireland

at the Son Moix stadium in Palma de Mallorca, Spain. (AP)

Alenis Vargas scored in the 85th min-

ute after a red card on Seattle's Reed

Baker-Whiting in the 73rd and

Sporting Kansas City rallied to beat the Sounders 2-1 on Saturday night,

snapping a seven-match losing streak

in the 72nd minute and used an assist

from Khiry Shelton to score his second

goal in his 10th appearance. Shelton

has two assists in one start and five

appearances this season for Sporting

Jordan Morris, who scored every

goal in a 4-1 victory during Seattle's last trip to town in March of 2023,

staked the Sounders (4-7-6) to a 1-0

lead in the 12th minute. Morris used an

assist from João Paulo to find the net

seven minutes later for Sporting KC,

scoring unassisted with a left-footed

Johnny Russell scored the equalizer

for the fourth time this season.

KC (3-9-5).

Vargas subbed in for Dániel Sallói

and a winless run that reached 10.

St. Louis City, Timbers draw

Sporting KC down Sounders to

snap seven-match losing streak

assisting the Liverpool forward to tap

Ante Budimir restored Croatia's advantage in the 56th after the Osasuna striker headed in a rebound of a strike by Mario Pašalić that Costa had done well to push onto the crossbar.

Costa twice denied Nikola Vlašić to save Portugal from a heavier defeat.

Modric was substituted in the 54th. His contract with Madrid is set to expire at the end of the month following a season when he lost his starting role in Carlo Ancelotti's side. But the former Ballon d'Or winner seemed to indicate he wants to continue playing for the Spanish club when he told its fans in the celebrations of Champions League title No. 15 that he would see them "next season."

Euro 2024 kicks off on Friday when

host Germany plays Scotland. Northern Ireland's Daniel Ballard stunned Spain with a second-minute header. But Luis de la Fuente's team powered past their overmatched oppo-

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nent in Mallorca.

Pedri scored twice in the first half for his first goals in his 20th appearance for Spain. The Barcelona midfielder, now 21, helped Spain reach the semifinals of Euro 2021 but had not played since the 2022 World Cup due to injury. He made his return in Spain's 5-0 win over Andorra on Wednesday.

Álvaro Morata, Fabián Ruiz, and Mikel Oyarzabal, who put in three against Andorra, also chipped in with

Romelu Lukaku scored twice and Arsenal's Leandro Trossard added a third goal as Belgium brushed aside

Luxembourg 3-0. Belgium is expected to advance from a Group E that includes Ukraine,

Slovakia and Romania. Serbia rolled to a 3-0 win in Sweden thanks to goals by Sergej Milinković-Savić, Aleksandar Mitrović and Dušan

England and Serbia open play on June 16 in Group C that also includes Denmark and Slovenia.

Denmark bettered Norway 3-1, with Erling Haaland getting the loser's only goal. Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg, Jannik Vestergaard, and Yussuf Poulsen found the net for the Danes.

Slovenia needed goalie Jan Oblak to make a stoppage-time save to ensure a 1-1 draw with Bulgaria.

Switzerland and Austria drew 1-1 after Silvan Widmer leveled for the Swiss following an early goal by Christoph Baumgartner.



Belgium's Leonardo Trossard, (left), in action against Luxembourg's Eldin Dzogovic during the international friendly soccer match between Belgium and Luxembourg at the King Baudouin Stadium in Brussels, Belgium. (AP)

Gauff is a Grand Slam champion in singles and doubles, exceeding own expectations

Paolini and Sara Errani defeated in French Open final

PARIS, June 9, (AP): Coco Gauff is a Grand Slam champion in singles and doubles, something she did not expect to happen so

The 20-year-old American won her first major doubles title on Sunday by teaming with Katerina Siniakova for the French Open trophy. They defeated Italians Jasmine Paolini and Sara Errani 7-6 (5), 6-3, giving Gauff her second major after winning the U.S. Open singles

"I think it's just one of those things that when you least expect it to happen, it happens," Gauff said, reflecting on

her doubles triumph. Victory finally came for Gauff in her third women's doubles final, having been the runner-up in championship matches at Roland Garros in 2022 and

the U.S. Open in 2021. "After I lost the first two (doubles) finals, I thought, well, okay, I reached that point, maybe I should focus on singles," Gauff said. "Same thing, U.S. Open. When I won it, I didn't expect to win. I was having a really bad year. Then here, I didn't even expect to play. I think it's funny how life teaches you those lessons.

Gauff and Siniakova, who is from the Czech Republic, both kissed the Coupe Simonne Mathieu - the winners'

"Third time's a charm. Thank you, Katerina, for playing with me. We decided two days before the tournament to play together," Gauff said. "Thank you to the fans. I know 11:30 Sunday morning is early for most people. It's early for me.

The doubles final was held before the men's singles final later Sunday between Carlos Alcaraz and Alexander

"I would much rather play before the men's final than after it, because that

could go seven hours. 11:30 was fine. It was just a joke, because I don't like

was good the tournament scheduled us before that match.' Paolini was also the runner-up in the

waking up early," Gauff said. "I think it

singles final at Roland Garros to fourtime champion Iga Swiatek on Saturday. Swiatek beat Gauff in the singles

"The last two weeks were very nice, very emotional," Paolini said. "I have a lot of memories. I can't wait to be

Siniakova owns a career Slam in women's doubles alongside partner Barbora Krejcikova and has won eight majors - including the French Open in

Errani also owns a career Slam in doubles alongside her former partner Roberta Vinci. The Italian pair won the French Open title in 2012 - the year Errani lost the singles final.

TENNIS

"It's really special to be in this court again. I don't know how many more years I have to play. But it's always special to play these kinds of matches,' the 37-year-old Errani said. "It will be special to play the Olympics here in this place. So I'll see you in one month."

Paolini was playing in her first final in women's doubles.

Errani's serve was broken twice in the first set, and Paolini stayed on the baseline to compensate in the 11th game. The tactic worked as Errani held

Gauff and Siniakova took the first set when Errani's volley at the net went long and raced to a 4-1 lead in the second set, with Paolini 0-30 down on her

The Italians fought back to 4-3 with a service game to follow, but Errani's serve was broken again and their momentum was lost.



the women's doubles final match of the French Open tennis tournament against Italy's Sara Errani and Jasmine Paolini at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris. (AP)

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shot from outside the box to the bottom left corner of the net. It was his third goal of the campaign.

Stefan Frei totaled two saves in goal for the Sounders. Tim Melia did not have a save for Sporting KC.

Seattle was unbeaten in its last three entering the match, but the Sounders allowed the equalizer at home in the ninth minute of second-half stoppage time in a 1-1 draw with Western Conference-leading Real Salt Lake before hitting the road.

Sporting KC had not won a match

since March 30.

The Sounders return home to play Minnesota United on Saturday. Sporting KC hits the road to play the Los Angeles Galaxy on Saturday.

Roman Bürki stopped three shots in goal for St. Louis City and James



FC Dallas forward Paul Arriola (front), and Minnesota United midfielder Caden Clark battle for possession of the ball during the first half of an MLS soccer match in St. Paul, Minn. (AP)

KANSAS CITY, June 9, (AP): Rookie Pantemis had two saves for the Portland Timbers as the two clubs played to a scoreless draw.

It was the fourth clean sheet of the season for Bürki and the league-leading ninth draw of the season for St. Louis City (3-4-9), which won the Western Conference in its inaugural campaign last year.

Pantemis made his fourth start and fifth appearance, subbing in for usual starter Maxime Crépeau, who missed with international duties. The Timbers (5-7-6) stretched their unbeaten run to four behind Pantemis' second shutout of the season. Portland beat Austin FC 2-0 last time out to end a seven-match winless run on the road.

St. Louis City played Inter Miami to a 3-3 draw on the road in its previous match. It was the 15th time the club has scored three or more goals since the start of last season, tops in the

The Timbers and St. Louis City split two matches last season with both posting 2-1 victories on the road.

St. Louis City hits the road to play FC Dallas on Saturday. The Timbers are off until June 19 when they travel to play the San Jose Earthquakes.

Liam Fraser scored his first career goal to help FC Dallas earn a 1-1 draw with Minnesota United.

Hassani Dotson took a pass from Bongokuhle Hlongwane in the 9th minute and scored his second goal of the season to give Minnesota United (8-3-5) a 1-0 lead. It was the second assist this season for Hlongwane.

Dallas (3-8-5) answered with the equalizer in the 15th minute with Fraser's goal. Fraser used assists from Asier Illarramendi and Jesús Ferreira to find the net for the first time in 49 starts and 77 appearances since the start of the 2018 season. Illarramendi's assist was his third, while Ferreira notched his fourth.

Clint Irwin finished with three saves in his first appearance of the season for Minnesota United. Maarten Paes saved five shots for Dallas.

Minnesota United was missing nine players because of international duties for first-year manager Eric Ramsay, including starting goalkeeper Dayne St. Clair, along with Joseph Rosales, Robin Lod, Tani Oluwaseyi and Teemu Pukki. Lod and Oluwaseyi have combined for 12 goals and 14 assists this season.

Dallas is on a five-match winless run and has scored a Western Conference low 17 goals this season. Ferreira has gone five straight matches without a goal and Petar Musa has not scored in the last four.

Minnesota United leads the all-time series 7-6-4. Dallas is 2-5-2 on the road in the matchup.

Minnesota United hits the road to play the Seattle Sounders on Saturday. Dallas returns home to host St. Louis City on Saturday.

opener against Scotland next Friday. With mixed feelings, the team

members departed for various destinations to meet family and friends after their narrow and laborious 2-1 victory in a friendly against Greece. On Monday, head coach Julian

BERLIN, June 9, (Xinhua): The

German squad has been granted two

days off as a final opportunity to rest ahead of their 2024 UEFA Euro

Nagelsmann will regather the team

SOCCER

at their tournament compound in Herzogenaurach, Bavaria, to make final preparations. The squad hopes to play a vital role in the Euro on home ground.

As Europe's most successful team, with three titles and two second-place finishes, Germany feels the burden of expectations. Spain, also with three titles, follows closely behind.

Recent friendlies against Ukraine and Greece highlighted both defensive inconsistencies and a lack of efficiency up front. Manuel Neuer's mistake, which allowed Greece to

score, has become a major topic of discussion as Germany prepares for the Euro's kick-off on Friday. Venues and cities are setting up various public viewing spots for the event.

Coach Nagelsmann is demanding patience, expressing full trust in his selected squad. He dismissed debates about a possible change of keepers, despite Neuer's mistakes against Greece and Ukraine.

"We know about our gaps; we will solve them until the Scotland game," Nagelsmann said, while 2024 Champions League winner Toni Kroos called for more determination.

Toni Kroos, a 2024 Champions League winner, called for more determination. The Real Madrid midfielder was convinced that "we will



'We know about our gaps'

In this file photo, Germany's Robert Andrich in action during an international friendly soccer match between France and Germany at the Groupama stadium in Decines, near Lyon, central France. (AP)

Germany's second-row players stepping into limelight do well at the tournament, but we need to improve and develop greediness." Positives include the value of Germany's second-row players, such as David Raum, Leroy Sane, Nico Schlotterbeck, Chris Fuhrich, and Pascal Gross. The Brighton midfielder not only scored the winning goal against Greece but also emphasized the importance of "our well-equipped bench." Nagelsmann's strategy involves relying on a core of key players, including Neuer, Antonio Ruediger, Toni Kroos, and Ilkay Guendogan, while recognizing the contributions of the entire squad.

"It's not only eleven that make a successful tournament, but we are also 26, and everyone is important. That is a good message, and we should keep an eye on that," Gross added.

Like in the game against Ukraine, substitutes Deniz Undav and Niclas Fullkrug revitalized the German game. Gross described the recent matches as a confidence booster for the second row. "Not only I will follow every minute from the bench to be ready when I am needed. Everyone now is aware he can make a difference even when sitting on the bench at first," Gross said.



Australia's Marcus Stoinis plays a shot against England during an ICC Men's T20 World Cup cricket match at Kensington Oval in Bridgetown, Barbados. (AP)

Sports

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Australia nail England, Miller rescues S.Africa

West Indies bowl out Uganda for 39

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, June 9, (AP): Defending champion England charged at Australia's tournament-best 201 total and came up 36 runs short in a one-sided Twenty20 World Cup contest.

The first big heavyweight match - a day before India vs. Pakistan failed to live up to the billing as Australia impressively squeezed England, which hit only three boundaries in the last six overs at Kensington Oval.

Forced to bat first, Australia made a brutal start by openers David Warner and Travis Head - 70-0 in 4.5 overs but was pulled back and posted 201-7, the highest total in a week-old tournament featuring tricky pitches

Tasked with making the third biggest successful run chase in tournament history, England took a swipe but decayed to 165-6. Adam Zampa and Pat Cummins took two cheap wickets

Australia moved on top of Group B with two wins from two matches, while England remained winless with Oman and Namibia to come.

England threw offspin at left-handed openers Warner and Head without success. Head smashed Will Jacks' first two deliveries for sixes, and Warner smoked him in the same over.

Pace didn't bother the batters either. Warner hit three sixes and a boundary in one Mark Wood over.



West Indies' Akeal Hosein bowls against Uganda during an ICC Men's T20 World Cup cricket match at Guyana National Stadium in Providence, Guyana. (AP)

Luis earns recall for Copa America

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay, June 9, (AP): Luis Suárez, Uruguay's all-time leading scorer, will play in his fifth Copa América.
The 37-year-old Suarez, who

plays for Inter Miami, was in the 26-man squad named by national coach Marcelo Bielsa on Saturday. Suárez said on social media he was "very happy and proud" to be picked.

Uruguay faces the host United States, Bolivia and Panama in Group C.

"Let's go Uruguay, let's go," Suarez wrote.

He won the Copa America in 2011 and was the player of the tournament. He was picked for 2016 but injury kept him on the bench, and played in 2019 and 2021 when they reached the quarterfinals. He did not play in 2015 because he was suspended for bit-

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ing Giorgio Chiellini in the 2014 World Cup in Brazil.

Squad: Goalkeepers: Sergio Rochet (International), Santiago Melé (Junior), Franco Israel (Sporting

Defenders: Ronald Araujo (Barcelona), José María Giménez (Atlético Madrid), Sebastián Cáceres (América), Nicolás Marichal (Dynamo), Mathías Olivera (Napoli), Lucas Olaza (Krasnodar), Matías Viña (Flamengo), Guillermo Varela (Flamengo), Nahitán Nández

(Cagliari). Midfielders: Manuel Ugarte (Paris Saint-Germain), Rodrigo Bentancur (Tottenham), Federico Valverde (Real Madrid), Emiliano Martínez (Midtjylland), Nicolás de la Cruz (Flamengo), Giorgian de Arrascaeta (Flamengo), Agustín Canobbio (Paranaense).

Forwards: Brian Rodríguez (América), Brian Ocampo (Cádiz), Facundo Pellistri (Granada), Maximiliano Araujo (Toluca), Cristián Olivera (Dallas), Darwin Núñez (Liverpool) Luis Suárez (Inter MiWarner, playing England for pos-

Head went in the next over, bowled

finished the powerplay 74-2.

dan went for 18 in an over. A change to Liam Livingstone's legspin was profitable, as Marsh was

Marcus Stoinis greeted Rashid with a one-handed six over backward square, and smacked Livingstone over

off 17 - Jordan's 100th T20 wicket and Cummins was run out.

England's chase was measured but

CRICKET

cruising. Phil Salt and Jos Buttler had them 54-0 after the powerplay then took 19 runs off a Mitchell Starc over.

His first ball bowled Salt for 37 off

backward point after 42 off 28, includ-

diving catch on the boundary removed

England needed 14 runs an over with seven to go, and blasted 20 off Maxwell, including three sixes by

Bairstow on the boundary for a 13-ball 7 and blew a kiss to the England fans

25 off 15, Harry Brook and Livingstone were tied down by Hazlewood, Cummins and Zampa, the man of the

South Africa out of deep trouble against their bogey team the Netherlands in a four-wicket win on Long Island.

with four sixes and three boundaries, rescued South Africa from 12-4 in the

This was after the Netherlands was

restricted to 103-9. seven balls remaining.

The Netherlands was going for a hat

sibly the last time, was out for 39 off 16 when he backed up to a Moeen Ali delivery that stayed low.

by Jofra Archer for 34 off 18. Australia

Adil Rashid was put on the roof by captain Mitchell Marsh, and Chris Jor-

stumped for 35 and three balls later Glenn Maxwell departed for 28.

Australia reached 200 with three balls to go, and Stoinis was out for 30

Zampa spun the momentum back

Buttler then hit Zampa straight to

England was 92-2 in the 10th over and on track, but the middle order failed to fire as they were pinned down

Starc was expensive but his brilliant

who had been ribbing him. After Ali was caught in the deep for

At New York, David Miller bailed

Miller's unbeaten 59 off 51 balls,

Miller and Tristan Stubbs, with 33, saved the day in making 106-6 with

ing five boundaries and two sixes.

by the Australian battery.

But Maxwell then caught Jonny

trick of wins against South Africa in World Cups, after winning their T20 in 2022 and one-day international in

Chasing a paltry 104 for victory, South Africa's big T20 hitters failed. Quinton de Kock was run out for

duck, and fellow opener Reeza Hendricks was bowled for 3. Aiden Markram was caught behind playing down the leg side for a three-ball duck and Heinrich Klaasen holed out

Dutch medium-pacer Vivian Kingma finished his four overs with 2-12. Miller and Stubbs put on a cautious

65 off 72 balls on a challenging pitch. Stubbs was caught in the 17th over and Marco Jansen was dismissed for a golden duck in the next over, and the situation tensed up again.

But Miller held his nerve and the Proteas earned their second win in two games in Group D. Earlier, pacer Ottneil Baartman grabbed 4-11 in four overs as the Netherlands was cut down to 48-6 in 11.5 Sybrand Engelbrecht scored 40 off

Hamid Al-Hazeem stands in the middle of the winners.

45 balls to anchor the Dutch, and Logan Van Beek scored 23 to push the total past 100. At Providence, Guyana, left-arm spinner Akeal Hosein took a careerbest 5-11 as co-host the West Indies

bowled out Uganda for 39 in 12 overs to win their Group C match by 134 The West Indies made 173 after choosing to bat and bowled out Uganda for the equal lowest total in a Twenty20 World Cup match. The Netherlands was dismissed for

39 by Sri Lanka at the 2014 tourna-Opener Johnson Charles top-scored

with 44 from 32 balls in the West Indies' total of 173-5. Andre Russell added 30 from 17 balls at the end of

Meanwhile, Chen Yufei bested

South Korea's An Se-young 21-14, 14-21, 21-18 in the women's singles

final full of long rallies, which tested the nerves and stamina of both players.

In the men's singles, Shi Yuqi defeated Denmark's Anders Antonsen

The 2024 Indonesia Open was held

instead of the previously scheduled

8:45 pm. This change aligns the tim-

ing of the match with the one between

Qatar and India in Doha, which is also

in the final 21-9, 12-21, 21-14.

Match rescheduled to 6:45 pm

Kuwait aim for win over Afghanistan to 'advance' in World Cup qualifiers

KUWAIT CITY, June 9: Kuwait will conduct its final training session this evening at Ali Sabah Al-Salem Stadium in preparation for hosting the Afghanistan national team tomorrow. This match is part of the sixth and final round of Group A competitions within the joint Asian qualifiers for the 2026 World Cup in the United States, Mexico, and Canada, and the 2027 Asian

Cup in Saudi Arabia. After returning from India on Friday, where it played to a scoreless draw in the fifth round, Kuwait conducted two training sessions on the sub-field of Jaher Al-Ahmad International Stadium. To advance, Kuwait needs to win and hope that India either draws or loses to Qatar on the same day.

Immediately upon returning from India, the team entered an internal camp to raise concentration levels for the decisive match against Afghani-

SOCCER

stan. Portuguese coach Rui Pinto emphasized the importance of exploiting every opportunity and avoiding wasted chances, as happened in the match against India. He also stressed the necessity of team play and adherence to assigned roles, avoiding individual

The technical staff is awaiting a medical report on defender Khaled Ibrahim, who underwent medical examinations the day before yesterday. Ibrahim was unable to complete the last match against India due to a muscle injury sustained fifteen minutes before the end of the game. If Ibrahim cannot play against Afghanistan, Fahd Al-Hajri will replace him, as he did in the India match.

Chinese shuttlers win four titles

JAKARTA, June 9, (Xinhua): Chinese shuttlers collected four gold medals here on Sunday at the 2024 Indonesia

Mixed doubles pair Jiang Zhenbang and Wei Yaxin beat fellow Chinese pair Zheng Siwei and Huang Yaqiong 21-11, 21-14 in around 30 minutes.

In the men's doubles, Liang Weikeng and Wang Chang emerged victorious against Malaysia's Man Wei Chong and Kai Wun Tee in a three-set thriller 19-21, 21-16, 21-12.

ternational Stadium, featuring a coach

and a player from each team. The press

conference will be preceded by a tech-

nical meeting at 11:00 am at the same

at the Istora Senayan stadium in Jakarta, with total prize money for the event amounting to 1.3 million U.S. dollars. Enditem A press conference for the match The Asian Football Confederation will be held at 12:30 pm today in the has rescheduled the match between meeting room at Jaber Al-Ahmad In-Kuwait and Afghanistan to 6:45 pm,



Head Coach Rui Pinto.

Successful conclusion of beach sports village event by the Kuwait Sports for All Federation

KUWAIT CITY, June 9: The Kuwait Sports for All Federation concluded the beach sports village event at Marina Crescent, marking the final activity of the sports villages series held under the auspices of the Public Sports Authority since its launch in December last year.

Hamid Al-Hazeem, Deputy Director General of the General Sports Authority for the Sports for All sector, stated in a press release that the Authority supports sporting events and community sports, encouraging all segments of society to engage in phys-

ical activities for a healthy lifestyle. Al-Hazeem highlighted that the ports villages' activities were distributed across various governorates, with each location hosting events for two weeks, scheduled at the end of each

week. The sports villages featured numerous activities catering to all segments of society, including men, women of various age groups, and people with special needs. Special areas were des-

ignated for women to ensure privacy.

Dr. Meshal Ramadan, a member of the Board of Directors of the Kuwait Sports for All Federation, noted that the beach sports village event was held from May 30 to June 1 and again from June 6 to 8.

Ramadan mentioned that the beach sports village activities included beach soccer, beach volleyball, electronic games, and CrossFit.

He emphasized that the activities organized by the Kuwait Sports for All Federation are entirely non-profit, aiming to create a healthy society that actively participates in sports to prevent chronic diseases associated with obesity and related health issues.

Ramadan added that the Federation's primary goals are to raise awareness about the importance of sports in improving quality of life, encourage regular physical activity, promote a culture of sports in Kuwaiti society, train national sports cadres, and provide an ideal environment for sports

Best of the Rest

Cameroon defeat Cape Verde: Cameroon defeated Cape Verde 4-1 in the FIFA 2026 World Cup quali-

fiers on Saturday. Cameroon opened the scoring in the 13th minute through a header from defender Michael Ngadeu at the Ahamdou Ahidjo stadium in the capi-

tal. Yaounde.

bled the lead in the 25th minute and converted a penalty in the 44th minute for the Indomitable Lions. Cape Verde briefly threatened a comeback when Jamiro Monteiro

Captain Vincent Aboubakar dou-

netted from close range in the 37th minute. In the second half, Nouhou Tolo headed in from the center of the box in the 54th minute, assisted by Nga-

Cameroon will now travel to Luanda to take on Angola on Tuesday. (Xinhua)

deu, sealing the victory for Cam-

Kenyans dominate marathon: Kenyan runners dominated the 19th edition of the Kigali International

Peace Marathon held in Kigali,

Rwanda on Sunday. Kenya's Laban Korir won the men's full marathon in two hours. 16 minutes and six seconds, while Joan Kipyatich, also from Kenya, won the women's marathon in 02:33:27.

Kenya's Langat Francis won the men's half-marathon, while his compatriot Moseti Winfrida triumphed in the women's half-marathon.

Five Kenyans emerged among the top eight runners in the men's full marathon that also included two Rwandans and one Ugandan.

Four Kenyan athletes also emerged among the top eight runners in the women's full marathon, along with

four Ethiopians. The competition featured full marathon, half marathon and 10 km run for peace, open to non-competitive runners. (Xinhua)

Sadílek to miss Euros: Czech Republic midfielder Michal Sadílek will miss the European Championship after sustaining a leg injury while riding a bicycle, the Czech team said on Sunday.

The accident took place at the team's training camp in Schladming, Austria. Coach Ivan Hašek called the injury

of the Twente player a serious blow. The 25-year-old was one of seven players who were on the Czech team that reached the quarterfinals at the

previous Euros. He played 24 inter-

nationals for the Czechs, scoring one

goal. (AP) Miguel set for Forest move: Nottingham Forrest has reached an agreement to sign Brazilian goalkeeper Carlos Miguel from Corinthi-

South American country. The 25-year-old will be tied to the Premier League club for the next five seasons in a deal reportedly worth four million euros (around 4.3 million U.S. dollars), Globo Esporte reported on Saturday.

It added that Forest beat off inter-

ans, according to media reports in the

est in Miguel from clubs in England, Spain and Italy, including Forest's Premier League rival West Ham United. (AP)

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