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Kuwait declares June 16-18 Eid holidays

Work resumes Wednesday

KUWAIT CITY, June 11, (KUNA): The Kuwaiti Cabinet on Tuesday decided to suspend work at all ministries, state bodies, and public institutions be-



PM Diwan photo His Highness the Prime Minister chairs the weekly Cabinet meeting.

tween Sunday (June 16) and Tuesday (June 18) as an official holiday nationwide marking Eid Al-Adha.

The decision was made during the Cabinet's weekly meeting. Public servants and employees will thus be back to work on Wednesday (June 19).

Earlier, Head of the Local Affairs Sector and Government Spokesman Amer Al-Ajmi on Tuesday denied circulating rumors on social media platforms in regards to Arafat and Eid Al-Adha holiday.

Al-Ajmi told KUNA that the weekly Cabinet meeting is still ongoing and called for all to seek accuracy and credibility as well as verify news through of-

Opinion

HH Amir's acute triangle restores Kuwait's glory

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

ERNESTO 'Che' Guevara said: "If you can convince a fly that flowers are better than garbage, then you can convince traitors that the nation is more valuable than money." This is because a fly will always be a fly, and the same applies to the corrupt.

This phenomenon cannot be eradicated unless the State, any State, has access to a figure that is able to decide with firm resolve, and works for the sake of the country and its people.



Realistically, the decline that has taken hold of the country hurts a lot. This is the result of choices regarding quotas, nepotism, tribal and sectarian zeal, as well as the prioritization of personal interests over the future of the nation, over the past three decades.

All these made Kuwait go through many crises due to the poor selection of officials whose only concern was to win a share of public wealth or gain prestige, even if it was in ruins

Al-Jarallah Therefore, we saw the greatest corruption in appointments through bribery or 'wasta' (influence). This is the reason why the institutions were like farms for many officials who did not have mercy on their country and the people; while the honest and experienced people were prevented from reaching positions where they could improve the situation and work with honor and honesty.

Consequently, we heard about the scandal of officials every day. All this happened openly and no one took action until Kuwait became famous in international reports as being among the top 10 in terms of corruption.

Cheating prevailed in all of its sectors, even education -- the greatest corruption that can destroy the largest countries; because if a student is raised from an early age to cheat, he will not be trustworthy in his job. The doctor will not fulfill his oath, so the patient will die. The killer will not be held accountable for his action, because of a corrupt judge.

Here, we return to the story of the Great Wall of China. Perhaps, we can derive a lesson from it. The wall was built in the hope that other people would not invade the country. The Chinese believed that no one could climb over it due to its height and strength.

However, in the first hundred years after its construction, the country was invaded three times. Each time, the enemy did not need to penetrate or climb the wall. Rather, he bribed the guard and he entered through the gate.

So, take this as an example of building man before walls, which happened to us. For countries that benefited from the past, the first thing they did was pay attention to education and they spent a lot on it. The teacher's salary in these countries is higher than that of any official, because the teacher builds generations and trains them about responsibility and national

At this point, we remember the story of Allah's Prophet Musa (PBUH) when he escaped from the Pharaohs and went

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Email: ahmed@aljarallah.com

Follow me on:



ahmedaljarallah@gmail.com

Newswatch

BAGHDAD: Kuwaiti Ambassador to Iraq Tariq Al-Faraj, Tuesday, discussed with Iraqi Minister of Interior Abdul Amir Al-Shammari ways to boost bilateral cooperation and coordination in security matters and prepare for the latter's soon visit to **Kuwait**.

In a statement to KUNA, Al-Faraj said that they addressed the importance of exerting more efforts to promote cooperation in securing joint borders, combating narcotics and organized crime.

The two side discussed exchanging information between the two countries, in addition to arranging the waited visit of the Iraqi Minister to Kuwait next July. (KUNA)

CAIRO: Several Arab organizations on Tuesday called on all Arab countries to work in unison in a bid to provide the necessary protection and social justice to everyone, chiefly Palestinian children.

The call was made by the Arab League, Arab Labor Organization, and Arab Council for Childhood and Development in a joint statement, marking the World Day Against Child Labour, which falls on June 12.

The Arab bodies vehemently decried the crimes committed by Israeli occupation forces against childhood and humanity in the war-torn Gaza Strip in a flagrant breach of human rights, billing such violations as a stigma to the international community and human rights organizations.

Kuwait's Crown Prince begins official visit to Saudi



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Prince Mohammad bin Salman Al-Saud

Kuwaiti, Saudi relations ... 130 years of exceptional shared bonds

JEDDAH, June 11, (KUNA): His Highness the Crown Prince of the State of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, accompanied by an official delegation, arrived in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on Tuesday, starting an official visit. His Highness the Crown Prince, along with his entourage, was received at the airport by the Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammad bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, the Saudi Ambassador to Kuwait Prince Sultan bin Saad bin Khaled Al-Saud, the Kuwaiti Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Sheikh Sabah Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and the Kuwaiti General Consul in Jeddah Mohammad Al-Mutairi.

Al-Saud at Al-Salam Palace in Jeddah on Tuesday. They discussed the deep-rooted fraternal ties between the two nations and mechanisms of boosting bilateral relations, issues of common interest, and the latest developments on regional and international fronts. Attending the talks were His Highness the Crown Prince's accompanying delegation and senior Saudi officials.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah held

talks with Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Prince Mohammad bin Salman

Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia Prince Mohammad bin Salman

Al-Saud hosted a lunch banquet at Al-Salam Palace on Tuesday in honor of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and his accompanying delegation, on the occasion of their official visit. His Highness the Crown

Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and his accompanying delegation departed Saudi Arabia on Tuesday after an official visit. Bidding His Highness the Crown Prince farewell at the airport were Deputy Prince of Makkah Saud bin Meshal Al-Saud, Saudi Ambassador to Kuwait Prince Sultan bin Saad Al-Saud, Minister Turki bin Mohammad Al-Saud, and Kuwaiti General Consul in Jeddah Mohammad Al-Mutairi.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah's visit to Saudi Arabia on Tuesday -- his first official visit since his appointment as the Crown Prince -- is reflective of the strong bonds and ties between the two countries.

His Highness the Crown Prince has a track of record of achievements spanning nearly four decades during which he was able to strengthen Kuwait's position regionally and internationally and advance its develop-

On June 1, an Amiri decree by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah was issued nominating His Highness Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah as Crown Prince, and on June 2, he was appointed as Crown Prince by another Amiri decree.

The political life of His Highness the Crown Prince witnessed significant milestones and remarkable achievements that greatly contributed to shaping Kuwaiti diplomatic work and

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Day by Day

LIVING by deceit ultimately leads to ruin. This is proven by the downfall of scammers who trade in illusions and find

themselves incarcerated. The scandals of former prime ministers and senior officials have eventually come to light, albeit belatedly. They now face the shame of being

Zahed Matar



Kuwait lauds UN's Gaza ceasefire call

FM in Jordan

KUWAIT CITY, June 11, (Agencies): The State of Kuwait welcomed on Tuesday the UNSC resolution calling for a comprehensive ceasefire in the Gaza Strip and the withdrawal of the Israeli occupation forces from the re-

In a statement by the Foreign Ministry, Kuwait also commended the resolution, which called for the return of the forcibly displaced Palestinians and securing the return of humanitarian relief aid into the Gaza Strip.

The statement affirmed that adopting this resolution was a crucial and pivotal step towards ending the Israeli systematic aggression on the Gaza Strip and Palestinian civilians, adding that the international community must take responsibility to ensure the deci-

sion's implementation. Elsewhere, the international conference for emergency humanitarian response in Gaza began on Tuesday in the Dead Sea, with the participation of the representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and the Minister of For-

eign Affairs, Abdullah Al-Yahya. The conference was held upon the invitation of King Abdullah II of Jordan, the Egyptian President Abdulfattah El-Sisi and the Secretary General of the United Nations Antonio Guterres, and at the level of heads of states, government leaders, and heads of international humanitarian and relief organi-

The conference aimed to identify ways to enhance the international community's re-

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Amnesty drive in final stretch

KUWAIT CITY, June 11: Assistant Director General of Jahra Residency Department in the Ministry of Interior Colonel Mohammad Al-Dousari has affirmed that Kuwait will be free of Residency Law violators by June 17, reports Al-Shahed daily.

Al-Dousari warned that tough penalties will be imposed on whoever harbors violators, adding that intensive nationwide campaigns will be launched by the end of the grace period granted to violators to legalize their status by either paying the fine or leaving the country. He said a violator arrested after the grace period will be subjected to legal action and will be banned from returning to Kuwait. He confirmed that a violator who leaves Kuwait during

Continued on Page 5

Crown Prince Diwan photo His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah is received by the Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammad bin Salman **Kuwait highlights UN resolution on** missing persons, civilian protection

KUWAIT CITY, June 11, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait has affirmed great significance of the UN resolution addressing the issues of missing persons and civilians' protection in armed

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in a statement released on Tuesday, stated, "On the fifth anniversary of the UN Security Council's issuance of the Resolution 2474/2019 regarding persons missing in armed strife, unanimously adopted on June 11, 2019, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs expresses the State of Kuwait's affirmation of the great importance of this humanitarian resolu-

"It is considered a legal reference for international action to tackle issues of the missing persons in armed conflicts and protecting the civilians in strife.'

The State of Kuwait, on this occasion, values efforts at the local, regional and international levels to tackle the questions of the missing people in the armed strife and disclose their destiny, the ministry statement said.

It has also affirmed necessity that efforts be doubled, that stakeholders adhere to the international, humanitarian and human rights' as well the UNSC resolutions, namely Resolution 2474.

exposed, unable to hide their faces from their own children. Woe to them all. ... Yet tomorrow is another

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:
By Day: Very hot with light to
moderate northerly wind to northwesterly wind, with speeds of 08-32 km/h.

By Night: Hot to rather hot with

Weather light to moderate northwesterly

wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 06-32 km/h.

Station Max Exp Min Rec Kuwait City

Kuwait Airport Abdaly Jahra Salmiyah Nuwaisib

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





Above: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled being received at the Bayan Palace

His Highness meets Al-Sabah family at Bayan Palace

Crown Prince recalls Kuwaiti rulers, loyal citizens of past

KUWAIT CITY, June 11, (KUNA): His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah met Monday evening with Al-Sabah family at Bayan Palace and recalled during a speech Kuwaiti rulers and loyal citizens throughout the years.

During a speech on the occasion, His Highness Sheikh Sabah recalled various stands of Kuwaiti rulers in the past and its loyal citizens, which has set the most wonderful examples in confronting the most difficult circumstances and challenges to the homeland.

His Highness the Crown Prince remembered values that of fathers and grandfathers which had instilled in the most severe situations that required the solidarity and cohesion from all, and until the dear homeland crossed those difficult circumstances

and sailed its ship to safety.

His Highness Sheikh Sabah stressed the need to continue with such leadership journey towards further progress and prosperity for the nation under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-

His Highness Sheikh Sabah called on Al-Sabah family members to be the best supporters for His Highness the Amir, and to embody the best example of good morals and adherence

His Highness Sheikh Sabah stressed that the rule of the law will be respected and will be upheld for everyone without discrimination or exception, wishing them continued success and prosperity for the benefit and good of their country.



KUNA photo

Kuwait Amir's Rep. Abdullah Al-Yahya meeting with Jordanian FM. **Kuwait Amir's Rep. meets Jordanian FM**

Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya met in Jordan on Monday with Jordanian Foreign Minis-

The minister is to lead Kuwait's delegation partaking in an emergency humanitarian response conference for the Gaza Strip due at the Dead Sea on

During their meeting, Al-Yahya and Safadi tackled bilateral relations, and the latest developments in the region, mainly the emergency aid conference

The two ministers also discussed regional and international efforts to end the suffering of the Palestinian people.

ter Ayman Safadi. to Gaza Strip.

KUNA center holds training program

in collaboration with the US Embassy KUWAIT CITY, June 11, (KUNA): KUNA Media Development Center wrapped up

on Tuesday a program titled (Responsible journalism) that was conducted in collaboration with US Embassy's Public Affairs. The program saw the participation of

KUNA journalists along with other news journalists. After the train-

ing, Public Affairs Counselor at the U.S. Embassy, Dr. Mohamed, thanked KUNA for their cooperation and highlighted potential areas for further collaboration, especially

Dr Mohamed

in training journalists on verifying news sources and identifying disinformation.

He emphasized the embassy's commitment to training Kuwait-based journalists through various programs both in the United States and in Kuwait. This training,

conducted by U.S. public diplomacy expert Akram Elias, focused on analyzing news sources to distinguish between credible and less credible information.

On his part, Elias praised KUNA's initiative in creating this opportunity and gathering journalists from



different outlets to participate in this program where they focused on the main components of being a responsible journalist, especially in this day in age where disinformation is much easier to come

across. He also pointed to the fact that everything discussed had a theoretical aspect and some had practical applications as

KUNA Media Development Center was established in 1995 to train media personnel and elevate their skills.

KGAC launches electronic link with MoFA

CAPT okays MPW's contract request

By Mohammed Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 11: Kuwait General Administration of Customs (KGAC) has announced the launching of its electronic link with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for companies and individuals to submit and authenticate documents electronically, reports Al-Anba daily.

KGAC pointed out that individuals and companies can send and authenticate documents electronically through the link without the hassle of going to the concerned institution to complete such transactions. It affirmed this is part of ongoing efforts to improve services to facilitate the movement of goods.

Director General of KGAC Abdullah Al-Sharhan revealed that the link is aimed at eliminating the manual authentication process, which requires the presence of the

concerned party. Meanwhile, the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) has approved the request of the Ministry of Public Works to award the contract for the construction and maintenance of a culvert to drain rainwater in South Abdullah Al-Mubarak to the company with the lowest bid and met the conditions and specifications for a total price of KD 4.488 million.

Sources from the ministry said this culvert will absorb rainwater during winter, especially during heavy rainfall that causes

flood in the area. On the other hand, the Ministry of Public Works organized a training workshop for its officials on applying and activating institutional governance under the supervision of the Civil Service Commission (CSC).

Kuwait expresses deep concern for humanitarian crisis in Gaza

FM Al-Yahya participates in 160th Ministerial Council meet of GCC

KUWAIT CITY, Jun 11: Foreign Affairs Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya has expressed Kuwait's deep concern for the humanitarian catastrophe in the Gaza Strip; particularly the brutal war, which led to the death of thousands of defenseless civilians including children, women and the elderly, reports

Al-Qabas daily. In a statement to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) on the sidelines of the 160th Ministerial Council meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in Doha, Qatar recently; Al-Yahya confirmed that Kuwait is keen on strengthening coordination with other GCC countries in various fields to overcome the challenges that the whole world is currently witnessing, especially the situation in the Gaza Strip and the occupied Palestinian territories. He stressed the need to stop

the war in Gaza. He also highlighted the importance of the Ministerial Council meeting, indicating two other meetings were held on the sidelines -- Gulf-Yemeni and Gulf-

Turkish meetings. He said Kuwait remains committed to support Yemen in political, economic and humanitarian fields; as well as to achieve peace and stability for Yemenis in accordance with the Gulf Initiative -- the outcome of the Comprehensive National Dialogue Conference and United Nations Resolution 2216.

He affirmed that Kuwait is also keen on strengthening bilateral relations with Turkiye, particularly in the economic and investment fields, for further economic and developmental growth, which reflects positively on both sides; indicating that the Gulf countries and Turkiye have distinguished relations in various sectors.

He expressed his gratitude and appreciation to the State of Qatar for the good reception and organization of these ministerial meetings, which will enhance cooperation and integration between the Gulf states as per the vision and directives of the GCC

Al-Yahya also met with HH the Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister of Qatar Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani. They discussed the strong ties between their countries, regional and international issues, latest developments in the war on Gaza, and the Palestinian



KUNA photo

Part of the Kuwaiti-European political dialogue meeting.

Both sides discuss bilateral cooperation

MoFA hosts Kuwaiti-European political dialogue

KUWAIT CITY, June 11, (KUNA): Kuwait's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) held on Tuesday the Kuwaiti-European political dialogue meeting, headed by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad AlSabah, and Deputy Secretary-General of the External Action Service for Political Affairs in the European Union, Enrique Mora.

The ministry stated that the meeting is considered a continuation of the fourth round of the senior officials' meeting between

Kuwait and the European Union. The statement added that both sides discussed bilateral cooperation, and exchanged views on the most prominent regional and international issues of common interest.





KFH team seeing off Hajj pilgrims at the Kuwait International Airport.

As part of the bank's social responsibility

KFH sees off Hajj pilgrims at Kuwait Int'l Airport

KUWAIT CITY, June 11: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) saw off pilgrims departing for the pilgrimage to Makkah at Kuwait International Airport. This initiative reflects KFH's commitment to social responsibility and its efforts to participate in all social, religious, and national events of importance to the

The KFH public relations team, in collaboration with Kuwait Civil Aviation, warmly welcomed and bade farewell to the Hajj pilgrims. They wished them a successful Hajj pilgrimage, their acts of worship accepted and a safe return home. KFH also provided them with thoughtful souvenirs that would be useful during the Hajj

season. This kind initiative was greatly appreciated by the pilgrims, who expressed their thanks and gratitude to KFH.

KFH's presence at the airport strengthens its commitment to fulfilling its corporate social responsibility. This presence also reflects its collaborative efforts with relevant

18,853 citizens looking for jobs, shows statistics

KUWAIT CITY, June 11: The latest statistics revealed that 18,853 citizens are looking for jobs, reports Al-Anba daily quoting sources from the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM).

Sources revealed the applicants include 15 doctorate degree holders; 361 master degree holders; 10,330 have high academic qualifications; 4,128 diploma holders; 1,216 completed twoyear courses after highschool; 126 completed one-year courses after high school; 444 are highschool graduates; 202 completed a two-year course after the preparatory stage; 188 completed a one-year course after the preparatory stage; 313 completed a three-year course and above after the preparatory stage; 245 completed the preparatory stage with one year work experience; 605 completed the preparatory stage and 65 graduated from vocational

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A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'Western cultural shift in Arab societies gives rise to concern'

"THE essence of a society's culture encompasses its shared values, beliefs, norms, behaviors, and customs, reflecting the collective identity of a particular group or community," columnist Prof. Dr. Bahija Behbehani wrote for Al-Qabas daily.

"Social culture, the product of societal interactions, is deeply ingrained and evolves over time, passed down from one gener-

ation to the next. "While resistant to abrupt change, it can influenced external cultures, as seen in today's Arab countries where modern advancements, media, social



Dr Behbehani

foreign education, and travel have introduced foreign customs and practices.

"In contemporary Arab society, there's a noticeable trend among the youth to emulate Western culture, diverging from traditional values and customs

"This shift has given rise to concerning phenomena, including disregard for religious and social norms, and the adoption of Western practices that may be detrimental to individuals and society at large.

"Some resort to alcohol and drugs as a means of rebellion or escapism, distancing themselves from their roots and societal expectations

"This emulation of Western cultural elements has had adverse effects on Arab culture, leading to a disconnect between individuals and their

"Many young people have forsaken their Kuwaiti cultural identity in favor of Western ideals, viewing it as a gateway to freedom and liberation.

"Unfortunately, this inclination towards Western culture often focuses solely on its negative aspects, neglecting its positive contributions to science and innovation.

"The responsibility to address this cultural shift lies with the state and its institutions, particularly the Ministry of Education and Higher Education.

"By reforming teaching methodologies and curricula across all educational levels, the state can instill a sense of cultural pride and identity in its youth.

"However, achieving this mission requires a comprehensive approach that not only imparts knowledge but also fosters a deep understanding and appreciation of cultural heritage.

"Thus, while the educational system currently prioritizes equipping learners with the skills needed for nationbuilding, it must also prioritize cultural are not only academically proficient but also culturally aware and rooted in their societal values.

Also:

"His Highness the Amir of Kuwait has underscored a crucial issue: the need to reassess individuals who have entered the country under false pretenses, falsely claimed nationality or lineage, or held dual citizenship, especially those who have resorted to forgery to acquire Kuwaiti citizenship. These negative occurrences will be thoroughly examined and rectified," columnist Abdul Latif Al-Duaij wrote for Al-Jarida daily.

"However, this scrutiny is directed solely at those involved in fraudulent activities to obtain citizenship, not at individuals who have acquired citizenship through legitimate channels.

The focus is on pursuing those who have engaged in counterfeiting and criminal behavior, ensuring the integrity of citizenship remains intact.

"Unfortunately, some individuals have misconstrued His Highness's statements, interpreting his concerns about social security as discrimination against certain Kuwaitis or as preferential treatment for others.

"For years, these individuals have used issues of forgery and dual citizenship to disparage and undermine those whose lineage differs from theirs. His Highness's message has been twisted by those seeking to advance their own

"The citizenship issues have indeed caused tension and insecurity among many citizens in recent times, with instances of unlawfully obtained citizenship being revoked. The escalating instances of forgery, profiteering, and deceit have led some to unfairly question the integrity and loyalty of many

"It is imperative to strengthen Kuwaiti citizenship, ensuring that citizens are not perpetually at risk of having their citizenship revoked. Any fraudulent activity related to citizenship should be identified within a specific

timeframe. "Once stability is achieved and relationships are established based on citizenship, that citizenship should be safeguarded. Just as every crime has a statute of limitations, the threat of citizenship revocation should not indefinitely loom over innocent citi-

"It is essential to differentiate between those who have obtained citizenship through deceitful means and those who have genuinely assimilated into Kuwaiti society, contributing to its ad-

vancement and prosperity. "Safeguarding the citizenship status of the latter is crucial for maintaining social harmony and national unity."

"Let the wheel of achievement move forward ... With the blessed selection of His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah as Crown Prince, the State's contract has been completed under the leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. Let us put the wheel of advancement and development on the right path, God willing. The challenges we are facing are great and have accumulated over the years, but confronting and dealing with them is not a dilemma. We have sufficient resources -- both material and human -- that enable us to do so if we manage and invest them well," columnist Adel Al-Jarallah Al-Kharafi wrote for Al-Seyassah daily.

'These challenges include reforming public administration, developing its performance; implementing economic reform; ensuring sustainability of public finances, developing infrastructure, State facilities and services especially human resources; and improving the quality of education.

"All of these are the requirements for advancement, as well as the achievement of economic and social development goals. We must continue to achieve them without delay. Studies are available, people with experience and knowledge are many, and the citizen stands behind his leadership in support-

ing the process.
"It is useful to emphasize at this point that facing these challenges is not the responsibility of the government alone, although this is its primary responsibility. Everyone must shoulder this responsibility -- the State, private sector, civil society, specialists, experts and citizens. We are all partners in success and failure.

"Therefore, it is important for the government to develop partnerships, benefit from national expertise in all fields, and encourage them to perform their role in the development partnership, as this will ensure that all national energies are invested well to achieve development goals.

"Perhaps, the time has come for development planning that will help us determine our development path for the coming years -- through medium-term development plans that are realistic in goals and directions with clear policies and projects.

"În this context, it may be important to start a development plan for the next stage and to prepare it with experienced national expertise, as development planning is an important and vital tool in managing the economy and develop-

"The journey is long, but it has begun. It is often said that the path of a thousand miles begins with a single step. We must continue the journey -united and coherent -- on the basis of solid national unity, good management, wise investment of our resources, and in a spirit of national partnership. Allah is the Grantor of success.

— Compiled by PFX Fernandes & Mahmoud Ateyieh

Officials during the signing of the security agreement.

Kuwait, UAE civil aviation bodies sign security agreement

Kuwait's Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and its Emirati counterpart signed on Monday an agreement to put security personnel on civilian aircraft in traveling to both countries.

The contract was signed by Head of DGCA Sheikh Humoud Mubarak Al-Humoud Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and by Director General of the General Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA) Saif Al-Suwaidi.

DGCA told KUNA that the agreement will help increase the level of security inside the civilian aircraft to provide more comfort and security for travelers.

After the signing, the two sides discussed several common issues, most notably training and development, and matters related to the most important civil aviation events of interest to the two brotherly countries in regional and international forums. (KUNA)

MoH holds training courses for nurses

KUWAIT CITY, June 11: The Nursing Services Department in the Ministry of Health has organized two training courses for 100 nurses employed in primary healthcare centers, reports Al-Rai daily.

Director of the department Dr. Iman Al Awadhi disclosed that the first training course was held within four days for 50 nurses to improve their skills in handling emergency cases. He said visiting expert Othman Mohammad Abo Samra from Johns Hopkins University in the United States of America conducted the course.

She added the second training course was for 50 nurses and it was conducted by Dr. Ali Samaha from Beirut University, indicating the participants were trained on dealing with patients suffering from chronic diseases.

Court jails Mol officer to 7 yrs with hard labor in forgery case

KFF warns against leaving cell phones, chargers in parked cars

By Jaber Al-Hamoud, Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, June 11: The Criminal Court ruled to imprison a Ministry of Interior officer for seven years with hard labor in a forgery case, as he transferred the ownership of a vehicle without the owner's knowledge.

The court refrained from punishing two ministry employees implicated in the case.

The Public Prosecution charged the officer, in his capacity as a public employee in the Vehicles Division of the General Traffic Department, with manipulating the original vehicle ownership transfer transaction, which was delivered to him because of his job, and transferred ownership of the car to another person by forging the signature of the actual owner.

'Do not leave phones, chargers in car': Director of the Public Relations and Media Department at Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) Brigadier General Mohammad Al-Gharib has warned against leaving mobile phones, portable chargers (power banks) and highly flammable materials like perfumes and others in vehicles in light of the extremely high temperature during summer in order to prevent fire.

In a statement to the daily, Al-Gharib also clarified there is no truth to the allegation that completely filling up a vehicle's fuel tank during summer could lead to fire or explosion due to the high temperature. He said "this is not dangerous, because vehicles have a safety system that protects them even if the fuel tank is full. Car engines and fuel operating systems are specially designed to adapt to the hot climate."

He stressed the necessity of installing smoke and gas detectors in homes performing regular maintenance on ve and ensuring their safety so that they are not exposed to fire; in addition to the importance of having a fire extinguisher in vehicles, homes and boats to immediately deal with fire emergencies and to extinguish the fire before the situation worsens. He advised citizens and expatriates that if they go to beach-

es, waterfronts, chalets, farms or rest houses; they have to pay attention to children and not leave them alone to prevent drowning -- Allah forbid -- as it happened in previous years. He said those wishing to go on sea excursions must adhere

to safe sailing procedures; such as wearing a life jacket, informing the Operations Unit by calling hotline number 112 about their location and the number of people, and ensuring that the weather condition is stable.

He confirmed that all fire stations in the governorates are always ready to deal with fire reports quickly; wishing at the same time, for the safety of everyone.

Construction violations cited: Kuwait Municipality has disclosed that two violation citations and 16 warnings were issued recently to those who violated the construction regulations, reports Al-Rai daily.

The uncovered violations include non-compliance with the specified design and conditions in private and model residen-Head of the inspection team at Farwaniya Municipality

branch Saud Al-Daihani told Kuwait News Agency (KÛNA) that the Municipality is keen on taking measures against those proven to have violated the construction regulations due to the dire consequences, such as endangering lives. He explained these measures are taken gradually; starting

with the issuance of a warning, followed by the issuance of a violation citation, suspending the construction work, blocking the concerned house and filing a case if the violator does not respond.

He affirmed the inspection campaigns are continuous to put an end to construction violations as per the directives of Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Noura Al-Mashaan and Director of the Municipality Saud Al-Dabbous.

Focus on fire prevention: As part of the ongoing "Prevention and Protection" campaign, the Directorate-General of Fire Department (DGFD), in collaboration with its Public Relations and Media Department, organized two symposiums, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The first session was held at the Kuwaiti Army, followed by another session at the Kuwaiti Lawyers Association. Brigadier General Muhammad Al-Gharib, Director of the Public Relations and Media Department, graced both events with his presence. The symposiums focused on discussing the primary causes

of widespread fires and strategies to mitigate and contain their Participants also delved into the significance of acquiring fire protection equipment and explored methods for preventing

drowning incidents. Additionally, attendees were presented with a real-life video highlighting the importance of raising awareness about fires caused by children's interference or electrical short circuits.

Bid to eradicate exam cheating: Dr. Adel Al-Adwani, Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, reaffirmed the Ministry's dedication to eradicating cheating from educational systems, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Dr Al-Adwani stressed the importance of collaborative ef-

forts among governmental bodies, families, and educators to

tackle this issue effectively. "Cheating undermines the quality of education," remarked Minister Al-Adwani, emphasizing that fostering integrity within the educational system is crucial for shaping students' moral character. He highlighted the necessity of imparting essential life skills such as honesty and sincerity, alongside taking decisive action against unfair behavior.

Kuwait's environmental committee explores tyre recycling innovations

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 11: Head of the Environmental Affairs Committee in the Municipal Council Alia Al-Farsi has confirmed that the committee visited a tyre recycling factory and landfill in Salmi; where approximately 120,000 tons of damaged tyres are being processed, indicating that the visit is part of the work plan of the

Al-Farsi explained the committee's visit to the factory is aimed at learning about the uses that can be adopted after recycling

tyres in general, and what the recycling plant in Salmi (EP-SCO) does in particular, as well as the problems and solutions in the recycling process. She said the com-

mittee conducted two visits -- one to the factory and the other to the landfill, where tyres are col-

Al-Farsi lected in huge quantities and need to be sorted in line with safety standards to ensure the health and safety of individuals and the environment, especially with the prevalence of fire incidents in the region, which release harmful and toxic substances.

Recycling

She pointed out that after recycling, tyres can be used in many industries like the manufacture of flooring for sports clubs, stadiums, bicycle lanes, etc., in addition to using them as fuel for factory furnaces.

She indicated that the Basel Convention. which Kuwait signed, aims to develop strategies for dealing with hazardous waste and create an integrated table with the benefits, drawbacks and means of environmentally sound disposal of waste.

She stated that the accumulation of tyres as waste caught her attention, because it

happened despite the possibility of using them after recycling in road works as stipulated in the agreement; since they are durable, flexible, resistant to deformation and cracking, and other features.

She added the committee will hold a workshop in the future and invite all concerned parties to discuss, research and reach the desired solutions.

On the other hand, member Farah Al-Roumi stated that the field visit to EPSCO tyre recycling factory focused on the nature of its activity, and to identify the problems and obstacles to tyre recycling and use. This was followed by a visit to the Salmi tyre dumping site to determine the extent of the problem.

She emphasized that Kuwait Municipality adopts initiatives to fulfill environmental obligations and protect the environment from any negative effects of waste, especially tyres that are collected in landfills in a way that does not comply with environmental, security and safety regulations and this has caused a number of fires that pose a threat to the environment and society.

Solution

She called for the concerted efforts of the concerned authorities to reach a radical solution to the problem, as it is not possible to continue disposing tyres in a random manner, while they can be reused as raw materials for multiple industries and stressed the need to establish specialized factories to dispose tyres and at the same time generate job opportunities.

In addition, member Abdullah Al-Enezi clarified that the visit to the recycling plant comes within a series of visits carried out by the committee, which previously began with field visits to the three waste landfills located in some governorates.

Al-Enezi added in a press statement that the members of the committee, during their visit to the factory, were briefed on the manufacturing stages of the tyres that are recycled from the beginning of their entry until their final exit as a national product.



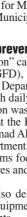


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Martyrs office' prioritizes youth health and combats drug abuse the existing partnership between the two

By Abdul Nasser Al-Aslami Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 11: The Director-

General of the Office for Honoring Martyrs and caring for their families, Salah Al-Oufan, has underscored the significance of the youth demographic and the necessity of prioritizing their health.

He highlighted the ongoing collaboration between the office and the Kuwaiti Society for Drug Awareness and Prevention, known as "GRAS," aimed at engaging with the families of martyrs to educate them about the perils of drug abuse and methods to prevent its prolif-

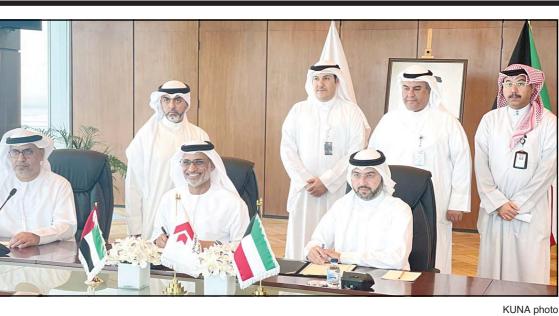
Speaking at the signing ceremony of a cooperation protocol between the office and the association, Al-Oufan expressed his satisfaction with this collaborative effort. He emphasized the importance of prioritizing youth health and highlighted entities.

Al-Oufan emphasized the office's mission to instill positive values and behaviors in both current and future generations, fostering a sense of national unity among martyr families and bolstering their patriotic allegiance.

Al-Oufan noted the association's pivotal role and commitment to advancing the objectives of sustainable develop-He outlined future objectives of the

protocol, including the development of studies and questionnaires elucidating the root causes of addiction and strategies for overcoming it. Additionally, plans include launching

comprehensive awareness campaigns, as well as organizing seminars and conferences to educate individuals about the hazards of drugs and psychotropic sub-



Kuwait pledges support for Arab disability rights



KUNA photo Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah – Minister of Social Affairs, Family, Childhood, and Minister of Youth, during her speech at the United Nations Arab Group

Minister outlines plans at UN meet

NEW YORK, June 11, (KUNA): Minister of Social Affairs, Family, Childhood, and Minister of Youth Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah affirmed that Kuwait would provide all its capabilities to monitor the implementation of the second Arab Decade of disabled persons' agreement.

This came during Dr. Al-Huwailah's speech at the United Nations Arab Group meeting on the sideline of the 17th Conference of State Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (COSP), which was held

on Monday. Dr. Al-Huwailah highlighted the capabilities of the Kuwait Public Authority for Disability Affairs, based on the national strategy and sustainable development plan, which aimed at achieving Kuwait's new vision to ensure equal opportunities "for our disabled citizens, numbering up to 65,000 by the first half of 2024.

She also mentioned Kuwait's support by adopting policies for social, health, and educational integration standards and provide job opportunities for them.

Minister Dr. Al-Huwailah affirmed Kuwait's commitment to achieving the highest level of social security and empowerment for independent living for persons with disabilities through governmental and civil partnership supported by the UN system.

She reaffirmed that this environment would provide digital access requirement for people with disabilities, through the Authority's website and the government application "Sahel" as

The Minister of Social Affairs and Labor emphasized Kuwait's keenness to support Arab efforts in international forums, as well as Kuwait's readiness to achieve and create an inclusive and comprehensive Arab society that guarantees the rights for

Reza Doust's art celebrates cultural ties

Canadian ambassador commends depth of Kuwaiti-Canadian relations across spheres

By Paul Francis X. Fernandes Arab Times/Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 11: The Contemporary Art Platform gallery in cooperation with the Embassy of Canada in Kuwait organized the Keep it Fresh 'Nature and Nostalgia' solo exhibition by artist Reza Doust curated by

In her remarks during the inauguration of the exhibition, the Canadian Ambassador to Kuwait, HE Aliya Mawani underscored the deep cultural ties between Kuwait and Canada. She emphasized how these ties contribute to fostering closer bonds between people and civilizations, facilitating constructive dialogue.

The Canadian envoy highlighted Canada's status as a nation of immigrants, emphasizing its multicultural and multiethnic fabric. She noted how this diversity enriches society while preserving its identity and heritage, allowing for the exploration of innovative ideas without forsaking tradition and reverence for history.

Expressing her delight in participating in the opening of Doust's exhibition, Mawani noted her country's support for Canadian talents. She stressed the importance of cultural convergence in building the future and coexisting in the present, citing examples of Kuwaiti doctors studying in Canada and Canadians working in Kuwait, which enhances relations between the two

Mawani asserted her embassy's full support for promoting Canadian culture, exemplified by Doust's exhibition, which embodies the preservation of natural freshness and nostalgia. She appreciated the distinctiveness of Doust's work, noting his previous successful exhibitions in Kuwait and the admiration they garnered from visitors.

For his part Doust expressed his



Canadian Ambassador to Kuwait, HE Aliya Mawani, (3rd left), with artist Reza Doust pose for a group photo during





Left to right: Artist Reza Doust with guests during the inauguration of his solo exhibition.

happiness at being in Kuwait and organizing such an exhibition, describing it as presenting new and different

He highlighted his longstanding relationship with Kuwait, having held numerous exhibitions over the years, and noted his innate talent for drawing since childhood.

Doust emphasized the Persian identity of the exhibition, given his Iranian

roots and Canadian citizenship. He commended his embassy's support for his work, recalling his first exhibition in Kuwait in 1994. Doust praised Kuwaitis for their interest in and encouragement of his exhibitions, expressing pride in this support, which motivates him to organize further exhibitions in Kuwait.

He went on to say, "For years, I've always traveled with some of my sketches, snippets of photos, and a few sugar cubes. These items serve as the foundation for my work. As I sip bitter tea with a sugar cube melting in my

Defying odds and embracing dreams

Triumph over determination & inspiration: Ahmed Fawaz Al-Hasban's inspiring journey

KUWAIT CITY, June 11: Despite grappling with the formidable challenges of triple disability - visual impairment, hearing loss, and autism - Ahmed Fawaz Al-Hasban stands tall as a beacon of unwavering resolve and remarkable determination, reports Al-Qabas

His awe-inspiring journey of surmounting obstacles not only defies the odds but also radiates hope in the sphere of disabil-

From his very birth, Ahmed's life was marked by adversity, with limited educational opportunities available in Kuwait for someone with his unique set of chal-

Recognizing the need for specialized care and education, Ahmed's father, Fawaz Al-Hasban, made the monumental decision to seek refuge at the prestigious Perkins School in Boston, US. There, amidst a nurturing environment tailored to his needs, Ahmed embarked on a transformative academic journey, buoyed by

unwavering support. Despite the barriers of communication, Ahmed's profound passion for aviation shone brightly through the language of signs and touch. His dream of joining Kuwait Airways and assisting travelers in reclaiming misplaced luggage became his guiding star.

Fawaz Al-Hasban, reflecting on their arduous journey, recounted the initial struggles in Kuwait and the pivotal role of Perkins School in shaping Ahmed's aspirations. Ahmed's innate talent for aviation blossomed early on, evidenced by his exceptional memory for airport intricacies and aircraft details.



Ahmed Fawaz Al-Hasban (right)

Seeking to refine his skills further, he underwent specialized training at the Aeronautical Museum in New York, poised to embark on his professional

A poignant visit to Kuwait Airways symbolized a significant stride towards Ahmed's aspirations, fueled by his earnest desire to contribute meaningfully to society while pursuing his personal dreams.

Fawaz Al-Hasban underscored the indispensable role of familial support in nurturing children's talents and fostering their growth, highlighting the stark contrast between families that embrace versus those that shun their children's disabili-

Ahmed Fawaz Al-Hasban's remarkable journey serves as a testament to the indomitable power of determination, resilience, and unwavering familial support in transcending adversities and realizing one's dreams. His story resonates as an inspiration to countless individuals, illuminating a path of hope and possibility amidst life's challenges.

Market innovations proposal submitted

Municipal Council member proposes to create new road access in South Khaitan

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 11: Municipal Council member Walid Khaled Al-Dagher has submitted a proposal to create an entrance and exit in South Khaitan directly on the Sixth Ring Road between Blocks One and Two, extension of Ibrahim bin Adham Street.

In the preamble of his proposal, Al-Dagher stressed the need to contact the competent authority to do the necessary work and to consider this an urgent matter. given the constant congestion at the entrances and exits in the area and its population density, and to facilitate the entry and exit movements to better serve the citizens

Also, council member Fahad Al-Khanin submitted a proposal to change the use of mezzanines in cooperative societies into central markets affiliated with the cooperatives. He pointed out that the council had earlier decided to regulate the activities of various cooperative societies and their branches. This decision stipulated that mezzanines would be licensed as shops according to the permitted activities, such as a

shopping complex. He argued that in reality, there is an abundance of activities related to shops and stores; while there is an urgent need for a central market in cooperatives.

MoH officials run check on dental center project

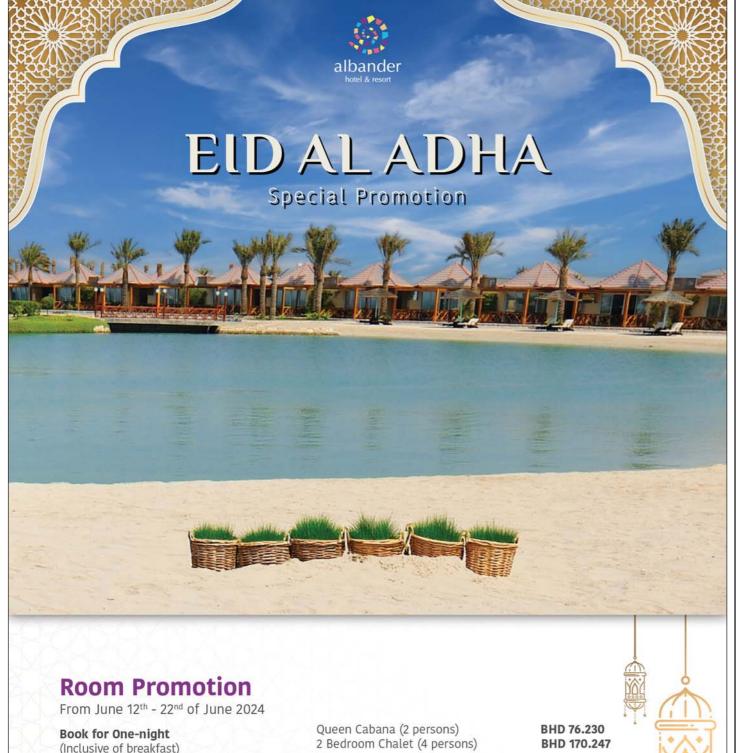
By Marwa Al-Bahrawi Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 11: Ibrahim Al-Nahham, the Assistant Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health for Engineering Affairs and Projects, conducted an inspection of the Nasser Al-Saeed Specialized Dental Center project in the Abdullah Al-Salem suburb, accompanied by Dr. Ahmed Asad, the Assistant Undersecretary for Dental Affairs.

During the visit, Al-Nahham assessed the progress of engineering works at the site, ensuring compliance with safety protocols, adherence to the highest quality standards, and adherence to the established timeline.

Dr. Asad commended the center's stateof-the-art equipment, highlighting its incorporation of the latest medical technologies.

He emphasized that this reflects the Ministry's dedication to offering a cutting-edge treatment environment that caters to the needs of patients, demonstrating its commitment to enhancing the quality of healthcare services available to citizens and resi-



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Russia Day

By H.E. Vladimir Zheltov Ambassador of Russia to Kuwait

On June 12, the Russian people celebrate its national holiday -Russia Day. Essentially, this date is associated with the adoption of the Declaration of State Sovereignty in 1990 by the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic, which

then was the nucleus of the Soviet Union. After the USSR's dissolution our country has become known as the Russian Federation. In civi-





prospect, Russia is a unique entity also called "the Russian World" with its own identity and statehood. Its rich history dates back centuries, amounting to more than a millennium. Russia's roots derive from Ancient Rus' (named by historians as Kievan Rus') which later took shape as Moscow Tsardom, then evolved into the Russian Empire and in the twentieth century appeared as the Soviet Union. The modern Russian Federation is the successor state of the USSR.

Therefore, the traits of our national character combine civilizational continuity, loyalty to our past and aspiration to the future. We treasure our Fatherland's history and remember all ordeals that fell onto our ancestors' lot. We also take pride in the achievements and the contribution of our country to theglobal civilization. Russia gave the world many outstanding and renowned writers, composers, artists and scientists. Russian culture in all its diversity is a significant and integral part of the global cultural heritage.

Due to its weight, might and influence Russia has been present on the international arena throughout ages. Our country remains one of the world's greatest powers and one of the permanent members of the UN Security Council. More than once Russia has foiled aggressive plans of notorious conquerors such as Napoleon and Hitler. Our decisive contribution to the victory over Nazism in World War II is evident and undeniable. It is the Soviet Union that broke the backbone of once invincible German military machine. Hence, the attempts of the United States and its Western satellites to rewrite world history and attribute this victory exclusively to themselves look absurd and ridiculous.

Our country made a substantial contribution to supporting national liberation movements of the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America and to bringing to an end the West European colonialist system based on a shameful concept of racial superiority and segregation. The USSR's assistance to newly established developing nationsalso played a significant rolein attaining their full independence and sovereignty.

Nowadays humanity faces new challenges. We are witnessing the decline of the obsolescent Western-centric global order, while the failing hegemony is attempting to keep this collapsing system afloat at any cost despite the ongoing irreversible global changes. In such realities, Russia stands for the establishment of a fair multipolar world order based on the principles of true equality, mutual respect and consideration of other parties' interests, non-interference in internal affairs as well as equal security for all. Russia and like-minded states strongly oppose so the called "rules-based international order" enforced by the US led collective West for the rest of the world.

In fact, most of the countries, in general, and those of the Global South, in particular, grow tired of dictate, pressure and sanctions threats of the collective West with its notorious exceptionalism and imposition of pseudo-values on the rest of the world. Even worse are the West's attempts to contain their geopolitical rivals, first of all Russia. All means and instruments are being used, including proxies such as Kiev's regime, sanctions and blatant pressure on our friends and like-minded partners.

Russia has always treated the Arab world with respect. Our cooperation was built on the basis of mutual understanding and mutual benefit. This fully applies to friendly Kuwait, which became the first Arab Gulf state to establish diplomatic relations with our country back in 1963. Last year we celebrated their sixtieth anniversary.

We value traditionally pragmatic and balanced approach of the Kuwaiti leadership to its foreign relations. It demonstrates highest wisdom and consistency of the emirate's rulers. Bilateral contacts at different levels have never stopped. They bore special meaning during the difficult period for the emirate when it was under Saddam's occupation. The Amirs of Kuwait visited Russia twice: Sheikh Jaber

Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah in 1991 and Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah

We maintain fruitful foreign policy cooperation regardless of the changes in the international situation. The heads of our foreign ministries communicate regularly in different formats. Just last year they met in Moscow twice: in July - on the sidelines of the 6th session of the Russia-GCC Strategic Dialogue and in November -during the visit of the Kuwaiti Foreign Minis-

Pragmatism and mutual benefit define the Russian-Kuwaiti economic ties. Oil policy is a special area of interest, taking into account mutual energy priorities. Our close interaction and coordination within the "OPEC+" format help maintaining stable oil prices. Regardless of the global political environment,the steady growth of the Russian food exports to the world markets, including that in the Middle East, allows for more of our agricultural products to be supplied to Kuwait and other GCC

Another area of mutually beneficial cooperation is the militarytechnical sphere.

One cannot but highlight the strengthening of our ties in the humanitarian realm and in the field of tourism. The launch of direct flights by Jazeera Airlines between Moscow and Kuwait City in the beginning of last year and the introduction of the Russian electronic visas for Kuwaiti citizens contributed to increasing the number of tourists from the emirate to our country almost tenfold. More and more Kuwaitis are discovering Russia as an attractive tourist destination. All necessary conditions are in place -rich cultural and historical heritage, abundant nature, modern infrastructure and last but not least

safety and order on the streets. In the field of cultural relations, the upcoming year of 2025 will witness holding the "Russian Seasons" in Kuwait, which will become a landmark event in our bilateral relations

Farwaniya Governor leads on-site assessment in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh

'Coordination key to welfare and security'

ICRC, Swiss Embassy commemorate 75th 'versary of Geneva Conventions

KUWAIT CITY, June 11: The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), in collaboration with the Swiss Embassy in Kuwait, organized a special film screening and discussion evening to mark the 75th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions.

This event served as a reminder of the enduring relevance and critical importance of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) in armed conflicts, emphasizing the need to uphold universally agreed-upon rules aimed at protecting humanity during times of war.

The screening featured a short film that outlined the origins of the Geneva Conventions, illustrated examples of their successful application, and highlighted their continued relevance amidst ongoing and emerging challenges.

The aim of the film was to provide an overview of IHL's crucial role in safeguarding civilians during armed conflict. The event also provided a platform for informal dialogue and reflection on how these conventions remain pertinent in the evolving landscape of armed conflict.

Mamadou Sow, Head of the ICRC Delegation in Kuwait, emphasized the significance of this anniversary, stating, "As we commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions this year, it is essential to reaffirm our unwavering commitment to these fundamental laws of war.

The Geneva Conventions have served as beacons of hope and pillars of protection. Today, we are reminded



A photo from the event.

of our duty to ensure their steadfast application and promotion.'

The Swiss Ambassador to Kuwait, HE Dr. Tiziano Balmelli, also shared his thoughts on the event, noting, "In today's conflicts, war spares no one; fighting rarely remains confined to battlefields away from civilians but also occurs in public spaces, including schools and hospitals.

"Given the numerous ongoing and erupting conflicts and the grave human suffering they continue to cause, we can hardly characterize this year as a year of celebration. Instead, the 75th Anniversary of the Geneva Conventions is an occasion for commemoration.
"We commemorate the fact that,

thanks to these rules established 75 years ago, 194 States can come together and agree on the fundamental need for human dignity, and humanitarian actors such as the ICRC can work towards achieving that goal.

The event attracted a diverse audience, including government officials, academics, members of the diplomatic community, and representatives from non-governmental organizations. The discussions held after the screening reflected a collective commitment to upholding the principles of humanity at all times

As part of the 75th-anniversary commemorations, the ICRC and Switzerland are hosting a series of initiatives worldwide aimed at strengthening education on and implementation of IHL. These initiatives include public lectures and partnerships with local institutions to promote a broader understanding of and adherence to these laws.

had issued an Amiri Order nominating

His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled

KUWAIT CITY, June 11: In adherence to directives from His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad, Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi of Farwaniya conducted a comprehensive field tour in the Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh area, reports Al-Seyassah

Accompanied by key security senior and municipal officials, including Brigadier General Saleh Al-Azmi and Deputy Director Nawaf Al-Kandari, the governor addressed the pressing challenges confronting the region.

Highlighting the area's unique demographic intricacies, Sheikh Athbi stressed the necessity for tailored solutions to issues such as single-person housing and the phenomenon of street vendors.

Emphasizing coordination among relevant ministries, the governor reiterated a commitment to enhancing welfare and security within the Farwaniya Governorate.

Expressing gratitude to all stakeholders, Sheikh Athbi underscored the urgency of immediate action to tackle social, security, and health

Following the field tour, the governor assessed security readiness at the Farwaniya Governorate Security Directorate, engaging with personnel to reinforce vigilance and adherence to the law while acknowledging their dedication and commitment to duty.

Kuwait's Crown

Continued from Page 1

determining ways to address major challenges inside and outside Kuwait.

One of these milestones was his role as Kuwait's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait's representative to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation from 1995 to 1998, during which he participated in the ministerial council meetings of the Gulf Cooperation Council's (GCC) foreign ministers.

In affirmation of the strong relations between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia spanning over 130 years - the Saudi-Kuwaiti Coordination Council was established in 2018 during the reign of the late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and the King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud.

The Saudi-Kuwaiti Coor Council's aimed to develop a shared vision to deepen and sustain relations between the two countries in line with the goals of the GCC, enhance the integrated economic system, find innovative solutions for optimal utilization of current resources and more.

On June 5, 2021, the first meeting of the Saudi-Kuwaiti Coordination Council was held under the directives of the late Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud.

On June 3, 2024, the council held its second meeting in Kuwait under the directives of the leaderships of both countries, this meeting aimed to strengthen the bilateral relations in all

The meeting of the subcommittees of the council resulted in the approval of 50 initiatives to enhance cooperation between the two countries in various fields and push the bilateral relations to new and broader horizons. The Council consists of five subcom-

mittees: the Political, Consular, and Nationals Coordination Committee; the Military and Security Coordination Committee; the Coordination Committee in Culture, Media, Tourism, and Social Development; the Coordination Committee in Energy, Economy, Trade, and Industry; and the Coordination Committee in Investment, Environment, and Infrastructure. Meanwhile, Kuwait Ambassador

to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Sheikh Sabah Nasser Al-Sabah said Tuesday the visit of His Highness Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah to Saudi Arabia reflects the strong bilateral relations outlined by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Sheikh Sabah added in a statement to KUNA that the visit of His Highness the Crown Prince just days after assuming office expresses the appreciation he has for the Kingdom.

Sheikh Sabah further added that Kuwait-Saudi relations are currently witnessing significant growth and expressed his wishes that the bilateral relations continue to grow stronger.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah as Crown Prince on June 1st, 2024.

HH Amir's

Continued from Page 1

to the land of Midian where he helped the daughters of the old man. When the old man learned of his honesty, one of the daughters said to her father: "O father, hire him. Indeed, the best of whom you can hire is the strong and trustworthy." Hence, honesty is a source of strength.

When a wise man, who is firm in his decision, came to rule Kuwait; the country began to rise from a slump and accountability was imposed on everyone -- the big and the small.

Thus, the country is enjoying the era of the torch of reform. It wants to race against time at all levels in order to get rid of diseases that have plagued it for 30 years, as well as to return to its leadership.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah chose the strong and honest ones -whether the Crown Prince, the Prime Minister or the ministries; so that Kuwait will be a spark of activity and productive projects during his reign.

An acute triangle symbol works hard to push the corrupt into the darkness of prisons and enshrine the rule of law. Henceforth, we must rejoice over such wise choices that prove we are now in the era of the torch of wisdom and reform.

Amnesty drive

Continued from Page 1

the grace period will be allowed to return on a new visa. He urged all violators to take advantage of the grace period granted to them to rectify their

He added the Residency Affairs departments in Farwaniya and Mubarak Al-Kabeer deal violators who hold valid passports in the evening shift to complete their transactions. He also confirmed the availability of many employees and big space for violators; especially the elderly and those who are sick, to ease procedures for them.

Kuwait lauds

Continued from Page 1 sponse to the humanitarian crisis in

Ĝaza, determine effective mechanism and steps for response and the operational and logistical needs necessary in this framework, and commit to coordinating a unified response to the humanitarian situation in Gaza.

Meanwhile, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Tuesday that the U.N. Security Council's vote in favor of a U.S.-backed proposal for a Gaza ceasefire and hostage release made it "as clear as it possibly could be" that the world supports the plan, as he again called on Hamas to ac-

Iran Foreign Ministry opposes Kuwait's 'unilateral' demands

KUWAIT CITY, June 11: The Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Nasser Kanaani, has strongly opposed Kuwait's unilateral demands regarding the Durra gas field during a press briefing in Tehran, reports Al-Jarida daily.

He expressed Iran's discontent with the inclusion of these demands in the final statement of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) foreign ministers' meeting held recently in Doha. The GCC reiterated that the Durra field falls entirely with-

in Kuwait's territorial waters, with resources belonging ex-

clusively to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. Kanaani emphasized Iran's rejection of any claims concerning the Durra field. Moreover, Kanaani reaffirmed Iran's position on the sovereignty of Abu Musa, Greater Tunb, and Lesser Tunb islands, asserting their integral and eternal status as Iranian territory.



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Mr. Fahed Abushaar Cluster Director of the St. Regis Kuwait, Sheraton Kuwait and Four Points by Sheraton Kuwait

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Tea Lounge delight in a traditional high-tea with an assortment of delicious desserts and a varied selection of tea. Alternatively, celebrate at Al-Hambra restaurant (Emerald Ballroom), where East meets West with our lavish buffet. Let your little luminaries enjoy the festivities at our designated children's club with various activities, games and crafts, creating wonderful memories for the whole family. Infuse your family Eid celebrations at our opulent rooms and suites, experiencing our signature butler service, catering to all your needs at the finest address in Kuwait. Alternatively, at the Sheraton Kuwait, experience the timeless elegance and heritage of our classic rooms and suites

The Four Points by Sheraton Kuwait is thrilled to welcome guests to celebrate the blessed Eid Al Adha with exclusive family room offers to enhance the Eid festivities while providing a perfect setting for a memorable celebration in the heart of

the city. During the stay, guests can access exclusive wellness facilities including the health club on the 39th floor where they can enjoy a soothing massage experience. Additionally, visitors can relax in the pool or jacuzzi located on the 42nd floor while taking in the stunning panoramic view of the Arabian Gulf. A specially crafted Eid menu has been arranged by chef Luigi at La Mamma Pizzeria featuring an assortment of appetizing Italian dishes ranging from traditional wood-fired oven pizzas to freshly prepared pasta for all family members to enjoy.

On this special occasion, Mr. Fahed Abushaar, Cluster Director of the St. Regis Kuwait, Sheraton Kuwait and Four Points by Sheraton Kuwait and Mr. Mounir Amer, General Manager of the Four Points by Sheraton Kuwait, along with the executive committee and all associates, extend their warmest heartfelt wishes to the beloved people of Kuwait and wish you all a joyous and blessed Eid Al Adha.

World News Roundup

Europe

Conservatives shift mood with promises: Rishi Sunak doesn't know whether he'll still be Britain's prime minister the day after next month's election. There's nothing unusual

What is unusual is that he's been forced to deny rumors he could quit even before polling day, amid alarm inside the governing Conservative Party over Sunak's lackluster campaign.

Sunak gets a chance - maybe one of his last - to change the narrative on Tuesday when he releases the Conservatives' manifesto, a handbook of policies that forms each UK party's

blueprint for power.



Despite gloomy polls and bruising headlines, Sunak insists the election is not a "foregone conclusion" and says resigning has not crossed his mind.

'People are going to say what they're going to say," he told reporters on Monday. "The reality is I'm not going to stop going, I'm not going to stop fighting for people's votes, I'm not going to stop fighting for the future of our country

The Conservative manifesto is a chance for Sunak to repeat his claim that a government led by Labour's Keir Starmer would raise taxes, while a Conservative one would lower them.

Sunak said before the official launch that the manifesto would include financial help for first-time homebuvers and a cut to employees' income tax. Evoking the party's most iconic leader, Sunak said the Tories were "the party of Margaret Thatcher ... a party, unlike Labour, that believes in sound money." (AP)

Zelenskyy appeals for help: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy appealed for short-term help in repairing his country's electricity network and long-term investment in its energy system as a conference to gather support for Ukraine's recovery

from the destruction wreaked by Russia's war opened Tuesday. Starting a week of intense diplomacy that will also see him travel to the Group of Seven summit of Ukraine's leading Western allies in Italy and a global peace summit in Switzerland, Zelenskyy also renewed his calls for more help in repel-

ling missile attacks by Russian forces. The two-day Ukraine Recovery Conference in Berlin follows up on a similar gathering in London a year ago.

The German hosts say it is bringing together 2,000 people from national and local politics, business and other areas, arguing that the task of supporting Ukraine's recovery is too big for governments alone.

Among other immediate problems, sustained Russian attacks on Ukraine's power grid in recent weeks have forced energy companies to institute nationwide rolling blackouts. (AP)

US lifts weapons ban on Ukraine army unit: The US has lifted a ban on providing American weapons and training to a controversial Ukrainian military unit that was key to the defense of the major port city of Mariupol, the State Department said on Tuesday.

The Azov Brigade is among Ukraine's most effective and popular fighting units - but has been dogged by its origins as a volunteer battalion that drew fighters from far-right circles and criticism for some of its tactics. The US had banned the regiment from using American weapons, citing the neo-Nazi ideology of some of its founders.

The current members of the Azov Brigade, which has been absorbed into Ukraine's National Guard as the 12th Special Forces Brigade, reject accusations of extremism and any ties with far-right movements. But the Kremlin has seized on the regiment's origins in its efforts to cast Russia's invasion as a battle against Nazi influence in Ukraine.

US law prohibits providing equipment and training to foreign military units or individuals suspected of committing gross human rights violations. (AP)

Germany hosts recovery confab for Ukraine: Germany

is hosting a conference on Tuesday to gather support for Ukraine's recovery from the destruction wreaked by Russia's war, sending a new signal of solidarity with Kyiv at the start of a week of intense diplomacy.

The two-day Ukraine Recovery Conference in Berlin, following up on a similar gathering in London a year ago, comes before the Group of Seven summit of Ukraine's leading Western allies in Italy and a global peace summit in Switzerland this

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who last week attended events marking the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings in France, is expected at the gathering, which the German hosts say will bring together 2,000 people from politics, business and other areas.

"Even during the current times of war, Ukraine needs to continually rebuild houses, water pipelines, hospitals and power grids," German Development Minister Svenja Schulze said in a statement. "(AP)

Russia, Belarus launch drills: Russia and its ally Belarus on Tuesday launched a second stage of drills intended to train their troops in tactical nuclear weapons, part of the Kremlin's efforts to discourage the West from ramping up support for Ukraine.

In announcing the nuclear maneuvers last month, the Russian Defense Ministry said they were in response to "provocative statements and threats of certain Western officials regarding the Russian Federation.'

The Kremlin has expressed outrage after French President Emmanuel Macron said he doesn't exclude deploying troops to Ukraine, and the US and some other NATO allies allowed Kyiv to use the weapons supplied by them for striking targets on the Russian territory.

Speaking to reporters Tuesday, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov noted that "such drills and maintaining combat readiness" are important in view of the "hostile decisions and actions" by the U.S. and its allies in Europe and their "daily provocations." (AP)

'Russia behind failed arson attack': Czech authorities suspect that Russia may have been behind last week's attempt

Petr Fiala said Monday. A 26-year-old suspect was arrested Saturday and charged with terrorism in connection with Thursday's failed arson attack. The suspect, who is from Latin America, faces up to life in prison if convicted, said police chief officer Martin

to set Prague public transport buses on fire, Prime Minister

"There's a suspicion that the attack was likely organized and financed from Russia," Fiala said. He said the failed attempt was likely part of Russia's hybrid war against his country.

He said the attempt was part of Russia's repeated effort "to undermine the trust of citizens in our state." (AP)

Netherlands king, queen pay tribute to MLK: The king and queen of the Netherlands began a four-day tour of the US on Monday in Atlanta, where they paid tribute to the late Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. and learned about the history of the church where he served as pastor.

King Willem-Alexander and Queen Maxima were also scheduled to visit a music studio in the city that is a hub for

The visit - and its focus on Black cultural sites - comes less than a year after the king apologized for his country's role in slavery and asked for forgiveness during a historic and emotional speech in Amsterdam.

At the King Center, Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s daughter, Bernice King, greeted the king and queen and walked with them to a marble crypt containing the remains of her father and mother, Coretta Scott King, where the couple lay a wreath. Civil rights leader and former Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young also attended the event. (AP)



Rapper Doug E. Fresh performs during a Juneteenth concert on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington on June 10. Inset: US President Joe Biden listens with Vice President Kamala Harris and second gentleman Doug Emhoff during a Juneteenth concert. (AP)

Knight, LaBelle join Biden for early Juneteenth celebration on WH lawn

US President Joe Biden celebrated the Juneteenth holiday early with a Monday concert on the White House South Lawn with singers including Gladys Knight and Patti LaBelle.

"Black history is American history," Biden told the

The Democratic president warned that some "old ghosts" in new clothes - a veiled reference to some of his Republican rivals - seek to take away their freedoms by making it harder for Black Americans

This year's concert came as the presidential election is intensifying, with Black voters sure to play an important role. Biden won 91% of Black voters in 2020, according to AP VoteCast.

Presumptive Republican nominee Donald Trump, the former president, contends that more Black voters are turning his way. While Black Americans have consistently voted Democratic, minor changes in political loyalties or low turnout in key states could influence who wins in November.

The Juneteenth concert had blatant political over-

tones with emcee Roy Wood Jr, the comedian and actor, ticking through policy achievements by the Biden administration such as capping insulin prices and forgiving student debt.

Biden signed a law in 2021 that made June 19, or Juneteenth, a federal holiday. It commemorates the day in 1865 when the last enslaved people in the United States learned they were free, more than two years after then-President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation that liberated slaves in the Confederacy during the Civil War. (AP)

Britain's Prime Minister and Conservative Party leader, Rishi Sunak, delivers a speech to launch the Conservatives' general election manifesto in Silverstone, England, on June 11 in the build-up to the UK general elec-tion on July 4. (AP)



Roberts



America

2 Bronx men plead guilty: Two men connected to a toddler's fatal opioid overdose at a New York City daycare have pleaded guilty to drug charges and causing bodily harm, prosecutors said. The men admitted to storing fentanyl in

the floorboards of a Bronx daycare's playroom, prosecutors said.

Felix Herrera Garcia, 35 pleaded guilty Monday to three felony drug trafficking charges, including narcotics possession with intent to distribute resulting in serious bodily injury. Prosecutors said they secured a guilty plea from Parras Paredes, 38, on one similar count. Both men are from the Bronx.

One 22-month-old child, Nicholas Dominici, died from ingesting fentanyl at the Divino Niño daycare in September. Three other children survived after medics administered the overdose-reversing drug Narcan. (AP)

Alito questions 'compromise': Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito is heard questioning whether compromise between the left and right is possible in a conversation posted on social media Monday. The conservative justice is also heard agreeing with a woman who says the United States

should return "to a place of godliness." The audio was posted on X by liberal filmmaker Lauren Windsor. She said it was recorded at the Supreme Court Historical

Society's annual dinner last week. "One side or the other is going to win," Alito said. "There can be a way of working, a way of living together peacefully, but it's difficult. vou know, because there are differences on fundamental things that really can't be compromised."

Politics

Biden plans to head to Camp David

Dems step up to try to stop Project '25

WASHINGTON, June 11, (AP): Warning about the far-right Project 2025 agenda for a Donald Trump White House, a group of House Democrats has launched a task force to start fighting the proposal and stop it from taking hold if the Republican former president returns to power.

Democratic Rep. Jared Huffman of California is unveiling The Stop Project 2025 Task Force on Tuesday, the latest sign that congressional Democrats and outside groups are treating Trump's campaign seriously in the expected rematch against Democratic President Joe Biden this fall.

'The stakes just couldn't be higher," Huffman told The Associated Press. Huffman said the Project 2025 agenda will hit "like a Blitzkrieg" and lawmakers need to be ready.

"If we're trying to react to it and understand it in real time, it's too late,' he said. "We need to see it coming well in advance and prepare ourselves accordingly.

The Democratic-led task force comes as groups on and off Capitol Hill are increasingly alarmed over Project 2025, a sweeping blueprint from the conservative Heritage Foundation that is preparing to quickly help staff a new GOP administration with plans for dismantling aspects of the federal government and installing loyalists for a second Trump term.

While the Trump campaign has repeatedly said the outside groups do not speak for the former president, Project 2025's 1,000-page proposal was drafted with input from a long list of

former Trump administration officials who are poised to fill the top ranks of a potential new administration.

Core to the Project 2025 plan is ousting thousands of civil servants and replacing them with personnel from a database of applicants, an effort to reverse the setbacks of Trump's first term, when many of his more extreme ideas were thwarted and blocked by those refusing to break norms, violate laws or overextend presidential pow-

Huffman's group is the latest to take on the Project 2025 proposal and plans for a Trump White House.

Promise

Last week, one of the nation's leading civil rights organizations, the American Civil Liberties Union, announced it was preparing potential legal action to stop Trump's campaign promise to launch mass deportations of immigrants on the first day of his presidency if elected. It's the first of several memos the ACLU is rolling out, offering a blueprint on how it plans to respond to a second Trump or Biden term.

And others are detailing the threats to democracy if Trump's attacks on the justice system, plans to pardon those convicted in the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol and threats of vengeance on political enemies take hold.

Huffman's group is made up of about a half-dozen House Democratic lawmakers in a loose coalition separate from party leadership. It plans to begin briefing fellow lawmakers about Project 2025, hold a forum on Capitol Hill and inform voters about the ideas.

The idea is for the group to provide a central hub of information for lawmakers, voters and organizations about the various policy proposals, including immigration, reproductive rights and others.

As a founder of the Freethought Caucus on Capitol Hill, Huffman said he has particularly been alarmed about the rise of Christian nationalism within GOP ranks and efforts to push more conservative theology into govern-

Also:

WASHINGTON: After back-to-back trips to Europe, President Joe Biden plans to head to Camp David next week to prepare for his first 2024 debate with former President Donald Trump, hunkering down at the woodsy Maryland hideaway that has hosted many similar cram sessions in the past.

Biden spent most of last week in France marking the 80th anniversary of D-Day. He goes to Italy on Wednesday for a summit of the Group of Seven industrialized nations and then straight to Los Angeles for a weekend fundraiser featuring Hollywood superstars George Clooney and Julia Roberts.

All that travel has left Biden little time to devote to preparation for the June 27 debate. A second faceoff is set for Sept 10.

A person with knowledge of the president's plans, who insisted on ano-

nymity to more freely discuss them. suggested Biden could spend the better part of a week at Camp David getting ready for the first debate.

Windsor also spoke with Chief Justice Roberts responded, "I don't know if that's John Roberts, who rejected a similar argument. When Windsor suggested the court should lead the nation on a "Christian" path,



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, left, and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, right, attend the Ukraine Recovery Conference in Berlin, Germany on June 11. Zelenskyy appealed for short-term help in repairing his country's electricity network and long-term investment in its energy system as a conference to gather support for Ukraine's recovery from the destruction wreaked by Russia's war opened Tuesday. (AP)

Shipping channel fully reopens: The main shipping channel into Baltimore's port has fully reopened to its original depth and width following the March 26 collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge, which blocked most maritime traffic into the harbor.

Officials announced the full reopening in a news release Monday evening. It comes after a massive cleanup effort as crews removed an estimated 50,000 tons of steel and concrete from the Patapsco River.

The channel was blocked by wreckage of the fallen bridge, which collapsed after a container ship lost power and crashed into one of its supporting columns, sending six members of a roadwork crew plunging to their deaths. All of the victims were Latino immigrants working an overnight shift to fill potholes on the bridge. (AP)

Ex-police officer gets life: A retired police officer convicted of murdering four people, including a man he tortured and strangled over stolen drug money, was sentenced Monday to four consecutive life terms in prison.

Nicholas Tartaglione, 56, who had been an officer in the Hudson River Valley village of Briarcliff Manor, was convicted last year. His case drew attention both because of the brutality of the crime and because Tartaglione was briefly a cellmate of Jeffery Epstein, the politically connected playboy who killed himself while awaiting trial on federal sex trafficking charges. (AP)

Africa

UN praises Tunisia

Malawi VP, 9 others dead in plane crash

BLANTYRE, Malawi, June 11, (Agencies): Malawian Vice President Saulos Chilima and nine other people died when the small military plane they were traveling in crashed in bad weather in a mountainous region in the north of the country, the president said Tuesday. Chilima was 51.

President Lazarus Chakwera announced in a live address on state television that the wreckage of the plane had been located after a search of more than a day in thick forests and hilly terrain near the northern city of Mzuzu. He said the wreckage was found near a hill and the plane had been "completely destroyed" and everyone onboard was killed on impact.

Chakwera said he had been informed by the head of Malawi's armed forces that the plane had been found and "I am deeply saddened and



sorry to inform you all that it has turned out to be a terrible

"Words cannot describe how heartbreaking this is and I can only imagine how much pain and anguish you all must be feeling at this time, as well as how much pain and anguish you all will be feeling in the coming days and weeks as we mourn this terrible loss,' Chakwera said.

He said Chilima was "a good man, a devoted father and husband, a patriotic citizen who served his country with distinction, and a formidable vice president."

Chakwera asked everyone to observe a moment's silence and stood with his head bowed at the podium where he was making his address.

Former first lady Shanil Dzimbiri, the ex-wife of former President Bakili Muluzi, was also on the plane, the president had said. There were seven passengers and three military crew members onboard.

The group was traveling to Mzuzu to attend the funeral of a former government minister. Chilima had just returned from an official visit to South Korea on Sunday.

Hundreds of soldiers, police officers and forest rangers had been searching for the plane since it went missing Monday morning while making the 45-minute flight from the southern African nation's capital, Lilongwe, to Mzuzu, around 370 kilometers (230 miles) to the north.

Visibility

Air traffic controllers told the plane not to attempt a landing at Mzuzu's airport because of bad weather and poor visibility and asked it to turn back to Lilongwe, Chakwera said in an address late Monday night. Air traffic control then lost contact with the aircraft and it disappeared from radar, he said.

The president described the aircraft as a small, propeller driven plane operated by the Malawian armed forces. The tail number he provided showed it to be a Dornier 228-type twin propeller plane that was delivered to the Malawian army in 1988, according to the ch-aviation website that tracks aircraft information.

Around 600 personnel were involved in the search in a vast forest plantation in the Viphya Mountains near Mzuzu, authorities said, including around 300 police officers, 200 soldiers and local forest rangers.

Chilima was serving his second term as vice president. He was also in the role from 2014-2019 under date in the 2019 Malawian presidential election and finished third, behind the incumbent, Mutharika, and Chakwera. The vote was later annulled by Malawi's Constitutional Court because of irregularities.

Chilima then joined Chakwera's campaign as his running mate in an historic election rerun in 2020, when Chakwera was elected president. It was the first time in Africa that an election result that was overturned by a court resulted in a defeat for the sitting president.

Chilima had recently faced corruption charges over allegations that he received money in return for influencing the awarding of government procurement contracts for the Malawi armed forces and the police, but prosecutors dropped the charges last month. He had denied the allegations, but the case led to criticism that Chakwera's administration was not taking a hard enough stance against graft.

The search for the plane lasted more than 24 hours and provoked an international response. Chakwera had said the U.S., the U.K., Norway and Israel had offered assistance in the search operation and had provided "specialized technologies."

The US Embassy in Malawi said it also had assisted and had offered the use of a Department of Defense small C-12 plane.

Also:

TUNIS: UN Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations Jean-Pierre Lacroix on Monday praised Tunisia's contribution to the different UN missions it participates in, said a statement released by Tunisian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Lacroix made the remarks during his meeting with Tunisian Minister of Foreign Affairs Nabil Ammar in the capital Tunis.

On the occasion, the UN official extended his department's appreciation for the proactivity and flexibility of the Tunisian authorities in peacekeeping.

Lacroix also praised the discipline, professionalism and initiative that Tunisian forces displayed in the five UN peace missions in Africa, while requesting a greater and more diverse presence of Tunisian staff in leadership positions.

For his part, the Tunisian foreign minister stressed the importance that Tunisia attaches to its participation in peacekeeping operations as part of its commitment to the objectives and principles of the UN for maintaining international peace and security.

GENEVA: The number of internally displaced people in Sudan has reached more than 10 million as war drives about a quarter of the population from their homes, the U.N. migration agency told The Associated Press on Monday.

More than 2 million other people have been driven abroad, mostly to neighboring Chad, South Sudan and Egypt, International Organization for Migration spokesman Mohammedali Abunajela said. The IOM said the internally displaced include 2.8 million who fled their homes before the current war began.

"Imagine a city the size of **London** being displaced. That's what it's like, but it's happening with the constant threat of crossfire, with famine, disease and brutal ethnic and gender-based violence," IOM Director-General **Amy Pope** said in a statement.

Sudan's latest conflict began in April last year when soaring tensions between the leaders of the military and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces exploded into open fighting in the capital, Khartoum, and elsewhere in the country.



US troopers prepare to board US Army CH-47s at Paredes Air Station at Pasuquin, Ilocos Norte province as it carries US and Philippine troops during a joint military exercise in northern Philippines on May 6. Hundreds of American and Filipino troops concluded on June 10 a new combat exercise in the northern Philippines which tested their endurance in more than a week of brutal heat and volatile weather and braced them to respond to any threat in tropical jungles and on scattered islands, two US and Philippine generals said. (AP)



South Sudanese who fled from Sudan sit outside a nutrition clinic at a transit center in Renk, South Sudan on May 16, 2023. The UN migration agency told The Associated Press on June 10 that the number of internally displaced people in Sudan has reached more than 10 million. (AP)



Lat/Am

9 hurt in Acapulco explosion: Nine people were injured by an explosion in the main square of Mexico's Pacific coast resort of Acapulco, officials said Monday.

Prosecutors in the southern state of Guerrero did not specify what caused the explosion late Sunday, but some of the injured had burns, suggesting a flammable device. One of the victims, a baby, was in serious

Officials did not specify whether the victims were local residents or tourists, but the restaurant-lined square is popular among both. The state government statement said it was "taking care of Acapulco residents as well as tourists, following the incident.'

Acapulco, which was hit by Category 5 Hurricane Otis in October, has long seen grisly violence.

In late May, the bodies of four men and two women were found strangled and dumped in a pile in Acapulco. The bodies were found on a street with their hands tied behind their backs. The previous week, five dismembered bodies found scattered on a street in Acapulco. One of the victims was a candidate for a town council seat in the nearby town of Coyuca de Benítez. (AP)

4,200 flee Mexico town: Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador acknowledged Monday that authorities have had to set up camps for displaced people after some 4,200 residents fled a town in the southern state of Chiapas. Residents of the town of Tila fled over

the weekend after armed gangs shot up the town and burned many homes last week, state prosecutors said. It was probably the biggest mass displacement in Chiapas since 1997.

Some residents recounted spending days trapped in their homes before army troops and state police showed up over the weekend to allow them to leave.

Photos distributed by state authorities showed people fleeing with just purses on their shoulders, or sometimes small backpacks or shoulder bags.

López Obrador depicted the assault as "a conflict between the very same people" of the town of Tila, an apparent reference to a longstanding land dispute between farm-

Víctor Gómez, a resident of Tila, said many people spent three days in their homes, too afraid to go outside, before federal forces arrived. (AP)

Ecuador landslide kills 2: Two teenagers were killed by a landslide during heavy Asia

South Korean troops fire warning shots

US and Philippine forces end war drills

MANILA, Philippines, June 11, (AP): Hundreds of American and Filipino troops concluded Monday a new combat exercise in the northern Philippines that tested their endurance in more than a week of brutal heat and volatile weather and braced them to respond to any threat in tropical jungles and on scattered islands, two U.S. and Philippine generals said.

The Biden administration has been strengthening an arc of military alliances in the Indo-Pacific to better counter China, including in any possible confrontation over Taiwan and other Asian flash points. The move has dovetailed with Philippine efforts to shore up its territorial defenses amid escalating disputes with Beijing in the South China

The large-scale battle drills, which have been held in Hawaii in recent years under the U.S. Army's Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Center, have been introduced in the Philippines this year. There is also a version in Alaska. The exercises allow the US Army, its allies and friendly forces to train in extreme conditions "where they are most likely to operate from archipelagos, jungles and heat in the tropics to high-altitude and extreme cold in the Arctic," said Maj. Adan Cazares, a public affairs officer of the U.S. Army's

25th Infantry Division. The June 1-10 warfighting exercise began with an air assault on mock enemy forces to allow the deployment of U.S. and Filipino soldiers who secured an area, which served as a staging ground before a major offensive. When their communication lines for supplies were threatened, top commanders decided to shift to a defensive assault and repelled the enemy attempt and successfully launched the offensive.

Key aspects of the mock battle, including the planning, deployments, logistical preparations and contingency readiness, were reviewed by military assessors for combat efficiency.

Also:

SEOUL, South Korea: South Korean soldiers fired warning shots after North Korean troops briefly violated the tense border earlier this week, South Korea's military said Tuesday, as the rivals are embroiled in Cold War-style campaigns like balloon launches and propaganda broadcasts.

Bloodshed and violent confrontations have occasionally occurred at the Koreas' heavily fortified border, called

rains early on Monday, when their bedroom

wall collapsed on an island in El Salvador,

The landslide took place on the

Meanguera del Golfo island in the Gulf of

authorities said.

Chinese premier Li to visit New Zealand, Australia and Malaysia

MELBOURNE, Australia, June 11, (AP): Chinese Premier Li Qiang visit New Zealand, Australia and Malaysia starting Thursday, officials said. Li will visit the three countries

from June 13 to 20, a Chinese Foreign Ministry statement said Tues-Australia earlier announced that Li would land in the Australian city

of Adelaide on June 15 and leave Perth on June 18. Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Li are to hold an annual leaders' meeting at Parlia-

ment House in the Australian capital, Canberra, during the visit. The New Zealand and Malaysian governments have yet to announce Li's itinerary in their countries.

Li's visit to Australia and New Zealand will be the first by a Chinese premier, the second most powerful official in China's leadership, in seven years. A Chinese premier hasn't visited Malaysia since 2015.

Li's Australian trip follows a visit by Albanese to Beijing last November, when leaders agreed to resume key bilateral dialogues and further several areas of cooperation.

China imposed a series of official and unofficial trade barriers

that cost Australian exporters up to 20 billion Australian dollars (\$13 billion) a year after Australia's previous government urged an international inquiry into the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Stabbing suspect detained: Chinese police have detained a suspect in a stabbing attack on four instructors from Iowa's Cornell College who were teaching at a Chinese university in the northeast city of Jilin, officials said Tuesday.

Jilin city police said a 55-yearold man surnamed Cui was walking in a public park on Monday when he bumped into a foreigner. He stabbed the foreigner and three other foreigners who were with him, and also stabbed a Chinese person who approached in an attempt to intervene, police said.

The instructors from Cornell College were teaching at Beihua University, officials at the US school

The injured were rushed to a hospital for treatment and none was in critical condition, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian said at a daily briefing Tuesday. He said police believe the attack in Jilin city.

the Demilitarized Zone. While Sunday's incident happened amid simmering tensions between the two Koreas, observers say it won't likely develop into another source of animosity as South Korea believes the North Koreans didn't deliberately commit the border intrusion and North Korea also didn't return fire.

At 12:30 pm on Sunday, some North Korean soldiers who were engaged in unspecified work on the northern side of the border crossed the military demarcation line that bisects the two countries, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said.

TAIPEI, Taiwan: Taiwanese authori-

ties are investigating how an alleged former Chinese naval officer sailed a small boat into a strategic river mouth that leads to the capital of the self-governing island republic.

The small boat was detected off the coast but apparently was not interdicted until it began interfering with ferry traffic across the Tamsui River, which flows from the mountains of inner Taiwan into the 160-kilometer (100-mile) -wide Taiwan Strait that separates Taiwan and China, which split during a civil war in 1949.

The boat's pilot was identified as a 60-year-old former officer in China's People's Liberation Army Navy surnamed Ruan, the official Central News Agency said, raising questions as to whether the voyage was an attempt to test Taiwan's detection and defense capabilities amid rising Chinese threats to conquer the island it claims as its own territory.

The municipality, La Union Sur, report-

Salmeron said the victims were 13 years and

Fonseca. The deaths were confirmed by coast. the Defense Ministry and President Nayib ed walls collapsing in other homes on the Bukele's office. island as well. Mayor Victoria Gutiérrez

El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua border the Gulf of Fonseca along the Pacific

17 years old. (AP) Power outage worries many: Towns in central and southern Puerto Rico are struggling to emerge from a prolonged power outage that forced authorities in the US territory to activate an emergency response team on Monday and request food distribution to those in need.

The outage occurred more than a week ago, leaving tens of thousands of clients without power after a transformer that twice exceeded its useful life collapsed.

Officials with Luma Energy, which operates transmission and distribution for Puerto Rico's power authority, have said repairs could take more than a month. The announcement sparked widespread anger, especially since the outage has disrupted water service and comes amid daily excessive heat warnings, with the Atlantic hurricane season just starting.

Some politicians are demanding that Gov Pedro Pierluisi declare a state of emer-

More than 40% of Puerto Rico's 3.2 million people live below the poverty level, and not everyone can afford generators or replace costly electric appliances damaged by the outages. (AP)



Tourists walk past a gateway with the name 'Beishan' seen at the Beishan Park in northeastern China's Jilin province on Jan 23, 2020. Chinese police have detained a suspect in a stabbing attack on four instructors from lowa's Cornell College who were teaching at a Chinese university in the northeast city of Jilin, officials said on June 11. (AP)

oil surges

The price of Kuwaiti oil went up by 12 cents to USD 82.56 per barrel on Monday from USD 82.44 pb last Friday, said the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) on Tuesday.

The price of the Brent crude at the global markets went up by USD 2.01 to USD 81.36 per barrel, the same occurred with the West Texas Intermediate, which went up by USD 2.21 to USD 77.74 pb. (KUNA)

A report by Al-Shall highlights a mixed performance among global markets in May following a predominantly negative trend in April, while the month of May saw a slight improvement with 8 markets showing gains compared to 6 incurring losses, contrasting the end of April's figures, reports Al-Jarida daily. Expanding the scope to the first five months of the year, the overall performance ap-

pears more positive. Out of 14 markets, 10 recorded gains, while 4 Gulf markets struggled, showing losses compared to year-end indicators. The standout performer for May was the German market, posting a 3.2% increase, maintaining its position as the secondhighest gainer since the year's onset, with a total gain of approximately 10.4%

The US market, represented by the Dow Jones Index, followed suit with a 2.3% gain in May, accumulating a 2.6% increase over the year. The British market saw a 1.6% rise in May, pushing its gains for the year to about 7.0%. The Muscat and Bahrain Stock Exchanges recorded gains of 1.3% and 0.5%, respectively.

11,775.47

6.410.07

72,735.13

The Japanese market experienced marginal gains of 0.2% in May, retaining its position as the top gainer since the year's commencement, with gains of about 15.0%. The French market saw a minimal increase of 0.1%

Conversely, the Kuwait Stock Exchange had the lowest gains in May, with its general index rising by about 0.01%, stabilizing its gains since the year's start at 3.4%

May's biggest loser was the Saudi market, witnessing a -7.2% decline, pushing it into negative territory for the year with losses of approximately -3.9%. Dubai's market followed with losses of about -4.4%, similarly entering negative territory for the year at -2.2%

The Qatar Stock Exchange continued its downward trend with losses of -4.2%, retaining its position as the biggest loser for the year at about -14.0%. Abu Dhabi's market recorded losses of -2.3%, totaling -7.5% for the year.

In May, the Indian market saw losses of -0.7%, while the Chinese market incurred mini-

mal losses of -0.6%, insufficient to push them into the negative for the year.

Market Movements

DUBAI JAPAN

Change Closing pts +35.41 4,008.93 - Nikkei 225 +96.63 39.134.79 26,082.29 +185.73

Change Closing pts SAUDI -78.35 PHILIPPINES - PSEi -48.57 PAKISTAN - KSE 100 -493.47

11-06-2024



global markets show mixed performance in May, reports Al-Shall

First Boursa Kuwait listing since 2022

Beyout Investment Group Holding Company K.S.C. commences trading on Boursa Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, June 11: Beyout Investment Group Holding ("Beyout Investment Group" or "BIG Holding" or "BIG" the "Company"), the regional pioneer in providing comprehensive human resources and project life cycle support complemented by real estate services, has been admitted to trading on the Boursa Kuwait's 'Premier Market' today, following the successful completion of its private secondary offering (the "Offering"). Beyout Investment Group is now traded under the symbol "BEY-OUT" and ISIN "KW0EQ0210082".

The offering was composed of a total of 90,000,000 ordinary shares, representing 30% of BIG Holding's issued share capital and generated approximately 45m KWD of gross proceeds for the selling shareholders. The final offer price was set at 500 Fils per share, at the top of the price range, and saw strong investor demand oversubscribed at a rate of ~17x. The total cumulative demand for BIG Holding shares amounted to c. 771m KWD. The Company has an implied market capitalisation of approximately 150m KWD (c. 488m USD) at the

Speaking at the Boursa Kuwait listing ceremony, Abdulrahman Al Khannah, Chief Executive Officer of Beyout Investment Group, commented:

"Today is a proud and historic moment for Beyout Investment Group and its subsidiaries Kuwait Resources House, Real Estate House, and Borooj Real Estate Investment, as the Company begins a new chapter as a listed business. The Company is deeply rooted within



Boursa Kuwait hosts bell-ringing ceremony for BIG's listing.

Kuwait and is also a well-known name across the wider GCC; this listing is truly the culmination of the efforts of many involved parties. I would like to personally thank our employees for their hard work and dedication, our clients for their long-standing trust, and our many advisors who have supported us along the way to get us to this landmark moment. Naturally, I would also like to thank our new shareholders for their trust in our business and vision. Let us unleash BIG's potential,

Al Khannah added: "We now look ahead and will focus on driving BIG's growth strategy, with continued emphasis on growing the core business and expanding and diversifying its service offering across the GCC. Over the coming years, we look to identify more opportunities for synergies and alignment between BIG and our subsidiaries - to maximise opportunities and create shareholder value."

Details of the Offering and the final Offering Memorandum are available in both English and Arabic language under the Key Documents section on www.bigholding.com/big-holding-private-placement/. For further details you can contact ir@bigholding.com.

National Investments Company K.S.C.P. and EFG-Hermes UAE Limited (acting in conjunction with EFG Hermes UAE LLC) have been appointed as Joint Global Coordinators and Joint Bookrunners. National Investments Company K.S.C.P. has been appointed as investment and listing advisor.

Bank financing for construction sector rises annually by \$400m

Govt bank deposits fall by 32m dinars in April



WHO and KGBC visit NBK headquarters for Green Building tour.

Bank promotes health & well-being through green design

NBK hosts delegation from WHO & Kuwait Green Building Council

KUWAIT CITY, June 11: Marking World Environment Day,a delegation from the World Health Organization (WHO) Kuwait Country Office, and Kuwait Green Building Council (KGBC) paid a visit to National Bank of Kuwait (NBK's) headquarters to tour the building which stands out as a notable example of environmentally sustainable practices that promote health and well-being.

The tour aimed to showcase environmentally sustainable building practices and advocate for the links between the built environment and good health.

It featured a group of decision-makers and specialists in urban sustainability, including members of the Municipal Council, representatives of Environment Public Authority (EPA), the Ministry of Health, and WHO Healthy Cities Initiative, in addition to researchers specialized in sustainable building from Kuwait University and the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR), and representatives of UN agencies in Kuwait.

The tour, which saw the participation of 22 officials and specialists, aimed to highlight environmentally sustainable urban practices that have a positive impact on human health.

The participants discussed the best ways to promote green building practices among institutions and individuals for good health and well-being.

Dalal Al-Hashash, the General Manager of the Kuwait Green Building Council, stated, "This tour aimed to highlight an outstanding example of green buildings in Kuwait and to spark meaningful discussions among stakeholders. Our focus is on shaping policies and actions that support sustainable development, promote environmentally friendly practices, and prioritize human health in urban planning.

"There is often a lot of focus on the impact of the natural environment on health and wellbeing, sometimes stakeholders and communities forget about the impact of the built environment. This collaboration with the National Bank of Kuwait and Kuwait Green Building Council is an important opportunity to highlight the critical links between infrastructure and health. By convening policymakers and civil society from across sectors in Kuwait, we are ensuring that good practices, data, and technical expertise come together to further improve the policy landscape for infrastructure that bolsters health and wellbeing of the community in Kuwait" said Dr. Assad Hafeez, WHO Representative to the State of Kuwait.

This visit underscores NBK's dedication to adopting the highest sustainability standards, endeavors to reduce our environmental footprint, and setting an exemplary model for eco-friendly construction practices in Kuwait.

As part of its strides to embrace modern architecture of green buildings, NBK designed its headquarters in a way that ensures harmony with the surrounding environment and reduces any negative environmental impact by using low-emission materials, including the paints, coatings and adhesives, in addition to a construction and building operations waste segregation and management system.

In line with its sustainability agenda, NBK strongly supports the global trend of transitioning to a low-carbon economy and mitigating climate change risks. In this context, NBK headquarters is the first LEED Gold-certified building in Kuwait under the LEED v2009 Certificate for Building Design and Construction granted by USGBC. It was also named "Commercial Property Project of the Year", in MEED's Project Awards for the MENA region for 2021.

The benefits of green buildings extend beyond cost reduction and efficient construction methods; they also offer a healthy and safe living environment. The NBK headquarters' design focuses on employee health and well-being by ensuring superior indoor air quality, utilizing the use of safe materials, and minimizing exposure to toxic and hazardous substances. Advanced air filtration systems maintain air purity, especially in dusty conditions, by removing harmful particulates from indoor air. The building promotes physical health through amenities such as a gym and an on-site medical clinic open to all staff. Mental health is also prioritized with open spaces that encourage social interaction, green areas, and access to natural sunlight.

By Mahmoud Shendi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 11: In April, the bank financing balance for the construction sector witnessed a significant annual increase of \$400 million.

However, local bank financing to the construction sector experienced a decline on a monthly basis, decreasing by 164.3 million dinars or 54.4%, reaching 137.4 million dinars compared to about 301.7 million dinars in March.

According to the monthly statistics issued by the Central Bank of Kuwait for April, financing for the construction sector increased by 2.4 million dinars or 2.4% annually totaling 135 million dinars in April 2023.

The total financing provided by banks to the construction sector during the first four months of the vear amounted to approximately 971.1 million dinars.

The accumulated balance of construction financing provided by local banks witnessed a slight monthly increase of 0.07%, totaling two million dinars from 2.820 billion dinars in March to 2.822 billion dinars in April. Additionally, the balance increased annually by 400 million dinars or 16.5% compared to April 2023 when it was 2.422 billion dinars.

Throughout 2023, construction financing fluctuated, with notable increases and decreases. The sector faced challenges such as a decline in project offerings, delayed payments to contractors, and rising construction costs due to labor shortages. The real estate market also experienced a decrease in both the quantity and quality of available labor, leading to a significant increase in daily wages for construction workers.

On the other hand, private sector deposits in local banks increased by 0.8% in dinars, reaching 36.5 billion dinars (about 119.1 billion dollars) in April. Private sector deposits in foreign currencies rose by 0.9% to reach 1.9 billion dinars (about 6.1 billion dollars).

Meanwhile, government deposits in banks declined by 32 million dinars to reach 4.616 billion dinars compared to 4.648 billion dinars in March.

Overall, the statistics indicate a slight increase in the total assets of local banks and a decrease in net foreign assets. The total balance of credit facilities for residents and non-residents increased to 54.873 billion dinars in April, compared to 54.521 billion dinars in March.



Chairman Bader Nasser Al-Kharafi

Gulf Bank gets cenbank nod for Islamic conversion study

KUWAIT CITY, June 11: Gulf Bank announced that it obtained no objection from the Central Bank of Kuwait to study conversion to a bank compliant with the Islamic shariaa. The Board of Directors has assigned an international consultant to carry out a feasibility study for the conversion, the bank said in a statement.

The bank said in a disclosure signed by Chairman Bader Nasser Al-Kharafi and published on Boursa Kuwait's website that it obtained the Central Bank's no objection to carry out the feasibility study. The bank will disclose the results of the study once it is concluded, it added.



Gulf Bank headquarters

'Strong capital adequacy'

Kuwait reinsurance company's A-level rating reaffirmed by S&P

KUWAIT CITY, June 11: Standard & Poor's Rating Agency has reaffirmed the Kuwait Reinsurance Company's financial strength rating at A level, with a stable outlook, reports Al-Seyassah

According to the company's statement to the Boursa Kuwait, the agency expects the company to maintain a capital adequacy ratio above the required level by 99.99%, based on the agency's risk-adjusted capital adequacy model, which is considered one of the main reasons for the strength of the

The agency expects this ratio to increase in the coming years, based on the anticipated increase in the company's profit reserves. It also anticipates the company to maintain strong operational performance in the coming years, as the company has delivered excellent performance in both reinsurance operations and investment activi-

ties, ensuring liquidity. The agency predicts the continuation of the company's conservative investment policy, with a very high level of the company's investment assets deposited with local banks in Kuwait. Only 13% of the company's investment portfolio is allocated to assets with higher risk levels such as stocks

UAE tops American car imports

Institutional sector dominates-Boursa Kuwait activity in 2024

KUWAIT CITY, June 11: The Al-Shall's report, based on data from the Kuwait Clearing Company, provides insights into trading activities on the Boursa Kuwait from January 1st to May 31st, 2024, focusing on the nationality and category of traders, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The institutional and corporate sector emerged as the largest contribu-

tor to market activity, with its share increasing to 59.1% of total shares purchased and 58.3% of shares sold, reflecting a significant rise from the same period in 2023. This sector demonstrated net buying, with shares worth 3.434 billion dinars purchased and 3.387 billion dinars sold.

Individual investors constituted the second-largest segment, with their

Brazil's mkt upgrades 2024 growth forecast to 2.09%

Brazil's financial market raised its gross domestic product (GDP) growth forecast for this year from 2.05 percent to 2.09 percent and maintained it at 2 percent for 2025, Brazil's Central

Bank announced Monday.
According to the bank's Focus survey of the country's main fi-nancial institutions, the market has regained a more optimistic view of economic activity following five weeks of downward pro-

Market analysts slightly raised the inflation forecast, from 3.88 percent to 3.90 percent in 2024 and from 3.77 percent to 3.78 percent for 2025, in both cases falling within the official target rate of 3 percent with a margin of tolerance of 1.5 percentage points up or down.

Economists kept their forecast for the Selic benchmark interest rate at 10.25 percent for end of 2024 but raised it from 9.18 percent to 9.25 percent for end of 2025, with the rate currently at 10.50 percent annually.

Regarding the exchange market for Brazil's currency, currently trading at 5.37 reals to the U.S. dollar, the forecast expects 5.05 to the dollar at end of 2024 and 5.09 to the dollar at end of 2025.

A trade surplus of 82.51 billion dollars is expected for this year and 78 billion dollars for next year. (Xinhua)

World Bank OKs a \$1 bln loan for Pakistan's project

The World Bank said Tuesday it has approved \$1 billion for the construction of Pakistan's biggest Dasu hydropower project, which is being built in the country's northwest with Chi-

The loan would be used to expand the hydropower electricity supply and improve access for local communities, the bank said in a statement.

"Pakistan's energy sector suf-

fers from multiple challenges to achieving affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy," said Najy Benhassine, the World Bank director for Pakistan. The Dasu hydropower project site is a game changer for the Pakistan

energy sector, he said. The bank said the project will contribute to "greening# the energy sector and lowering the cost of electricity. The dam is being built in the northwestern Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa province bordering Afghanistan, and once com-pleted, it will have an installed capacity of 4,320 to 5,400 mega-

Thousands of Chinese have been working on the Dasu dam and other projects related to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. Some have been attacked in recent years by militants who accuse them of plundering mineral resources. (AP)

World Bank boosts forecast

Strength of US economy will support global growth of 2.6% this year

WASHINGTON, June 11, (AP): The World Bank upgraded its outlook for the global economy Tuesday, estimating that it will expand 2.6% this year on the strength of sustained growth in the United States.

The bank's latest outlook marks an increase from the 2.4% growth for 2024 it had predicted in January. And it would match the global economy's 2.6% expansion in 2023.

But the agency cautioned that global growth remains sluggish by past standards, that the poorest countries are struggling under the weight of heavy debts and high interest rates and that increased trade barriers endanger prosperity worldwide. The brutal wars in Ukraine and Gaza are inflicting further pressures on regional economies.

Stronger-than-expected growth in the United States - the world's biggest economy - accounted for 80% of the World Bank's upgraded outlook. The agency now expects the U.S. economy to expand 2.5% in 2024, the same as in 2023 but up sharply from the 1.6% the bank had predicted in January.

"U.S. growth is exceptional," Ayhan Kose, the bank's deputy chief economist, told The Associated Press ahead of the release of its latest Global

prices worldwide.

And we just don't see it anymore."

still sound like a lot - but before the

pandemic, consumption was closer to

the 10 billion barrel-a-day range at this

experts note that high gas prices seen

following Russia's invasion of Ukraine

in 2022 and persistent inflation may

have led many Americans to modify

their driving habits. Other contributing

factors could be the increased number

of fuel-efficient cars, as well as electric

vehicles, on the road today, Gross said.

De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at

GasBuddy, noted that gas prices typically

ease in early summer because of refinery

capacity. At this time of year, he said,

many factors boosting prices in late win-

ter and early spring - particularly refinery

output or utilization of the nation's re-

fineries goes up - and that contributes to rising supply," De Haan said. And

that stronger supply, paired with weak-

er consumption, has lead to a "bit more

noticeable" decline in prices this year.

He added that U.S. refinery utilization

is at some of its highest levels since the

announced last month that it would be

releasing 1 million gasoline barrels,

or about 42 million gallons, from a

Northeast reserve with an aim of low-

ering prices at the pump this summer.

But De Haan noted that such action

has little impact nationally - 42 million

gallons equals less that three hours of

now with (declining) gasoline prices ...

has been driven primarily by seasonal

Experts also point to cooling oil

costs. Prices at the pump are highly de-

pendent on crude oil, which is the main

the U.S. benchmark, has stayed in the

mid \$70s a barrel over recent weeks

closing at under \$78 a barrel Mon-

day. That's "not a bad place for it to

be," Gross said, noting that the cost of

crude typically needs to go above \$80

to predict because they're subject to

many global forces. That includes pro-

duction cuts from OPEC and allied oil

producing countries, which have pre-

viously contributed to rising energy

Oil prices can be volatile and hard

to put more pressure on pump prices.

West Texas Intermediate crude,

and predictable economics," he said.

"Really, what we're seeing right

U.S. daily gas consumption.

ingredient in gasoline.

Separately, the Biden administration

"Once refinery maintenance is done,

maintenance - are no longer present.

Some of this is still seasonal. Patrick

Beyond pandemic-specific impacts,

time of year, Gross noted.

Economic Prospects report.
The World Bank, made up of 189 member nations, seeks to reduce poverty and boost living standards by providing grants and low-rate loans to developing economies

From January through March, the U.S. economy expanded at just a 1.3% annual rate, the slowest pace in nearly two years, and Kose said the World Bank forecast took the first-quarter slowdown into account. The pullback was due largely to factors that economists view as temporary: A surge in imports and a reduction in business inventories. By contrast, the core components of economic growth - consumer spending and business investment - remained solid in the first three months of the year.

The global and especially the U.S. economies have proved unexpectedly resilient in the face of high interest rates engineered by the Federal Reserve and other central banks to curb

the high inflation that flared up in 2021. But even after the World Bank's upgrade, global growth looks sluggish - a half percentage point below the 2010-2019 average. Inflation has cooled significantly - from 7.2% in 2022 to 4.9% last year to a forecast 3.5% in 2024 but remains above where central banks want it. That means central bank policymakers may be cautious about reducing rates from today's high levels.

That approach, though, carries risks of its own, notably the danger that high borrowing rates will cause economic growth to slow too much.

"There are consequences of keeping interest rates elevated for a longer period," Kose said. "You end up with slower growth. We need to avoid lower-for-longer economic growth around the world.

"The world," he warned, "might become stuck in the slow lane.

Many countries are already under

strain. The World Bank expects emerging market and developing countries to collectively grow 4% this year, down from 4.2% in 2023. In many cases, their populations are outpacing their economies, reducing their annual income growth per person to 3% this year through 2026 - far below the average 3.8% in the decade before the pandemic struck.

China, the world's second-largest economy after the United States, is struggling with the collapse of its real estate market and with weak consumer confidence. The Chinese economy is expected to decelerate to 4.8% this

Privacy concerns

Meta eyes training Al model on Euro data

LONDON, June 11, (AP): Meta wants to use data from users in privacyconscious Europe to train its artificial intelligence models, the social media giant said Monday as it faces concerns about data protection while battling to keep up with rivals like OpenAI and

The company, which owns Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp, said that in order to better reflect the "languages, geography and cultural references" of its users in Europe, it needs to use public data from those users to teach its Llama AI large language

Meta's AI training efforts are hampered by stringent European Union data privacy laws, which give people control over how their personal information is used. Vienna-based group NOYB, led by activist Max Schrems, complained last week to 11 national privacy watchdogs about Meta's AI training plans and urged them to stop the company before it starts training Llama's next generation.

AI language models are trained on vast pools of data that help them predict the most plausible next word in a sentence, with newer versions typically smarter and more capable than their predecessors. Meta's AI assistant feature has been baked into Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp for users in the U.S. and 13 other countries, but no-

tably not Europe. "If we don't train our models on the public content that Europeans share on our services and others, such as public posts or comments, then models and the AI features they power won't accurately understand important regional languages, cultures or trending topics on social media," Stefano Fratta, global engagement director of Meta's

privacy policy, said in blog post. "We believe that Europeans will be ill-served by AI models that are not informed by Europe's rich cultural, social and historical contributions.'

Fratta said other companies including Google and OpenAI have already trained on European data. Meta won't use private messages to friends and family nor content from European users who are under 18, he said.

Since May 22, the company has sent 2 billion notifications and emails to European users explaining its plans and linking to an online form to opt out, Fratta said.

The latest version of Meta's privacy policy is set to take effect on June 26, indicating that training for the next model will start soon after.

Simply unaffordable

The 'American Dream' becoming out of reach

BEIJING, June 11, (Xinhua): The U.S. Route 66, a century-old highway spanning from Chicago's Lake Michigan shores to the Pacific coast in Santa Monica, California, is known as the "Mother Road" under the pen of American writer John Steinbeck in his Pulitzer Prize-winning novel "The Grapes of Wrath."

The road symbolized mobility, freedom, and the American Dream, aiding many towns' economic recovery during the Great Depression. However, by the 1980s, a new national highway system bypassed most of Route 66, severing the economic lifelines of communities along the path and leaving the "American Dream" no more than a relic of nostalgia.

The highway has always been a mirror held to reflect what goes on in the nation, said American journalist Michael Wallis.

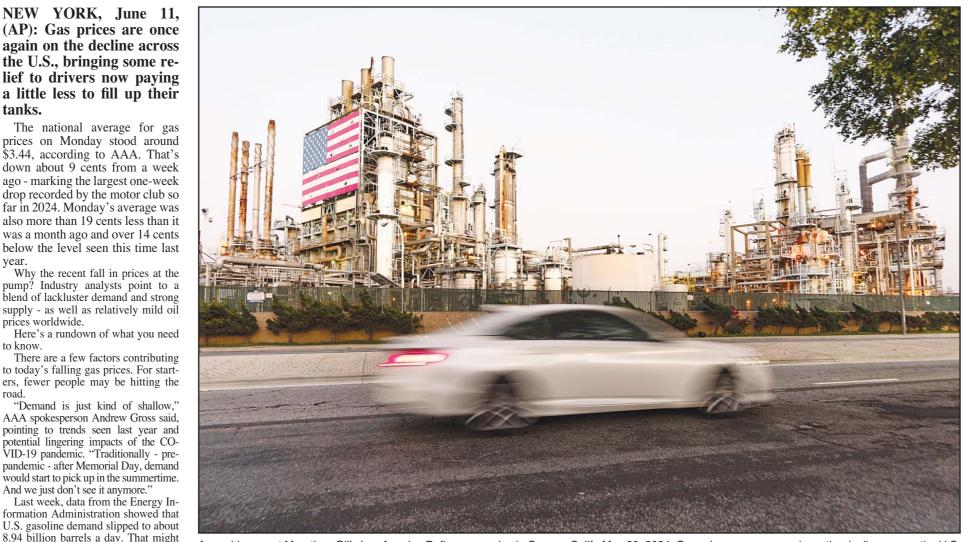
A typical American Dream is often depicted as a married couple with two children, owning a home, a car, and a pet. It's a vision of upward mobility, economic success, and a comfortable lifestyle featuring marriage, children, housing, and education.

Yet, the cost of achieving this dream is far beyond the lifetime earnings of

most Americans. A study released by GOBankingRates in May shows that a household would have to spend more than 150,000 U.S. dollars a year to live the dream in 29 of the 50 states.

year from 5.2% in 2023. Gas prices in the US are falling

Experts point to mild demand at the pump



A car drives past Marathon Oil's Los Angeles Refinery complex in Carson, Calif., May 29, 2024. Gas prices are once again on the decline across the U.S. - bringing some ease to drivers now paying a little less to fill up their tanks. (AP)

The Conversation

Job figures coming out, here's my prediction: The markets will overreact to the headlines

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

> **By Jeffrey Hart**

Auburn University

s the saying goes, "There are lies, Adamn lies and statistics.

And on the first Friday of every month, the American public gets a ton of new statistics to peruse. That's when the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics releases its latest jobs figures. Within minutes of the data drop, news organizations send out push alerts, pundits start opining, and the headlines - and headline numbers - coagulate into a simple narrative, often along the lines of "Jobs are up; the economy is saved" or "Jobs are down; we're all doomed."

These narratives consistently influence investors and financial markets. As a professor of finance, I think

these simple storylines aren't helpful to investors. In fact, they're actually harmful. Initial narratives stick even when underlying statistics contradict the numbers that make the headlines. So on June 7, 2024, when the latest jobs data will be released, I predict that financial markets will overreact to the

I get it: There's so much information in the two job reports the Bureau of Labor Statistics releases each month that you can pick and choose the data you find important. But ignoring nuance isn't a good investment strategy. And it turns out that economic reality is too complex to fit neatly into a headline. For proof, consider how markets responded to the past two months of jobs data.

Let's start with the April jobs numbers, which came out on May 3.

The headline numbers were worse than expected: The unemployment rate ticked up to 3.9% from 3.8% the previous month, and both nonfarm payrolls and private nonfarm payrolls were lower than anticipated.

The stock market rallied on this seemingly bad news because it saw the disappointing jobs reports as a sign that inflation might be slowing. That, in turn, could encourage the Federal Reserve to put interest rate cuts back on the table for 2024 - or at least investors had hoped.

But things look a little more complex when you dig into the data.

The unemployment rate did get worse, rising one-tenth of a percentage point with virtually no change in the labor force participation rate. On

It seems the unemployment rate has increased by 10 basis points. But that's because the bureau calculates the unemployment rate only out to one decimal place. But what if you go out to two decimal places?

To do that, you need to crunch some numbers yourself.

You can do that by going to the the bureau's Current Employment Statistics news release, navigating various rows and columns, and then getting the calculator out to work out a figure for the month that goes one decimal place further than what's released to the media. Then you have to repeat the process for last month's data.

When you do that, you can see that the unemployment rate barely budged in April: Ît rose from 3.83% in March to 3.86%, an increase of just .03%, or 3 basis points. This suggests those seemingly disappointing official unemployment numbers weren't actually that disappointing after all.

You'll see something similar if you look at the March jobs figures, which came out on April 5.

The headline numbers came in much better than expected, and financial markets celebrated. Total nonfarm payrolls came in way above expectaprivate nonfarm payrolls. The official unemployment rate dipped to 3.8%. On its surface, all great news.

But you would get a different perspective if you dig deeper into the data - especially the figures showing how many jobs were created in government and in manufacturing. You have to scroll a few pages into the Current Employment Statistics news release to find the relevant data - in "Employment Situation Summary Table B" but it's all there.

If you look at the March statistics, you'll see that positions in government make up more than 20% of new jobs added. What's more, the data shows that zero manufacturing jobs were created in March.

This data suggests the March headline numbers - which suggested a very robust job market - may have been deceptively sunny. Too many jobs were created in government, and too few in manufacturing. That's not a very

healthy jobs market. When pundits and the public ponder the job statistics that come out on the first Friday of each month, they should be be careful not to simply accept the

headlines as the entire story. When it comes to the economy, sim-

its surface, that doesn't look so good: tions, at 303,000 jobs created, as did ple narratives can be misleading. (AP) way down.

from nearby refinery supply to local

fuel requirements. As of Monday, per AAA data, Mississippi had the lowest average gas price at about \$2.94 per gallon - fol-

Meanwhile, California, Hawaii and

Washington had the highest average prices on Monday - at about \$4.93, \$4.75 and \$4.41 per gallon, respec-

OPEC+ recently announced plans to extend three different sets of cuts totaling 5.8 million barrels a day - but the alliance also put a timetable on restoring some production, "which is likely why the price of oil had somewhat of a bearish reaction," De Haan said.

The future is never promised. But, if there are no major unexpected interruptions, both Gross and De Haan say that prices could keep working their

At this time of year, experts keep a particular eye out for hurricane risks which can cause significant damage and lead refineries to power down. "Prices move on fear," Gross said. In

the U.S., he added, concern particularly rises once a hurricane enters the Gulf of Mexico - and even if it doesn't eventually make landfall, refineries may pull back on operations out of caution. Impacts can

But barring the unexpected, analysts like De Haan expect the national average to stay in the range of \$3.35 to \$3.70 per gallon. Gas prices typically drop even more in the fall, and it's possible that we could see the national average below \$3 in late October or early

November, he said. While gas prices nationwide are collectively falling, some states, of course, always have cheaper averages than others, due to factors ranging

lowed by \$2.95 Oklahoma and just under \$2.97 in Arkansas.

'Ultimate off-road experience arrives in Kuwait'

Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al Babtain opens official INEOS Grenadier showroom in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, June 11: Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al Babtain Co. (AABC), the exclusive retailer for INEOS Grenadier cars in Kuwait,is thrilled to announce their official showroom opening of the exclusive retailer for the highly anticipated INEOS Grenadier 4X4 in Al-Rai, Kuwait. This exciting partnership brings a new level of off-road capability and driving experience to adventurers and vehicle enthusiasts in Kuwait. And now it's even more exciting with the inauguration of the first brand showroom.

The official opening of the INE-OS Grenadier showroom took place amidst a gathering of Al Babtain management, media representatives, social media influencers, and esteemed VIP customers. All in a well-curated event that livesup to the reputation of Al Babtain and the excitement of the long-awaited opening of the first ever INEOS Grenadier in Al-Rai in Kuwait and in the Middle

This opening is considered as a remarkable step in the history of Al Babtain Co. in terms of providing the customers with the full experience to buy and see the car in detail, as well as providing them with all the information on ground. And for the customers who reserved the Grenadier can now prepare themselves to





Al Babtain celebrates inauguration of first INEOS Grenadier showroom.

go in an ultimate journey with their all-new vehicle. The INEOS Grenadier is the versa-

tile choice for discerning drivers.

Combining rugged British spirit and design with German engineering rigor, the INEOS Grenadier 4X4 is a tough, go-anywhere vehicle with best-in-class off-road capability that features the modern comfort, refinement and quality standards ex-

pected by today's drivers.

The brainchild of INEOS Group is Chairman Sir Jim Ratcliffe, the Grenadier is powered by a BMW 3.0-liter inline six-cylinder gasoline engine, with a ladder frame chassis, permanent four-wheel drive, up to three differential locks and solid beam axles.

The Grenadier has won multiple awards around the world, including from Overland 4X4 magazine in the

UK and Gear Junkie in the US.

The Grenadier range starts with the Station Wagon and a blank canvas ready to be configured for the exact needs of customers.

The Grenadier Trialmaster Edition is built with extreme off-road driving in mind, prioritizing go-anywhere capability and versatility. The Trialmaster includes a raised air intake, exterior utility belt and auxiliary

KUWAIT CITY, June 11: Zain has renewed its collaboration with the Central Blood Bank of Kuwait to host a special blood drive at its headquarters in Shuwaikh. The move coincided with the upcoming World Blood Donor Day, which is globally celebrated on 14

tives and programs to support the local healthcare system, partnering with organizations like the Central Blood Bank and the Ministry of Health. The company also aims to raise awareness about the life-saving importance of

As usual, Zain's blood drive campaign was well-received by employees eager to donate, and the entire process was supervised and managed by the Central Blood Bank's medical team. The company is proud of the great turnout by employees to make this ini-

tiative a success, reflecting the values

of its brand: Zain: A Wonderful World. World Blood Donor Day is celebrat-

ed around the globe on June 14 of eve-

ry year. The initiative was organized for the first time in 2004 by four core

international organizations: the World

Health Organization (WHO), the Inter-

blood donation.

battery. The Trialmaster comes with front and rear differential locks and BFGoodrich All-Terrain T/A KO2 tires as standard, designed to handle the harshest of conditions.

The Grenadier Fieldmaster Edition is designed for those with an adventurous lifestyle who need their vehicle to get them and their kit to wherever they want to go. It includes full-grain leather seats, a

Employees & executives partner for blood drive

Zain contributes to World Blood Donor Day

premium sound system and carpet floor mats. It also comes standard with Safari Windows in the roof that can be tilted for ventilation or removed completely.

Ghazi Saleh Al Babtain, the Chief Development Officer in Al Babtain Group, said: "We are incredibly proud to welcome the INEOS Grenadier to Al Babtain automotive family, and with the inauguration of the first official showroom, we are excited to invite all the customers to visit the showroom and enjoy the full experience and try the great 4x4 vehicle. This marks a momentous occasion for us as we forge a rewarding partnership with a remarkable brand that stays true to our promise of overalmost 80 years - to deliver optimal experiences through innovation and passion.'

We invite all interested customers and off-road enthusiasts to visit our showroom and discover the outstanding capabilities of the INEOS Grenadier in our official showroom in Al-Rai. And to witness a remarkable step for the prestigious journey of Al Babtain full of achievements with almost 80 years of unwavering dedication and success. For more information, customers can visit the INEOS Grenadier showroom in Al-Rai or they contact the customer service at 1804888.







Photos during the event.

June of every year. Nearly 100 employees and executives from various departments participated in the blood drive to help save lives and bolster Kuwait's strategic blood reserve. Additionally, participants benefited from the many health advantages gained by periodically do-A group photo of Zain and Central Blood Bank teams. nating blood. Zain frequently launches initia-



Zain employees were eager to contribute to the initiative's success.

national Federation of Red Cross and awareness of the need for blood and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC); the International Federation of Blood Donor Organizations (IFBDO), and the International Society of Blood Transfusion

The annual campaign aims to raise

blood products, as well as tance of having a strategic and sustainable blood reserve. The initiative also highlights the vital role donors play by thanking them for their voluntary, lifesaving contributions.

PBC commemorates Portugal's National Day with a vibrant cultural extravaganza

By Paul Francis X. Fernandes Arab Times/Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 11: The Portuguese Business Council in Kuwait celebrated Portugal's National Day with a vibrant cultural event, showcasing the richness and diversity of Portuguese art and music.

Held at the Contemporary Art Platform (CAP) and organized in collaboration with the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) and Bahrain Gallery, the event received widespread acclaim.

A focal point of the celebration was "The Hyperbaroque," an exhibition featuring sculptures by renowned Portuguese contemporary artist Miguel Rodrigues.

His works, characterized by their theatricality, draw inspiration from contemporary society's hyper-realities, commerce, and propaganda. Using gold as a motif, Rodrigues challenges notions of luxury and power, prompting viewers

to reconsider value and aesthetics. Another highlight of the event was "Loving Minho," a captivating photographic display by Manuel Correia, showcasing traditional folk costumes of Northern Portugal.

With a global exhibition history, Correia captures urban and rural life with an imaginative lens, portraying diverse cultures and people.

The cultural immersion culminated in a live concert featuring the enchanting melodies of the Braguesa, a traditional Portuguese guitar, skillfully performed by João Diogo Leitão. Renowned as one of the most gifted guitarists of his generation, Leitão has performed on prestigious stages across Portugal and Europe, releasing his debut solo album

António Campos, President of the Portuguese Business Council, expressed his elation at the event's success, stating, "It brings immense joy to collaborate with CAP and witness the overwhelming support from our community. We aspire for this celebration to catalyze greater artistic collaboration between Portugal and Kuwait, fostering mutual understand-

Campos also outlined his vision for broader cooperation between Portugal and Kuwait, extending beyond the arts o encompass energy, digital industries, and healthcare. He emphasized the potential for synergy in these sectors to strengthen bilateral economic relations

The inaugural event drew a sizable crowd, underscoring the robust interest and endorsement for cultural exchange between Portugal and Kuwait.

The exhibitions will continue until July 10th, providing ample opportunity for visitors to immerse themselves in Por-Under the auspices of the National Council for Culture,

Arts and Letters (NCCAL), two workshops on photography and sculpture were hosted at the Museum of Modern Art. Manuel Correia and Miguel Rodrigues engaged with eager audiences, sharing insights into their artistic journeys and the imperative of creativity.

The Portuguese Business Council extends heartfelt gratitude to its sponsors -- UPS, Blue Aviation, Fundação GDA, Hub2Energy, Ventilaqua, Otiima, AGM, and Câmara Municipal de Braga. Their generous support facilitated this celebration, bringing the splendor of Portuguese art and music



Group photo during the meeting.

Writers' Forum Kuwait holds monthly meeting

KUWAIT CITY, June 11: "Let me not pray to be sheltered from dangers, but to be fearless in facing them. Let me not beg for the stilling of my pain, but for the heart to conquer it." The author of this famous quote, Rabindranath Tagore was remembered at the monthly meeting

of the Writers' Forum Kuwait held on Friday, 31st May at the house of Mrs Maimuna Chougle.

The meeting was a special one where the members remembered two great poets and writers, Rabindranath Tagore during his birth anniversary month and Dr Mirza Umair Beg on his

sad demise.

The meeting was also special as the Forum unanimously chose veteran Urdu poet and senior member Sayeed Nazar Kadpawi as the Vice President of the Forum. The presence of Forum's patron Mr Ali Chougle made the meeting a special one to be reminisced forever.

The meeting started with the President of the Forum and host Mrs Maimuna Chougle welcoming all. The general secretary Ms Nazneen Ali then invited Sabir Omer as President and Aamir Diwan as the Chief Guest of the

The meeting incepted with two very enlightening articles on Rabindranath Tagore and Dr Mirza Umair Beg, both authored by Mrs Maimuna Chougle. The articles were well complemented by another beautifully crafted article on the reality of life penned by Yajuvendra Chandrakar. The meeting then continued into its melodious and soothing poetry session where each rendition was unique, captivating and meaningful.

While Ms. Nazneen Ali, Ms Sabiha Bilgrami, Ibrahim Qasid, Dr Rajesh Gupta, Shabih Ahmed, Saeed Nazar and Sabir Omer were the flagbearers of Urdu, Ms. Anupama Chaturvedi, Ms Sangeeta Choubey, Vinod Kumar and Aamir Diwan were representatives of Hindi language. Pankaj Pawan was the ambassador of Punjabi ghazal. The presence of Mr Sanjay Choubey was the icing on the cake.

Successful conclusion of Kuwait Codes and Academy X's first cohort

Agility funds coding education for 1,300+ aspiring programmers

KUWAIT CITY, June 11: Agility, a supply chain services, infrastructure and innovation company, announced the successful conclusion of Kuwait Codes and Academy X's first cohort, Agility is sponsoring two coding programs and bootcamps this year for over 1,300 students as part of the company's commitment to advancing tech education in Kuwait.

Agility has renewed support for CODED, a local tech training organization in Kuwait that provides bootcamp-style software development training. As a strategic sponsor of CODED, Agility is funding two programs:

☐ Kuwait Codes aims to provide crucial programming skills to more than 1,000 high school students. Kuwait Codes provides students with the fundamentals of programming across diverse coding languages and

for different in-demand applications, including app building, web development, gaming, information security, and others. The course also serves as a foundation for those taking advanced

training programs.

☐ Agility is also supporting COD-ED's Academy X, which is designed to introduce 300 female students to coding and inspire a new generation of female

tech innovators. Academy X was piloted last year by 100 young female students and is now in its first full-run. Academy X teaches modern programming basics. The curriculum includes building ap-



Kuwait Codes equips high school students with programming skills

plications using AI, lessons on leveraging technology in entrepreneurship, and other vital skills that equip students for the job market.

Both initiatives started last month and provide free training in modern programming languages and tech-

"Our continued investment in capacity-building programs reflects Agility's commitment to Kuwait's youth. We want to help equip them with the essential skills needed for today's job market. We are proud to have made a positive impact on more than 7,000 students, over half of whom are young women ready to launch their careers. Our support for Kuwait Codes 2024 and the launch of Academy X underscores our commitment to the next generation of tech talent in Kuwait," said Henadi Al Saleh, Chairperson of

Disney's first Black princess ride replaces racist film theme

ORLANDO, Fla., June 11, (AP): A new attraction starring the first Black Disney princess is opening at the company's US theme park resorts, and some Disney followers see it as a fitting replacement to a former ride based on a movie that contained racist tropes

The new theme park attraction updates Tiana's storyline from the 2009 animated film, "The Princess and the Frog" and is opening this year in the space previously occupied by Splash Mountain. The water ride had been themed to "Song of the South," a 1946 Disney movie filled with racist cliches about African Americans and plantation life.

Tiana's Bayou Adventure keeps Splash Mountain's DNA as a logflume ride, but it's infused with music, scenery and animatronic characters inspired by the film set in 1920s New Orleans. It opens to the public later this month at Walt Disney World in Florida and at Disneyland in California later this year.

"For little Black girls, Tiana has meant a lot. When a little child can see somebody who looks like them, that matters," said Neal Lester, an English professor at Arizona State University, who has written about

Disney's announcement that it would transform its longstanding Splash Mountain ride into Tiana's Bayou Adventure was made in June 2020 following the social justice protests sparked by the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis police custody. At the time, Disney said the change had already been in the works. But it came as companies across the U.S. were reconsidering or renaming decades-old brands amid worldwide protests.

The "Song of the South" film is a mix of live action, cartoons and music featuring an older Black man who works at a plantation and tells fables

about talking animals to a white city boy. The film has been criticized for its racist stereotypes, and hasn't been released in theaters in decades and isn't available on the company's streaming service Disney+.

Disney has been criticized for racist tropes in films made in earlier decades. The crow characters from the 1941 film, "Dumbo" and the King Louie character from 1967's "The Jungle Book" were viewed as African American caricatures

Depiction

The depiction of Native Americans in the 1953 movie, "Peter Pan," and the Siamese cats - often deemed as Asian stereotypes - from the

1955 film, "Lady and the Tramp," also have been derided.

Not everyone is sold on the belief that opening a ride based on Tiana's story solves Disney's past problematic racial depictions.

By refurbishing Splash Mountain into Tiana's Bayou Adventure instead of dismantling the attraction completely, Disney has linked "Song of the South" with "The Princess and the Frog." Both are fantasies that are silent, for the most part, on the racial realities of the segregated eras they depict, said Katie Kapurch, an English professor at Texas State University who has written widely about Disney.

"We might see the impulse to replace rather than dismantle or build anew as a metaphor for structural racism, too," Kapurch said. "Again, this is unintentional on Disney's part, but the observation gets to the heart of how Disney reflects America back to itself."

Imagineers who design the Disney rides are always attempting to look at the attractions with fresh eyes and ways to tell new stories "so that everybody feels included," said Carmen Smith, a senior vice president for Disney Parks, Experiences and Products.

"We never want to perpetuate stereotypes or misconceptions," Smith said Monday. "Our intention is to tell great stories."

It's also important for the Imagineers to tell a variety of stories for its global audience, said Charita Carter, a senior creative producer at Walt Disney Imagineering.

"Society does change, and we develop different sensibilities," Carter said. "We focus our stories differently depending what our society

The transformation from Splash Mountain to Tiana's Bayou Adventure is one of several recalibrations at the entertainment giant's theme parks for rides whose storylines are considered antiquated or offensive.

In 2021, Disney announced it would remodel Jungle Cruise, one of the original Disney parks' rides, which had been been criticized in years past for being racially insensitive because of its depiction of animatronic Indigenous people as savages or headhunters. Three years before that, Disney eliminated a "Bride Auction" scene, deemed offensive since it depicted women lining up for auction, from its "Pirates of the Caribbean" ride.

It's a positive step for Disney to have a ride based on a character from a background not seen in previous versions of Disney princesses replacing an attraction from a film steeped in racist tropes since "representation matters," Lester said.

"Disney is first and foremost about money and getting people into the park, and you can make money, still have representation and be aware of social justice history and make everyone feel like they belong there," Lester said.

Variety



This image released by O&M/DKC shows Sarah Pidgeon, (from left), Juliana Canfield and Tom Pecinka during a performance of 'Stereophonic'. (AP)

Stage

The soundtrack of a generation

Butler rocks Broadway's 'Stereophonic'

awards Monday at a red carpet awards ceremony in Chicago. More than 100 restaurants were finalists across 22 categories for the culinary world's equivalent of the Oscars with diverse range

of cuisine and chef experience, a recent shift following turbulent, pandemic-era years for the James Beard Foundation. Just being a finalist can bring wide recognition and boost business. The most anticipated categories included awards for outstanding restaurateur, chef and restaurant.

CHICAGO: A Palestinian chef using ancient cooking techniques at a Sen-

egalese restaurant in New Orleans

Michael Rafidi, whose Wash**ington, D.C.**, restaurant Albi was awarded a coveted Michelin Star in 2022, won outstanding chef among five finalists. Albi, which is Arabic for "my heart," pays homage to Rafidi's Palestinian roots by using Old World food preparation techniques. Everything is cooked over charcoal, including grape leaves stuffed with lamb and sfeeha, a meat pie.

"This is for Palestine and all the Palestinian people out there," Rafidi told The Associated Press after winning the award. Rafidi, who wore a traditional black and white checkered keffiyeh, said he kept thinking of his Palestinian grandfather, who was also a chef, and how he paved the way for him.

Restaurants apply for the awards. Judges, who mostly remain anonymous, try the cuisine before voting. Nominees are reviewed for the food as well as for a behavioral code of ethics, including how employees are treated. On Monday, winners announced at the Lyric Opera of Chicago venue were given engraved medallions.

The award for best new restaurant went to Dakar NOLA, a Senegalese restaurant in New Orleans.

"I always knew that **West** Africa has something to say," said chef Serigne Mbaye. "That kept

The James Beard Foundation has bestowed awards since 1991, except in 2020 and 2021 when the organization scrapped them as the restaurant industry was reeling from the COVID-19 pandemic. The foundation was also facing criticism over a

and an upscale Thai restaurant in Oregon won coveted James Beard NEW YORK, June 11, (AP): The assignment was daunting: Write a song for an onstage moment of transcendence. Make it kind of funny and exciting and for a five-piece band. Write it so it justifies an audience sitting in their seats for two hours before they hear it. And, oh, it must plausibly be a rock hit

> That was the job facing singer-songwriter Will Butler and the music arrangers for just one of the songs that stud the Tony Award-nominated play "Stereophonic," a leading contender at the June 16

> Tony Awards. "It's like, 'OK, that is a lot of things to think about, but let's just try it out and we just tried it out," says Butler, who left Arcade Fire in 2022 and has a new band, Sister Squares.

> "Stereophonic" is playwright David Adjmi's story of a Fleetwood Mac-like band in the mid-'70s recording music over a life-changing year, with personal rifts opening and closing and then reopening.

> The music that accompanies the drama includes full-on rockers like "Masquerade" and "Drive" but also fragments and demos as the band reworks tunes. It is a wonderful slice of funky, classic rock for a fictional band that became a real one on-

> "I was trying to get in their heads. I was also a lot of the time just trying to make a great song, which is a hard enough task. And then hopefully a great song can support many interpretations that's the dream."

> Butler was connected with Adjmi by a mutual friend, and they first met at a diner about 10 years ago. Butler had just moved to New York and writing for theater intrigued him. It was a relaxed meeting and they hit it off: The two talked about "Moby Dick" for an hour.

> Adjmi hadn't yet written a word of "Stereophonic." He had the title, a vague concept and wanted it set in a recording studio. Butler over the next five

years would submit "random" demos, like a song that someone might write if they listened to Phil Spector all day or one inspired by Sylvester in 1973

in San Francisco. Once a script appeared, Adjmi leaned on Butler to fill in the song gaps. One moment had Diana, a young singer-songwriter, nervously play a new tune to her controlling boyfriend, the band's de facto leader and guitarist.

What would it sound like? It could have been a Stevie Nicks-inspired I'm-looking-at-you takedown, more a Joni Mitchell-ish mystical journey or a Neil Young "Heart of Glass"-like approach. Butler wrote lots of options, some which ended up on his new

band's 2023 self-titled debut. He tried to give the musicians a sonic backstory. They likely listened to Nina Simone and girl groups growing up. They likely heard Glenn Gould and folk music change from Peter, Paul and Mary into Bob Dylan.

Nominations

Butler credits the whole team - Adjmi, sound designer Ryan Rumery, orchestrator and musical director Justin Craig and director Daniel Aukin - for refining and refining the songs. All have Tony nominations.

"The music that I've always made is just a very deep collaborative art form. And theater, by its nature, is deeply collaborative," says Butler. 'We were all just going to have each other's

backs, and there wasn't going to be a hierarchy. We were just going to dig in on this and work on it until it was good.'

Butler was also able to help the cast understand what long hours in the recording booth are like and helped with technical details - like that it might take an engineer 15 seconds to rewind a piece of music but left the writing alone.

"The emotional world is completely accurate to my experience. I was in a band with my brother for

protest a contentious overhaul of

their services, a move that critics say

would result in the government tak-

20 years and his wife for 20 years, and I'm in a band

now with my wife and her sister," he says. "It's just like you watch it and you're like, 'I hate this play!' This is too real. So, the emotional landscape is completely accurate."

Assembling a cast of actors who could become a rock band was an entirely different task. The show needed a real drummer, since even a year's worth of lessons wouldn't be enough. They found a drummeractor in Chris Stack.

They found a competent bassist in Will Brill and a good guitarist in Tom Pecinka. For the two female band members they lucked out on Julian Canfield and Sarah Pidgeon, who both played piano as kids and had lovely, raw voices.

"We really lucked into our voices. Day one in rehearsal, Tom Pecinka and Juliana Canfield and Sarah Pidgeon sang together, and I was just like, 'OK, it's going to work out.' It sounded like they'd been singing together for a decade, and it

was just beautiful. Pidgeon says the experience has been bonding, and the actors now feel like a band, rehearing every day and watching their egos drop away. The band was even asked to play at Butler's most recent album

"I feel kind of like an athlete every every night, like a trick snowboarder where I'm trying to do flips and spins and get my highest score and I need to stick the landing."

Butler, who has a Grammy for Arcade Fire's "The Suburbs" and a Oscar nomination for working on Spike Jonze's film "Her," now finds himself the toast of New York theater. He admits he was a little skeptical after the show debuted off-Broadway at Playwrights Horizons when producers wanted to take it to Broadway.

"I didn't say this in the room at the time, but in my brain, I was like, it's your money," he says, laughing. "For it to be a hit is very absurdly pleasing, like pleasing and absurd. Just madness.

lack of racial diversity and allegations about some nominees' behavior. Foundation officials vowed to improve ethical standards and be more "reflective of the industry." (AP)

BRATISLAVA, Slovakia: Employees of Slovakia's public radio and television broadcaster staged a

three-hour walkout on Monday to



populist Prime Minister Robert **Fico** approved the measure on April 24, and it's currently being debated in parliament. The plan has been widely

criticized by President Zuzana

ing full control of the media.

The coalition government of Machaj said that he respected the right of the staffers to protest. "Our suggestions (about the

plan) haven't been respected," Machaj said. The proposed changes would mean the public broadcaster known as RTVS

zations and the European Union.

Director-general □uboš

Čaputová, local journalists, the opwould cease to exist and be reposition, international media organiplaced by a new organization.

The protesters marched through the city to rally in front of the Culture Ministry. They demand that the current RTVS system has to remain in place, and that the broadcaster has the finances to effectively function and its journalists aren't under attack from politicians and others. (AP)

People & Places

Television

'Next adventure'

Rainey talks 'Power' & life beyond Tariq

NEW YORK, June 11, (AP): Social media death threats may have been one of the best things to ever happen for **Michael Rainey Jr.** - professionally, that

"When everything started really going crazy, I was like 17, 18. And at first, I'm like, 'Dang, people crazy, bro!' I'm like this is just a show," said the now-23-year-old 'Power Book II: Ghost' lead. Whether the threats during the latter part of his tenure on the original megahit series "Power" were literal or in jest, it was indicative of the love-hate relationship fans developed with Tariq, the once-adorable son of drug kingpin James "Ghost" St. Patrick. Tariq eventually followed in his father's footsteps.

"Shout out to the supporters that reacted because y'all helped me build a storyline" said Rainey a cast



y'all helped me build a storyline," said Rainey, a cast member for all six seasons of the original series that ended in 2020. "(Writers) see how the supporters react, and if they get a certain reaction, they literally build off of that in the next script."

Those scripts and storylines would lay the foundation for the 'Ghost' spinoff, premiering in 2020, focusing on Tariq

attempting to juggle illegal activity while attending a (fictional) Ivy League school. Viewers' polarized feelings were an indicator that a new "Power" series centered around Tariq was viable.

But after three seasons, the show - consistently one of Starz's highest viewed programs - will premiere its fourth and final season June 7. While fans and critics have voiced disappointment over the show's end, particularly as it's been reported it's tied to cost containment for the network, Rainey, a car enthusiast who's preparing to launch a car-themed episodic YouTube channel, says it took him a while to come to terms with the decision.

"I feel like there was a few other directions that we could go," he said. "At the same time, I feel like they wanted to just end it while people still cared."

The aspiring music producer, who will have a song with wolfacejoeyy premiere on a mid-season episode, spoke with the AP about his future, mentorship from acting veterans and avoiding being typecast. The conversation has been edited for brevity and clarity.

AP: What's it been like knowing it's the final season?

Rainey: It's definitely bittersweet. It's been 10-plus years working with these great people. It's just like we became family ... Now, it's basically over. But at the end of the day, it's still – you know, it's a blessing. And I'm super excited for what's to come for everybody – not just me – but everyone that was part of the cast.

AP: You've led this series since you were 19. Do you feel like you get the respect you deserve as a leading man?

Rainey: I feel like I do. I mean, I really only care for the respect and the acknowledgment from my crew and cast, and they give that to me ... all the other people on the outside, their opinion about me being a good No. 1 doesn't really change anything for me.

AP: It seems like you've had a lot of support from veteran actors and co-stars like Larenz Tate and Omari Hardwick. What does that mean to you?

Rainey: Just having them in my corner and them just looking out for me, rooting for me is crazy. Especially like Larenz ... literally every day he's on set, he's coming to me with the most encouraging words I've ever heard from anybody in my life. He makes me feel like there's literally nothing I can't do, especially when it comes to the art of acting.

It's definitely a blessing to have people like that in your corner because it's very rare, especially to meet people that genuinely care about you and your career in this business.

AP: Are you worried about being typecast?

Rainey: I'm super excited about stepping into the next chapter and really showcasing that I could be looked at in a way different light than ... just Tariq or a kid that's menacing.

I really want to do a rom-com or something where I'm like a nerd or something, something like completely different than what I've been portraying for the past 10 years.

AP: What have you learned from playing Tariq that you've been able to apply to your own life?

Rainey: Don't feel too entitled to where you deprive yourself. And I always say this because I feel like a lot of people, especially kids my age or younger, they need to really understand there's a million other blessings in the world. Like, you think that this is the only blessing for you and it's making you blind to 10,000-million other blessings that are literally waiting for you... That's what I learned from 50 (Cent). I take that with me everywhere I go.

Also:

LOS ANGELES: Jake Gyllenhaal stars in his first TV role as a prosecutor accused of murder in "Presumed Innocent" for Apple TV+. It's based on a novel by **Scott Turow** (which was also adapted into a film starring **Harrison Ford** in 1990). Peter Sarsgaard, who in real life is married to Jake's sister Maggie, plays Gyllenhaal's courtroom adversary. "Presumed Innocent" premieres Wednesday.

Meanwhile, satirical superhero series "The Boys" drops its first three episodes of season four Thursday on Prime Video. Returning cast members include Karl Urban, Jack Quaid, Antony Starr, Jessie T. Usher, Erin Moriarty and Chace Crawford. New to the cast are Valorie Curry and Susan Heyward as two new superheroes, Firecracker and Sister Sage. Jeffrey Dean Morgan ("Grey's Anatomy", "The Walking Dead") has also been cast in a mysterious role.

Just in time for summer vacation, a new Peanuts series called "Camp Snoopy" premieres Friday, June 14 on Apple TV+. **Snoopy** and the **Beagle Scouts** set out to earn their merit badges by completing outdoor activities while **Charlie Brown** and his friends have their own adventures attending camp.

their own adventures attending camp.

From farm houses to mountain retreats to ranches, couples seek out their ideal country dwelling in the new show "Find My Country House" for A&E. **Trish Suhr** hosts the show dropping on Saturday, June 15. "Find My Country House" is co-produced by **Reese Witherspoon's** production company, Hello Sunshine. It streams the next day on A&E app, AETV.com, and across major TV providers' VOD platforms.



Roger Daltrey of The Who performs at TQL Stadium on Sunday, May 15, 2022, in Cincinnati. The 80-year-old rocker is on a short solo tour this June. (AP)



Amy Poehler, a cast member in 'Inside Out 2,' poses at the premiere of the film at the El Capitan Theatre, Monday, June 10, in Los Angeles. (AP)



y Prir

Variety

RHODES, Greece: Dr. Michael Mosley was his own guinea pig.

In the name of science, the British television host put his body to the test by ingesting tape worms, injecting snake venom and letting leeches suck his blood.

What didn't kill him made him more

what didn't kill him made him more popular and he reached millions through BBC programs like "Trust Me, I'm a Doctor," other appearances on TV and radio, and through bestselling diet books.

In the end, his death came during a hike

in the blazing sun on the **Greek island** where he was vacationing.

Greek police said Monday there was no sign of foul play, though an autopsy was

underway to find the cause.

Here are some things to know about
Mosley: Mosley, 67, was found dead Sunday, four days after he went missing on the island of **Symi**. His wife said he took the

wrong route on what was supposed to be a

short walk to the next town and appeared to

The path would have taken him over or alongside a steep unforgiving slope littered with rocks and no shelter from heat that hit 37 Celsius (98.6 Fahrenheit).

His body was found within a few dozen steps of the water.

"He almost managed to reach his destination," **Lefteris Papakalodoukas**, the mayor of Symi told Greek Alpha television. "It was only another 10 meters (33 feet) to the beach. But that must be when his strength left him."

Dr. Clare Bailey Mosley said her family took comfort knowing her husband almost made it to safety.

"He did an incredible climb, took the wrong route and collapsed where he couldn't be easily seen by the extensive search team," she said in a statement.

After graduating from Oxford University, Mosley became an investment banker before going back to school to become a doctor. After qualifying for a career in medicine, though, he took another dramatic career change. He trained as an assistant producer at the BBC and that eventually led to a profession in front of the camera.

Mosley was widely admired for his ability to communicate complex science clearly and his willingness to be the subject of experiments that made others shudder.

In a BBC program called "Infested! Living with parasites," he swallowed tapeworm cysts. He used a "pill camera" to explore his insides and was watching on an iPad in an Indian restaurant when he first saw the tapeworms attached to his intestine.

"I shouted out: 'Blimey! There's a tape-

Music

Rocker talks future of The Who

Daltrey, 80, hits the road solo

NEW YORK, June 11, (AP): As Roger Daltrey hits the road on a short solo tour this June, he's unsure if fans will ever see another tour from The Who.

"I don't see it. I don't know whether The Who'll ever will go out again," he told The Associated Press over Zoom.

The 80-year-old rocker has a "useit-or-lose it-mentality" when it comes to his singing voice, so he finds it necessary to perform as much as possible, with or without The Who. Recently, Daltrey spoke with The

Associated Press on the future of the band, his solo tour and his feelings on the Broadway revival of The Who's seminal rock opera, "Tommy."

This interview has been edited for

This interview has been edited for clarity and brevity. **AP:** What do you think of the

"Tommy" Broadway revival?

Daltrey: I'm glad the album is still out there; it means a lot to me. It's the best opera ever written. I don't particularly like it (the musical). It's been altered and changed. I can't imagine cutting some of the music in "Madame

Butterfly," or some other great operas.

AP: So, you think of it as a straightup opera, as opposed to a rock opera?

Daltrey: It's a fabulous opera. It
was tongue and cheek at the time that
we called it an opera. We did take a

was tongue and cheek at the time that we called it an opera. We did take a lot of chances with it. But since living with it and playing it on stage, and having seen lots of grand opera, I saw I had one in my hands. So, I've come to conclusion that it's the best opera ever written.

AP: Tell us about the tour.

AP: Tell us about the tour.

Daltrey: I'm bringing a band over from the U.K. of eight people, a very different sounding band with different instrumentation. No synthesizers. It's just about having a lot of fun playing different songs, and obviously some Who classics. But we do them different. So it's just something I love to do. And people seem to like it when I take

it out there. So, I'm just going to put

AP: So you'll play solo material and The Who stuff?

Daltrey: Having a band like this

gives me an opportunity to do a lot of things that I've done over the years with different artists, like the stuff I did with Wilko Johnson 10 years ago. I will do some solo stuff, plus some covers of other people that I really admire to make a night of entertainment and fun. So many people are retiring. All the good old boys are retiring and it's very thin out there.

ÅP: Is getting out there in front of an audience what keeps your voice intact?

Daltrey: That's always been the impetus for me ever since I had my voice problems out. You've got to keep using it. Just like anything else in the body. You stop walking, you lose the muscles in your legs. The voice is a similar thing. If you stop using those muscles in the voice box and the vocal cords, they'll go soft on you and you'll lose your voice. Mine is remarkable for my age.

AP: Simon Townsend is performing with you – not his brother, The Who's Pete Townsend. What is it like supplementing one Townsend for another?

Daltrey: Simon Townsend is always in my solo shows. Simon has always been with me. Well, he's a totally different guy than Pete, though he's got very similar timber to his voice that suits my voice in the harmonies. He's a great musician, fabulous guitarist and a great guy. You know, I've known him

for 60 years.

AP: What's the difference being touring with The Who and hitting the road solo?

Daltrey: It's a lot less weight on my shoulders by myself. The Who feels like, I don't know, heavier. It's always much more relaxed and solo shows. **AP:** There's less pressure with a

Daltrey: Because it's the responsibility with The Who - there's heritage

and history to maintain that always need to be in a good light, so it puts a lot of weight on your shoulders. But with this band, I've discovered that I can go out there and have a good time and play any kind of music that I want.

AP: Can you give me an example? **Daltrey:** I was doing some solo shows on a cruise, and I got this terrible allergy just before the first show. I ended up in hospital and didn't know whether $\hat{I'}d$ make the cruise. But I did make the cruise. Anyway, I ended up having to do three shows back-toback, and I'm thinking I was not able to have a sound check. I'm not going to get a rehearsal. But at least these three shows I can do. Soundchecks are very important when you're on the road. And I thought, "I know what I'll do, I'll show the audience a rehearsal." And that's what I did. I did the show as a rehearsal and talked about what's going on the stage, what the roadies were doing, and what everyone was doing. And they really enjoyed it. If you can get away with that, you get away with

anything. **AP:** With a career that began in the mid-1960s, what has been the biggest change you've seen over the years?

Daltrey: Age. (Laughs.) I mean, see the elders growing up with us out in the audience, but equally, we have got an enormous number of young fans, which I'm astounded by. So, it changes all the time. But obviously our audience, they've grown up with us, so age is the thing you notice most.

AP: Mick Jagger is on the road with the Rolling Stones at 80 years old. Will The Who ever tour again?

Daltrey: I don't see it. I don't, I don't know whether The Who will ever will go out again. I don't know. I don't think like that. If we've got something to do, something which was progressive and interesting and there was a reason to do it, then we would go out. But at the moment I can't see it.

"borrow" to display there. She said she even heard a tour guide say, "My idol, Sheila E. even has her drums setup in the studio!"

Paisley Park posted on its own Instagram account that it just needed some advance warning.

"Hello Sheila - We love and respect you,

"Hello Sheila - We love and respect you and we did offer for you to come in and film in the soundstage or other areas, but we couldn't allow filming in the studios without prior knowledge and planning, especially with tours going on at the time. We hope to have you back to Paisley Park in the future - just give us a heads-up! Happy Prince Day," the message read, ended by a purple heart emoji. (AP)

LONDON: Oxford University has agreed to return a 500-year-old bronze sculpture of a Hindu poet and saint to India, the univer-

sity's Ashmolean Museum said.
The Indian High Commission in the
U.K. made a claim four years ago for the
bronze figure of Tirumankai Alvar that

was allegedly looted from a temple.

Vijay Kumar, co-founder of India Pride Project, which seeks to reclaim stolen religious artifacts, said worshippers have something to cheer. "We saw COVID delays and procedural

"We saw COVID delays and procedural drama between British and Indian authorities on what should have been an open and shut case," Kumar told the Times of India on Sunday. "But we have been voicing our opinions on social media and we are almost there."

The planned repatriation comes amid a push by foreign governments, including **Nigeria**, **Egypt** and **Greece**, as well as Indigenous peoples from **North America** to **Australia**, seeking to reclaim precious antiquities looted or acquired by questionable means during the heyday of the British Empire. (AP)

worm in me!' The other diners looked very surprised," he said. "I was delighted, but at the same time, it was rather horrible." (AP)

my toe in the water.

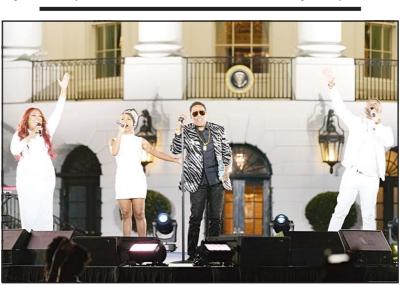
MINNEAPOLIS: Sheila E. figured she'd be welcome if she showed up unannounced to record some video at Paisley Park where the Grammy-nominated percussionist once collaborated with her mentor and one-time fiancée, the late rock superstar Prince. She was wrong.

She said in an Instagram video that she was hurt when she went there to pay her respects on Friday, which would have been

his 66th birthday, but was not let into a studio. She said that it "won't take away the joy that he and I had together" at the studio in suburban **Minneapolis**, which is now a museum in his memory.

"I went in to celebrate him, and I wanted to go into the studio and do a live video, take a picture, and they said, 'No.' "Sheila said. "My heart's broke. I can't even walk into Paisley. That's kind of messed up. ... Not a nice way to celebrate his birthday."

In a follow-up statement released through her publicist on Monday, Sheila said she now wants the museum to return her old drum kit, which she said Prince personally asked to



Singer and songwriter Charlie Wilson performs during a Juneteenth concert on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, Monday, June 10. (AP)

Siri gets smarter

Apple leaps into Al with new iPhone features, ChatGPT deal

CUPERTINO, Calif., June 11, (AP): Apple has jumped into the race to bring generative artificial intelligence to the masses, spotlighting a slew of features Monday designed to soup up the iPhone, iPad and Mac.

And in a move befitting a company known for its marketing prowess, the AI technology coming as part of free software updates later this year is being billed as "Apple Intelligence."

Even as it tried to put its own stamp on technology's hottest area, Apple tacitly acknowledged during its World Wide Developers Conference that it needs help catching up with companies like Microsoft and Google, which have emerged as the early leaders in AI. Apple is leaning on ChatGPT, made by the San Francisco startup OpenAI, to make its often-bumbling virtual assistant Siri smarter and more helpful.

"All of this goes beyond artificial intelligence, it's personal intelligence, and it is the next big step for Apple,' CEO Tim Cook said.

Benefit

Siri's optional gateway to ChatGPT will be free to all iPhone users and made available on other Apple products once the option is baked into the next generation of Apple's operating systems. ChatGPT subscribers are supposed to be able to easily sync their existing accounts when using the iPhone, and should get more advanced features than free users would.

To herald the alliance with Apple, OpenAI CEO Sam Altman sat in the front row of the packed conference, which was attended by developers from more than 60 countries.

"Together with Apple, we're making it easier for people to benefit from what AI can offer," Altman said in a

Beyond allowing Siri to tap into ChatGPT's storehouse of knowledge, Apple is giving its 13-year-old virtual assistant an extensive makeover designed to make it more personable and versatile, even as it currently fields about 1.5 billion queries a day.

When Apple releases free updates to the software powering the iPhone and its other products this fall, Siri will signal its presence with flashing lights along the edges of the display screen. It will be able to handle hundreds of more tasks - including chores that may require tapping into third-party devices - than it can now, based on Monday's presentations.

Apple's full suite of upcoming features will only work on more recent models of the iPhone, iPad and Mac because the devices require advanced processors. For instance, consumers will need last year's iPhone 15 Pro or buy the next model coming out later this year to take full advantage of Apple's AI package, although all the tools will work on Macs dating back to 2020 after that computer's next operating system is installed.

The AI-packed updates coming to the next versions of Apple software are meant to enable the billions of people who use the company's devices to get more done in less time, while also givcould liven things up. For instance, Apple will deploy AI to allow people to create emojis, dubbed "Genmojis" on the fly to fit the vibe they are trying

Apple's goal with AI "is not to replace users, but empower them," Craig Federighi, Apple's senior vice president of software engineering, told reporters. Users will also have the option of going into the device settings to turn off any AI tools they don't want.

Monday's showcase seemed aimed at allaying concerns Apple might be losing its edge with the advent of AI, a technology expected to be as revolutionary as the 2007 introduction of the Phone. Both Google and Samsung have already released smartphone models touting AI features as their

main attractions, while Apple has been stuck in an uncharacteristically extended sales slump.

AI mania is the main reason that Nvidia, the dominant maker of the chips underlying the technology, has seen its market value rocket from about \$300 billion at the end of 2022 to about \$3 trillion. The meteoric rise allowed Nvidia to surpass Apple as the second most valuable company in the U.S. Earlier this year, Microsoft also eclipsed the iPhone maker on the strength of its so-far successful push

Investors didn't seem as impressed with Apple's AI presentation as the crowd that came to the company's Cupertino, California, headquarters to see it. Apple's stock price dipped nearly 2% Monday.

Despite that negative reaction, Wedbush Securities analyst Dan Ives asserted in a research note that Apple is "taking the right path." He hailed the presentation as a "historical" day for a company that already has reshaped the tech industry and society.

Besides pulling AI tricks out of its bag, Apple also used the conference to confirm that it will be rolling out a technology called Rich Communications Service, or RCS, to its iMessage app. The technology should improve the quality and security of texting between iPhones and devices powered by Android software, such as the Samsung Galaxy and Google Pixel.

The change, due out with the next version of iPhone's operating software, won't eliminate the blue bubbles denoting texts originating from iPhones and the green bubbles marking text sent from Android devices - a distinction that has become a source of social stigma.

In another upcoming twist to the iPhone's messaging app, users will be able to write a text (or have an AI tool compose it) in advance and schedule a specific time to automatically send it.

Presentation

Monday's presentation marked the second straight year that Apple has created a stir at its developers conference by using it to usher in a trendy form of technology that other companies already had employed.

Last year, Apple provided an early look at its mixed-reality headset, the Vision Pro, which wasn't released until early 2024. Nevertheless, Apple's push into mixed reality - with a twist that it bills as "spatial computing" - has raised hopes that there will be more consumer interest in this niche tech-

Part of that optimism stems from Apple's history of releasing technology later than others, then using sleek designs and slick marketing campaigns to overcome its tardy start.

Bringing more AI to the iPhone will likely raise privacy concerns - a topic that Apple has gone to great lengths to assure its loyal customers it can be trusted not to peer too deeply into their personal lives. Apple did talk extensively Monday about its efforts to build strong privacy protections and

controls around its AI technology. One way Appl vince consumers that the iPhone won't be used to spy on them is harnessing its chip technology so most of its AIpowered features are handled on the device itself instead of at remote data centers, often called "the cloud." Going down this route would also help protect Apple's profit margins because AI processing through the cloud is far more expensive than when it is run solely on a device.

When Apple users make AI demands that requiring computing power beyond what's available on the device, the tasks will be handled by what the company is calling a "private cloud" that is supposed to shield their personal data.

Apple's AI "will be aware of your personal data without collecting your personal data," Federighi said.



Apple CEO Tim Cook, (left), speaks as he is joined by Craig Federighi, (right), senior vice president of software engineering, and John Giannandrea, senior vice president of machine learning and AI strategy, during an Apple event in Cupertino, Calif., Monday, June 10. (AP)

Eli Lilly's drug can slow disease

FDA panel backs Alzheimer's drug

WASHINGTON, June 11, (AP): A closely watched Alzheimer's drug from Eli Lilly won the backing of federal health advisers on Monday, setting the stage for the treatment's expected approval for people with mild dementia caused by the brain-robbing

Food and Drug Administration advisers voted unanimously that the drug's ability to slow the disease outweighs its risks, including side effects like brain swelling and bleeding that will have to be monitored.

"I thought the evidence was very strong in the trial showing the effectiveness of the drug," said panel member Dean Follmann, a National Institutes of Health statistician.

The FDA will make the final decision on approval later this year. If the agency agrees with the panel's recommendation, the drug, donanemab, would only be the second Alzheimer's drug cleared in the U.S. that's been shown to convincingly slow cognitive decline and memory problems due to Alzheimer's. The FDA approved a similar infused drug, Leqembi, from Japanese drugmaker Eisai last year.

The slowdown seen with both drugs amounts to several months and experts disagree on whether patients or their loved ones will be able to detect the

But Lilly's approach to studying its once-a-month treatment prompted

questions from FDA reviewers.

Patients in the company's study were grouped based on their levels of a brain protein, called tau, that predicts severity of cognitive problems. That led FDA to question whether patients might need to be screened via brain scans for tau before getting the drug. But most panelists thought there was enough evidence of the drug's benefit to prescribe it broadly, without screening for the protein.

'Imposing a requirement for tau imaging is not necessary and would raise serious practical and access concerns to the treatment," said Dr. Thomas Montine of Stanford University, who chaired the panel and summarized its opinion.

Cognitive

At a high level, Lilly's results mirrored those of Leqembi, with both medications showing a modest slowing of cognitive problems in patients with early-stage Alzheimer's. The Indianapolis-based company conducted a 1,700-patient study showing patients who received monthly IV infusions of its drug declined about 35% more slowly than those who got a sham treatment.

The FDA had been widely expected to approve the drug in March. But instead the agency said it would ask its panel of neurology experts to publicly review the company's data, an unexpected delay that surprised analysts and investors

Several unusual approaches in how Lilly tested its drug led to the meeting.

One change was measuring patients' tau, and excluding patients with very low or no levels of the protein. But panelists said there was enough data from other measures to feel confident that nearly all patients could benefit from the drug, regardless of their levels.

In another key difference, Lilly studied taking patients off its drug when they reached very low levels of amyloid, a sticky brain plaque that's a contributor to Alzheimer's.

Lilly scientists suggested stopping treatment is a key advantage for its drug, which could reduce side effects and costs. But FDA staff said Lilly provided little data supporting the optimal time to stop or how quickly patients might need to restart treatment.

Despite those questions, many panelists thought the possibility of stopping doses held promise.

"It's a huge cost savings for the society, we're talking about expensive treatment, expensive surveillance,' said Dr. Tanya Simuni of Northwestern University. She and other experts said patients would need to be tracked and tested to see how they fare and whether they need to resume treat-

The main safety issue with donanemab was brain swelling and bleeding, a problem common to all amyloidtargeting drugs. Most cases identified in Lilly's trial were mild.

Poultry lessons

US dairy farmers confront bird flu

DES MOINES, Iowa, Jan 11, (Agencies): As the US dairy industry confronts a bird flu outbreak, with cases reported at dozens of farms and the disease spreading to people, the egg industry could serve as an example of how to slow the disease but also shows how difficult it can be to eradicate the virus.

There have been earlier bird flu outbreaks in the US, but the current one started in February 2022 and has forced the slaughter of nearly 100 million chickens and turkeys. Hot spots still occur, but their frequency has dropped in part because of biosecurity efforts at farms and a coordinated approach between companies and agricultural officials, experts say.

Dairy farmers could try to implement similar safeguards, but the vast differences between the animals and the industries limit what lessons can be learned and applied.

Disease

It's commonly called bird flu because the disease is largely spread by wild birds that can survive infections. Many mammals have caught the illness too, including sea lions and skunks.

Animals can be infected by eating an infected bird or by being exposed to environments where the virus is present. That said, there are big differences in how cows and chickens have fared after getting infected.

Bird flu is typically fatal to chickens and turkeys within days of an infection, leading to immediate mass killings of birds. That's not true for cows. Dairies in several states have re-

ported having to kill infected animals because symptoms continued to linger and their milk production didn't recover, but that's not the norm, said Russ Daly, an extension veterinarian at South Dakota State University

He said it appears that bird flu isn't usually fatal to cows but that an infected animal can be more vulnerable to other ailments typically founds in dairies, such as bacterial pneumonia and udder infections.

Egg operators have become clean

To prevent disease from spreading, egg producers require workers to shower and change into clean clothes before they enter a barn and shower again when they leave. They also frequently wash trucks and spray tires with solutions to kill off virus remnants. Many egg operations even use lasers

and install special fencing to discourage wild birds from stopping by for a "Gone is the day of the scarecrow,"

said Emily Metz, president of the American Egg Board.

Also:

CANBERRA: Australia is not at risk of an egg snortage despite an outbreak of avian influenza, the agriculture minister has said.

Murray Watt on Tuesday said there is no reason for Australians to be worried about a national shortage of eggs after the highly pathogenic H7N3 strain of bird flu was detected at five farms in the state of Victoria.

He told state media Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) television that 1 million hens have been euthanized or otherwise affected by the outbreak, representing approximately four percent of Australia's national flock of egg-laying chickens. In response, Coles -- one of Austra-

lia's two largest supermarket chains has limited the number of eggs

Libya gets water treatment plants

'Flesh-eating' bacteria cases surge in Japan

TOKYO, June 11, (Xinhua): Streptococcal toxic shock syndrome, a potentially fatal illness caused by a "flesh-eating" bacterium, is increasing notably across Japan, with cases in the first half of this year already exceeding last year's record, local media reported Tuesday.

There have been 977 confirmed cases of the disease caused by the bacterium called streptococcus pyogenes which is often associated with strep throat but occasionally leads to limb necrosis and multiple organ failure, Kyodo News reported, citing a national infectious disease institute.

The figure in the first six months of 2024 already surpassed last year's 941, the highest annual number of cases tallied since mandatory reporting began in 1999, the report said.

Tokyo logged the highest number of cases at 145. Infections of more virulent and contagious strains of the bacterium are increasingly being reported, particularly in the Kanto region centering on Tokyo, it added.

Also:

TRIPOLI: The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) said on Monday that it installed two water treatment plants in two villages in eastern Libya, which was hit by deadly floods in 2023.

"As part of our emergency response for water supply and water trucking in the flood-affected areas, UNICEF has installed two RO (reverse osmosis) water treatment plants in Al Mkhili and El Ezzeiat," UNICEF said in a statement.

customers can buy to two cartons in all stores across the nation except in Western Australia (WA).







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Canada leave behind disappointing 2023

Defending Olympic champions have steadied heading into Paris Games

OTTAWA, June 11, (AP): Even coach Bev Priestman acknowledges the Canadian national team lost its way last year.

Two years after winning Olympic gold at the Tokyo Games, the Canadians were humbled by a poor performance at last summer's Women's World Cup. Canada failed to advance out of the group stage for the first time since 2011. "Had an unbelievable 2021 and arguably 2022, of some really good runs.

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And for whatever reason, I think we know that we lost our way and I lost my way, I would say, in terms of my values and principles and being able to see the woods for the trees," said Priestman, who is now preparing her team for this year's Olympics, where Canada begins play on July 25.

Canada was ranked by FIFA at No. 6 in the world going into the World Cup, then fell to No. 10 afterward.

Simmering in the background for the past two years has been the national team's ongoing - and sometimes contentious - labor dispute with Canada Soc-

Without a contract since 2021, the team struck compensation deals for 2022 and the World Cup, but the issue has become so fraught that the women filed a \$40 million lawsuit this year accusing Canada Soccer board members of negligence and breach of fiduciary duty.

Complicating matters is that the women are seeking equal pay to the men's national team, much like the U.S. women's team succeeded with its collective bargaining agreement in 2022, and Canada's men don't have a labor agreement either.

Priestman, who admittedly had a difficult task keeping the team focused amid the outside noise, takes full responsibility for the team's on-field shortcomings last year.

"I think the biggest thing is, we played it safe, I played it safe," she said. You could see that in 2023 when there was a lot of clutter, and maybe that was the safe thing to do, to make the environment feel that way in what was going

Captain Jessie Fleming said Priestman's assessment that the team lost its

total costs to stage 2034 Winter Games SALT LAKE CITY, June 11, (AP):

Organizers for the proposed 2034 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City released their first budget estimate Monday, projecting total costs of just under \$4 billion, with \$2.84 billion of that slated for operational costs.

The committee said even though there will be 40% more events than the last time Salt Lake City hosted the Olympics, the number for operational costs for 2034 is 1% lower than that for 2002 when adjusted for

"I think when you look at our perfor-

mances at the World Cup, they certainly

weren't performances that we were

happy with, it wasn't close to our best.

way was fair.

The IOC will study the numbers later this month and is expected to officially award the 2034 Games to Utah's capital at a meeting on July 24 in the lead-up to the Paris Olympics.

Salt Lake City has been focused on using many of the venues that were in play for 2002. It says no new venue construction is planned for 2034, as it will use facilities that have been kept in use and upgraded since 2002.

Olympics are notorious for com-

I think we learned a lot from that sum-

mer," Fleming said. "I think it's diffi-

cult. Teams are always in transition and

we've had a lot of transition in recent

years. But since the World Cup, I feel

ing in over budget, and also for being difficult to track money-wise - in part because of the different elements that make up "operating" and "total" costs

Salt Lake City Olympic bid projects \$4b in

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and also because of an often-opaque process used in filtering those numbers through governments and the IOC to

we've had some really good perfor-

last September, with just one loss in reg-

ulation. The team's other stumbles were

Canada has indeed rebounded since

mances as a team."

makes often is that Olympic budgeting is, in fact, an unofficial Olympic sport," said bid chief operating officer Brett Hopkins, who explained the budget in a media call along with bid CEO Fraser Bullock. "There is just a tremendous amount that goes in behind the scenes.'

If Salt Lake City can come close to these numbers, it would represent a remarkable shift from the last few Win-

to the United States: Canada played to

draws with their rivals in both the CON-

CACAF Gold Cup semifinals and the

She Believes Cup before ultimately fall-



Las Vegas Aces guard Kelsey Plum, center, shoots against Los Angeles Sparks forward Stephanie Talbot, left, and guard Aari McDonald (15) during the

Sun beat the Fever 89-72 for 11th straight series victory

Clark held to just 10 points

UNCASVILLE, June 11, (AP): DiJonai Carrington scored a season-high 22 points, DeWanna Bonner added 17 and the Connecticut Sun eased past the Indiana Fever 89-72 on Monday night for their 11th straight win in the series.

Connecticut (10-1), which has won three games against Indiana (3-10) this season, hasn't lost to

BASKETBALL

the Fever since July 3, 2021. The Sun became the second team in the WNBA this season to reach 10 wins and the Fever are the second squad to lose 10 games.

Indiana star Caitlin Clark finished with her fourth-fewest points of the season, going 3 of 8 from the field for 10 points - all in the first half. She picked up her fourth foul with 4:41 left in the third quarter and did not play in

Snubbed by their first choice, the Lakers must resume their head coaching search

LOS ANGELES, June 11, (AP): The Los Angeles Lakers must continue their latest coaching search with the basketball world already knowing their first choice turned them down. The Lakers have endured their share

of embarrassments in recent years, but a snub by a college coach - even the best in the game - is among the roughest setbacks yet.

Dan Hurley met with the Lakers last week and then rejected their very public courtship Monday. The coach probably emerged from his dalliance with the leverage to finish a lucrative new

Fans in Connecticut were chanting

Clark had the ball stolen near mid-

court and Carrington raced the other

way for a layup that barely beat the

"We want Caitlin! We want Caitlin!"

midway through the fourth.

the final period.

contract at UConn.

But what's next for the Lakers, a franchise with 17 championships, a world-renowned brand, two of the sport's top players and no head coach?

They must resume a search that has stretched well into its second month since Darvin Ham's firing May 3 and has yet to produce a slam-dunk choice. Nearly every leaked discussion of the Lakers' search included three top candidates - each of whom would have arrived on the West Coast with question

Although Hurley is one of the most

halftime buzzer to give Connecticut

a 55-35 lead. The Sun closed the first

on a 14-6 burst to make it 69-41.

Connecticut started the third quarter

Tyasha Harris and Brionna Jones

each added 11 for Connecticut, which

respected names in the sport after the Huskies' success over the past two years, he's never worked in the NBA. Former player J.J. Redick has never coached at all, and James Borrego has been an NBA head coach for 4 1/2 seasons without ever making the playoffs.

Redick and Borrego are still candidates to run the Lakers, which would seem to be one of the most desirable jobs in sports - but the charitable interpretation of this current search is that owner Jeanie Buss and general manager Rob Pelinka are struggling to find the right fit for their vision.

was coming off an 82-75 loss to New York on Saturday. Tiffany Mitchell added 10 points and Alyssa Thomas had seven points, 18 rebounds and seven assists. Thomas' lone triple-double this season came against the Fever in a

China names taekwondo squad for Paris Olympics

BEIJING, June 11, (Xinhua): The Chinese Taekwondo Association announced a six-strong roster for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games at a preparation meeting on Tuesday, with all athletes set to make their Olympic debut.

Led by Luo Zongshi, world champion and current world No. 1 in the women's 57kg category, these young athletes have made their names on the world stage

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despite the lack of Olympic experi-

Liang Yushuai claimed the men's 63kg gold at the 2022 World Taekwondo Championships in Guadalajara, Mexico, while Song Zhaoxiang, Song Jie and Zhou Zeqi emerged victorious in their respective categories at the Hangzhou Asian Games.

The Chinese taekwondo team performed below expectation at the Tokyo Olympics, with Rio Olympic champion Zhao Shuai clinching the only bronze medal. During the Paris Olympic cycle, the Chinese team focused on developing the next generation of athletes and ultimately secured all possible berths at Paris after three years.

"The competition will be intense, requiring top-notch levels of strength, speed, and adaptability," Liang noted. "The chances of victory are fleeting and uncertain. Now I need to put aside all the pressure and compete as a challenger, giving it my all in every kick, no matter who the opponent is."

On the contrary, 25-year-old Luo will face challenges from other athletes in Paris. She will focus on analyzing opponents, strengthening her advantages, polishing her match strategies during the final preparation stage. The Paris Olympics taekwondo

competition will run from August 7 to 10 at the Grand Palais.

Following is the Chinese taekwondo squad:

Women's 49kg: Guo Qing Women's 57kg: Luo Zongshi Women's 67kg: Song Jie Women's +67kg: Zhou Zeqi Men's 68kg: Liang Yushuai Men's +80kg: Song Zhaoxiang

US opts for experience, versatility on Oly women's basketball roster

WASHINGTON, June 11, (AP): USA Basketball said experience was a major reason Caitlin Clark was not on the U.S. women's Olympic roster that was officially revealed Tuesday.

The selection committee didn't believe the talented Clark had enough of high-level reps to be a member of the group headed to the Paris Games. The team includes seven players from the group that won gold in Tokyo - the seventh straight for the Americans.

Selection committee chair Jen Rizzotti said the committee was aware of the outside noise and pressure to select Clark, the No. 1 pick in the WNBA draft who has drawn millions of new fans to the sport from her record-setting career in college at Iowa to now with the Indiana Fever.

"Here's the basketball criteria that we were given as a committee and how do we evaluate our players based on that?" Rizzotti told The Associated Press in an interview. "And when you base your decision on criteria, there were other players that were harder to cut because they checked a lot more boxes. Then sometimes it comes down to position, style of play for Cheryl (Reeve) and then sometimes a vote.'

Diana Taurasi is back for a record sixth time. Her Olympic career started when she was a WNBA rookie in the 2004 Athens Game, and now the 42year old will be on the team again. Other returners from the Tokyo Olympics are Breanna Stewart, A'ja Wilson, Chelsea Gray, Napheesa Collier, Jewell Loyd and Brittney Griner.

Besides the returners, the Americans also added 5-on-5 newcomers Kelsey Plum and Jackie Young, who helped the U.S. win the inaugural 3x3 gold medal at the Tokyo Games in 2021. Several first-time Olympians will join the team with Alyssa Thomas, Sabrina Ionescu and Kahleah Copper. All three played on the American team that won the World Cup in Australia in 2022.

"It's a great mix of talent across the board in terms of individual skill sets,' USA Basketball CEO Jim Tooley said. "We have veterans, newcomers and those in the middle. Good perspective and continuity is such an important thing and is why we've been successful in the Olympics.

All 12 of those players had senior national team experience. Clark, to no

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fault of her own, does not.

"She's certainly going to continue to get better and better," Tooley said. "Really hope that she's a big part of our future going forward.'

The selection committee has a set of criteria to pick the team that includes playing ability, position played and adaptability to the international game. Marketing and popularity aren't on that list.

"It would be irresponsible for us to talk about her in a way other than how she would impact the play of the team," Rizzotti said. "Because it wasn't the purview of our committee to decide how many people would watch or how many people would root for the U.S. It was our purview to create the best team we could for

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Snap elections in France won't impact the Paris Games: Bach PARIS, June 11, (AP): The snap national election called

by French President Emmanuel Macron will not impact the Paris Olympics, IOC president Thomas Bach said. Bach said the Paris Games have always had broad support across the French political spectrum and added, "I have no indications whatsoever that this unity will break

half on a 16-4 run.

now, just ... before the Games open." The French legislative elections will take place in two rounds on June 30 and July 7, three weeks before the July 26 opening ceremony in central Paris that will include a

floating parade of athletes on the River Seine. Macron dissolved the lower house of France's parliament in a surprise announcement on Sunday after his centrist party was handed a humbling defeat by the far right in

elections for the European Union parliament. Despite the political uncertainty, Bach said any election was part of a "democratic process that's not going to disturb the Games.'

"France is used to holding elections and they will do it once again. There will be a new parliament, a new government, and everybody will support the Olympic Games.'

Bach spoke while touring a Parisian middle school decorated with an Olympic theme alongside Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo, French Sports Minister Amélie Oudéa-Castéra, and Paris organizing committee president Tony Estanguet, who was equally unfazed by the political developments.

"There have been a dozen elections since we became candidates to host the Olympics," Estanguet said. "Regardless of who is in charge, we have always been able to work with the political authorities.'

Oudéa-Castêra, the sports minister who could be replaced by the time the Games get underway, said politicians should set aside their differences and unite behind

"We have waited a century for these Games," Oudéa-Castéra said. "It's crucial that our country takes care of its

OLYMPICS

image and the message it sends to the world at a time when it is welcoming athletes from all over the globe."

Denver Nuggets superstar Nikola Jokic was included on Serbia's 16-man preliminary roster for the upcoming

Paris Olympics, ending doubts he would skip the basket-

ball tournament. The three-time NBA MVP has missed some important international tournaments in the past, citing long NBA sea-

But Jokic ended the current NBA season earlier than ex-

pected after last year's champions were eliminated in the playoffs by the Minnesota Timberwolves. He spent the last few weeks rafting with friends and his brothers

Also on the list announced by Serbia coach Svetislav Pesic are Charlotte Hornets guard Vasilije Micic, Miami Heat forward Nikola Jovic, Atlanta Hawks sharpshooter Bogdan Bogdanovic and Hornets forward Aleksei Pokusevski.

Serbia will play its opening game in the Olympic tournament on July 28 against the United Sates.

Change Name

I, MOHAMMED YUNUS HOLDER OF ISSUED AT KUWAIT ON 19-01-2015 PERMANENT RESIDENT OF B-DECTOR, V- LINE, ROOM NO. 13, CHEETA CAMP, MUMBAI - 400088. PRESENTLY RESIDENT OF SAAD ABDALLAH , AREA NO. 06, STREET NO. 605, HOUSE NO. 40, AL JAHRA, KUWAIT. WILL HENCEFORTH BE KNOWN AS (GIVEN NAME) MOHAMMED YUNUS (SURNAME) SHAIKH AS PER DOCUMENTS.

OBJECTION(s), IF ANY MAY BE

FORWARDED TO EMBASSY OF INDIA, STATE OF KUWAIT.

Change Name

I, MALIKEUSTER MILLWALA S/O SAIFUDDIN MILLWALA hereby declare here that I have changed my name to MALEKULASHTER MILLWALA S/O SAIFUDDIN MILLWALA. So from now on and in the future, I will be known by my new name. MALEKULASHTER MILLWALA S/O SAIFUDDIN MILLWALA. Address: 136, HUSAINI MANZIL, SAI PARADISE NIHALPUR

MUNDI, INDORE (M.P.) 452012

Few German flags hanging from balconies or windows

Why Germany's 2006 WC patriotic fervor is unlikely to repeat at Euro 2024

BERLIN, June 11, (AP): When Germany hosted the 2006 World Cup, it unleashed an unexpected burst of national pride across the country. For many Germans, it was the first time they felt they could wave the flag unburdened by the country's dark past.

As Germany gets ready to host another major soccer tournament, the European Championship, such scenes of patriotic fervor are hard to imagine happening again.

While the national team could yet coax reluctant Germans to celebrate, the country itself is going through difficult times politically, with a far-right surge making many uncomfortable about public displays of national pride.

Even with Germany's opening game on Friday against Scotland just days away, there are few German flags hanging from balconies or windows, few national colors on show.

"It's not going to be like 2006, because we've moved on 18 years and

SOCCER

there are conflicts everywhere," said Stephan Uersfeld, a sports columnist for broadcaster NTV. "Conflicts within German society, conflicts within Europe. It hadn't been the case in

Germany was one of the countries where the far-right made significant gains in elections to the European Parliament on Sunday. Alternative for Germany, or AfD, came second.

In 2006, the country wasn't as polarized. Germans still refer to the World Cup that year as a "Sommermärchen," or summer fairy-

It was the first time Germany hosted a major soccer tournament since reunification. The economy was recovering from a deep depression with unemployment at 12.6% in 2005 - the high-



In this file photo, a German soccer fan sings the German national anthem prior to the beginning of the Round of 16 of the World Cup soccer match Germany against Sweden at the public viewing area where fans could watch the match live from Munich, on a giant television screen in Berlin. (AP)

est it's ever been since the war - and new Chancellor Angela Merkel promised better times to come.

She enthusiastically cheered along as a young Germany team coached by Jürgen Klinsmann defied expectations to reach the semifinals in a country where soccer is by far the most popular sport. The good weather also played its part. Germans watched on large screens in beer gardens, on the streets or among friends at home, then continued the parties in parks and clubs.

"It was just a great atmosphere," Uersfeld said. "I think the entire country was proud to actually host a tournament and be such a great host. They couldn't believe that people liked what they saw in Germany. You had people coming from all over the world.'

He said hosting a European Championship isn't as big as hosting a World Cup.

It's questionable if even a World Cup would generate a similar celebratory mood now as in 2006. There hasn't been the same collective massdisplays of national pride in the country since, not even after Germany won the 2014 World Cup in Brazil.

Anxiety over the rise of AfD, which uses the German flag frequently in campaigning, and more extremist groups has put many Germans off from displaying national symbols.

"Nobody wants to be confused with the right-wing stuff," said Axel Lischke, a sound engineer in Berlin.

He described himself as a fan of soccer, but not particularly of Germany, and said he would likely root for Scotland in the opening match on Friday

"I would love to see German society everyone equally," said Lischke, who suggested the image of the multicultural German national team is only a vision. He pointed to the treatment of former Germany international Mesut Özil after the team flopped at the 2018 World Cup.

Özil, who has Turkish roots, was made the scapegoat for Germany's group-stage exit and a target for racist abuse. The president of the German soccer federation, DFB, at the time, Reinhard Grindel, later regretted not giving Özil more support.

The DFB has since positioned itself in direct opposition to the far-right, promoting inclusion and tolerance. It has launched campaigns against racism and discrimination.

"It's part of our work," DFB general secretary Heike Ullrich told The AP. 'You cannot say that sport has no role in politics. And we know how strongly football can be used as a model to send out politically important messages." Just before Euro 2024, a TV docu-

mentary questioned the German national team's role in fostering integration in a multicultural society.

Germany defender Jonathan Tah and former internationals Shkodran Mustafi and Gerald Asamoah talked about the racism and hostility they

Lewandowski and Swiderski injured in last Euros warmup



Netherlands' Nathan Ake (center), fights for the ball against Iceland's Andri Gudjohnsen (left), and Valgeir Fridriksson during the international friendly soccer match between The Netherlands and Iceland at De Kuip stadium in Rotterdam, Netherlands, Monday, June 10, 2024. (AP)

The program on public broadcaster ARD included a survey asking 1,304 participants if they would prefer more white players on the team. One in five replied they would.

coach Julian Both Germany Nagelsmann and midfielder Joshua Kimmich said they were shocked that the broadcaster would even ask such a question.

"When you consider that we are about to host a European Championship at home, it's absurd to ask such a question when the aim is actually to unite the whole country," Kimmich said. "It's about achieving great things together. As a team, we're trying to get everyone in Germany behind us.'

The other 11 European teams which

qualified for the Club World Cup - in-

cluding Manchester City, Bayern Mu-

nich, Paris Saint-Germain and other

consistent performers in the past four

Champions League seasons - are all

members of the influential European

the ECA since the Super League de-

bacle. It also included Atletico and Ju-

ventus, who are now back in the fold

of the 600-member club network and

ing agreement with FIFA, a so-called

"memorandum of understanding,"

which included promises of cooperation

on the club tournament and getting a big-

ger say in its commercial decisions.

The ECA last year renewed its work-

going to the Club World Cup.

Real Madrid has been exiled from

Club Association.

Czech Republic struggle to subdue North Macedonia

WARSAW, Poland, (AP): Strikers Robert Lewandowski and Karol Swiderski were in doubt for the **European Championship** after they were injured as Poland beat Turkey 2-1 in a warmup .Lewandowski set up Swiderski for the opening goal in the 12th minute. But in his celebrations, Swiderski hurt his ankle and had to be replaced.

Captain Lewandowski, Poland's all-time leading goal-scorer, lasted until the 32nd when he hurt his right leg and was substituted.

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The double blow was a nightmare for Poland. Arkadiusz Milik was to be up front with Lewandowski for the Euros until he damaged his left knee on Friday in the friendly against Ukraine. Milik returned to Juventus and had suc-

cessful knee surgery on Monday. Lewandowski and Swiderski have only until Sunday to recover when Poland opens its Euros campaign against the Netherlands in Hamburg.

Turkey threatened the equalizer in the second half. Arda Güler and Orkun Köktoçü were saved but goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny was helpless when halftime substitute Baris Alper Yilmaz's shot from the edge of box deflected in.

After Turkey's Kerem Akturkoglu hit the crossbar from long range, Poland won in the 90th thanks to a beauty by Nicola Zalewski, who weaved past

Germany's all-time top scorer Klose is Nuremberg's new coach

two defenders to the box and scored his maiden international goal.

Turkey faces Georgia in its opener on Tuesday week in Dortmund, while Poland will be sweating on its strikers. There was nothing wrong with the Dutch attack. They have warmed up

with consecutive 4-0 wins. Iceland was put to the sword in Rotterdam, with Virgil van Dijk and Wout Weghorst scoring, just as they did against Canada last Thursday at De

Xavi Simons' first goal for the Netherlands was teed up by Denzel Dumfries' header in the first half, then Nathan Ake's nod set up Van Dijk.

Substitute Donyell Malen scored thanks to Memphis Depay, but Depay was denied moments later when VAR ruled out his goal because of an earlier handball.

However, VAR overturned another on-field decision to allow Weghorst's goal in added time.

The Czech Republic struggled to subdue North Macedonia 2-1, needing two second-half penalties in Hradec Králové. After Malta was ravaged 7-1 last Friday, the Czechs made nine changes to give their likely Euro lineup a run before facing Portugal in a week in Leipzig.

But nobody scored until the 60th when Patrik Schick converted a penalty for a foul on Tomas Soucek.

Just five minutes later, North Macedonia was level after Isnik Alimi headed in a rebound of Aleksandar Trajkovski's shot off the right post.

The Czechs needed all seven minutes of added time to find the winner, from a spot kick by Antonin Barak.

They suffered a setback on Sunday hen midfielder Michal Sadilek who captained the team against Malta, withdrew from the Euro 2024 squad after injuring his shin from falling off a bike



Poland's Sebastian Szymanski (centre left), challenges for the ball with Turkey's Merih Demiral during the international friendly soccer match between Poland and Turkey at the National stadium in Warsaw, Poland. (AP)

'A single Real game is worth 20 million'

Madrid coach Ancelotti warns of snub to FIFA Club WC before his bosses backtrack

GENEVA, June 11, (AP): Real Madrid is the main attraction at the biggest ever Club World Cup next year in the United States but the Champions League winner was ready to boycott it, according to coach Carlo Ancelotti, citing a dispute with FIFA over money.

Not so, his employer said hours later, backtracking from claims by the hugely respected Ancelotti published in an interview with an Italian daily.

The U.S. is hosting the first revamped edition of the FIFA club tournament in June-July 2025 with Madrid and its superstar players Kylian Mbappé, Vinícius Júnior and Jude Bellingham the standout among 32 teams, including 12 from Europe. It is due to be played every four years.

But Ancelotti said FIFA "can forget about it" in an interview published Monday by Italian daily Il Giornale. "A single Real Madrid game is worth 20 million and FIFA wants to

give us that amount for the entire cup. Negative," the Madrid coach said. "Like us, other clubs will turn down

Ancelotti is perhaps the most universally liked coach in world soccer but his published claims were questionable and led to a quick climb down

"Real Madrid never questioned its participation in the new Club World Cup to be organized by FIFA," the club said in a statement. "Therefore, our club will compete, as planned, in this official competition that we face with pride and with the utmost enthusiasm to make our millions of fans around the world dream again with a In a later social media post, Ancelotti didn't deny his comments to Il Giornale but said his words were not interpreted the way he intended.

Madrid typically earns about 10 million euros (\$10.7 million) per Champions League game in prize money from UEFA in a revenue distribution model that FIFA is expected to closely mir-

It was also far from clear which other clubs would refuse FIFA's invita-tion and pass up likely tens of millions of dollars in guaranteed prize money. The exact amount clubs can expect

to earn is unclear as FIFA still has

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not announced broadcast and sponsor deals for an event that kicks off June 15 next year. FIFA has been in talks with tech giant Apple about a global streaming rights deal, and Saudi Arabian sponsors are expected to be con-

A Madrid snub of FIFA also was unlikely because its place would go to another Spanish team - its biggest rival Barcelona, which has been in a prolonged financial crisis. Atletico Madrid already secured its place in

Spain's quota of two entries. Ancelotti's claims also had seemed to reflect Madrid's status as would-be disrupters in European soccer politics and also its isolation since president Florentino Perez was a driving force behind the breakaway Super League. That project failed within 48 hours of launching in April 2021 after a furious backlash by



Real Madrid's Federico Valverde (right), challenges for the ball with Dortmund's Ian Maatsen during the Champions League final soccer match between Borussia Dortmund and Real Madrid at Wembley stadium in Lon-

Infantino praises La Liga's action against racism GENEVA, June 11, (Agencies): FIFA President Gianni Infantino praised Spanish La Liga for its actions against

racism and reiterated FIFA's strong

stance on the issue. Infantino posted on Instagram, stating, "I am pleased to see the firm action and sentencing taken by the Spanish authorities in relation to the racist abuse directed at Vinicius Jr in a Spanish La Liga match in May 2023. This is a positive step." On Monday, three Valencia football fans were sentenced to eight months in prison and banned from entering football stadiums for two years for hate crimes against Real Madrid's Brazilian player Vinicius Jr. This marks the first conviction for racist insults in a soccer stadium in Spain.

"As I reiterated clearly at the recent FIFA Congress in Bangkok, we can no longer accept what is happening in stadiums and on the pitch. Our message to people anywhere in the world who still behave in a racist way when they are dealing with football is clear: we don't want you. These people have to be excluded, they are not part of our community and not part of football," Infantino said.

"This ruling showcases one of FI-FA's five pillars of action: criminal charges. We, together united as global football, will push for recognition of racism as a criminal offence in every country in the world and, as seen to-day in Spain, where there is already an offence, will push for prosecution with the severity it deserves," he posted.

FIFA announced an anti-racism program based on five "pillars" at the 74th FIFA Congress in Bangkok, Thailand on May

"Racism something terrible. It is a scourge that exists in our society. And is one also that is infiltrated in football. For too long we were not ca-

pable of dealing with it in an appropriate way," Infantino said at the FIFA Congress.

Miroslav Klose, Germany's alltime top goal-scorer, is second-division Nuremberg's new coach.

The German club said Tuesday that Klose, who celebrated his 46th birthday on Sunday, had signed a 2-year deal to replace Cristian Fiel, who left to join second-division rival Hertha Berlin last week.

It's Klose's first job as a head coach in Germany. Klose previously coached Bayern Munich's youth teams and Austrian first-division side Rheindorf Altach.

Klose scored 71 goals in 137 games for Germany and helped the team win the 2014 World Cup. He also played for Italian team Lazio and Bayern, Werder Bremen and Kaiserslautern.

Former Boca Juniors and Colombia international winger Sebastian Villa is close to joining Independiente Rivadavia, the Argentine Primera Division club said.

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The 28-year-old is currently tied to FC Beroe until June 2026 but is expected to part ways with the Bulgarian club in the coming days.

"The negotiations are very advanced, the lawyers of both parties are working and we have no doubt that during the course of this week all the legal procedures will be completed," Independiente Rivadavia president **Daniel Vila** told Colombia's Caracol radio station. Villa is a familiar figure in Argentine football, having spent five years at Boca Juniors before parting ways with the Buenos Aires giants in June last year.

He has been capped four times for

Colombia's national team since making his international debut in 2018.

Central defender Benjamin Kuscevic has been drafted into Chile's squad for the Copa America warmup clash against Paraguay, Roja manager Ricardo Gareca said.

Kuscevic's inclusion comes after River Plate's Paulo Diaz and Monaco's Guillermo Maripan were ruled out of Tuesday's friendly in Santiago because of respective knee and quadriceps injuries.

Gareca said Kuscevic, 28, could also be added to Chile's 26-man squad for the Copa America, to be played in the United States from June 20 to July

"For now he provides cover for the match against Paraguay," Gareca told a news conference. "After the match we are going to evaluate things. Anyone can leave or enter the squad and it will depend on the medical analysis of

the injured players.' Kuscevic, who plays his club football for Brazil's Fortaleza, has not represented Chile since the team's 3-1 friendly defeat to **Ghana** in June 2022. Chile will begin its Copa America campaign against Peru on June 21 before also facing Argentina and Canada in the group stage.



Fans react after Bangladesh's captain Najmul Hossain Shanto hit a six during the ICC Men's T20 World Cup cricket match between Bangladesh and South Africa at the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium in Westbury, New York. (AP)

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SA hold off Bangladesh to stay unbeaten

Maharaj bowls a six-run final over

WESTBURY, New York, June 11, (AP): Spinner Keshav Maharaj bowled a sixrun, two-wicket final over and South Africa held off Bangladesh by four runs to stay unbeaten in the Twenty20 World Cup.

Bangladesh needed 11 from the last six deliveries to register a famous win, then needed a six off the last ball. Taskin Ahmed came to the crease after Bangladesh's seventh wicket, and faced the last ball, a full toss by Maharaj. Ahmed swung and managed only

On a typically tough batting pitch at Nassau County Stadium, South Africa successfully defended its lowly total of 113-6 and restricted Bangladesh to 109-7.

It was the lowest target - 114 ever defended in a T20 World Cup, trumping India's defense of 120 runs just the day before.

"That was not nice on the heart, but feels good that we got over the line," said top-scorer Heinrich Klaasen, the player of the match. "This wicket is not great for stroke play. We got some information from the last game and applied it today. I think we got a decent total on the

"We have had three pressure games now and I think we are through (to the next round).'

Maharaj finished with 3-27 in four overs, while Kagiso Rabada (2-19) and Anrich Nortje (2-17) also bowled

well.

South Africa firmed top spot in Group D with three from three and was in pole position to secure a Super Eight spot. Bangladesh's first loss in two matches kept it in second

South Africa chased down Sri Lanka and the Netherlands in its previous two matches at the ground, and was made to bat first this time.

But it still fumbled another start. Pace bowler Tanzim Sakib trapped opener Reeza Hendricks for a golden duck and had Tristan Stubbs caught for a five-ball duck.

Aiden Markram was bowled for 4. In between, Sakib bowled Quinton de Kock for 18 as the Proteas slumped to 23-4 in 4.2 overs.

CRICKET

David Miller came up with another rescue job after his half-century against the Netherlands. He scored 29 off 38 balls and put on 79 runs for the fifth wicket with Klaasen.

Klaasen top-scored with 46 off 44, including two fours and three sixes. The duo pushed South Africa past 100 before falling in the space of six deliveries.

The late strikes left South Africa hanging at just about a par total.

Bangladesh's chase faltered at the start, too. It was down to 37-3 and then 50-4 at the halfway stage.

Nortje dismissed skipper Nazmul Shanto for 14, and sent back Shakib Al Hasan for just 3, picking up his eighth wicket in three games.

Litton Das was out caught off Maharaj, while Rabada had Tanzid



South Africa's Ottniel Baartman throws the ball towards the stumps after fielding it during the ICC Men's T20 World Cup cricket match between Bangladesh and South Africa at the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium in Westbury, New York. (AP)

Indonesia beat Philippines

China keep 2026 World Cup dream alive despite loss

Hasan caught behind for 9.

Towhid Hridoy and Mahmudullah put on 44 off 45 balls to bring Bangladesh back on track.

At 94-4 in the 18th over, Bangladesh was in the driver's seat then lost wickets rapidly to spiral out of control. It went from 94-4 to 108-7

in the space of 17 deliveries. Rabada returned to trap Hridoy but Maharaj's left-arm spin turned the

Ayew scores hat trick

Algeria edge Uganda as Ghana win 7-goal thriller

game in the final over.

South Africa completes the group stage against Nepal on Friday. Bangladesh has the Netherlands on Thursday.

Switzerland complain to UEFA

Southgate says Euro 2024 could be his 'final' tournament with England

ERFURT, Germany, June 11, (Agencies): Gareth Southgate accepts the European Championship could be his final act as England manager.

Southgate's contract expires after the Euros, which kick off Friday when Germany plays Scotland.

He believes it could be his final tournament unless he ends the nasearch for a first major trophy since the World Cup in 1966.

"If we don't win, I probably won't be here anymore," Southgate told German newspaper Bild. "Then it might be the last chance.

SOCCER

"I think about half of the national coaches leave after a tournament - that's the nature of international football."

Under Southgate England advanced to the semifinals of the World Cup in 2018 - when it lost to Croatia - and was a finalist in 2021 at the last Euros when it lost to Italy in a penalty shootout.

England was eliminated from the World Cup in 2022 at the quarterfinal stage by France.

"I've been here for almost eight years now and we've come close. So, I know that you can't keep standing in front of the public and saying 'please do a little more', because at some point people will lose faith in your message," Southgate said. "If we want to be a big team and I want to be a top coach, then you have to deliver in the big moments.

Southgate has been mentioned as a potential candidate for the Manchester United job if Erik ten Hag is fired during the offseason. But Southgate has so far distanced himself from the debate about his future.

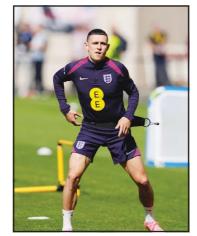
The Switzerland soccer federation formally complained about the quality of the playing surface at its training camp in Germany for the European Championship, UEFA said Tuesday.

The Swiss squad first trained Monday at the home stadium of lower-tier club Stuttgarter Kickers on a fresh field laid ahead of the tournament that starts Friday.

Switzerland first plays Hungary on Saturday in Cologne. Group A also includes host Germany and Scotland, which open Euro 2024 in Munich.

Switzerland coach Murat Yakin was filmed Monday inspecting the grass at Waldau Stadium and looking dissatisfied.

The Swiss federation said Tuesday it wrote to UEFA to express its



England's Phil Foden practices during a public open training session at Jena Stadium in Jena, Germany, ahead of their Group C soccer match against Serbia at the Euro 2024 soccer tournament. (AP)

view that the surface was not up to standard but would still use the field on the outskirts of Stuttgart. An alternative to use the training complex of Bundesliga club Stuttgart was judged to demand too much travel

time for the players. FC Barcelona midfielder Frenkie de Jong withdrew from the Netherlands' Euro 2024 squad on Tuesday due to an ankle injury that won't heal in time for the tournament.

The absence of the 27-year-old De Jong is a major blow for the Dutch squad. Despite his ankle injury since April, the third of the season, Netherlands coach Ronald Koeman had hoped his key player would be fit for

at least the final group phase match. However, examinations on Sunday and Monday revealed that De Jong's ankle is not ready for group training yet, requiring at least another three weeks of recovery. Consequently, both the player and staff decided it would be better for him to leave the squad.

Koeman will call up a replacement shortly. Additionally, on Monday, the "Oranje" suffered another setback when Atalanta midfielder Teun Koopmeiners got injured during the warm-up for the friendly match against Iceland in Rotterdam. For Koopmeiners, it might also mark the end of his Euro 2024 dreams.

Despite missing De Jong and Koopmeiners, the Netherlands put on a good performance in De Kuip stadium, beating Iceland 4-0. Xavi Simons opened the scoring with his first goal for his country, and in the second half, Virgil van Dijk, Donyell Malen, and Wout Weghorst added goals.

SEOUL, South Korea, June 11, (AP): China kept its 2026 World Cup dream alive by the narrowest of margins

despite a 1-0 loss to South Korea on Tuesday. China advanced to the next qualifi-

only won 3-1. South Korea finished the second round of Asian qualification atop Group C and remains on course for an

cation round because Thailand, need-

ing to beat Singapore by three goals,

11th straight World Cup appearance.
In front of 65,000 fans at Seoul World Cup Stadium, Lee Kang-in scored in the 61st minute. A cross from Son Heung-min found its way to the Paris Saint-Germain midfielder, who scored on a low shot from near the

penalty spot. China needed a draw to ensure second place in the group but was forced to wait and hope that Singapore could avoid a three-goal loss at the Rajamangala Stadium in Bangkok.

China's only World Cup appearance came in 2002.

The top two teams from each of the nine groups progress to the next stage. where six teams will confirm their automatic places at the World Cup. A further two teams will confirm their direct spots in the fourth round.

Suphanat Mueanta put Thailand ahead in the first half, and Ikhsan Fandi equalized just before the hour.

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Thailand made it 3-1 on goals from Poramet Arjvirai and Jaroensak Wonggorn but couldn't find the key

fourth goal. Earlier, in a game between teams already confirmed as first and second in Group I, Australia beat the Palestinian team 5-0 in Perth to make it six wins out of six.

Indonesia progressed with a 2-0 win over the Philippines in Group F. North Korea took advantage of

Syria's 5-0 loss to Japan, which did not concede a goal in the six games, to take second place in Group B with a 4-1 win over Myanmar.



South Korea's Son Heung-min, (right), fights for the ball against China's Yang Zexiang during the second round of the Asian qualifier Group C match for 2026 World Cup between South Korea and China at Seoul World



Philippines' Jesper Nyholm, 18, battles for the ball against Indonesia's Ragnar Oratmangoen, 11, during the World Cup 2026 second round qualifier Group F Asia soccer match between Indonesia and the Philippines at Gelora Bung Karno Stadium in Jakarta, Indonesia. (AP)

Loew calls Germany as Euro 2024 favorites

BERLIN, June 11, (Xinhua): With only a few days to go until the 2024 UEFA Euro's kick-off, team Germany's public training session turned into a party-like event.

An enthusiastic atmosphere surrounded the pitch in the team's base camp in Herzogenaurach, as over 4,000 fans celebrated and enjoyed autographs and selfies.

Ahead of the tournament opener in Munich on June 14 against Scotland, anticipation has taken hold of

the tournament host as cars and backyards are being decorated with German flags. Weather conditions are improving, and barbeques are being planned.

"We all can't wait for the start. At home at my parent's place, the garden is covered with German shirts and flags," Dortmund striker Niclas Fullkrug reported, adding "that the teams' mood is on the highest level. We can get far, we can be part of a historical event." Nothing less than the 2024 title is the team's goal, the 31-year-old added after his late arrival in the team camp due to his participation in the 2024 UEFA Champions League final.

"I was on the train from Hannover to Munich after visiting my parents. On the crowded train, I was part of a quiz run by a school class on a short vacation after their high school graduation," the forward said. "The mood was excellent, and optimism went through the sealing."

KAMPALA, June 11, (Xinhua): Algeria defeated Uganda 2-1 in a Group G match of the FIFA World Cup 2026

Egyptian-based professional Travis Mutyaba gave Uganda an early lead after 10 minutes, sending the local fans into a frenzy at the Mandela National Stadium, Namboole. Despite taking the lead, Uganda found it challenging to break through Algeria's tight defensive line.

Algeria nearly equalized in the 44th minute, but Houssem Aouar's shot hit the post and bounced back, allowing Uganda's goalkeeper Ismael Watenga

to make a crucial save. At the start of the second half, Algeria quickly leveled the score through Hossem Aouar in the 46th minute. The Desert Foxes continued to dominate the pace of the match and scored their second goal through Said Benrahma in the 58th

minute during a counterattack. Despite making several changes, Uganda couldn't find a way back into the game. Algeria, the 2019 African Champions, maintained their lead and defended in numbers to secure the maximum points.

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Uganda's head coach Paul Put expressed his disappointment with the result. "We scored early, but failed to play well after that, giving Algeria room to move the ball around and score two goals," Put said.

Algeria's head coach Vladimir Petkovic praised his team's response after conceding an early goal. "The team played well and I am happy that we picked a win against Uganda," Petkovic said.

The win sends Algeria to the top of the group with nine points, while Botswana, who beat Somalia 3-1 on Monday, moved to second place due to a better goal difference. Uganda has now slipped to fifth place. A hat-trick by Crystal Palace's Jordan Ayew led Ghana to a thrilling 4-3 victory over the Central African Republic (CAR) on Matchday Four of Africa's 2026 FIFA World Cup qualifiers at the Baba Yara Sports Stadium in Kumasi, the second-largest city in Ghana.

The Black Stars got off to a flying start as Ayew converted from a spot kick six minutes into the game, making it 1-0 after Issahaku Fatawu was fouled in the penalty box. CAR responded six minutes later with their lead striker Louis Mafouta scoring to level the match. Mafouta added another goal in the 41st minute, giving the away team an advantage going into halftime.

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Editor-in-Chief AHMED AL JARALLAH

Editorial Office: Airport Road, Shuwaikh P.O. Box 2270, 13023 Safat, Kuwait E-mail: arabtimes@arabtimesonline.com E-mail: advt@arabtimesonline.com

Telephone: 24813566 & 24849144 Fax: 24818267

Advertising: Tel: 24813815 Fax: 24845708

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