

# ARAB TIMES

THE FIRST ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY IN FREE KUWAIT Established in 1977 / www.arabtimesonline.com

SUNDAY, JUNE 4, 2023 / ZUL QAADAH 15, 1444 AH

emergency number 112

NO. 18307

16 PAGES

## **Condolences on India train crash toll of over 280**

Modi on scene

NEW DELHI, June 3, (Agencies): Rescuers found no more survivors in the overturned and mangled wreckage of two passenger trains that derailed in eastern India, killing more than 280 people and injuring hundreds in one of the country's deadliest rail crashes in decades, officials said Saturday.

Chaotic scenes erupted after the derailment on Friday night about 220 kilometers (137 miles) southwest of Kolkata, as rescuers climbed atop the wrecked trains to break open doors and windows using cutting torches.

The death toll rose steadily throughout the night. Scores of bodies, covered by white sheets. lay on the ground near the tracks while locals and rescuers raced to free the hundreds of people trapped in the rail cars under the twisted metal and broken glass. Army soldiers and air force helicopters joined the effort.

An Associated Press photographer saw bodies still entangled in a badly mangled coach, as rescuers struggled to retrieve them working under the oppressive heat with temperatures reaching up to 35 degree Celsius (96 degrees Fahrenheit).

#### Tragic

"By 10 p.m. (on Friday) we were able to rescue the survivors. After that it was about picking up dead bodies," Sudhanshu Sarangi, director of Odisha state's fire and emergency department, told The Associated Press. "This is very, very tragic. I have never seen anything like this in my ca-

At least 280 bodies were recovered overnight and into Saturday morning, he said. About 900 people were injured and the cause was under investigation.

Meanwhile, in Kuwait, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Saturday sent a cable of condolences to Indian President Droupadi Murmu over a train crash in India's eastern Odish State, which left hundreds of people dead or injured, while wishing a swift recovery for the injured.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah also sent a cable of condolences to Indian President Droupadi Murmu.

The Kuwait Foreign Ministry on Saturday expressed sympathy with India in the aftermath of trains' collision in the east of the nation where hundreds of people perished or got injured.

The ministry expressed solace to New Delhi, the Indian government and people, on this painful affliction and wished the injured

quick recovery. The accident occurred at a time when Prime Minister Narendra Modi is focussing on the modernization of the British colonial-era railroad network in India, which has become the world's most populous country with 1.42 billion. Despite government efforts to improve rail safety, several hundred accidents occur every year on India's railways, the largest train network under one management in the

world. Modi flew to the crash site and spent half an hour examining the relief effort and talking to rescue officials. He was seen giving instructions on the phone to of-

ficials in New Delhi. He later visited a hospital where he walked around inquiring from doctors about the treatment being given to the injured. and spoke to some of them, moving from bed to bed in a ward.

### **Punish**

Modi told reporters that it was a sad moment and he was feeling the pain of those who have suffered in the accident. He said the government would do its utmost to help them and strictly punish those found responsible.

Modi on Saturday was supposed to inaugurate a high-speed train connecting Goa and Mumbai that is equipped with a collision avoidance system. The event was canceled after Friday's accident. The trains that derailed did not have that system.

Amitabh Sharma, a Railroad Ministry spokesperson, said the rescue work was near completion. Rail authorities will start removing the wreckage to repair the track and resume train opera-

tions, he said. About 200 of the severely injured people were transferred to specialty hospitals in other cities in Odisha, said P.K. Jena, the state's top administrative official. Another 200 were discharged after receiving medical care and the rest were being treated in local hospitals, he added. Scores of people also showed up to donate blood.



Rescuers work at the site of passenger trains accident, in Balasore district, in the eastern Indian state of Orissa, Saturday, June 3, 2023. Rescuers are wading through piles of debris and wreckage to pull out bodies and free people after two passenger trains derailed in India, killing more than 280 people. Hundreds of others were trapped inside more than a dozen mangled rail cars, in one of

### **The Conversation**

### Epic power shift in dedollarization

By Tuugi Chuluun Loyola University Maryland

WASHINGTON, June 3, (AP): The Chinese economy's

sheer size and rapid growth are impressive. China maintained one of the highest economic growth rates in the world for more than a quarter of a century, helping lift over 800 million people out of poverty in just a few decades. The country is the largest exporter in the world and the most important trading partner of Japan, Germany, Brazil and many other countries. It has the second-largest economy after the U.S., based on the market exchange rate, and the largest based on purchas-

And yet the yuan still lags as a major global currency The war in Ukraine, which started in February 2022, may change that.

As a professor of finance and expert on international finance, I understand how this geopolitical conflict may put China's currency on the next phase of its path to becoming a global currency - and prompt the onset of the decline of the U.S. dollar from its current dominance.

China has long wanted to make the yuan a global force and has mounted significant efforts to do so in re-

For example, the Chinese government launched the Cross-Border Interbank Payments System, or CIPS, in 2015 to facilitate cross-border payments in yuan. Three years later, in 2018, it launched the world's first yuandenominated crude oil futures contracts to allow exporters to sell oil in vuan.

China has also emerged perhaps as the world's largest creditor, with the government and state-controlled enterprises extending loans to dozens of developing countries. And China is developing a digital yuan as one of the world's first central bank digital currencies. Even the trading hours for the yuan were recently extended on the mainland

Thanks to these efforts, the yuan is now the fifthmost-traded currency in the world. That is a phenomenal rise from its 35th place in 2001. The yuan is also the fifth-most-actively used currency for global payments as of April 2023, up from 30th place in early 2011.

Rankings can be misleading, though. The yuan's average trading volume is still less than a 10th of the U.S. dollar's. Moreover, almost all trading was against the

U.S. dollar, with little trading against other currencies. And when it comes to global payments, the actual share of the yuan is a mere 2.3%, compared with 42.7% for the dollar and 31.7% for the euro. The yuan also constituted less than 3% of the world foreign exchange reserves at the end of 2022, compared with 58% for the dollar and 20% for the euro.

The U.S. dollar has reigned supreme as the dominant global currency for decades - and concern about how that benefits the U.S. and potentially hurts emerging

The value of the U.S. dollar appreciated significantly against most other currencies in 2022 as the Federal Reserve hiked interest rates. This had negative consequences for residents of almost any country that borrows in dollars, pays for imports in dollars, or buys wheat, oil or other commodities priced in dollars, as these transactions became more expensive.

After Russia invaded Ukraine in early 2022, the U.S. and its Western allies put sanctions on Russia, including cutting Russia's access to the global dollar-based payments system known as the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication, or SWIFT. That clearly displayed how the dollar can be weaponized.

With Russia largely cut off from international financial markets, it stepped up its trade with China. Russia began receiving payments for coal and gas in yuan, and Moscow increased the vuan holdings in its foreign currency reserves. Russian companies like Rosneft issued bonds denominated in yuan. According to Bloomberg, the yuan is now the most-traded currency in Russia.

Other countries took notice of Russia's increasing use of the yuan and saw an opportunity to decrease their own dependency on the dollar.

Bangladesh is now paying Russia in yuan for the construction of a nuclear power station. France is accepting payment in yuan for liquefied natural gas bought from China's state-owned oil company. A Brazilian bank controlled by a Chinese state bank is becoming the first Latin American bank to participate directly in China's payments system, CIPS. Iraq wants to pay for imports from China in yuan, and even Tesco, the British retailer, wants to pay for its Chinese imported goods in yuan.

The combined dollar amount of these transactions is still relatively small, but the shift to yuan is signifi-

# Iran, Saudis talk ties; **BRICS** may add both

Lavrov takes jabs at West

RIYADH, June 3, (Agencies): Saudi Minister of Foreign Affairs Prince Faisal bin Farhan bin Abdullah met with his Iranian counterpart Hossein Amir-Abdollahian in Cape Town, South Africa, on Friday on the sidelines of the Ministerial Meeting of Friends of

**BRICS Group.** 

They explored ways to enhance the bilateral relations in various fields, and reviewed the steps to implement the agreement between the two countries signed in Beijing, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA)

Both sides also discussed ways to ensure peace and security on regional and international scales.

Two detained for vote buying

### **Eligible voters total 793,646**

**By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh** Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, June 3: The number of eligible voters in the National Assembly election on June 6, 2023 totaled 793.646 -- 396.751 men and 406,895 women.

A total of 103 schools have been allocated as polling centers in the five constituencies -- 20 in the First Constituency, 18 in the Second Constituency, 15 in the Third Constituency, 25 in the Fourth Constituency and 25 in the Fifth Constituency.

The number of voters in the First Constituency reached 99,779 -- 48,348 men and 51,431 women; 90,394 in the Second Constituency -- 44,289 men and 46,105 women; 137,978 in the Third Constituency -- 66,226 men and 71,752 women; 208,740 in the Fourth Constituency -- 100,832 men and 107,908 women and 256,755 in the Fifth Constituency -- 127,056 men and 129,699 women.

Meanwhile, officers from the Criminal Investigation General Department in the Interior Ministry have arrested a former MP and Second Constituency candidate, whose identity has not been disclosed, for buying votes.

On the other hand, Al-Qyas Center surveyed a random sample of voters on their preferred candidates in the second and fourth constituencies as follows:

### **Second Constituency**

- 1- Marzouq Al-Ghanim
- 2- Muhammad Al-Mutair 3- Badr Al-Mulla

- 4- Badr Nashmi Al-Anzi 5- Hamad Al-Matar
- 6- Hamed Al-Bazzali
- 7- Falah Al-Hajri
- 8- Abdulwahab Al-Essa
- 9- Shuaib Shaaban 10- Khalil Al-Saleh

### **Fourth Constituency**

- Shuaib Al-Muwaizri 2- Muhammad Hayef Al-Mutairi
- 3- Thamer Al-Suwait
- 4- Obaid Al-Wasmi
- 5- Abdullah Fehad 6- Fayez Al-Jomhour
- 7- Mubarak Al-Hajraf
- 8- Mubarak Al-Tasha 9- Badr Sayyar Al-Shemmari
- 10- Marzouq Al-Khalifa Also:

KUWAIT CITY: Two persons dealing in illicit vote buying for service of three candidates for forthcoming National Assembly elections have been arrested, the Ministry of Interior declared on Saturday.

The ministry said the detention had been carried out in line with guidelines by the First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and Acting Minister of Defense Sheikh Talal Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah to clamp down on any act that might undermine integrity of the elections due on June 6.

MoI personnel have seized and confiscated money caches while the persons involved in the illegal act have been referred to the public prosecu-

### Newswatch

WASHINGTON: The United States has announced sanctions against a group of Iranian and Turkish people and firms accused of plotting to assassinate former U.S. government officials, dual U.S. and Iranian nationals, and dissidents.

Three Iran- and Turkeybased people; a company affiliated with Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Quds Force, which is a branch of the country's military; and two senior officials of Iran's Intelligence Organization are accused of being involved in plotting to kill journalists and activists, according to the U.S. Treasury Department. (AP)

BERLIN: Iran has released one Danish and two Austrian citizens, the European countries said Friday, thanking Oman and Bel**gium** for their help in getting the trio freed.

Austrian Foreign Minister Alexander Schallenberg said he was "very relieved" that Kamran Ghaderi and Massud Mossaheb were being brought home after "years of arduous imprisonment in Iran." (AP)

WASHINGTON: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken will travel to **Saudi Arabia** June 6-8 to meet with Saudi officials to discuss U.S.-Saudi strategic cooperation on regional and global issues and a range of bilateral issues including economic and security cooperation, said the State Department spokesperson **Matthew** Miller on Friday.

On June 7, the Secretary will also participate in a U.S.-Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Ministerial to discuss the growing cooperation with "our GCC partners to promote security, stability, de-escalation, regional integration, and economic opportunities across the Middle East." (AP)

UNITED NATIONS: The U.N. Security Council adopted a resolution Friday renewing the European Union's permission to inspect vessels off Libya's coast suspected of violating the an arms embargo on the troubled North African nation.

The vote on the resolution sponsored by France and Malta was 14-0, with Russia abstaining, just as it did last year. It claimed the EU operation has been ineffective in stopping the flow of illegal weapons to Libya.

to intensify consultations on the prospects bilateral and multilateral cooperation in a way that serves the interests of the two countries, according to the SPA The meeting was attended by

They expressed a shared desire

the Undersecretary of the Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs for Multiple International Affairs Dr. Abdulrahman Al-Rassi, the Saudi Ambassador to South Africa Sultan Al-Luyhan Al-Angari, and the Director General of Foreign Minister's Office Abdulrahman Al-Dawood.

The Friends of BRICS ministerial meeting opened on Thursday with 12 countries taking part, including Saudi Arabia, Iran, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt.

Meanwhile, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov met Thursday with China's deputy foreign minister and other top diplomats from the BRICS bloc of developing economies for discussions that included the group's possible expansion to include the major oil-producing nations of Saudi Arabia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates.

oceanside hotel in South Africa, Lavrov cast BRICS - an acronym for current members Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa - as central to the establishment of a "more just" world The Russian minister also took swipes at the West for its sanc-

Ahead of the talks at a luxury

tions and other forms of what Lavrov alleged was "financial blackmail" against Moscow, according to a translation of his comments. South African Foreign Minister Naledi Pandor, who hosted

the talks, confirmed that an invitation had been extended to Russian President Vladimir Putin to attend a larger BRICS summit scheduled for August despite Putin being the subject of an International Criminal Court arrest warrant.

Thursday's meeting in Cape Town of the foreign ministers of Russia, Brazil, India and South Africa, and Chinese Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Ma Zhaoxu, was a precursor to that main BRICS summit in Johannesburg and comes less than two weeks after the world's most advanced economies held their own summit in Japan.

Extending sanctions against Russia as punishment for its invasion of Ukraine and finding ways to deal with China's global economic influence dominated the Group of Seven gathering in



US First Lady Jill Biden, center left, listens to Mostafa Waziri, secretary-general of the Supreme Council of Antiquities, during her visit to the historical site of Giza Pyramids, near Cairo, Egypt, June 3, 2023. (AP)



Australian war veteran unlawfully killed prisoners

## 'Blood the rookie' soils a Victoria Cross

A ustralia's most decorated living war veteran unlawfully killed prisoners and committed other war crimes in Afghanistan, a judge ruled Thursday in dismissing the claims by Victoria Cross recipient Ben Roberts-Smith that he was defamed by media.

Federal Court Justice Anthony Besanko ruled that the articles published in 2018 were substantially true about a number of war crimes committed by Roberts-Smith, a former Special Air Service Regiment corporal who now is a media company executive.

Besanko found Roberts-Smith, who was also awarded the Medal of Gallantry for his Afghanistan War service, "broke the moral and legal rules of military engagement" and disgraced Australia through his conduct

The ruling is regarded as a significant win for press freedom against Australia's extraordinarily restrictive defamation laws following a hard-fought trial over 110 court hearing days that is estimated to have cost more than 25 million Australian dollars (\$16 million) in legal fees.

Proven allegations included that Roberts-Smith, the son of a judge, used a machine gun to shoot a prisoner with a prosthetic leg in the back at a Taliban compound codenamed Whiskey 108 in Uruzgan province in 2009. He kept the man's prosthetic as a novelty beer drinking vessel.

The man was one of two unarmed Afghans that Roberts-Smith's patrol had dragged from a tunnel. Roberts-Smith pressured a "newly deployed and inexperienced" soldier to kill the second, older man to "blood the rookie," the court found.

The proven accusations also included that Roberts-Smith killed an unarmed, handcuffed farmer named Ali Jan by kicking him from a cliff top and into a riverbed at the Afghan village of Darwan in 2012. Roberts-

Smith then directed a soldier under his command to shoot Jan dead.

Also found to be true were accusations that Roberts-Smith, who stands 2.02 meters (6 feet, 7 inches) tall, bullied soldiers and assaulted Afghan civilians.

Two of six unlawful killings Roberts-Smith was accused of involvement in were not proven to the civil court standard of balance of probability, the judge found.

Reports of domestic violence allegedly committed by Roberts-Smith were also found to be unproven and defamatory. But the judge found the unproven allegations would not have further damaged the veteran's reputation.

Had such war crime allegations been made in a criminal court, they would have had to be proven to a higher standard of beyond reasonable doubt

Roberts-Smith, 44, had denied any wrongdoing. His lawyers blamed "corrosive jealousy" by "bitter people" within the SAS who had run a "poisonous compoint against him."

"poisonous campaign against him."

The civil case made claims of defamation against The Sydney Morning Herald. The Age and The Canberra Times over their articles.

Nick McKenzie, one of the reporters responsible for the contentious articles, praised the SAS veterans who had testified against the national hero.

"Today is a day of justice. It's a day of justice for those brave men of the SAS who stood up and told the truth about who Ben Roberts-Smith is - a war criminal, a bully and a liar," McKenzie told reporters outside court.

"Australia should be proud of those men in the SAS. They are the

majority in the SAS and they stood up for what was right and they have been vindicated," McKenzie added.

Roberts-Smith's lawyer, Arthur Moses, asked for 42 days to consider lodging an appeal to the Full Bench of the Federal Court.

The case's legal costs have been underwritten by billionaire Kerry Stokes, executive chair of Seven West Media where Roberts-Smith is employed.

Stokes has stood by Roberts-Smith, saying in a statement: "The judgment does not accord with the man I know."

"I know this will be particularly hard for Ben who has always maintained his innocence," Stokes said.

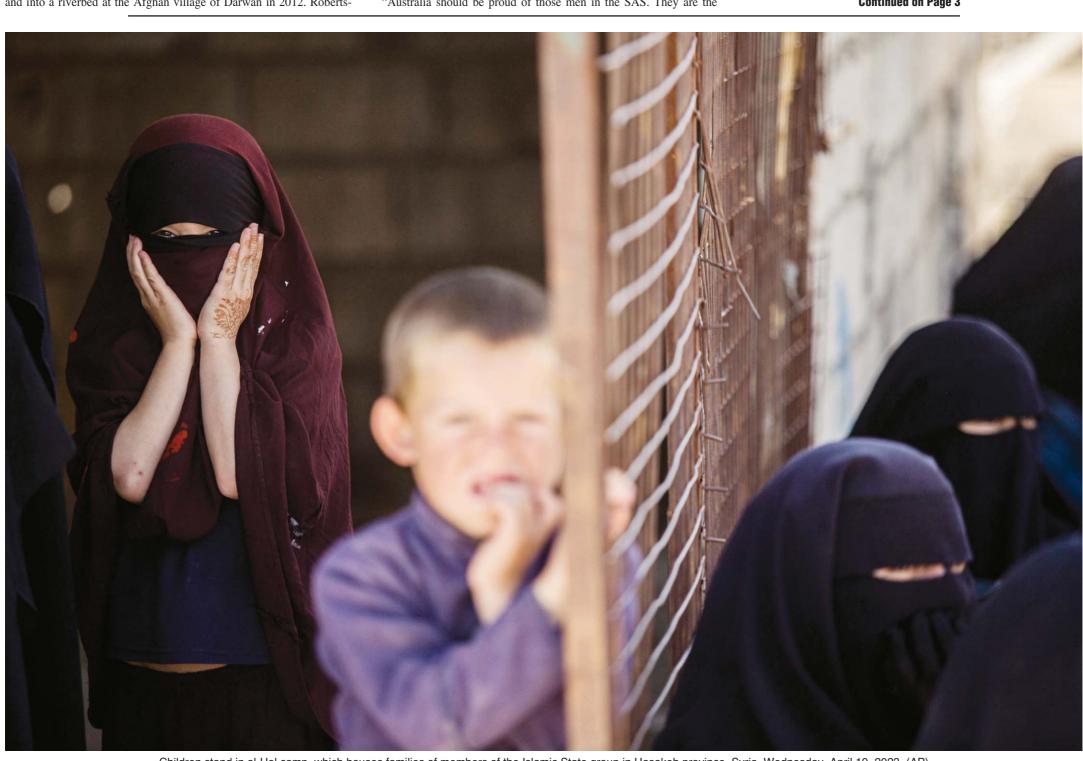
Roberts-Smith had attended every day of his trial but did not appear at the Sydney court for the decision. Media have published a photo of him sunning himself by a swimming pool Wednesday on the Indonesian resort island of Bali.

Roberts-Smith is one of several Australian military personnel under investigation from Australian Federal Police for alleged war crimes in Afghanistan.

The first criminal charge for an alleged illegal killing in Afghanistan was made in March. Former SAS trooper Oliver Schulz was charged with the war crime of murder in the death of an Afghan who was shot in 2012 in a wheat field in Uruzgan province.

Australian Special Air Service Association chair Martin Hamilton-Smith described the ruling as a "very disappointing day" for the elite regiment. He said if more veterans were to be prosecuted for war crimes, they should be charged without delay.

Continued on Page 3



Children stand in al-Hol camp, which houses families of members of the Islamic State group in Hasakeh province, Syria, Wednesday, April 19, 2023. (AP)

Future still uncertain

## DAESH teens undergo rehabilitation

**F**or at least four years, thousands of children have been growing up in a camp in northeast Syria housing families of Islamic State group militants, raised in an atmosphere where the group's radical ideology still circulates and where they have almost no chance for an education.

Fearing that a new generation of militants will emerge from al-Hol Camp, the Kurdish officials who govern eastern and northern Syria are experimenting with a rehabilitation program aimed at pulling children out of extremist thought.

It means, however, removing them from their mothers and families for an unknown period of time, a practice that has raised concerns among rights groups. And even if they are deemed rehabilitated, the childrens' future remains in limbo with their home countries reluctant to take them back

"If these children stay in the camp, this will lead to the rise of a new generation of extremists who could be more fanatic(al) than those who were before," said Khaled Remo, co-chair of the Kurdish-led administration's office of justice and reform affairs.

Recently, an Associated Press team was allowed to visit the Orkesh Center, a rehabilitation facility that opened late last year. It's home to dozens of young boys taken from al-Hol. Ranging in age between 11 and 18, they represent about 15 different nationalities, including France and Germany.

At Orkesh, boys are taught drawing and music, all with the theme of tolerance. They also learn skills for future jobs like a tailor or a barber. They wake up early and have breakfast at 7 a.m., then have classes until 3 p.m., after which they can play soccer and basketball. They live in dormitory-type rooms, where they are expected to keep order and their beds made. They are allowed contact with parents and siblings.

Authorities did not permit the AP to speak to the boys at the center, citing privacy concerns. During a separate visit to al-Hol, residents were hostile, and none agreed to be interviewed. The AP also approached families that were released from al-Hol, but none responded to requests for comment. The newness of the program makes it difficult to assess its effectiveness.

Still, the center underscores how U.S.-backed Kurdish authorities are wrestling with the legacy of Islamic State, years after the group was defeated in a brutal war in Syria and Iraq that ended in 2019.

Al-Hol Camp is an open wound left by that conflict. The camp holds about 51,000 people, the vast majority women and children, including the wives, widows and other family members of IS militants. Most are Syrians and Iraqis. But there are also around 8,000 women and children from 60 other nationalities who live in a part of the camp known as the Annex. They are generally considered the most die-hard IS supporters among the camp residents.

The camp population is down from its height of 73,000 people, mostly because of Syrians and Iraqis who were allowed to go home. But other countries have largely balked at taking back their nationals, who traveled to join IS after the radical group seized large parts of Iraq and Syria in 2014.

Though Kurdish-led security forces run the camp, they have struggled to keep control. IS radicalism remains rife, with fervent followers intimidating others, particularly in the Annex, home to more than 5,000 children.

Children in al-Hol have little to do and little chance for education. Fewer than half the 25,000 children in the camp attend reading and writing classes at its teaching centers.

During a recent tour by the AP inside al-Hol, some young boys threw stones at the reporters. One drew a finger across his throat in a beheading motion as he looked at the journalists.

"Those kids once they reach the age of 12, they could become dangerous and could kill and beat up others," the camp's director Jihan Hanan told the AP.

"So we had a choice, which is to put them at rehabilitation centers and

"So we had a choice, which is to put them at rehabilitation centers and keep them away from the extreme ideology that their mothers carry," she said.

Sheikhmous Ahmad, a Kurdish official overseeing camps for displaced people, said that once the boys turn 13, IS loyalists make them get married to young girls - another reason for removing them.

So far, the number of children going through rehabilitation is small, around 300, all of them boys from the Annex. Ninety-seven are at the recently-launched Orkesh Center, near the border town of Qamishli about a two-hour drive from al-Hol. The rest are at al-Houri, another center that began taking in boys for rehabilitation in 2017, as U.S.-backed, Kurdish-led forces took back territory from IS in Syria.

Al-Houri underscores the long-term problem: Some of the boys have been at the center for years since there is nowhere else to go. The only alternative would be to send them back to al-Hol. Only four children have been repatriated from al-Houri, administrators said.

"While the transfer of these boys to separate detention centers may be well-intentioned, this is not rehabilitation. This is indefinite detention without charge of children, who are themselves victims of ISIS," said Letta Tayler, associate director of the Crisis and Conflict Division at Human Rights Watch.

Continued on Page 3





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Expected weather for the next 24 hours:

By Day: Hot with moderate to fresh northwesterly wind speeds of 25-55 km/h causing rising dust and some scattered clouds will

Weather

**By Night:** Rather hot with light to moderate freshening at times northwesterly wind with speeds of 15-45 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear. **Min Rec** Station Max Exp

Abdaly Salmiyah Ahmadi Nuwaisib Wafra

32 Kuwait Airport 30 43

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

### **Amir sends Italian** head his greetings

KUWAIT CITY, June 3, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah congratulated, in a cable Friday, Italian President Sergio Matterella on his country's national day, wishing him good health and for the Republic and Italian people further progress and prosperity.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah congratulated, in a cable Friday, Italian President Sergio Matterella on his country's national day, wishing him good health and for the Republic and Italian people fur-

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His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah congratulated, in a cable Friday, Italian President Sergio Matterella on his country's national day.

#### Royal death mourned

KUWAIT CITY, June 3, (KUNA): The Amiri Diwan on Friday mourned the demise of Sheikh Mohammad Sabah Mohammad Sabah Al-Salman Al-Sabah, who passed away at the age of 33.

The deceased was laid to rest at 4:00 pm the same day.

### 3 perish in Jleeb fire

KUWAIT CITY, June 3, (KUNA): A huge fire broke out at a house in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh area, Al-Farwaniya Governorate, on Thursday, killing three people.

A statement from Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) blamed the disaster on poor safety precautions at the site, including inaccessibility to the bedrooms of the home and lots of scrap such as doors and iron bars that blocked the way of firefighters.

The statement urged landlords to make sure of the safety of their buildings and prevent tenants from storing scrap that could hinder firefighters and cause high numbers of victims.

### **Cross**

### **Continued from Page 2**

"The only way you'll get to the real truth of this is to get it into a criminal court where both sides of the story can be told and the facts established beyond reasonable doubt," Hamilton-Smith

Roberts-Smith became a national nero in 2011 when he was awarded the Victoria Cross, Australia's highest award recognizing gallantry in the presence of an enemy. He met Queen Elizabeth II several times as a distinguished Australian.

He was awarded the medal for attacking a machine gun nest during a battle at Tizak, Kandahar, in 2010. Roberts-Smith was credited with killing two machine-gunners and an insurgent about to launch a rocket grenade. No war crime allegations stem from that battle. (AP)

### Rehabilitation

### **Continued from Page 2**

She said removal from the family may be appropriate if the mother or another relative is victimizing the child. Otherwise, separation could cause further trauma.

"For many of these children, who have survived unimaginable horrors under ISIS and in the camps where they have been held since the fall of ISIS, the mother and other family members are their only source of stability," she

Kathryn Achilles, media director of the Syria Response Office at Save the Children International, said separation from the mother "should only ever be as a last resort, addressed by individual countries after families return, in line with their laws.'

Hanan, the administrator of al-Hol, said they had few other options. One proposal is to set up rehabilitation centers in or near the camp, she said.

"Maybe in the future we can agree on something with international organizations regarding such centers as they are the best solution for these children," Hanan said.

But Kurdish officials and humanitarian agencies agree that the only real solution is for home countries to take back their citizens.

"Once home, children and other victims of ISIS can be offered rehabilitation and reintegration. Adults can be monitored or prosecuted as appropriate," said Tayler of Human Rights Watch.

The U.N.-backed Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Syria called in March for repatriation to be sped up. It added that the suffering inflicted on the camp's residents "may amount to the war crime of committing outrages on personal dignity.'

Until a solution is found, the centers create "an environment that is suitable to pave the way for mental change for these children," said Remo, the Kurdish official. (AP)

### 'Infrastructure eyed to protect military, govt facilities'

## Kuwait-US boost cooperation to enhance cybersecurity

Kuwait City

KUWAIT CITY, June 3: Following his recent meeting with the Head of the National Center for Cybersecurity Major General Eng. Mohamed Bouarki and their discussion regarding ways

to enhance joint cooperation in the field of cybersecurity in the future, the Charge d'Affaires of the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait James Holtsnider said, "The United States and Kuwait are strategic allies that enjoy close cooperation in many areas", reports Aljarida daily.

He affirmed that the US embassy in Kuwait is looking forward to linking American cybersecurity experts with the National Center for Cybersecurity in Kuwait to create a strong

foundation for future cooperation. In an exclusive press statement, Holtsnider said, "The United States and Kuwait look forward to working closely together to develop cybersecurity infra-

On March 2, President Joe Biden's administration issued its National Cybersecurity Strategy to achieve the full benefits of a secure



structure and protect Kuwait's critical infrastructure, military and government facilities, and communications networks from poten-

digital ecosystem for all Americans. This National Cybersecurity Strategy calls for two fundamental shifts - rebalancing responsibility for the cyber defense electronically, and reorganizing incentives in favor of long-term investments.

The United States' commitment to international partnerships on cyber issues remains strong. The National Cybersecurity Strategy emphasizes working with our allies and partners to build a defensible, resilient, and value-compliant digital ecosystem.

Regarding his assessment of the level of cybersecurity in Kuwait, and how this matter helps protect government and private institutions, Holtsnider said, "Cybersecurity is important for all countries. For example, in the United States, we face the daily threat of cyberattacks from malicious actors on our critical infrastructure, communications networks and government facili-

We are facing a complex environment, as governmental and non-governmental actors are developing and implementing new campaigns to threaten the national interests of our country.

Cyber attacks are a global phenomenon, and Kuwait faces the same threats that the United States faces.

Strong cybersecurity will protect our critical infrastructure and our government and private institutions. It will also ensure that we have a digital ecosystem that will enable next-generation technologies to create paths and new innovations, in addition to increasing digital interdependence, which will lead to economic growth and scientific progress.

The US continues to seek international partnerships to promote a global cyberspace, where countries are expected to be rewarded for their responsible behavior, and where irresponsible behavior is isolated and costly.

The US government has a lot to offer in terms of cyber cooperation, including the US Department of Homeland Security's Cyber Security and Infrastructure Agency (CISA), which offers free online training on a variety of topics related to cyber security.

In 2022, the US State Department established a new office - the Office of Cyberspace and Digital Policy. In January 2023, through the State Department's American Speakers Program, the embassy was pleased to welcome a cybersecurity expert Guillermo Christensen to Kuwait to attend a series of lectures and workshops with Kuwait's public and private sector entities."

The Chargé d'Affaires of the US Embassy concluded his statement by affirming that, "The US Embassy in Kuwait looks forward to linking our cybersecurity experts with the National Cybersecurity Center in Kuwait to create a strong foundation for our future

## **Kuwait to recruit home** 'workers' from Ethiopia

Bid to overcome shortage



Acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Information Dr. Nasser Muhaisen, accompanied by a number of the ministry's leaders inspected preparations for the 2023 National Assembly elections due

**Govt cuts chalets fees** 

11 international companies

apply for road maintenance

### **Gearing up for 2023 poll**

Acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Information Dr. Nasser Muhaisen, accompanied by a number of the ministry's leaders, has inspected preparations for the 2023 National As-

sembly elections due on June 6. The preparations are proceeding in line with the plan set under the directives of Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi.

In a press statement issued by the ministry Friday, Muhaisen lauded big efforts and keenness of all staff and people for democratic and successful polls.

Meanwhile, spokesperson for the ministry Anwar Murad said Muhaisen inspected action at studios "800" and "300"

designed to cover the elections. Muhaisen was also briefed on

KUWAIT CITY, June 3: The Min-

istry of Works, Thursday, held the

preliminary meeting for the radi-

cal maintenance contracts for the

country's streets and roads, and

"discussed with representatives of

the companies a number of issues

and axes for implementing the ex-

pected projects as the date for re-

ceiving bids from international road

maintenance companies on June 15

many companies who have pur-

chased the tender documents, in

addition to officials from the Public

Works Authority, noting that this

meeting came according to the pre-

determined schedule for the main-

The sources pointed out 11 in-

ternational companies attended the

meeting representing 7 countries

from Asia, Europe and the United

They have submitted their bids,

including their practical plan to par-

ticipate in road maintenance pro-

jects, while the offers continue to

be received until the door is closed.

the Minister of Works, Dr. Amani

Bouqmaz, stressed the need to radi-

cally address road problems and

implement road and street main-

tenance works in accordance with

The sources pointed out that

an integrated plan has been put in

place to "make a quantum leap in

the infrastructure through the up-

coming projects." Priorities for

work will be determined after sign-

ing contracts with qualified interna-

tional companies according to the

international standards.

The sources pointed out that

tenance of the country's roads.

States of America.

The daily said the meeting was attended by representatives of

draws, reports Al-Qabas daily.

the main communication center to cover fully and comprehensively this democratic incident through a number of correspondents and technical teams to cover voting in all constituencies, she added.

Muhaisen further followed the ongoing preparations to open the media center to be held at the Four Seasons Hotel on June 4-7 to cover the elections and to equip it with all services that meet needs of media persons. from inside or outside Kuwait, to cover this democratic event, she

Fifty media people, from many countries across the globe, were invited to visit the polling stations and see the progress of the electoral and democratic process in the country, Murad stressed. (KUNA)

condition of the street.

Qabas daily.

**Chalets fees cut:** The Minister of

Finance Manaf Al-Hajri has issued

a decision to reduce the state fees

collected on chalets, reports Al-

obtained by the daily, the service

fees for the chalet, which are men-

tioned in the list of allowances for

usufruct of the state's private real

has confirmed that the ban on work-

ing under the direct heat of the Sun

from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm took ef-

fect on June 1 and it will end on

Aug 31, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The decision, a copy of which is

**KUWAIT CITY, June 3:** Forty-eight hours after the Philippine embassy closed its illegal shelter and transferred 412 Filipino workers from the embassy's shelter to the shelter of the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) in coordination with the General Department of Immigration Investigation at the **Ministry of Interior, state** agencies have started working on implementing the expansion plan to bring in domestic workers from new countries to avoid any potential shortage, reports Al-Qabas daily. Head of the Union of Do-

mestic Labor Recruitment Offices Khaled Al-Dakhnan revealed that the Kuwait union has signed a joint agreement with its Ethiopian counterpart to organize the recruitment of domestic workers.

He explained that this agreement will allow the provision of domestic workers from Ethiopia after they obtain the appropriate training. About 600 employment agencies working under the supervision of the Ethiopian Federation of Domestic Workers will participate in providing workers to Kuwait in coordination with the concerned authorities.

It is expected that the joint labor agreement between Kuwait and Ethiopia will be signed permanently in the next few days. The memorandum between the two unions will then be activated which include training workers before their arrival in Kuwait through training centers approved by the Ministry of Labor.

### **Training**

The Kuwait union will visit the training centers and ensure the readiness of the workers who are expected to arrive in Kuwait as soon as the agreement was signed between the two countries. The conditions presented by Kuwait include the worker should undergo training for not less than three months. It is also required for the workers to be educated and conscious.

Al-Dakhnan indicated that a large number of Ethiopian workers is expected to be recruited to fill the shortage resulting from the suspension of recruitment from the Philippines.

He stated that the union is in mestic and specialized workers, which requires urgent action from the relevant authorities.

Al-Dakhnan added that Kenya and Uganda are awaiting the labor agreement with Kuwait.

### **Other Voices**

### Al on way to getting bigger

#### By Ahmad alsarraf

Theodore Barrett, the White House press spokesman, stood in front of the podium, with a look of sadness on his face, and apologized to the reporters for being late, because his wife had just died in a car accident!! He immediately began asking the

audience to ask their questions, and the following conversation broke out between him and them: ■ I'm sorry

I'm late. Please ask, Jim. Oh my

God, I'm so sorry to hear this news. ■ Yes, it's heartbreaking, and the

pain is great, I've never experienced anything like it before, but we have a lot to do today, so let's get on with our conference and finish it... Go ahead, Maury! ■ I'm so sorry to hear that, Jane

alsarraf

was a wonderful woman.

■ Yes, I can confirm that, but I am here to answer your questions, and this is what I pledged to the President and the people of the United States of America on, and to keep the nation fully and immediately informed of the course of events, and what the President, the leader of the free world, is doing... Go ahead, "Jones"!

■ Can I ask you what exactly happened to Jane? ■ Jane died in the accident im-

mediately, but I can't stop the whole nation's affairs, because of that accident... Do you have any other questions, please George?

■ Do you need someone to talk to you, or help you with something? ■ My dear ones, the issue of the

incident is not on our agenda today. Believe me, there is nothing I would like to do now but to come down behind this platform and weep for the loss of my wife, but I am powerless to do so... Why? Because I'm a grown man and I have a job to do and you also have a job to do... So I'll allow one question on the subject of the accident, and then we'll move on to our press conference... Wilson?

■ Did you tell your children, Bobby and Megan, about the accident?

■ Well, my kids were with their mom in the car, and they're now at Georgetown University Hospital, Bobby's in a coma, and Megan's lost her leg!!

A terrible interview, a terrible accident, and an incredible situation, but it was fabricated with scary mastery!

We have to be careful, and not believe everything we read or see on the means of communication, because every movement, sentence, statement and situation may have absolutely nothing to do with the truth, and it is prudent not to be in a hurry to believe the news, nor to send it to others, and this is only the beginning. Artificial intelligence is on its way to getting bigger, more widespread, and becoming so perfect that it's hard not to be-

An error was mentioned in yesterday's article that Mr. Ahmad Al-Fadl is a candidate in the second electoral district, and in fact he is a candidate in the third, so it was necessary to

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

'Ali Sabah Al-Salem, Jahra for expats'

### Mol opens new biometric centers

KUWAIT CITY. June 3: The Directorate General of Criminal Evidence has opened 3 new biometric centers on Thursday, June 1. With this, the total number of biometric centers allocated for Kuwaitis and Gulf nationals has increased to five. Their working hours will be from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The biometric centers for Kuwaitis and GCC citizens are Hawally Security Directorate, Farwaniya Security Directorate, Ahmadi Security Directorate, Mubarak Al-Kabeer Security Directorate and Jahra Security Directorate.

The centers for residents are in Ali Sabah Al-Salem and Jahra areas.

The Directorate General of Security Relations and Media of Ministry of Interior affirmed that the opening of the new biometric centers is within the framework of the Ministry of Interior's strategy to develop and automate the services provided to the public and to facilitate and serve the public in a manner that saves time and effort, and raise the level of performance and achievement.

It explained that citizens and residents can book appointments for their biometric registration at these centers through the Sahel app (Mata platform). Citizens of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries can book appointments through the website of the Ministry of Interior.



#### estate, should be replaced as fol-■ 3 thousand dinars for the lon-Regarding the value of the gitudinal meter of the waterfront in exchange for waiving the right to recruitment contract, he said it exploit a chalet / plot of land - first would be consistent with the decision of the Ministry of Comline, instead of 10 thousand in the merce and Industry, and will not previous decision ■ 1.5 thousand dinars for the exceed KD 500, adding that the monthly salary was set at KD 90 (about USD 300), which is the longitudinal meter of the front façade in exchange for waiving the right to exploit a chalet / plot of highest salary among neighboring countries. land - second line instead of 5 thou-Al-Dakhnan called for urgensand in the previous decision cy in signing the labor agreement ■ 3 thousand dinars for longituwith the Ethiopian side in order dinal meter of the waterfront (first to avoid any labor crisis that line) as an exit or entry fee for partmight occur with the return of ners instead of 10 thousand dinars the school season in September. in the past ■ 1.5 thousand dinars for the contact with a number of countries longitudinal meter of the front fasuch as Kenya and Uganda, but cade (second line) as an exit or enthere are other requirements for try fee for partners instead of five the two countries, including the thousand in the previous decision need for an official memorandum of understanding between Kuwait PAM confirms ban: The Public and those countries to bring in do-Authority for Manpower (PAM)

# Minister orders arrest of two diwaniya 💸 top officials of Central Prison

Nazaha refers some former MoH officials, others to prosecution

### Escaped African held

KUWAIT CITY, June 3: The Ministry of the Interior announced that personnel from the Criminal Investigation Department, in cooperation with the Airport Security Department have arrested the African man who had escaped from Kuwait International Airport, reports Al-Rai daily.

The arrest came after the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior, Lieutenant General Anwar Abdul Latif Al-Barjas, ordered the formation of an immediate investigation committee to find out the circumstances that led to the escape of the man on Wednesday.

Earlier it was reported that after the man arrived at the airport, during the fingerprint process it became clear he had been deported from the country and was awaiting deportation back to from where he came.

#### Mujezat Al-Shifa won the gold medal in an international competition for a number of its products for the year 2023

Company Honey received a number of the most prominent international quality awards in recognition of its pioneering excellence in the manufacture of highquality bee honey products, as it came in the first three places and won the gold medal for four



products of Sidr honey lollipops, and the silver medal for five other products for the year 2023.

In a related context, the expert in honey production and beekeeping and the director of Mujezat Al-Shifa Company, Muhammad Qasim Al-Majdadi, said: "The fact that our products won these awards, in addition to obtaining international quality certificates in advance, is the result of the years' efforts and experiences of our cadres, in addition to our constant and tireless endeavor to improve and develop honey products in all their forms." And its types, in addition to our keenness to apply the highest and most accurate specifications of international quality in our products to satisfy the needs and aspirations of consumers.

**KUWAIT CITY, June 3: After** what happened at the Central Prison last Tuesday, and the firm decisions issued by the First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and Acting Minister of Defense Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled, to control the situation, protect prisoners and punish those who misuse power, the Ministry of Interior announced the referral of the Central prison events to the **Public Prosecution, reports Al-**

The ministry stated that this came on the recommendation of the committee formed by Sheikh Talal Al-Khalid to investigate the events.

Qabas daily.

Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled had issued a ministerial decision to arrest the Assistant Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior for Private Security and Correctional Institutions Affairs, Major General Abdullah Saffah, and the Director General of the General Department of Correctional Institutions, Brigadier General Fahd Al-Obeid, in connection with these events.

Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled decided to appoint Brigadier General Nasser Al-Azmi as the Director General of Correctional Institutions and Brigadier Hazaa Al-Juaib as his deputy.

In addition, Al-Qabas sources reported that procedures are continuing to enhance security discipline, prevent any defect within the central prison, and establish transparency and apply the law to anyone who abuses power.

The sources indicated that, based on the directives of the First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and Acting Minister of Defense Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled, the concerned inspection teams continued their tours of the central prison to inspect the conditions of the inmates and listen to them, in addition to tightening procedures to control any prohibited items in the possession of the prisoners and prevent them from entering

The sources indicated that the next stage will witness other measures related to improving the conditions of inmates in the wards and addressing the negatives, in addition to more decisions aimed at devoting human rights in coordination with the concerned state authorities, and periodic reports will be submitted to the Minister of Interior on all affairs of correctional institutions.

Meanwhile, Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha) has referred some former Ministry of Health officials and others to the Public Prosecution on suspicion of harming State funds due to their negligence, pursuant to Article 14 of Public Funds Protection Law number One of 1993 and Clause One of Article 22 of the law on the establishment of the authority, reports Al-Rai daily.

### **Blaze at Salmi tires' dumpsite 'deliberate'**

KUWAIT CITY, June 3, (Agencies): Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) announced Saturday that the blaze that erupted at the used tires' dumping site in Al-Salmi area Friday was "deliberate".

The investigation teams completed technical examination and interrogated eyewitnesses about the fire that erupted at the dumping site on an area of  $4,000 \, \mathrm{sq}$  m, the KFF said in a statement issued by its media

and public relations department. Wind speed contributed to fuelling the

fire at the tires in the area that was extinguished by the KFF firefighters, it added. After checking the site of the fire, neither

electrical nor thermal sources have been found, it said, indicating that the results of the probe said that the fire was caused by a "deliberate" act.



Weekdays (Saturday - Wednesday)	Price  BHD 61.000/-net  BHD 136.198/-net	
Queen Cabana (2 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.		
2 Bedroom Chalet (4 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.		
Weekends (Thursday & Friday)	Price	
Queen Cabana (2 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.	BHD <b>69.000</b> /-net	
2 Bedroom Chalet (4 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.	BHD 153.222/-net	

Promo period from 1st - 21st June 2023

Terms & conditions apply

# A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

### 'Hoping more number of women joining judiciary'

"THE concept of the judiciary in law books and legal references is the judicial authority, and it can be defined as the authority that specializes in interpreting and applying the law in order to settle disputes under this law," columnist Dr. Ghadir Muhammad Asiri wrote for Al-Qabas daily.

"We find that there are some countries that excel in indicators of corrup-

tion and financial and administrative transparency, such as Denmark, Sweden, Finland, New Zealand, Switzerland and Singapore, unlike many countries in which we find interference and lack of clarity.



Dr Ghadir Asiri

"International covenants and global treaties called for the independence of the judiciary and gave it absolute power. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights stipulated in Article 8 that 'every person has the right to resort to the competent courts in his country'; and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights stipulated in Article 14 that "all people are equal" before the judiciary, and it is the right of every individual when deciding on any criminal charge brought against him or his rights and obligations in any civil suit, that his case be considered in a fair and public manner by a competent, independent, impartial court established by law.

"Judicial rulings were supported by independence in judgment, and rulings in the judicial system in developed countries were fortified in choosing a judge and that there should be no interference in choices through mediation or social comparison from relatives or friends in the judicial authority.

"In this sector, social acquaintances and nepotism are important, because this job does not tolerate social or political pleasantries, as it is the first ladder to reform and fight corruption in

"It is one of the jobs in which the strongest types of punishment are carried out for the accused, up to execu-

"Developed countries are required to hold accountable those who attempt to distort any authority in the state, and reform awareness must be spread to all important authorities for societies to advance, grow, and achieve social justice for citizens.

stitution made sure that "the honor of the judiciary, the integrity of judges, and their justice are the foundation of kingship and a guarantee of rights and freedoms? "And this text was followed by the

"Article 162 of the Kuwaiti con-

ext of Article 163 of the constitution. which stipulates that "no party has authority over a judge in his judgment, and it is not permissible in the event of interference.

"In the course of justice, the law guarantees the independence of the judiciary and shows the guarantees of judges, their rulings, and the conditions of their removability.

"With this clarity and a call for societal reform for individuals in the state, the principle of trust between citizens and the state stems from it, and security and safety prevail in it.

"We also hope that there will be greater numbers of women in the judiciary, as Kuwait was late in accepting women into the judiciary, despite the readiness of women graduates from universities and law schools.

"To prove that they have a degree of professional responsibility in assuming this job, and in the past, the reactionary controversy was raised, to which women in Kuwait are accustomed to questioning their abilities, in many positions and jobs by raising that sterile controversy, which ends with the competence of Kuwaiti women and their ability to occupy global positions like men.

"Kuwaiti, and after 2006, the Kuwaiti woman proved it after a law student applied to become a public prosecutor, and her argument was that the law does not require masculinity, and she filed a lawsuit that the advertisement violated the law, and here the voices rose to demand the achievement of social justice and to be accepted in this job in small numbers compared to her male colleagues, and we hope for more acceptance of Kuwaiti women without shame in this field."

"The Municipal Council is one of the

oldest and most important institutions beneficial to Kuwait and its people. It is the link between the citizens and the government. Its decisions are welcomed and accepted by the public, so it preserved its position and even increased its position after the participation of women in the membership of the council. Kuwaitis are glad about it, because of the taste and creativity that women carry to add glimpses of aesthetics for every project," columnist Salem Al-Subaei wrote for Al-Anba

"Newspapers told us about imposing fees on car shades. It is noticeable that one-third of the council members rejected the decision. This is an evidence that collecting 500 fils per square meter is not covered by the law on the establishment of the council and it is not a solution!

"We suffer from visual distortion, along with the scenes of chaos and randomness in shapes, colors and materials of car shades brought back to us the 'shinko' and 'kirby' nests that the Cabinet removed in the 1970s. Whenever a citizen decides to build his house, the Kuwait Municipality intervenes and stipulates the proportions and specifications of the building, even though the land is his property, so how about if the land belongs to the homeland and wants to benefit from it? Since the beneficiary citizen will voluntarily undertake the expenses of establishing the car shade, why do we not reconcile his personal demands with the general demand?"

"An Iranian buys judges! A Bangladeshi buys security officers ... A Pakistani sells votes ... ," columnist **Dr Naji Al-Zaid** wrote for **Al-Jarida** daily.

"We learned about this through the media. Whatever we do not know and has yet to be announced will surface sooner or later. We will learn about many issues, in which corruption is mixed with security professions and judges, as well as blatant political interference, such as buying votes!

"The expatriates in these cases could just be a front. Undoubtedly, the real perpetrator is a Kuwaiti hidden behind the expat facade! If part of security is compromised and part of the judiciary and a large part of the Parliament are hacked, what do we have left?!!

"We have become a State without security, without a judiciary and without a parliament. This means we are a State without an entity and without a strict leadership that faces these challenges aimed at destroying society! The continuation of the sweeping decline is not in the interest of the government, so it must act swiftly and decisively."

"Rumor spread on social media that the Ethiopian community is not less disturbing and not less dangerous. Ask the brothers in Saudi Arabia, because their experience with the community is very bitter, as members of the community have been a source of annoyance for the authorities!" columnist Talal Al-Saeid wrote for Al-Seyassah daily.

"The important development is that an Ethiopian arrived at Kuwait International Airport and was forbidden to enter. A decision was then taken to deport him -- on the next flight back to his country. Then, the securitymen ignored him, so he fled from the airport hotel. He climbed over the grid and entered the country. Camera recordings are being downloaded to determine the security gaps, through which he escaped!

"To shorten the time for senior officials, we say: There is no need to discuss the defects and shortcomings of the frontier guards who made the State lose its prestige. This is not the first time and it will not be the last.

"The State's record is full of those banned from traveling who were smuggled by the guards. It is also full of those who were denied entry, but entered the country in one way or another, thereby, violating the Residency Law, just like thousands of others who succeeded in circumventing the law without being arrested, or they got out after being arrested.

"In the end, the Ministry of Interior is required to intensify efforts to arrest this particular fugitive as soon as possible and interrogate him to find out how he escaped -- if someone helped him escape. He knows that he is prohibited from entering the country, yet he came here. Undoubtedly, someone waited for him outside the airport, knowing that he

— Compiled by Mai Elsoukary

### Warning against answering fake phone calls, messages

KUWAIT CITY, June 3: The Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) has warned citizens and expatriates about unscrupulous individuals impersonating its employees and make telephone calls to request for personal data, reports Al-Rai daily.

On its official social media accounts, the authority posted an advisory, urging everyone not to respond to these calls; indicating it does not request for updating personal data through telephone.

MoC: The Ministry of Communications, represented by the postal sector, has warned of the spread of messages requesting data to send postal shipments, reports Al-Rai daily.

The ministry stated unknown messages include informing the customer that he has a shipment and the Ministry wants to deliver it to him, but due to non-availability of address, the shipment will be returned to the warehouse, and the customer is asked to register again via an electronic link that is sent to him.

After the unsuspecting victim registers on the link sent to him, this helps the fraudsters to steal the data. So the ministry has called on all those who receive such messages to beware and "not respond to this type of message," saying "the ministry does not send such messages and is not responsible in case if someone falls prey."

#### Venmo, other cash apps could be vulnerable, watchdog warns

Customers of Venmo, PayPal and CashApp should not store their money with those apps for the long term because the funds might not be safe during a crisis, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau warned Thurs-

The alert comes several weeks after the failure of Silicon Valley Bank, Signature Bank and First Republic Bank, which all experienced bank runs after fearful customers with uninsured deposits pulled their money

KSE 100

FTSE 100

Euro Stoxx 50

JAPAN

**PAKISTAN** 

PHILIPPINES - PSFi

en masse. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation insures bank accounts up to \$250,000. But money stored in Venmo or CashApp or Apple Cash is not being held in a traditional bank account. So, if there is an event similar to a bank run with those payment apps, those funds may not be pro-

Some of the funds may be eligible for pass-through insurance coverage if customers do certain activities with

02-06-2023

the apps, the CFPB said, but generally by default the apps are not covered by deposit insurance. For example, if a customer opened a PayPal Savings account, it would have deposit insurance through PayPal's partner bank, Synchrony Bank.

But the general PayPal account is not covered by insurance. For Apple Cash, which can be insured through Green Dot Bank, it requires a user to verify their identity to get deposit insurance. (AP)

#### online banking issue resolved: Chase

Customers of Chase's online banking services saw double transactions, fees and payments in their accounts on Friday, in a glitch that was not fixed until late in the day.

Numerous Chase customers had posted on social media that their rent or bill payments were taken out of their accounts twice and reported hold times with customer service approaching more than an hour. The New York-based bank is one of the country's largest financial institutions with

millions of online customers. Transactions over Zelle, the bank's own peer-to-peer payment service, were also impacted with Chase customers.

Chase said late Friday that the bank had "resolved the underlying issue" and was in the process of issuing refunds or reversing transactions for customers.

Online banking services, while usually reliable, sometimes spectacularly fail or have temporary outages that tend to spook their customers. Banks typically will resolve an error in their services within hours, and no customer is liable for any errors in their accounts that occur when these happen. (AP)

#### **Market** Movements

Change Closing pts - Nikkei

+81.43

+82.51

+117.01

+65.91

+376.21 31,524.22 6,512.01 41,356.23 7,607.28 4.323.52

Change Closing pts

KUWAIT CITY, June 3, (KUNA):

Q8Aviation, the aviation fuels market-

ing arm of Kuwait Petroleum Inter-

national, has gained a major contract

to supply and market jet fuel at Mel-

bourne Airport in Australia.

Together with Sydney Airport, Q8A-

viation now operates at the two largest

airports on the continent of Oceania,

the company said in a press release on

President for Planning and Finance,

Waleed Al Ben Ali, and Q8Aviation's

The Company's Executive Vice

Saturday.

# Business

aviation and this success is a significant

is one of the pillars of our strategy and

working with the second largest airport

in Australia show our customers how

committed we are to serve them around

the world. The excellent effort by the

team at Q8Aviation has resulted in this

success, and I congratulate everyone

for their skill and tenacity throughout

the lengthy and detailed discussions,"

Kuwait Petroleum International is

"Growing our aviation fuel business

step towards realizing our ambitions."

#### **Q8Aviation now operates at two largest airports on continent of Oceania**

### Kuwait Petroleum Int'l wins fuel supply contract for Melbourne Airport

stakeholders.

### **Other Voices**

### OPEC ... Guessing game

**By Kamel Al-Harami** Independent Oil Analyst

TOMORROW is not far away to know the outcome of OPEC's meeting in Vienna, as well as the

possibility of Russia joining the meeting as a strong partner for creating OPEC+.

Everyone is betting on the outcome of the meet-

ing to know

if there is go-



ing to be an increase in the oil production or if there will be more production cuts or if the status quo will be retained to leave the production level as it is, because last month, voluntary production cuts of 1.5 million barrels were implemented.

Oil prices are still in the low 70s level, which is not adding much to the OPEC's price target of above \$80 per barrel. This does not seem forthcoming at the moment, despite every effort being exerted by reducing oil production rates. Also, Russian oil production rate remains unchanged, despite the G7 boycott, with a \$65 price gap on its crude oil sales, and \$100 for petroleum products.

At such cheap prices, India and Russia are finding it very comfortable to buy and import as much ullage available in their countries, and to convert the same raw oil into products, which are then shipped to G7 countries at international prices. The same can be done by other producing countries, as they can buy cheap finished products from Russia, use it domestically and sell their own products to international market, thus making huge margin

on the imported Russian products. The concern is the volume that other countries are going to push into the market, which makes things awkward in terms of the reason why the oil price is not at the level of \$80. The USA, Brazil and Canada are pushing more oils, something perhaps OPEC did not take into consideration. It also seems as though the USA will again reach its historical level of close to 12 million barrels.

It certainly will not be good for OPEC+ to reduce production at this time, especially when the demand for gasoline is on the rise due to the start of the driving season as well as the upcoming July holidays, as which the preparation for autumn will begin and the demand for oil will pick up again.

It seems the best option for OPEC is to leave everything in its place and let the market forces do its magic with the prices. The demand will soon start rising, so there is no need to annoy the con-

One last observation... The meeting of OPEC+ tomorrow is going to be different this time with the absence of the biggest news agencies - Reuters and Blomberg as they were not officially invited this time. However, that will not stop them from performing their core business of reporting and analyzing the outcome. We hope it will be the last time, and they will be back with the rest of the media

In conclusion, we hope the result of OPEC+ will not be shocking, but will be within the expectations of no change in the production level. OPEC has its monthly agenda to take further actions if needed!

Email: naftikuwaiti@yahoo.com

# escapes its bear market

Wall Street leaps, nearly

US stocks rally after strong jobs report

General Manager, Naser Ben-Butain

were in attendance at Melbourne to

commence the operation and to meet

The new fuel service at Melbourne

Airport is expected to position Q8Avi-

ation amongst the biggest suppliers in

the Australian jet fuel market, it added.

Success

CEO Shafi Al-Ajmi commented:

"Asia-Pacific continues to be one of

the world's fastest growing regions for

Kuwait Petroleum's President and

**NEW YORK, June 3, (AP):** Stocks rushed higher Friday after a strong report on the U.S. job market suggested a recession may not be as close as Wall Street had feared.

The S&P 500 leaped 1.5% for the latest surge in a rally that's vaulted it nearly 20% since mid-October. That put Wall Street's main measure of health on the edge of entering what's called a "bull market" despite a long list of

The Dow Jones Industrial Average rallied 701 points, or 2.1%, while the Nasdaq composite gained 1.1%.

The indexes got a boost after a port showed employers unexpectedly accelerated their hiring last month. It's the latest signal that the job market remains remarkably solid despite much higher interest rates, and it offers a hefty pillar of support for an economy that's begun to slow.

Areas of the market that do best when the economy is healthy led a widespread rally, including stocks of industrial companies, energy producers and banks. Exxon Mobil rose 2.3% as prices for crude oil climbed on hopes that a resilient economy would burn more fuel.

Perhaps more importantly for markets, the Labor Department's monthly jobs report also showed a slowdown in increases for workers' pay even as hiring strengthened.

While that may discourage work-

ers trying to keep up with prices at the register, investors believe slower wage gains will mean less upward pressure on inflation across the economy.

### Hikes

That in turn could allow the Federal Reserve to take it easier on its hikes to interest rates meant to lower inflation. High rates do that by slowing the economy and hurting investment prices, and they've already caused pain for the banking and manufacturing industries.

The unemployment rate also rose by more than expected last month, moving up to 3.7% from a five-decade low. That implies a bit more slack in the job market and seems to conflict with the gangbusters hiring numbers, whose data comes from a separate survey.

Following the report, traders were largely expecting the Fed to hold interest rates steady at its next meeting in two weeks. If it does, that would be the first time it hasn't hiked rates in more than a year. A pause on rate hikes would offer

some breathing room for an economy that's already seen manufacturing contract sharply for months. Higher rates have also hurt many smaller and mid-sized banks, in part

because customers have pulled deposits in search of higher interest at money-market funds. Several high-profile bank failures since March have shaken the market,

leading Wall Street to hunt for other possible weak links. Several under the heaviest scru-

tiny rallied following the jobs report. PacWest Bancorp leaped 14.1%, for example, to trim its loss for the year But Fed officials have also warned recently that a pause on rate hikes in

June wouldn't necessarily mean the

end to hikes. Traders are increasingly expecting the Fed to follow up a June pause with a July hike to interest rates, according to data from CME Group. That helped push Treasury yields higher.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury climbed to 3.69% from 3.60% late Thursday. It helps set rates for mortgages and other important loans.

The two-year Treasury yield, which moves more on expectations for Fed action, jumped to 4.50% from 4.34%

Also helping to support Wall Street was the Senate giving final approval late Thursday to a deal that

will allow the U.S. government to avoid a potentially disastrous default on its debt. The move was widely expected by investors, and the deal moves next to President Joe Biden for his signature.

Lululemon Athletica jumped 11.3% after it reported stronger profit for the latest quarter than expected, crediting accelerating sales trends in China and other factors. It also raised its forecast for results over the full year.

**American United School of Kuwait** 

**Celebrates Class of 2023** 

MongoDB soared 28% after the database company reported bigger profit than expected. The company said it's confident it will benefit from the wave of enthusiasm around artificial intelligence that's swept the business world.

ary of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation,

ranked as one of the world's largest na-

over 4700 service stations across Eu-

rope under its brands, Q8, Q8Easy and

Tango, and provides over 70 airlines

It also runs two state-of-the-art lu-

bricant blending plants in Belgium and

Italy under the brand Q8Oils and owns

shares in three joint venture refineries

with jet fuel in major airport hubs.

in Italy, Vietnam, and Oman.

Established in 1983, KPI operates

tional oil companies.

A frenzy around AI has helped the S&P 500 climb to its highest levels since August. Nvidia, whose chips are helping to power the move into AI, has soared 169% this year, for

### 'Shrink the room'

### **How Biden, McCarthy struck debt** limit deal, staved off catastrophe

WASHINGTON, June 3, (AP): I was advice that Mitch McConnell had offered to Joe Biden once already: To resolve the debt limit standoff, he needed to strike a deal with House Speaker Kevin McCarthy - and McCarthy alone. But after the first meeting of the top four congressional leaders with the president in early May, the Senate minority leader felt the need to reemphasize his counsel.

After returning from the White House that day, McConnell called the president to privately urge him to "shrink the room" - meaning no direct involvement in the talks for himself, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries.

That, McConnell stressed to Biden, was the only way to avert a potentially economy-rattling default. A week later, Biden and Mc-Carthy essentially adopted that path, tapping a handful of trusted emissaries to negotiate a deal that would lift the debt limit. It was a turning point in an impasse that, until then, seemed intractable.

### Debacle

Having lived through the debacle of a 2011 debt limit fight, Biden would not entertain any concessions for a task that he viewed as Congress' fundamental responsibility. But McCarthy, prodded by conservatives insisting on sweeping changes to federal spending, was intent on using the nation's borrowing authority as leverage even if it edged the U.S. closer to default.

The scramble that ensued showed how two of the most powerful figures in Washington - who share a belief in the power of personal relationships, despite not having much of one between themselves - jointly staved off an unprecedented default that could have ravaged the economy and held unknown political consequences.

It's a tale of an underestimated House speaker determined to defy expectations that he couldn't address a complex debt limit fight, and a president who tuned out the noise from his



President Joe Biden addresses the nation on the budget deal that lifts the federal debt limit and averts a U.S. government default, from the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, Friday, June 2, 2023. (AP)

own party to ensure a default would not happen on his watch.

But it was also a standoff largely instigated by Republicans who argued they needed to use the debt limit threat as a cudgel to rein in federal spending. And even with a resounding 314-117 House vote followed by a 63-36 Senate vote the episode is testing the durability of McCarthy's speakership and his ability to tame a restive hard-right

McCarthy, now emboldened, is unfazed.

He reflected back on his election as speaker after the House passed the debt limit package, referring to his long battle to claim the gavel in January. "Every question you gave me (was), what could we survive, what could we even do? I told you then, it's not how you start, it's how

This account of the weeks-long saga of how Washington defused the debt limit crisis is based on interviews with lawmakers, senior White House officials and top congressional aides, some who requested anonymity to discuss details of private negotiations.



Ebtisam El-Harbi, Salutatorian

The American United School of Kuwait (AUS) proudly commemorated its 5th Graduation Ceremony for the Class of 2023. A total of 64 exceptional graduates were honored, including 6 with honors diplomas and 10 with distinguished diplomas.

Esteemed guests, including Shaikha Dana Nasser Al-Sabah, Mr. Meshal Ali, and Sir James Holtsnider, joined the ceremony to deliver warm greetings.

Mr. Abdulaziz Al Loughani, CEO of Floward, inspired the graduates to make a lasting impact and pursue their passions. Valedictorian Lina Lee and salutatorian Ebtesam



Leena Lee, Valedictorian

AlHarbi shared profound messages on unity and embracing change.

Mr. Michael Winninger, Director of AUS, congratulated the graduates, encouraging them to believe in themselves and chase their dreams.

The AUS graduates will pursue higher education in renowned institutions and countries worldwide.

Established in 2013, AUS provides an exceptional American education, nurturing responsible global citizens.

The graduation ceremony celebrated the collective efforts of the graduates, their families, faculty, and the AUS community, reflecting the school's commitment to excellence.

### ABK opens its first interactive digital branch in Al Khiran Mall

Branch features first-of-its-kind hologram technology

**KUWAIT CITY, June 3:** Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK), a financial institution which strives to embrace cutting-edge banking solutions, has recently unveiled its latest offering to the Kuwaiti banking industry: a pioneering firstof-its-kind digital branch located at Al Khiran Mall.

Serving as a testament to the Bank's unwavering commitment towards elevating customer experiences through state-of-the-art, secure, and agile digital banking services, this groundbreaking initiative further reinforces ABK's status as a front-runner in the realm of financial innovation. By integrating the latest technology into its operational workflow, the Bank endeavors to remain a prominent figure in the evolving landscape of the Kuwaiti banking industry.

ABK celebrated the inauguration of its new branch in Al Khiran Mall, attended by Abdulla Al Sumait, Acting Group CEO, Loai Muqames, CEO-Kuwait, Johair Marafi, Acting General Manager of Retail Banking, as well as several members of management and representatives of Kuwaiti media outlets. Attendees were introduced to the most prominent services offered at the new branch which serve as part of the Bank's digital transformation plan aimed to enhance customer service.

The new digital branch in Al Khiran boasts intelligent and innovative technologies, which are considered the first of their kind in Kuwait, including interactive digital screens that enable visitors to utilize them without the need for touch. The branch also features a never-seen-before in Kuwait hologram feature that provides customers with a unique banking experience.

On this momentous occasion, Marafi expressed her enthusiasm and said, "The unveiling of ABK's digital branch, which represents an embodiment of our customer-centric approach and steadfast commitment to meeting the evolving needs of our esteemed clientele, underpins our unwavering focus towards facilitating seamless, efficient, and satisfaction-guaranteed banking experiences. Aligned with our ambitions, we relentlessly strive to exceed customer expectations, thereby elevating our position as a leading player in the rapidly-shifting landscape of the Kuwaiti banking industry."

In line with ABK's unwavering mission to provide exceptional banking services to all customers across Kuwait, the recently established digital branch will not only cater to the residents of Al Khiran, but also the neighboring areas. This development serves as an integral milestone which helps



ABK officials pose for a group photo after a pioneering first-of-its-kind digital branch located at Al Khiran Mall.



Cutting of the inaugural ribbon.

revolutionize customers' banking experience across Kuwait with enhanced accessibility and convenience.

Marafi continued, "The launch of our first digital branch in Al Khiran Mall embodies our approach to keeping up with digital developments. The branch's modern and distinctive design delivers a futuristic environment supported by unprecedented technology that come together to create a pioneering banking experience that further enhances our position in the Kuwaiti market amid the rapidly developing needs of the local banking industry

Equipped with the latest technologies, the branch reinforces ABK's leadership position in the domain of modern banking, enriching customers with added value through swift account opening, hassle-free transactions, and high security measures.

The new digital branch offers various self-service options for customers of all segments, including the provision of a digital signature service through devices in collaboration with the Public Authority for Civil Information including a range of tablet devices. In addition to this, the branch pro-



near future for its customers. Moreover, traditional ATMs are available at the new branch which offer cash deposit and withdrawal services, cardless withdrawals, pass-

plans to introduce more services in the

word changes, transfers to customer accounts and other beneficiaries, card payments, check deposits, and account statements, among others.

She continued, "To inquire about any products or services, customers can also video chat with our staff through the available self-service machines which will facilitate smooth and instant transactions. We strive to continue to introduce the latest technologies to the banking sector to attract more customers to enjoy the Bank's

Marafi emphasized that ABK is

keen to offer innovative services which enhance customers' banking experience. These plans confirm ABK's strong focus on digital transformation to enhance customer satisfaction.

She continued, "ABK remains committed to benchmarking its services against the highest international standards in the banking industry and continually fostering innovation through the introduction of worthwhile products and services. Our commitment to technology-driven banking and unparalleled customer service underscores our ambition to lead the charge towards digital transformation and maintain our position as a leading bank in the Kuwaiti market."

Furthermore, Marafi highlighted the significance of the branch in catering to customers' ever-evolving and burgeoning requirements. Aligned with the Bank's unwavering commitment towards technology-driven banking, the new digital branch adheres to the highest quality standards and benchmarks to elevate the Bank's capabilities in delivering advanced banking products and services. Marafi stated, "The launch of our new

digital branch comes amid the growing use of technology to complete banking transactions quickly and securely. ABK will continue to innovate services and products to meet all customers' needs by opening more digital branches, and introducing more digital offers, products, and services that enhance our position among other banks in the Kuwaiti market." She added, "We also strive to continuously develop the capabilities of our team to keep pace with the continuous change in customers' needs and consistently exceed their expectations."

ABK's new digital branch is operational during Al Khiran Mall's specified working hours from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on weekdays and from 10 am to 11 pm on weekends. Marafi clarified that a team of the Bank's employees will be present to guide customers on how to use the self-service machines in the branch, ensuring that they are familiarized with the latest technologies and highest security measures.

Since its establishment in 1967, ABK has progressed to become one of the leading Kuwaiti banks in the region that is today known for offering a simpler banking experience. The Bank offers personal, corporate, and private banking of which includes a wide array of products and services. ABK also provides a broad range of local, regional, and global investment solutions and services through its subsidiary, ABK Capital. Enjoying equal stability and strength, the Bank also offers the convenience of banking across the region, servicing other markets in Egypt and the UAE.

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

### Supporting the project is in line with the KFH's national and societal strategy: Al Marzouq

### KFH signs design & supervision contract for Al Mubarakiya reconstruction project

KUWAIT CITY, June 3: Deputy Director of Kuwait Municipality, Eng. Saud Al-Dabbous, praisedKuwait Finance House (KFH)'s major role in restoring the damaged area in Al Mubarakiya fire incident, reflecting the CSR strategy of the Bank.

Al-Dabbous made this statement during the signing ceremony of design and supervision contractfor Al Mubarakiya reconstruction projectat KFH Auto- Shuwaikh, with the attendance of KFH Chairman, Hamad Al Marzouq and Chairman of Gulf Consult, Eng. Najla Alghanim.

Al-Dabbous stressed the significant role of KFH in accelerating the efforts to rebuild Al Mubarakiya by donating to the project and appointing Gulf Consult for its expertise in heritage-led designs in tandem with the latest and highest global engineering standards. KFH Chairman - Hamad Abdul-

mohsen Al Marzouq KFH Chairman, Hamad Al Marzouq, confirmed that KFH is offering utmost support and harnessing all efforts for the reconstruction of Al Mubarakiya as part of its societal and national strategy. He added that KFH's initiative involves restoring about 17

buildings in the affected area, in addition to the development of some ad-

jacent buildings in the market with an estimated cost of KD 8 million. In a press statement, Al Marzouq pointed out that KFH, in coordination with Kuwait Municipality, is keen to form aconsulting team specialized in architectural heritage to preserve the authentic architecture of Kuwait, with the aim of executing the project at the required level and according to the

specifications of Kuwaiti heritage that

entrench the historical legacy of this important landmark.

He went on to say that KFH is moving forward with the project as planned, commending the cooperation efforts of the Cabinet, Kuwait Municipality and the consulting team which was formed by a decision of His Excellency the Minister of State for Municipal Affairs, as well as the relevant governmental bodies.

He affirmed the continuous leadership of KFH in social responsibility, pointing out that the Bank has, through its extended journey, a solid record of social and national initiativesand has made various community contributions that cemented its leading position in sustainable development.

Al Marzouq extended his sincere appreciation to His Highness the Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince, Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and His Highness the Prime Minister of Kuwait Sheikh Ahmad Al-Nawaf Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for supporting KFH's initiative, which is part of its commitment towards Kuwait and its people.

KFH Executive Manager General Services - Ayman Altabtabaei

KFH Executive Manager for General Services, Ayman Altabtabaei, said that KFH has carried out many fieldwork projects related to the rebuilding of Al Mubarakiya market, which included implementing the highest security and safety standards in clearing the affected area, stressing the due care that KFH takes to preserve the historical and heritage features in the damaged area



Hamad Al-Marzouq, sandwiched by Saud Al-Dabbous and Naglaa Al-Ghanim.

### 'We are thrilled to be joining the World Vape Show'

#### MOOSEE to showcase innovative ATOM BAR 8000

#### **Key oil producers to discuss pushing prices up** crude prices and trim supplies, ahead VIENNA, June 3, (KUNA): The two

mainstream oil organizations, OPEC and OPEC+, are scheduled to hold meetings in Vienna on Saturday and Sunday to revise output policies and their impact on crude oil prices.

OPEC's 186th ministerial meeting is due to kick off later today (Saturday) at the organization's headquar-

According to insiders, recent drop of the oil price to the level of USD 70 per barrel might prompt the organization and its allies in the OPEC+ group to cut supplies to push up the prices and maintain stability of the international market.

The stakeholders are currently holding behind-the-curtain talks in Vienna on proposals to shore up the

of the scheduled official sessions. OPEC groups 13 key oil-producing states and OPEC+ comprises Russia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Bahrain, Brunei, Malaysia, Mexico, Oman, South Sudan and Sudan. The latter's share of the global oil output

accounts to 40 percent. Last April, these oil producers agreed on cutting the production by more than one million barrels per day, impacting positively on the prices to a certain extent, however they have recently started to turn noticeably bearish.

The word abuzz within the oil quarters is that OPEC+ might decide to slash the output by one million DUBAI, UAE, June 3, (AP): MOO-SEE, a leading vape brand from China, is excited to announce its participation in the World Vape Show, taking place from June 21-23, 2023 at the Dubai World Trade Centre in the UAE. MOOSEE invites all vape enthusiasts. retailers, wholesalers, and distributors to visit Booth No. 1200, where they will showcase their latest innovative product, the ATOM BAR 8000.

"We are thrilled to be joining the World Vape Show and introducing our latest product, ATOM BAR 8000, to the international market. As a brand, MOOSEE is committed to providing high-quality, natural-based taste and healthier vaping options to vapers around the world. We hope to use this opportunity to connect with global partners and work together to make a better life for all," said Lily, Sales Director of MOOSEE.

The ATOM BAR 8000 is a gamechanging fruit flavor electronic cigarette that offers a superior vaping experience with its unique design and features. Unlike most disposable vapes, the ATOM BAR 8000 boasts a generous 15mL e-Juice capacity and is powered by a 550mAh integrated rechargeable battery, providing up to 8000 puffs to maximize users' enjoyment. Its stylish, ergonomic capsule appearance is not only visually appeal-

ing but also comfortable to hold.

Equipped with a long-lasting mesh coil, the ATOM BAR 8000 delivers consistent flavor-boosting and satisfying throat hits, ensuring the same great taste from the first puff to the last. The device's rechargeable battery and Type-C port make it an economical choice for vapers looking for a highquality, sustainable option.

The World Vape Show, which de-

buted in September 2021, has quickly become the fastest-growing vape event worldwide, with expos in the UK, UAE, South America, and Asia. This prestigious event offers global manufacturers and suppliers a valuable opportunity to showcase their products to thousands of international retailers, wholesalers, distributors, and consumers.

Since its establishment, MOOSEE has been committed to delivering superior, natural-based vaping experiences to customers across 30 countries and regions spanning North America, Latin America, Europe, Southeast Asia, and Oceania. With an unwavering emphasis on "quality first" and a dedication to continuous innovation. MOOSEE has already accomplished a number of projects, providing the global vaping community with cut-ting-edge technology and exceptional devices.

With the vape and e-cigarette industry projected to be worth \$182.64 billion by 2030, the World Vape Show is the perfect platform for MOOSEE to present its innovative ATOM BAR 8000 and solidify its position as a leader in the market. Don't miss the chance to experience the ATOM BAR 8000 and meet the MOOSEE team at Booth No. 1200 during the World Vape Show from June 21-23, 2023, at the Dubai World Trade Centre. Learn firsthand how MOOSEE is revolutionizing the vaping industry with its commitment to quality, innovation, and user satisfaction.

MOOSEE is a brand of vaping devices from DATATECH, a professional electronic cigarette product research and development and brand operation company. Founded in 2020, MOOSEE is dedicated to developing, producing, and selling high-quality e-cigarettes for vapers worldwide.

# Al Mulla and Behbehani unveil the 'all-new' Grand Wagoneer at the Al Mulla Auto Show

KUWAIT CITY, June 3: Al Mulla & Behbehani Motor Company, the authorized distributor of Alfa Romeo, Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, Ram, Fiat, Abarth and the Mopar® brands, announces the launch of the-allnew Grand Wagoneer by Jeep, the most luxurious and technologically advanced SUV in the brand's history. The reveal took place as part of the Al Mulla Auto Show at the 360 Kuwait in the presence of His Excellency Mr. James Holtsnider, Deputy Chief of Mission of the U.S. Embassy in the State of Kuwait accompanied by Mr. Talal Behbehani and Mr. Imad Flayhan–Board Members of Al Mulla & Behbehani Motor Company.

Commenting on the event, Mr. Imad Flayhan said: "We are delighted to announce the launch of the-allnew Grand Wagoneer by Jeep, the most luxurious and technologically advanced SUV in the Jeep brand's legendary 80-year history, during the Al Mulla Auto Show, and to celebrate this magnificent occasion in the presence of His Excellency Mr. James Holtsnider, Deputy Chief of Mission of the U.S. Embassy in the State of Kuwait. Adding, "At Al Mulla and Behbehani, we pride ourselves on being the catalysts of presenting innovative new automobiles for the car enthusiasts in Kuwait. Our partnership with American auto manfuacturers goes back to many

decades, and has consistently seen us deliver Al Mulla and Behbehani's promise of Excellence, Professionalism and Innovation across our diverse portfolio of brands and taking them to new heights in the automotive industry."

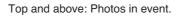
With the launch of the the-all-new Grand Wagoneer by Jeep in Kuwait customers now have the opportunity to experience the car's renowned capability courtesy of three available 4x4 systems, exceptional driving dynamics, powerful performance, advanced technology, safety and a new level of comfort for up to eight passengers – all wrapped in a sophisticated and authentic new design.

Featuring three 4x4 systems and an all-new architecture that delivers exemplary on-road driving performance, the 2023 Grand Wagoneer epitomizes luxury and adventure. The bold and distinctive exterior is complimented with artisan levels of craftsmanship in the interior with opulent Palermo leather trimmed seating and a fully digital cockpit with leading-edge technologies that are exquisitely presented for ease of

The most technologically advanced Grand Wagoneer ever, also features next-generation innovations, including the new advanced Uconnect 5 system and 75 inches of total digital display screen area. This consists of 45 inches of







Fire TV integration, digital rearview mirror and exclusive Rear Seat Monitoring Camera. Over 120 leadingedge safety and security features are also a part of the 2023 Grand Wagoneer inventory including innovative applications of technologies that connect the drive, vehicle and road. These include segment-leading features that enhance a driver's field of vision, help make instrumentation easier to see and enable driver-assist capabilities that support collision avoidance. Autonomous vehicle capabilities, hand-free active driving assist, night vision with pedestrian and animal detection, intersection collision assist, drowsy driver detection, digital rearview mirror and 360-degree surround view camera are just some of the many attributes of the cutting-edge, large segment

The 2023 Grand Wagoneer has also collaborated with distinguished audio brand, McIntosh, to bring an exclusive, high-fidelity audio system to a vehicle for the very first time. For more than 70 years, McIntosh has created high-quality, handcrafted, American-made audio products and systems for homes, concert venues and iconic moments in music history across the globe. Now its signature audio performance has been perfectly tailored to the Grand Wagoneer with patented technology

that gives a sense of space and recreates a realistic ambience of a musical venue – concert or recording studio. In conjunction with the outstanding audio quality, the McIntosh logos appearing on the door speaker grills are backlit in the brand's signature blue color, adding to the ambiance created by the interior's custom ambient lighting.

In another industry leading innovation, the 2023 Grand Wagoneer features the new 3.0-liter Hurricane twin-turbo, inline, six-cylinder engine, that that delivers better fuel economy and fewer emissions than larger engines while at the same time generates more horsepower and torque than many competitors' naturally aspirated V-8 engines.





### **Gulf Bank: New Salary Account**

### Kuwaiti customers get one yr grace period to repay 1st loan installment

KUWAIT CITY, June 3: In addition to receiving cash gift of up to KD 1,200 Mohammed Al-Qattan: We are keen to keep pace with the requirements of customers and provide them with the best competitive advantages in the banking market.

In addition to the many benefits provided by the 'Get Cash in A Flash' offer, and in the occasion of the summer season, Gulf Bank has added a new feature for Kuwaiti customers who join the Salary Account and transfer their salaries to Gulf Bank – by offering a cash gift of up to KD 1,200, in addition to a year-long grace period to repay the first loan installment.

Hence, this means that customers who transfer their salary to Gulf Bank and apply for a loan, have a period of 12-months to payback the first installment, following the date of obtaining it

of obtaining it.

Furthermore, Gulf Bank's salary account customers enjoy many other benefits, such as: Automatic enrollment in the best and fastest rewards program in Kuwait, discounts at leading car dealerships, a personal loan of up to KD25,000 with a repayment period of 5 years, housing loans up to KD70,000 with a repayment period of 15 years, as well as a free credit card and safety deposit box for one year.

On this occasion, Gulf Bank's General Manager of Consumer Banking, Mr. Mohammed Al-Qattan, said: "This offer applies to newly hired Kuwaiti employees with a salary of KD 350 and above, as well as those working in the gov-

ernment and oil sectors."

He added: "We are keen to keep pace with the requirements of cus-

GULF BANK

BANK

tomers and provide them with the best competitive advantages in the banking market," noting that Gulf Bank's Salary Account is the only account in Kuwait that provides special offers tailored to fit the customer's needs – as part of the Bank's keenness to reward its customers and help them achieve their

Al-Qattan also indicated that customers can open an account with Gulf Bank or transfer their salaries, in just a minute, through Gulf Bank's mobile application or website – stressing that Gulf Bank constantly strives to provide a distinctive banking experience to customers by providing solutions that are

simple, efficient and transparent. Gulf Bank's vision is to be the leading Kuwaiti Bank of the Future. The Bank is constantly engaging and empowering its employees as part of an inclusive and diversified workplace in recognition of every employee's role in delivering customer excellence and serving the community at large. With its extensive network of branches and innovative digital services, Gulf Bank is able to give its customers the choice of how and where to conduct their banking transactions, all while ensuring a simple and seamless banking experience.

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

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Mohammad Al-Qattan – General Manager Consumer Banking.

# stc concludes talent dev programme in 'collaboration' with McKinsey & Co

IBDAA Academy



Following the conclusion of the academy, a graduation ceremony was held to celebrate and recognize participating employees for their achievements. Employees were awarded with certificates of completion in the presence of the Company's Executive management team in recognition of their hard work and effort throughout the program. IBDAA Academy was introduced by stc to enhance the skills and develop the capabilities of high-potential employees (HIPOs) in preparation of them potentially taking more senior and strategic responsibilities within the organization. Through a carefully crafted curriculum that aligned with stc's corporate objectives and strategy, the academy provided HIPOs with the necessary skills and knowledge to act as mentors to other aspiring employees. In addition to providing educational opportunities, the academy played a crucial role in enhancing employee engagement and contribution, which will in return lead to improved employee retention and reduced turnover of high-performing staff.

Commenting on the program's conclusion, Chief Human Resources Officer of stc, engineer Ahmad Al-Hammad, said, "We are proud to witness all the participants who effectively utilized



Chief Executive Officer, Mazyad Al-Harbi, among the number of employees participating in the IBDAA Academy

About stc

the valuable experiences and learning opportunities provided through this program that was organized in collaboration with our esteemed partners, McKinsey & Company. Investing in our people is a key component in our strategy and that will in return assist us in achieving operational excellence and organizational success. That is why we are committed to providing employees with ample resources to develop their capabilities, competencies, and skills for them to achieve their objectives. Having said that, we continuously identify top talent within our organization and ensure that they have the support they need to take on more responsibilities and larger roles to maintain our pioneering position in the market."

Al-Hammad expressed his sincere gratitude to McKinsey & Company for their unwavering support throughout all stages of launching and concluding the program. He added their partnership and expertise have been instrumental in ensuring the success of the program and the growth of stc's HIPOs.

Al-Hammad, added, "At stc, we are dedicated to nurturing the growth and development of our current and future leaders, ensuring that they are well-prepared to handle diverse scenarios and achieve favorable outcomes not only for our organization but also for themselves. To achieve this, stc has introduced various programs such as the annual training programs, online learning for employees, and other platforms that educate and build competencies, providing real work experience. IBDAA Academy was aprogram that aligned with stc's core values and HR strategy, and we are always on the lookout for similar sustainable programs to empower our employees while creating a positive impact in the community."

To find out more about stc's events, promotions, and sponsorships, follow stc's official social media platforms, visit one of stc's branches, download Mystc mobile application, visit www. stc.com.kw or contact the customer service center by dialing 102 for around the clock assistance.

Kuwait Telecommunications Company (stc) is a Kuwaiti shareholding company incorporated pursuant to Amiri Decree No. 187 on 22 July, 2008, to operate and manage the third GSM mobile network in Kuwait as per Law No. 2 of 2007. Accordingly, stc launched its operations in December 2008 and was listed on Boursa Kuwait in December 2014. It is a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers and enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, and is a subsidiary of stc.



Ahmad Al Hammad

ership stance in the market through its customer and employee centric strat-

stc offers an innovative range of world-class products, services and solutions with high quality, that cater to the customers' needs and demands, both for individuals and enterprises (solutions by stc). In 2019, stc acquired 100% of the share capital of the Internet Service Provider, Qualitynet General Trading and Contracting Company (solutions by stc) in Kuwait. Further enhancing its digital capabilities, in 2022 stc acquired the entire share capital of e-portal Holding Company and its subsidiaries, one of the most prominent ICT providers in Kuwait.

In 2021, stc obtained the approval from the Communication and Information Technology Regulatory Authority's (CITRA) to launch the first-of-its-kind mobile virtual network operator (MVNO) license to launch Virgin Mobile Kuwait in partnership with Virgin Mobile Middle East & Africa.

stc offers high internet speeds due to the implementation of the most advanced 5G network and deployment of the largest network nationwide. In 2021, stc was the first operator in Kuwait to launch the latest 5G Standalone technology dubbed 'FULL 5G' that brings the 5G experience to a new level with better speeds, lower latency, and improved coverage.

stc's CSR program focuses on outreaching to the local community with a primary focus on health, environment, entrepreneurship, sports, and education through contributing and supporting various community-driven initiatives.

#### KIB is sponsor of Bonds, Loans & Sukuk Middle East 2023

Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced that it will attend and participate as a bronze sponsor at this year's edition of the Bonds, Loans and Sukuk Middle East 2023 conference. The sponsorship of the Middle East's largest corporate and investment banking event comes as part of the Bank's commitment to actively develop the financial sector in the local and regional markets by supporting relevant events and forums in this field.

On behalf of KIB, Hesham Al-Mubaraki, General Manager of Wholesale Banking, Acting General Manager of the International Banking and Large Corporate Department; Khaled Ismaeil, Assistant General Manager of International Banking and Large Corporate Department; Haisam Mustafa, Head of Finance Institutions; and George Dardarian, Unit Head of Fund Management, will be attending the conference, set to be held on the 6th and 7th of June at Madinat Jumeirah Conference Centre, Dubai.

Commenting on his participation, Al-Mubaraki said: "The Bonds, Loans and

Sukuk Middle East 2023 conference serves as a unique platform to discuss the latest developments of local and international bonds, syndicated financing and sukuk markets. We are pleased to participate as a bronze sponsor of this distinguished conference that will bring together the elite of the industry to focus on ESG and sustainable finance solutions for the Middle East's markets. It also marks an opportunity to highlight KIB's strategic plans that aim to diversify its financing portfolio and broaden its scope of Islamic finance activities.





Hesham Al-Mubaraki (left) and Jamal Al

#### Civil case filed by original brand

### Duplicate Malabar Gold & Diamonds showroom in Pakistan shut down by authorities

ISLAMABAD, June 3: The case was filed by Malabar Gold & Diamonds against Mr. Muhammad Faizan, who illegally used the Malabar Gold & Diamonds brand name to operate a jewellery store in Islamabad, Pakistan.

A civil case was filed by the brand in Pakistan, which resulted in a court order

that immediately halted the illegal usage.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds clarified that it does not operate any showroom in Pakistan.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds, the 6th largest jewellery retailer globally with 317 retail outlets across the Middle East, the Far East, the USA & India, has won a major legal battle against brand impersonation in Islamabad, Pakistan. The case was filed by the brand against Mr. Muhammad Faizan, a Pakistani national, who was operating a jewellery store illegally in the name of Malabar Gold & Diamonds in Islamabad, Pakistan. In addition to using the brand name and other trademarks of Malabar Gold & Diamonds to operate his jewellery store, Mr. Faizan also managed social media pages in Pakistan using the brand name, brand ambassadors, and product images of Malabar Gold & Diamonds.

Upon the filing of the civil case by the legal team of Malabar Gold & Diamonds, the Pakistani court immediately ordered the take-down of all "Malabar Gold & Diamonds" sign boards and to stop all usage of the brand name and trademarks. As the accused refused to abide by the court orders, Malabar Gold & Diamonds filed a contempt petition in court, resulting in the accused being arrested, imprisoned, and presented in the Court. Since jail imprisonment was an assured outcome of the civil case, Mr. Faizan approached Malabar Gold & Diamonds for a settlement and subsequent agreement to the conditions put forth by the brand. This included the withdrawal of the trademark application filed by the accused for registering 'Malabar Gold & Diamonds' under his name, and publishing confession and declaration in all editions of major English and Urdu newspapers chosen by Malabar Gold &Diamonds; all of which Mr. Faizan agreed to and complied.



The duplicate store being shut down after a court verdict

"Ours is a business that has been established on the foundation of trust. The brand value that we have painstakingly built over the years is very dear to us and any attempts to exploit the goodwill and reputation of the brand will be prevented. I sincerely assure our loyal customers that as is evident from this case, Malabar Gold & Diamonds will do all that is possible to prevent and discourage any such activities to protect the trust placed in us by our customers.", commented Malabar

Group Chairman, Mr. M.P Ahammed

Duplicate Malabar Gold & Diamonds

Any and all signboards carrying the Malabar Gold & Diamonds brand name and other trademark assets have since been removed by Mr. Faizan, who has admitted to exploiting Malabar Gold & Diamonds' global presence and brand recognition to mislead customers into thinking that his jewellery store was an authorized franchisee of Malabar Gold & Diamonds and draw advantage from their misconception.

### **CEO**, board members take part

### AUB launches blood donation campaign at its headquarters

KUWAIT CITY, June 3: Ahli United Bank (AUB) has announced the launch of a Blood Donation Campaign for its employees in cooperation with the Kuwait Central Blood Bank (KCBB) on Thursday, June 1st at its headquarters, with participation of the Bank's CEO and board member, Mrs. Jehad Al-Humaidhi, and a large number of the Bank's employees.

In her comment on this initiative, Mrs. Jehad Al-Humaidhi said: This campaign was launched based on AUB's strong belief in the importance of blood donation, which serves as a vital source to enhance KCBB reserves, which constitute a lifeline for many patients and accident victims.Furthermore, this campaign is one of the initiatives of the bank CSR program to support the healthcare sector and its commitment to the development and service of the Kuwaiti community in all fronts. Whereby, the bank consistently collaborates with KCBB to support the community and raise health awareness among its mem-

added: Al-Humaidhi employees of AUB did not hesitate for a moment to donate their blood, driven by their belief in the spirit of collective responsibility, solidarity, and giving to save the lives of others. We are extremely proud of their enthusiastic response to blood dona-

Al-Humaidhi expressed her heartfelt gratitude to KCBB staff for their cooperation and professionalism, which greatly contributed to the success of this campaign. She also urged all members of the community to come together and continue supporting awareness programs related to this vital issue.

Signage taken down after court verdict

From her part, the Head of Corporate Communications Department at AUB, Mrs. Faten Al-Tamimi said: "We are delighted to have continuous collaboration with KCBBin launching this campaign, which aims to encourage everyone to donate blood on a regular basis. In doing so, each individual contributes to maintaining an adequate blood supply."

Al-Tamimi added: The objective of AUB blood donation campaign is to instill a culture of volunteering by raising awareness and educating the local community about the importance of blood donation and its role in saving the lives of patients and the injured.

Al-Tamimi praised the importance of such significant initiatives that consistently help raise employees' awareness about the culture of blood donation. She emphasized the benefits that come from donating blood, not only for those who receive the donated blood but also for the donors themselves.



AUB launches a Blood Donation Campaign at its headquarters.

### **UAE** in-country value projects driving billions to local firms

ABU DHABI, June 3, (Business Wire): More than \$27.23 billion has been redirected to the local economy since the UAE Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology (MoIAT) and ADNOC launched major incountry value programs to support

Emirates Forum today, His Excellency Abdulla Al Shamsi, Assistant Undersecretary of MoIAT, said more than \$14.43 billion of investment was redirected to the local economy last year alone, an increase of 25 percent year-on-year.

"The National In-Country Value Program is a nationwide program that speaks one language across many different sectors," HE said. "It's one methodology and this is something we're very proud of because it benefits the private sector and when the private sector sees this it helps them prepare, invest, and spend."

ICV Program is "functionating well

and accelerating.' trial zones are playing a critical role in the in the country's sustainable

ing alternative energy resources such as solar and hydrogen to reduce their carbon footprint.

The second edition of the Make it in the Emirates Forum concluded on Thursday with the UAE showcasing its unique value proposition to international investors. Investors were invited to explore

tages, with panel discussions focusing on the National In-Country Value (ICV) Program, the role of industrial zones, competitive financing as a key enabler and local talent in the private sector. The UAE's industrial exports reached \$47.6 billion in 2022, grow-

opportunities and competitive advan-

ing 49 on 2021. The industrial sector's contribution to GDP rose to \$49.5 billion in 2022, a 38 percent increase on 2020.

The Make it in the Emirates Forum is organized by the Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology in partnership the Abu Dhabi Department Economic (ADDED) Development ADNOC.

On the first day of the forum, the UAE government announced \$2.7 billion in industrial offtake agreements, building on the \$29.9 billion of offtake agreements announced at the 2022 edition of the forum.





Staff of Kuwait Airways pose for a group photo.

### Flights scheduled for Mondays and Thursdays

**KUWAIT CITY, June 3: As part of** Kuwait Airways' continuous efforts to expand its network of destinations and develop its services to the highest levels of quality, the company announced the launch of its first scheduled commercial flights to the city of Antalya in the Republic of Turkey, with two flights a week on Mondays and Thursdays, commencing from 1 June 2023, and as part of its summer schedule for this year.

The Director of Network Planning at Kuwait Airways, Mrs. Shorouk Al-Awadhi stated, "We are pleased to announce the launch of our first scheduled flights to the city of Antalya in Turkey. Selecting Antalya as a destination complements the plans set by the company to expand its network of routes around the world, and to new destinations that will meet the requirements and preferences of its valued customers. The choice of Antalya as a destination comes after comprehensive research, taking into consideration the travel requirements of our customers. Kuwait Airways also focuses on launching other new destinations to Turkey due to the increasing demand from our valued customers, especially in the summer, the feasibility of these destinations and its benefits for the company. The Blue Bird will fly to five destinations in the Turkish Republic namely, Sabiha, Istanbul, Trabzon, Bodrum and Izmir.'

Al-Awadhi added that Kuwait Airways is relentlessly striving to provide its passengers with diverse options for meeting their travel requirements with better services with the inclusion of new destinations, as well as offering them every means of comfort during their travel on board, starting from providing reservations for customers through all available channels and providing them appropriate services, from the check-in at Terminal 4, completing their travel procedures with ease and enjoying the Company's services

The Director of Corporate Communication, Public Relations, and Marketing, Mr. Khalid Al-Bustan stated, "Kuwait Airways is undergoing extensive preparations for the summer season of 2023, with new and varied summer destinations in alignment with its objectives to expand its network, linking Kuwait to the world. We expect to see a significant growth and recovery in this season in particular, with an increase of travel and boost in the tourism and hospitality sectors, as well as the commercial air transport sector in general. Today, we are pleased to announce the launch of our first flight to the city of Antalya in Turkey, which is a significant destination, based on the preferences of our valued customers due to its touristic attractions, ancient heritage as well as its historical and cultural landmarks.

Al-Bustan continued, "Kuwait Airways has made a leap in terms of launching new destinations and services, through the sincere efforts, and commitment of its dedicated employees to develop and expand the national carrier towards further growth. This is also through the implementation of its corporate strategy Think New & Act New", which encapsulates our approach towards innovation and self-drive as we continue to drive growth and success to attain new levels of beyond excellence.

Al-Bustan indicated that Kuwait Airways has a young and diverse fleet of aircraft with the latest technology and features and the Airbus A320 was selected to facilitate the travel of passengers to and from Antalya due to its unique technological characteristics, which will enable customers to experience a

comfortable and pleasant journey. Al-Bustan concluded that Kuwait Airways had recently launched new and distinct services, in conjunction with the start of the summer season. These include the launch of Home Check-In Services for Royal and First Class passengers, complimentary Limousine services for premium class passengers, the Electronic Boarding Pass, the opening of the Elite Lounge, the BlueFi service offering text based chatting on board, and the Just Upgrade feature to upgrade travel class, which will be followed by various other services which will be launched.

It is worth noting that Kuwait Airways is dedicated to the comfort and convenience of its passengers as those traveling on Royal and First Class are allowed

to carry three pieces of baggage weighing 32 kilograms per piece. Business Class passengers can carry two pieces of baggage weighing 32 kilograms per piece and passengers on Economy Class carry two pieces of baggage weighing 23 kilograms per piece or one piece of 32 kilograms at different fare classes. Moreover, passengers travelling on Royal, First and Business classes can carry hand baggage not exceeding 11 kilograms and Economy Class passengers can carry hand baggage, that does not exceed 7 kilograms.

In addition, during the inaugural ceremony on the launching of Kuwait Airways' operations to Antalya, the Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to the State of Kuwait, H.E. Tuba Sonmezstated, "Antalya is a very important destination for us. It is home to the most beautiful, and natural coastlines in the world with hotels to suit every preference and budget, with numerous alternatives for high-end leisure activities, available at small boutique hotels, tourist resorts and five-star hotels. Antalya with its picturesque nature, has archaeological and historical sites, museums, and conference centers. It is indeed a tourism paradise in

every sense of the word. Kuwait Airways' direct flights to Antalya will provide great convenience to our guests. The number of Kuwaitis who prefer Turkey as a holiday destination is increasing year by year. Looking at the statistics of recent years, there is a significant increase in the number of visitors from Kuwait after the pandemic. Last year, we hosted half a million Kuwaiti guests which is a record. We look forward to increasing the number this year, so increasing the number of direct flights is of great importance.'

The inaugural ceremony on the launching of Kuwait Airways' operations to Antalya was attended by the Director of Network Planning at Kuwait Airways, Mrs. Shorouk Al-Awadhi and the Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to the State of Kuwait, H.E. Tuba Sonmez and other officials. Moreover, the first flight to Antalya witnessed convenient services being provided to the passengers, from their check-in at Terminal 4, completing their travel procedures with ease and enjoying the Company's services on board its diverse fleet of aircraft. The passengers also expressed their satisfaction for the company's adherence to on time schedule of its flights and for choosing Kuwait Airways to travel to their preferred destination.

domestic industries. Speaking at the Make in the

The forum heard how the National

The forum also heard how indusindustrial development and broader economic prospects. Local industrial leaders described how they are utiliz-

#### **Arçelik recycles 192m waste PET bottles**

Arçelik, one of Europe's leading home appliances companies, announces a significant milestone in its ongoing commit-ment to sustainability. Through its innovative initiatives, in 2022 alone, the company utilized a total of 13,207 tons of recycled plastic in the production of its appliances.

The company has successfully recycled 192 million plastic bottles from ending up in landfill from 2017 to 2022. By using recycled PET bottles, the company has built sustainability and inventive resource solutions into its products such as its washing machines, dishwashers, tumble dryers and air conditioners.

Arçelik's dedication to plastic saving extends beyond the recycling of waste PET bottles; the company with well-known brands such as Beko and Grundig has implemented a robust

circular model that embraces the recycling of wider forms of plastic, namely industrial fishing nets and thread. These recycled materials have been incorporated into the plastic components of ovens, dishwashers, and washing machines, further reducing plastic waste. Since 2020, 26 tons of recycled fishing nets and 563 tons of recycled industrial thread have been used in these products. (AP)

Cambodia's Ministry of Environment announces the adoption of the Environment Natural Resources Code (ENRC), a pioneering legislation that propels the country into a leadership position in regional environmental protection

and climate action. This milestone Cambodia's remarkable journey from a war-torn nation to a beacon of environmental progress,

amplified by its rapid economic growth. Similar to cornerstones of international laws such as the US's National Environmental Policy Act and Australia's Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999, the ENRC heralds a promising era of sustainability for the King-

The ENRC reflects Cambodia's commitment to building a future grounded in ecological

diversity, health, and prosper-

**Cambodia enacts ENRC** 

ity.
It addresses a wide range of environmental issues, including environmental impact assessments, pollution control, protected areas, forest and biodiversity conservation, land use planning and management, hazardous waste management, water resources management, and climate change adaptation and mitigation. (AP)

### **The Conversation**

### Many countries failing to meet their own commitments

### Govts, activists turning to ICJ to address climate impacts

#### By Daniel Merino and Nehal El-Hadi

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

This year, the United Nations International Court of Justice (ICJ) - the world's highest court - is hearing its first argument about climate commitments.

In an effort to make sure countries and corporations follow existing laws and agreements relating to climate change and environmental protection, groups have started pushing for legal action at the international scale.

Research shows that the current climate agreements won't stave off the worst harms of climate change - and many countries are failing to meet their own commitments.

A number of activist groups, mostly from developing nations already facing the realities of a changing climate, are taking a new legal approach to climate action. They are arguing that climate change cases are human rights cases and in doing so are wading into unprecedented legal waters.

In this episode of The Conversation Weekly, we speak with three scholars about current legal cases tying climate change and human rights together, what these cases might mean for the climate movement and how human rights law can produce real change on the ground.

There are two particularly interesting legal cases working their way through international channels right now. The first has to do a with dam being built in the remote and environmentally important region of Patagonia in southern Argentina.

"The dam was funded by big funding agencies in China as part of the Belt and Road initiative," explains Niak Koh, a researcher at the University of Sweden who studies sustainability science and governance. "An environmental organization found out that the environmental impact assessment for the dam wasn't done in a very clear way.'

#### Realized

There is also a group of Indigenous people, called the Mapuche, who live near where the dam is being built. Working with the environmental group, together "they realized that China was having its human rights record reviewed that year. So, they brought this particular case to the UN's human rights Universal Periodic Review to show that China wasn't upholding its human rights obligations in this project," Koh added.

This is a peer-review process where countries can essentially call out other governments for abusing human rights. While there isn't a mechanism for enforcement, the potential political fallout from a negative review might provide an incentive for governments to act.

The second case has been brought to the ICJ by Vanuatu and a group of other Pacific Island nations - they are asking the court to advise on whether nations have an obligation to prevent climate change.

Zoe Nay is a PhD candidate at the Melbourne Law School and a research fellow with the Melbourne Climate Futures Research Center at the University of Melbourne. Her research looks at rising sea levels and climate change law.

"In 2019, you had the Pacific Islands Youth Fighting Climate Change. They formed a coalition, it was all law students all across the Pacific," Nay said. "They brought a campaign to the Vanuatu government seeking to reinvigorate this effort to have an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice. And that's where this whole campaign really started off."

The ICJ has addressed various environmental issues in the past, but this is the first time the global problem of climate change has come before the Court.

These cases will set precedents for future legal actions as governments, environmental groups and other businesses and organizations consider any rulings and their impacts. And it's hard to predict what these rulings will come to mean, as enforcement will be extremely difficult to enact.

Jackie Smith, a sociologist at the University of Pittsburgh, offered a different take. "Any enforcement requires power," Smith points out. "That's what movements are doing. First you have to be able to monitor performance and have access to

the information that you need to monitor governments and other powerful actors.' But there are reasons to remain optimistic - Smith went on to explain that "if you want to see a law enforced, you need to make sure that you're attending hearings and following through the executive branch to see what's going on.'

This episode was written and produced by Katie Flood. Mend Mariwany is the executive producer of The Conversation Weekly. Eloise Stevens does our sound design, and our theme music is by Neeta Sarl. (AP)

### **The Conversation**

#### **Arctic sea ice loss & storms**

### Kivalina volunteers fight to 'protect' their island

By P. Joshua Griffin University of Washington

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

s winds and waves from Typhoon A S WINGS and waves from 1/1
Merbok devastated communities along the coast of Western Alaska in 2022, Reppi Swan Sr.'s phone began to ring at Kivalina, a barrier island 80 miles above the Arctic Circle.

A neighboring family had lost 3 feet of land to the rumbling lagoon, and their ome was now sitting just o feet from the angry water's edge. Reppi called his brother Joe Swan Jr. and quickly slid into his insulated rain gear.

As a volunteer first responder, Reppi plans for emergencies like this. He and his wife, Dolly, had been patrolling the island for dangerous erosion every few hours during the storm. To prepare, he had already inspected the city's heavy equipment and located a pile of boulders left over from a recent construction project.

Working through the rain, Reppi delivered boulders to the threatened home. With their cousin Carl Swan serving as a spotter, Joe carefully arranged the boulders with a backhoe to stabilize the bank. It would hold at least until the storm subsided.

With protective sea ice declining and warming Pacific waters supercharging fall storms in the Bering and Chukchi seas, Alaska Native villages like Kivalina are experiencing growing risks to coastal livelihoods and critical infrastructure, including runways. Reppi's efforts reflect the challenges many front-line communities face as they struggle with the effects of climate change.

### Hazards

Indigenous governments, nonprofits, hunters and first responders from Iñupiaq, Yupik and Unangan communities across Alaska have long been preparing for today's climate hazards. They have created initiatives from coastal monitoring to relocation planning, yet state and federal support programs are underfunded and poorly structured for the scale of today's chal-

Kivalina, an Iñupiaq community of 500 people, has been dealing with climate-fueled erosion and flooding for decades. Nearly 20 years ago, it was one of four villages the U.S. government determined to be facing "imminent danger." In 2009, 27 additional

villages were added to the list. Over the years, Reppi, Joe and scores of other volunteers in Kivalina have improvised sea walls with everything from sandbags to sheets of metal cut from the chassis of an abandoned

As a field officer during such incidents, Reppi reflects on how difficult it is to send anyone into harm's way, whether to search for a lost hunter or to save homes and infrastructure. He remembers one storm in which he put a lifeline on his volunteers as they tried to bolster the shoreline. "That was the hardest thing I had to do," Reppi recalls, "because one of my guys had to stay down there and tie each super sack together. To top that off, the 8-foot to 10-foot waves would

just engulf them completely. He talks about Typhoon Merbok with the calm of someone for whom storm readiness and response have become normal parts of everyday life. Because they have.

For Indigenous nations around the world, the roots of climate risk today are often colonial in origin. Kivalina's "uneasiness" with fall storms began shortly after 1905, when the U.S. Office of Education built a school on the island, and began a multidecade process to forcibly settle the autonomous and seminomadic Kivalliñigmiut na-

### Gain

In 1981, after decades of deliberation, Kivalina's municipal government initiated relocation planning as a means to gain running water and sewer services and to alleviate overcrowding. It was an attempt, as the elder Joe Swan Sr. puts it, to gain "breathing room" so that future generations might flourish. However, planning stalled in 2008 because of a disagreement between traditional knowledge holders in Kivalina and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers over the suitability of the community's chosen site.

Kivalina's relocation has now come to be framed as a response to climate change, but the initial needs that drove relocation planning still remain.

"We're an adaptable people," Colleen Swan, Kivalina's city administrator, told me when I started my doctoral studies 12 years ago, "but since 2004, we just can't adapt this fast."

That was the year pieces of the island began shearing off into the sea. Historically, Kivalina's sea ice would form early enough to protect the coast from fall storms. But with climate change, it forms much later, if at all, leaving the shoreline vulnerable to increased wave activity.

On March 6, 2023, when Arctic sea ice hit its maximum extent for the year, it was the fifth-lowest maximum extent on the satellite record. Kivalina had open water less then 2 miles (3.2 km) out from town, a fraction of what's needed for a successful bowhead whale hunt.

In 2008, Colleen was among local leaders who initiated the landmark climate justice lawsuit Kivalina v. ExxonMobil. The community sought up to US\$400 million in restitution from the 24 largest greenhouse gas emitters in the U.S., companies whose profits are driving climate change. That would have been enough to cover the costs of comprehensive village relocation.

The case was dismissed by a federal court, a decision upheld by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in 2012. On May 20, 2013, the Supreme Court refused to consider any further appeal.

With the media attention generated by the lawsuit, Colleen has become globally recognized as a front-line leader for climate justice. She has spoken across the U.S. and was part of an Indigenous delegation to the U.N. climate change conference in Copenhagen in 2009. Today, she's busy addressing climate change on a different scale.

Colleen now manages Kivalina's Volunteer Search and Rescue, known as SAR, and her brother Reppi serves as its president. Kivalina SAR is an association of hunters and first responders that plays a crucial role in community safety, coastal resilience and hunter support. But climate change has changed the nature of the organization.

### With big oil at table, UAE hosts want **COP** to deliver game-changing result pean lawmakers called for the summit's designated chair, Sultan al-Jaber, BERLIN, June 3 (AP): A senior United Arab Emirates

'We welcome any kind of discussion'

official says the Gulf nation wants the UN climate summit it's hosting later this year to deliver "game-changing results" for international efforts to curb global warming, but doing so will require having the fossil fuel industry at

Environmental campaigners have slammed the presence of oil and gas lobbyists at previous rounds of talks, warning that their interests are opposed to the goal of cutting greenhouse gas emissions - caused to a large degree by the burning of fossil fuels. Last month scores of US and Euroto be replaced over his links to the state-owned Abu Dhabi National Oil

The issue complicates already-delicate negotiations ahead of the Nov 30 - Dec 12 meeting in Dubai, known as COP28. Preliminary talks starting next week in Bonn, Germany, will show whether the incoming UAE presidency can overcome skepticism among parties and civil society groups about its ability to shepherd almost 200 nations toward a landmark deal.

"Our leadership have been very clear to me and our team and our president that they don't want just another COP that's incremental," said Majid al-Suwaidi, who as director-general of the summit plays a key role in the diplomatic negotiations. "They want a COP that is going to deliver real, big, game-changing results

because they see, just like all of us, that

we're not on track to achieve the goals

Governments agreed eight years ago in the French capital to limit global warming to 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit) - ideally no more than 1.5C (2.7F). With average global temperatures already about 1.2C (2.2F) above pre-industrial levels, experts say the window to meet the more ambitious target is closing fast and even the less stringent goal would be missed if emissions aren't slashed sharply soon.

"We need to have everybody at the table discussing with us about how to deliver that," al-Suwaidi told The Associated Press in an interview Friday.

'We need to have oil and gas, we need to have industry, we need to have aviation, we need to have shipping, we need to have all the hard to abate sectors," he said, adding: "We need all those who can to deliver what they can, regardless of who they are."

Al-Suwaidi pushed back against the idea that the fossil fuel industry would undermine meaningful talks on emissions cuts the way they have done in the past through disinformation campaigns and keeping quiet their own knowledge about climate change.

### 'Protecting tribal sites'

Luxury towers that dominate the skyline in the Dubai Marina district, center, and the new Dubai Harbor development, right, are seen from the observation deck of 'The View at The Palm Jumeirah' in Dubai, United Arab Emir-

ates, on April 6, 2021. A senior United Arab Emirates official says the Gulf nation wants a UN climate summit it's

hosting later this year to deliver 'game-changing results' for international efforts to curb global warming. But UAE diplomat Majid al-Suwaidi said doing so will require having the fossil fuel industry at the table. (AP)

### US orders 20-yr ban on oil, gas drilling

SANTA FE, NM, June 3, (AP): Hundreds of square miles in New Mexico will be withdrawn from further oil and gas production for the next 20 years on the outskirts of Chaco Culture National Historical Park that tribal communities consider sacred, the Biden administration ordered Friday.

The new order from Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland applies to public lands and associated mineral rights within a 10-mile (16-kilometer) radius of the park. It does not apply to entities that are privately, state- or tribal-owned. Existing leases won't be impacted either.

A World Heritage site, Chaco Culture National Historical Park is thought to be the center of what was once a hub of Indigenous civilization, with many tribes from the Southwest tracing their roots to the high desert outpost.

After extensive studies and consultations, the plan has pitted the Navajo Nation against other tribes in the region amid concerns about economic impacts and that individual Navajo allotment owners may be left landlocked by restrictions on public land.

"Today marks an important step in fulfilling President Biden's commitments to Indian Country, by protecting Chaco Canyon, a sacred place that holds deep meaning for the Indigenous peoples whose ancestors have called this place home since time immemorial," Haaland said in a statement. "I value and appreciate the many Tribal leaders, elected officials, and stakeholders who have persisted in their

work to conserve this special area." A recent assessment published by the Interior Department shows that the withdrawal will result in a few dozen wells not being drilled.

The New Mexico Oil and Gas Association has argued that the plan would leave additional leases on Navajo land or allotments owned by individual Navajos landlocked by taking federal mineral holdings off the board.

### **Arguments**

Navajo Nation officials have made similar arguments, saying millions of dollars in annual oil and gas revenues benefit the tribe and individual tribal members. The Navajo Nation completed its own study last year and advocated for a smaller area to be set aside given the economic impacts a withdrawal would have on the tribe.

On Friday, Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren and Council Speaker Crystalyne Curley expressed disappointment in the Interior Department's decision.

"The Navajo Nation attempted to compromise by proposing a 5-mile buffer as opposed to the 10-mile," Curley said. "The Biden Administration has undermined the position of the Navajo Nation with today's action and impacted the livelihood of thousands

of Navajo allotment owners and their

The Bureau of Land Management said the 10-mile (16-kilometer) radius would help protect more than 4,700 known archaeological sites outside the Chaco Culture National Historical Park, while a 5-mile (8-kilometer) radius would en-

compass about 2,800 of the sites. President Joe Biden initially proposed the ban in November 2021 at the White House Tribal Nations Summit. Since then, interviews, planning sessions and meetings with historic preservation experts and others have taken place.

A coalition of environmental groups and Native American activists that campaigned for the restrictions applauded Friday's order as a good first step in protecting cultural sites and the region from pollution and climate

"Full landscape management to phase out new and existing oil and gas development is a necessary next step,' said Julia Bernal, executive director of Pueblo Action Alliance.

Federal officials have billed the Chaco initiative as a novel effort that could provide a roadmap and lessons learned for future collaborations with tribes.

New Mexico's congressional delegation reintroduced legislation last month that would formalize the same buffer around the park. It would span more than 490 square miles (1,269 square kilometers) of federal land.

"There's no doubt in my mind that the position of the sector has completely changed and that they are engaging with us in an active conversation," he said.

Asked whether the talks might consider a phaseout of fossil fuels, proposed last year by nations most vulnerable to climate change, al-Suwaidi said the presidency wouldn't preclude such conversations.
"We welcome any kind of discus-

sion," the UAE's former ambassador to Spain said. "But the parties are the ones who will decide what that discussion is and where we land.'

So far, the summit's designated chair al-Jaber has emphasized the need to cut emissions, rather than end fossil fuel use itself. It's prompted fears that he might seek loopholes for untested carbon-capture technologies and so-called offsets - both aimed at reducing current levels of carbon dioxide in the air - that experts say distract from the need to end the release of greenhouse gases.

A report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change earlier this year called for a nearly two-thirds cut in carbon emissions by 2035, warning that failure to do so greatly increases the risk of droughts, flooding, sea-level rise and other short- and long-term disasters.

Al-Suwaidi, who also has a background in the oil and gas sector, said the UAE leadership is acutely aware of the existential threat global warming poses - including to their own sun-rich but water-poor nation - and is committed to shifting from fossil fuels toward renewable energy such as wind and solar.

"We want to be part of this new economy," he said. "We're a country that's running head first into this fu-

#### maker of Suboxone reaches \$102.5m settlement

The company that makes the opioid addiction treatment drug Suboxone has agreed to pay \$102.5 million to 41 states and the District of Columbia to settle claims that the company engaged in anticompetitive prac-

tices, it announced Friday.

The agreement with Indivior, based in North Chesterfield, Virginia, averts a trial that was scheduled to start later this

States, led by Wisconsin, claimed that the company, pre-viously a subsidiary of Reckitt Pharmaceuticals, made modest changes to Suboxone to extend patent protection and keep generic versions

of the drug off the market. Suboxone is a branded version of buprenorphine and naloxone. The case is distinct from claims brought by governments against other opioid makers,

claiming they helped cause or deepen a nationwide overdose crisis. Those have resulted in settlements totaling more than \$50 billion so far.

Under the terms of the deal, Indivior is to notify the states when it makes product modification or changes in corporate control.

The company said in a statement that settling the lawsuit will allow it to focus on its mission.

#### **Roquette announces investment with Beren**

Roquette, a leading provider of pharmaceutical excipients and global leader in plant-based ingredients, was pleased to announce a strategic investment with Beren Therapeutics P.B.C., and the launch of an innovation agreement to expand the full potential of Beren's cyclodextrin technologies

and their medicinal applications. Beren is a vertically integrated biopharmaceutical company focused on addressing the world's most significant health challenges. Roquette recognizes the revolutionary potential of Beren's research to transform the market and the lives of millions of patients worldwide.

"Our refusal to stand still has helped us establish a leading market position and identify where the next big development in the pharma space is likely to emerge - and that's what we see in our new relationship with

Beren Therapeutics," comments Paul Smaltz, Vice President of Pharmaceutical Solutions Solutions at Roquette. "We've been impressed by Beren's work as a Public Benefit Corporation and their innovations in manufacturing and drug development. Beren's research indicates incredible untapped horizons in the cyclodextrin market that en-able tackling the world's greatest health challenges. (AP)

### New tools can expedite cancer diagnosis, avoid costly investigations

### Grail's multi-cancer early detection test shows positive result

MENLO PARK, Calif, June 3: Grail, LLC, a healthcare company whose mission is to detect cancer early when it can be cured, and the University of Oxford have announced results from the prospective Symplify study was to be presented during an oral session on Saturday, June 3, at the 2023 American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Annual Meeting in Chicago. Symplify is the first large-scale evaluation of a multi-cancer early detection (MCED) test in individuals who presented to primary care and were referred for diagnostic follow-up for suspicion of cancer. The analysis showed strong performance of Grail's MCED methylation-based platform in the symptomatic population of more than 6,000 patients and demonstrated the feasibility of using an MCED test to assist clinicians with decisions around the route of referral from primary care. These results are in press for publication in The Lancet Oncology.

"Earlier cancer detection and subsequent intervention has the potential to greatly improve patient outcomes. Most patients diagnosed with cancer first see a primary care physician for the investigation of symptoms suggestive of cancer, like weight loss, anemia, or abdominal pain, which can be complex as there are multiple potential causes. New tools that can both expedite cancer diagnosis and potentially avoid invasive and costly investigations are needed to more accurately triage patients who present with non-specific cancer symptoms," said Brian D. Nicholson, MRCGP, DPhil, Associate Professor at the Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences, University of Oxford, United Kingdom and co-lead investigator of the study. "The high overall specificity, positive predictive value, and accuracy of the cancer signal detected and cancer signal origin prediction that was reported across cancer types in the Symplify study indicate that a positive MCED test could be used to confirm that symptomatic patients should be evaluated for cancer before pursuing other diagnoses.

### Urgent

The Symplify study enrolled 6,238 patients, aged 18 and older, in England and Wales who were referred for urgent imaging, endoscopy or other diagnostic modalities to investigate symptoms suspicious for possible gynecological, lung, lower GI or upper non-specific symptoms. Participants provided a blood sample, from which cell-free DNA was isolated and stored until Grail's MCED test was performed in batches, blinded to clinical outcome. Grail's MCED test's predictions (cancer signal detected, and if so, cancer signal origin [CSO]) were compared with the diagnosis obtained by standard of care to assess the test's performance. The most commonly reported symptoms leading to referral were unexpected weight loss (24.1%), change in bowel habit (22.0%), postmenopausal bleeding (16.0%), rectal bleeding (15.7%), abdominal pain (14.5%), pain (10.6%), difficulty swallowing (8.8%) and anemia (7.1%).

Within the study, 368 (6.7%) of the 5,461 evaluable patients were diagnosed with cancer through standard of care. The most common cancer diagnoses were colorectal (37.2%), lung (22.0%), uterine (8.2%), oesophago-

Grail's MCED test detected a cancer signal in 323 people, 244 in whom cancer was diagnosed, resulting in a positive predictive value (PPV) of 75.5%, negative predictive value (NPV) of 97.6%, and specificity of 98.4%. The overall sensitivity of the MCED test was 66.3%, ranging from 24.2% in stage I cancers to 95.3% in stage IV, and increased with age and later cancer stage. The overall accuracy of the top CSO prediction after a positive MCED test was 85.2%. The mean age of pa-

previously demonstrated that adding Grail's MCED testing to standard of care screening more than doubled the number of cancers detected compared with standard screening alone in adults with no symptoms or suspicion of cancer. Now, the Symplifydata confirm the potential benefit of methylation-based MCED blood tests as a diagnostic aid for use in the symptomatic patient population," said Sir Harpal Kumar, President of Grail Europe. "These exciting results will inform our development of an optimized classifier for use in symptomatic patients with a suspicion of cancer."

#### Responsible

The University of Oxford sponsored the Symplifystudy and was responsible for data collection, analysis and interpretation. The study was funded by Grail with support from National Health Service (NHS) England, NHS Wales, the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) and NIHR Oxford Biomedical Research Centre.

"This is a fantastic example of how academia and industry can work together for patient benefit, recruiting over 6,000 patients to Symplify in under six months and within less than a year of launching the project," said Professor Helen McShane, Director of the NIHR Oxford Biomedical Research Centre. "We are committed to diagnosing cancers earlier, when they can be cured, and this study is an important step on that journey. Symplify also shows that we can run trials at scale using digital systems to deliver research quickly and cost effectively, with the help of the NIHR's Clinical Research Network."

The National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) Oxford Biomedthe Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and run in partnership

whose mission is to detect cancer early, when it can be cured. GRAIL is focused on alleviating the global burden of cancer by using the power of next-generation sequencing, population-scale clinical studies, and stateof-the-art machine learning, software, and automation to detect and identify multiple deadly cancer types in earlier stages. Grail's targeted methylationbased platform can support the continuum of care for screening and precision oncology, including multi-cancer early detection in symptomatic patients, risk stratification, minimal residual disease detection, biomarker subtyping, treatment and recurrence monitoring.

gastric (6.0%) and ovarian (3.8%).

tients in the study was 62.1 years old.

"Grail's earlier Pathfinder study

with the University of Oxford. GRAIL is a healthcare company

## Feinstein researchers stimulate vagus nerve to cut bleeding in 'hemophilia'

Hemophilia A affects more than 30,000 people in US

MANHASSET, NY, June 3: Hemophilia A, a bleeding disorder that prevents blood from clotting, affects more than 30,000 people in the United States and, in high-risk situations, can lead to death. Researchers at The Feinstein Institutes for Medical Research have shown that electrically stimulating the vagus nerve can reduce bleeding in reclinical hemophilic mice models - a finding that could translate into human patients. The study, published in Nature Communications, builds on years of research into harnessing the vagus nerve through electrical stimulation, a foundation of bioelectronic medicine.

Led by Jared Huston, MD, associate professor of surgery and science education at the Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/ Northwell and the Institute of Bioelectronic Medicine at the Feinstein Institutes, the research shows that vagus nerve stimulation reduces bleeding in hemophilia A mice to the same degree as replacing missing clotting factor – the current gold-standard therapy for patients living with hemophilia. Dr. Huston and team have dubbed the effects a "neural tourniquet" to help curb excessive bleeding.

"From the delivery room to the operating room and the military battlefield, bleeding is too often fatal, and we do not have one universal therapy or technology to help reduce it, or even better, prevent it from occurring,' said Dr. Huston. "This research is an important step toward discovering improvements in patient care, not only for those living with hemophilia, but also for any patient or individual facing a high-bleeding risk scenario."

### Develop

The vagus nerve runs from the brain to the periphery and communicates with all major organs. It helps control essential functions, like heart rate and breathing, and is the main conduit for the body's inflammatory immune response to disease, bacteria and viruses. By stimulating the nerve with electrical impulses, you can control inflammation and organ function. Dr. Huston's research shows that the vagus nerve targets the spleen, which stores one-third of our platelets, the primary cell that controls bleeding throughout the body. The paper shows that after stimulation primed platelets travel in the bloodstream to sites of injury where they trigger more effective blood clotting, in some circumstances decreasing traumatic blood loss by 75 percent.

"To develop better treatments for complex disorders, like hemophilia, we must first understand its molecular mechanisms," said Carlos E. Bravo-

### 'Reduce burden on patients and healthcare systems'

### PCC uses AI analytics to enhance clinical trial matching for global cancer patients

NEW YORK, June 3: Massive Bio, a leading artificial intelligence (AI) analytics company specializing in precision oncology, has been selected by the Precision Cancer Consortium (PCC), a collaboration of several global biopharmaceutical companies, to optimize clinical trial matching through their innovative AI analytics tools. PCC was established in 2022 with a shared vision of enabling access to comprehensive testing for all cancer patients globally, and is currently comprised of AstraZeneca, Bayer, Eli Lilly & Company, GSK, Johnson & Johnson/Janssen, Novartis, and Roche. The partnership will incorporate PCC member clinical trial protocols and patient inclusion and exclusion criteria into existing machine learning matching algorithms in SYNERGY-AI leveraged within Massive Bio's Deep Learning Clinical Trial Matching System (DLCTMS). This will optimize the quality and efficiency of matching patients to trials across sponsor programs and improve patient access to targeted Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) testing and tailored interventions.

Selin Kurnaz PhD, Founder and CEO of Massive Bio, commented, "We are thrilled to be working with the Precision Cancer Consortium to advance precision oncology through our innovative AI analytics tools. With this partnership, we can streamline the process of clinical trial matching and reduce the burden on patients and

healthcare systems."

The PCC is a collaborative initiative to make data-driven precision oncology the new normal for all cancer patients globally, focusing on increasing patient access to targeted NGS testing and tailored interventions. The program sponsored by PCC will generate combined data and insights to optimize the allocation of patients to available ("local") clinical trials based on NGS testing or Comprehensive Genomic Profiling, clinical and patient characteristics, and relevant trial eligibility criteria.

#### **Testing**

Dr. Arturo Loaiza-Bonilla, Co-Founder and Chief Medical Officer of Massive Bio, said, "We are proud to partner with the Precision Cancer Consortium and bring our AI analytics tools to the forefront of precision oncology. Our technology utilizes genomics and clinical data from various platforms to present available intervention options for each patient in order to optimize clinical trial matching by reducing inefficiencies and multiple screenings. Together, we can help more patients access the right treatment options and improve outcomes.

Through this partnership, Massive Bio will design and pilot a trial matching tool for prospectively matching patients through genomic testing and clinical data to a set of selected ongoing biomarker-driven clinical trials

within previously defined locations (i.e. site, Health Care Organization, country). The companies will also explore considerations for larger scale or real-world application for further development.

Yinghui Zhou PhD, PCC Project Lead and Sr. Director, Bayer Translational Sciences Oncology, added, "This collaboration has the potential to address a major challenge in precision oncology and improve patient outcomes. By working together and utilizing a collection of genomics data from multiple sources centralized with the assistance of AI, we can create a valuable scientific resource and optimize the efficiency of clinical trial matching globally and scale.'

The Precision Cancer Consortium is composed of pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies focused on fostering collaboration on issues and opportunities related to precision oncology with the goal of improving patient outcomes by increasing cancer patient access to comprehensive genomic testing, including next generation sequencing, and addressing major gaps in precision diagnostics availability.

Massive Bio empowers cancer patients to find their best treatment options, using artificial intelligence to improve equitable access and precision targeting for clinical trial matching, drug matching, and drug development

Iniguez, MD, an Elmezzi Graduate School of Molecular Medicine 2023 graduate, and the first author on the paper. "These results support future clinical research to help advance technology and bioelectronic medicine."

As part of Dr. Huston's research program investigating vagus nerve stimulation in post-traumatic hemorrhage, he was also a winner of Northwell Health's 2021 Innovation Challenge. The challenge awards four employees from the health system funding that totals \$1.3 million towards their driven projects that have the potential to transform the future of medicine.

"The vagus nerve is the main communication line between the brain and the body's organs, but no one before suspected it can control blood clotting," said Kevin J. Tracey, MD, president and CEO of the Feinstein Institutes, Karches Family Distinguished Chair in Medical Research. "Dr. Huston's new findings indicate it may be possible to stop life-threatening bleeding by stimulating the vagus nerve."

The Feinstein Institutes is known as the global scientific home of bioelectronic medicine because of early discoveries in its labs. Decades ago, Dr. Tracey and his colleagues identified the role the vagus nerve plays in controlling our body's immune response, defining it as the inflammatory reflex. Researchers continue to build off that work worldwide to develop devices to cure disease.

Built on years of research in molecular mechanisms of disease and the link between the nervous and immune systems, our researchers have uncovered neural targets that can be activated or inhibited with neuromodulation devices like vagus nerve implants to regulate the body's immune response and inflammation. If inflammation is successfully controlled, diseases - such as arthritis, pulmonary hypertension, Crohn's disease, inflammatory bowel diseases, diabetes, cancer and autoimmune diseases - can be treated more effectively. By producing bioelectronic medicine knowledge, disease and injury could one day be treated with our own nerves without costly and potentially harmful pharmaceuticals.



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### Sweeney's 'Reality' based on true story of NSA whistleblower

 ${f R}$  eality,' a new movie starring Sydney Sweeney, is largely set in one empty room. There is nothing on the walls. There are no chairs or rugs, just a stark and ugly room in a nondescript rental property in a downtrodden neighborhood. Its script is as minimalistic - lifted directly from the transcript of one long conversation between two FBI agents and a young woman they suspect has leaked classified documents. The dialogue has all the ums and ahs, botched sentences and awkward small talk one might expect from actual human beings, not slickly intelligent Aaron Sorkin creations. And it's one of the most tense and exciting films of the year.

It's based on the actual FBI interrogation of the unbelievably named Reality Winner, a former Air Force translator who worked as a contractor at a National Security Agency office in Augusta, Georgia. One day in May 2017, she printed a classified report, tucked it into her pantyhose, walked out of the office and mailed it to an online news outlet. The next month, the FBI was at her door to interrogate her. The film starts as she pulls up into her driveway, an agent knocks on her car window and starts the recording on his handheld device.

The film comes from Tina Satter, a noted playwright who first conceived of this idea for the stage. The show, called "Is This a Room," was acclaimed in its off-Broadway run and the film version, which debuted at the Berlin Film Festival earlier this year and is currently streaming on Max, is her directorial debut. It's easy and lazy to ding a movie for being too much like a play, as though there is some bright line of demarcation between the formats aside from how audiences see them. But the point is that Satter has, in adapting "Reality" for the screen, turned limitations into opportunities. The smallness of the room starts to feel suffocating, especially as the questions get more specific and accusatory.

#### **Ouestions**

There is a dread to the whole endeavor from the first shot, even if you don't remember how this story played out in the news. Though it takes some time for Agent Taylor (Marchant Davis) and Agent Garrick (Josh Hamilton) to get to the real questions, the real reason why they're there, the small stresses and indignities start to build. Reality (Sweeney) has come home with a car full of groceries. She has a cat in the house and a dog, a rescue who doesn't like men. Her

life has been put on pause and there's nothing she can do about it. The agents tell her they have a search warrant for her home and her car and promptly tape off her modest yard with "crime scene" ribbon, take her phone and force her to stay outside as they search. She's worried about the perishables, her cat escaping through the open door and her dog scaring people. Meanwhile, one of the agents is asking about her CrossFit routine and her life as a single person in Augusta.

Reality, wearing jean shorts and sneakers, does not seem aware that she has the right to not answer their questions and has the right to an attorney - and the agents certainly aren't offering this information either. Instead, she is deferential and even helpful to these uninvited strangers, as though being nice might help things. Any

woman or member of a marginalized group can surely relate. Much credit goes to the actors. Hamilton walks a very delicate line in his performance. He looks like an innocuous IT guy and seems friendly enough, but his questions, even the smallest ones, feel double edged. Small talk has never been so stressful. Davis meanwhile keeps Reality on edge with small displays of power and authority, like now allowing her to touch her phone. But the show belongs to Sweeney, whose range continues to astonish - from "Euphoria" to "The White Lotus" and now this. She draws you in and you feel her stress and panic escalate.

It's a true triumph of storytelling and performance and a reminder that films don't need to be flashy or big to be great.

"Reality," a Max release currently streaming, is rated TV-MA. Running time: 83 minutes. Three stars out of four. (AP)

### **Variety**



This image released by Sony Pictures Animation shows Miles Morales as Spider-Man, voiced by Shameik Moore, in a scene from Columbia Pictures and Sony Pictures Animation's 'Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse.' (AP)

### Film

A rare sequel that dazzles as much as the original

### Giddy splendor in 'Across the Spider-Verse'

### By Jake Coyle

Let's get this upfront: "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse" was the best comic-book film of the last decade.

With an animation blizzard blown straight in from the pages of comics, "Into the Spider-Verse" took a supercollider to all the conventions of the superhero movie. Solemnity was out. Gone, too, was the idea of a chosen one. Spider-Man could be anyone, including a graffiti-tagging kid from Brooklyn, including a pig named Spider-Ham. The possibilities of the comic book movie were suddenly limitless. With Post Malone and Swae Lee's "Sunflower" thumping, the vibes were, as they say, immaculate.

So a lot to live up to. Yet five years later, the Spider-verse is still expanding in thrilling ways. 'Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse" is the rare sequel that dazzles as much as the original did. It's something to behold. Colors drip, invert and splatter in a shimmering pop-art swirl.

If "Into the Spider-Verse" reveled in the headspinning collision of universes, "Across the Spider-Verse" turns the multiverse blender up a notch, or 10. Worlds bump into each other like shoppers in a crowded bodega. Spider-Men and Spider-Women tumble forth like unloaded clown cars. In this frenetic, freewheeling thing that dares you keep up with its web-slinging pace, the sheer muchness of what's in the frame can be almost overwhelming.

But despite all that's going on, "Across the Spider-Verse" is remarkably grounded as a coming-of-age tale. The masterful flair of writers-producers Phil Lord and Christopher Miller, who penned the script with David Callaham, lies in how they detonate convention and then assemble the leftover, splintered shards to build something deceptively sweet and simple.

The directing team has been entirely swapped out. Joaquim Dos Santos, Kemp Powers and Justin K. Thompson take the reins in this second chapter, which finds Miles Morales (voiced by Shameik Moore) now a 15-year-old with a better handle on his crime-fighting powers. He's less adept, though, at communicating with his parents, Jefferson (Brian Tyree Henry) and Rio (Luna Lauren Vélez), who still don't know their son's secret identity and are growing increasingly concerned about his strange

Similar issues bedevil Gwen Stacy (Hailee Steinfeld), who by revealing to her police captain father (Shea Whigham) that she's Spider-Woman has caused a huge rift in their relationship. (He blames

her for Peter Parker's death.) When Miles and Gwen, stuck in worlds apart, meet again and swing in tandem through New York, they're less a romantically linked Spidey pair than they are a couple of teenagers whose parents just don't understand. When they sit together, on the underside of a ledge on the Williamsburg Savings Bank Tower, gazing at an upside down Manhattan, hazy and blue in the distance, the lingering image perfectly encapsulates an electrifyingly downside-up movie franchise.

### Superhero

In its chaotic and jumbled way, "Across the Spider-Verse" keeps playing with these notions. Miles and Gwen, rightly, feel exceptional - that their problems are unique to being enormously gifted kids. But the movie again and again reinforced that, yes, they're supremely talented, but, no, they're far from alone. "I'm Spider-Woman," Gwen says when a pregnant superhero (Issa Rae) peels in on a motorbike. "Me, too," she replies.

This being a "Spider-Verse" movie, though, there more than just a few Spider-Men lurking about. There are actually gobs of them, each from some parallel world. (Among those here are a Mumbailike New York, a Lego land and a nightmarish alternate reality.) The portals start opening thanks to The Spot (Jason Schwartzman), a supervillain-in-training who looks like a splotchy blank page with ink drops

But Spot's powers grow, bringing the attention of

"In this case, those prosecutors

conducted an extremely thorough

the Spider-Society, a gaggle of Spider-People who guard over order in the multiverse. Some of them are pretty cool - most notably Daniel Kaluuya's Spider-Punk, a British rocker who looks like he dropped out of The Clash. Others, like the leader Miguel O'Hara

(Oscar Isaac), are more serious and haunted. When worlds start colliding, prescribed storylines get upset. Seemingly anything goes in these multiverse realms, but, Miguel informs us, there is Canon that needs to be obeyed. Certain foundational narrative beats must occur, in some form, for every Spider-Man, including the sacrifice of a loved one.

When Miles tests these tenets, he brings about a cataclysmic battle across the Spider-Verse, and a movie series hellbent on deconstruction faces-off against formula. For Lord and Miller, the post-modern makers of "The Lego Movie" and "The Mitchells vs. The Machines," it's a battle they've been girding for their whole lives.

The danger in all these crisscrossing dimensions is that no reality seems to mean all that much. By exponentially multiplying worlds and Spider-Men, "Across the Spider-Verse" risks making itself dizzy. Yet it surprisingly, even movingly, stays true to the teenage emotions at its core and the parent-kid relationships driving all these multiverse convulsions.

It's the first Marvel movie that I felt in the theater a palpable disappointment that it was over. ("Across the Spider-Verse" is a sequel in two parts, and ends here in full-on cliffhanger fashion.) That "Across the Spider-Verse" earned that response is surely partly due to its giddy design just as it is to its conviction that we all contain multitudes. As Rachel Dratch's principal says in the film: "Every person is a universe.

"Spider-Man: Across the Spider-verse," a Sony Pictures Animation release, is rated PG by the Motion Picture Association for sequences of animated action violence, some language and thematic elements. Running time: 117 minutes. Three and a half stars out of four. (AP)

a long public silence that "I look forward to beginning what will be a long, difficult process of putting my life back together now that my name has been cleared."

Police began investigating Hammer in 2021, and turned the results over to the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office earlier this year.





review, but determined that at this time, there is insufficient evidence to charge Mr Hammer with a to the complexity of the relation-

crime," Tiffiny Blacknell, director of communications for the district attorney, said in a statement. "Due ship and inability to prove a non-

consensual, forcible sexual encounter we are unable to prove the case beyond a reasonable doubt."

The 36-year-old Hammer said in his post that "I am very grateful to the District Attorney for conducting a thorough investigation and coming to the conclusion that I have stood by this entire time, that no crime was committed.'

Allegations of sexual violence from women early in 2021 derailed Hammer's career, and he has not worked in Hollywood since. He departed the comedy "Shotgun Wedding" that he was shooting with Jennifer Lopez, left the Paramount+ series "The Offer," about the making of "The Godfather," and was dropped by his agency, WME. (AP)

typically identify people who say they are victims of sexual assault unless they grant permission, as Harbert has done. (AP) LOS ANGELES: Actor Armie

**NEW YORK:** Three women who claim Cuba Gooding Jr sexually

abused them - including one upset she never got her day in court when Gooding resolved criminal charges without trial or iail — can testify at a federal civil trial next

week to support a woman's claim

that the actor raped her in 2013, a

Judge Paul A. Crotty said the

allegations by the women were

Oscar-winning "Jerry Maguire'

relevant for a jury deciding if the

star raped a woman in a Manhat-

tan hotel room after they met at

a bar. He also ruled in a separate

order that the plaintiff, identified only as **Jane Doe** in the lawsuit

He said the claims by the three

stake in the trial because "all involve

sudden sexual assaults or attempted

sexual assaults" connected to Good-

ing and stemmed from the presence

of the women and Gooding in social

Lawyers for Gooding, a #Me-

Too defendant in multiple courts,

have said Gooding had consensual

... with the woman who accused

him of rape after they met in the

VIP lounge of a Greenwich Vil-

lage restaurant and she joined him

at a nearby hotel bar, agreeing to

proceed to his hotel room so the

actor could change his clothing.

The lawyers did not respond to an

email request for comment Friday

Kelsey Harbert, who said in tears

after Gooding pleaded guilty last

year that never getting her day in

court was "more disappointing

Harbert told police Gooding

Lounge near Times Square in 2019. The Associated Press does not

fondled her without her consent

at Magic Hour Rooftop Bar &

than words can say.

The three women include

settings such as festivals, bars,

nightclubs and restaurants.

seeking \$6 million in damages,

women who can testify "are suf-ficiently similar" to the claims at

must reveal her name at trial.

judge ruled Friday

Hammer will not be charged after a long investigation of a woman's allegation that he sexually assaulted her in 2017, Los Angeles

prosecutors said.

Hammer said on Instagram after

### People & Places

#### **Television**

#### **Disquise & deception**

### Eric Andre Show host keeps getting guests

LOS ANGELES, June 3, (AP): "The Eric Andre Show" is ostensibly not a series that lends itself to longevity. Its titular star, who plays a version of himself and satirizes talk shows by putting unsuspecting celebrity guests through hellish interviews, has become considerably more famous since the series first aired over a decade ago.

But through a combination of disguises and an artfully deceptive booking team, Andre is gearing up for the premiere of the sixth season this Sunday on Adult Swim, boasting a star-studded list of guests in the episodes to come, including Lil Nas X, Natasha Lyonne and Jon Hamm.

"We used to worry about, like, 'Oh, am I going to be more recognizable?" Andre said of his increas-



ing fame, eventually realizing it doesn't take much to fool people. "I disguised myself a lot this season. I rocked the ponytail and the glasses, and I would wear COVID masks sometimes.'

There is a kind of poetic, albeit sadistic, justice that comes from watching the cult show make the most envied in society the butt of its joke, including high-profile names

over the years like Seth Rogen, Demi Lovato, Dennis Rodman and Judy Greer. A few - including Lauren Conrad and T.I. - have walked off in disgust or indignation. But that number is surprisingly low given that Andre often keeps guests in emotional and physical discomfort for an

hour or more, only to edit interviews down to mere minutes "I'm in character," Andre explained. "I'm trying to just be the most absurd and incompetent talk show

host of all time. Once celebrities are brought on the "talk show," their egos are subjected to all kinds of abasements, both through Andre's absurd line of questioning and through physical pranks - some unbeknownst to viewers and only revealed later by former guests.

#### **Pranks**

"It's a break from the kind of fictitious propaganda of traditional press, I think," he theorized, mocking actors and the stories they share on actual late-night talk shows. "They're like, 'Hey, you know, on set, George Clooney played a prank on me,' or whatever. They have some anecdote from set. It feels - people can smell it's a little inauthentic.'

Part of what makes the pranks so impressive is Andre's ability to pull them off, even when guests become visibly angry and sometimes threatening to-

"I'm calculating every next step," the comedian said of what goes through his mind during the interviews. "I don't want to laugh. I've done so much work and so much prep has gone into bringing that prank into production that I don't want to be the one

Despite the fact that even he is not particularly comfortable with it, Andre's antics often at some point involve nudity - either by him or the show's infamous "naked PA" - a move that frequently pushes

guests over the edge. "You gotta do what it takes," Andre, ever the showman, explained. "There's not a lot of things that are like completely jaw-dropping shocking. So, nudity is just kind of like a guaranteed reaction."

Although he denies outright lying to get people on the show, he concedes he and the bookers frequently "bend the truth," and then come up with elaborate schemes to prevent publicists from seeing the torturous pranks they unknowingly walked their clients

"We don't let publicists into where the stage is and we'll show them like fake monitor feeds and stuff," he explained, adding they are sometimes sent on a "wild goose chase" when they get an inkling of what is going on.

He recalled having actor Robin Givens on the show last season, saying her publicist at one point demanded the interview be stopped. In an effort to buy Andre more time, the show's assistant director allegedly led the publicist down a series of wrong turns throughout the building.

### Conviction

"Outside, back in, pretending he didn't know where we were," Andre said, bursting into laugh-

His stunts might lead some to believe that Andre is a simple clown. But the comedian, who studied upright bass at the Berklee College of Music, will often give glimpses into the more learned corners of his brain, inexplicably dropping commentary on things like capitalism or militarism amid the chaos of his interviews.

'What can I say, man? Patriotism is the conviction that your country is superior to all others because you were born in it," he says abruptly in one interview with NBA player Blake Griffin last season.

The fact that Andre keeps coming back for more has been of late a pleasant surprise for fans, given that he at times seems ready to move on from the show, as well as his recent involvement in other pro-

He fittingly stars in a sort of spoof on reality competition shows called "The Prank Panel" alongside his "Jackass Forever" co-star Johnny Knoxville and Gabourey Sidibe.

And in 2021, after years of delays and back and forth with different studios, Netflix finally released "Bad Trip," a narrative film with pranks on real people that stars Andre, Tiffany Haddish and Lil Rel Howery.

"I was going to end the show after five seasons and then I didn't make any money on 'Bad Trip,' he laughed, though he acknowledged his motivations for coming back to "The Eric Andre Show" were not just financial.

"Why permanently close the door on a show where I have full creative freedom?" he said, hinting that door is still open for more after this season.

Despite Andre's claim that "Bad Trip" didn't make him any money, the film's success once it hit Netflix seems to have engendered future opportunities for the comedian, though he is reluctant to say more about what those projects are.

"It's not even my corporate overlords. It's superstition. So, I'll tell you when the time is right," he teased



In this image released by Shochiku, Maholo Onoe, front center, performs as he makes his official stage debut at the Kabuki Theater in Tokyo, on May 2, 2023. He is one of the biggest emerging stars in Japan's 420 year-old Kabuki theater. (AP



Hailee Steinfeld poses for photographers upon arrival for the Gala Screening of the film 'Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse' in London, June 1. (AP) — **Details Page 11** 



**Variety** 

PARIS: Kaija Saariaho, who wrote acclaimed works that made her the among the most prominent composers of the 21st century, died Friday. She was 70.

Saariaho

Saariaho died at her apartment in Paris, her family said in a statement posted on her Facebook page. She had been diagnosed in February 2021 with glioblastoma, an aggressive and incurable brain tumor.

"The multiplying tumors did not affect her cognitive facilities until the terminal phase of her illness," the statement said. Her family said Saariaho had undergone experimental treatment at Pitié-Sal-

pêtrière Hospital in Paris. "Kaija's appearance in a wheelchair or walking with a cane have prompted many questions, to which she answered elusively," the family said. "Following her physician's advice, she kept her illness a private matter, in order to maintain a positive mindset and keep the focus of

Her "L'Amour de Loin (Love from Afar)" premiered at the Salzburg Festival in 2000 and made its **U.S.** debut at the Santa Fe Opera two years later. In 2016, it became the first staged work by a female composer at the Metropolitan Opera since Ethel M. Smyth's "Der Wald" in 1903.

"She was one of the most original voices and enjoyed enormous success,' Met general manager Peter Gelb said. "It had impact on one's intellect as well as one's emotions. It was music that really moves people's hearts. She was truly one of the great, great artists.

Saariaho did not like to be thought of as a female composer, rather a woman who was a composer.

"I would not even like to speak about it," she said during an interview with The Associated Press after a piano rehearsal

### Stage

### For Maholo, art imitates life

### Kabuki actor's debut breaks traditions

TOKYO, June 3, (AP): Ten-yearold Maholo Terajima Ghnassia loves watching anime and playing baseball. He likes making beats and whisper ASMR. And he's breaking conventions in Japan's 420-year-old Kabuki theater tradition.

In Kabuki, all the roles are playe by men, including beautiful princesses a role Maholo accomplishes stunningly in his official stage debut as Maholo Onoe at the Kabuki Theater in downtown Tokyo. In the performance, which ran May 2 through 27 to full audiences, he starts out disguised as a woman, dancing gracefully, before transforming into sword-wielding warrior Iwami Jutaro. He then makes a quick costume change right there on the stage, all while delivering singsong lines in a clear resonating voice unaided by a microphone.

Out to avenge his father's death, striking spectacular poses, Maholo performs swashbuckling fight scenes and slavs a furry baboon.

'I like 'tachimawari' (fight scenes). It feels good, and people who are watching it think it's cool," said Ma-

In a touching moment of art imitating life, Maholo's grandfather, Kikugoro Onoe, appears as the God of War. He praises Maholo's character, Iwami, and tells him to keep at his art, promising to always be at his side and help him attain his goals.

Kabuki is typically passed from father to son, the artform largely limited to Japanese men. But Kikugoro Onoe is Maholo's maternal grandfather; the young Kabuki performer's father, Laurent Ghnassia, is French.

The special Maholo Memorial Lunch served during intermission includes cheese and tomatoes, chips with avocado dip and roast beef - some of the young actor's favorite dishes, and a stark change from the usual cuisine of fish and rice served at the theater.

The huge curtain for the st which also works as advertising space, is speckled with fluttering dots of purple and orange, designed by French artist Xavier Veilhan of fashion house Chanel. This was Ghnassia's idea - as an art director, he designs venues, installations, shops and events to market fashion brands, contemporary art and film ventures.

"It's a privilege," Ghnassia said, shrugging off concerns about putting his son through the rigorous demands of Kabuki acting.

### **Philosophy**

"Worry is not an emotion that's part of my philosophy," he said. "I always believe tomorrow will be better than today. If tomorrow is not better than today, then the day after tomorrow will be better than tomorrow.' Maholo himself isn't sure yet if

he will stick with the strict, demanding artform and someday adopt his grandfather's stage name, Kikugoro a prized name in Kabuki passed down through generations of Onoe men.

Child Kabuki actors go through a difficult transitional period when their voices change with puberty but they aren't yet mature enough to take adult roles. Only the truly determined ones pull through that stretch to succeed.

"Unless he is recognized and in demand, he won't get any roles. He must have the passion. It's not easy. It's up to him," said Maholo's mother, renowned actor Shinobu Terajima. She won the Silver Bear for Best Actress at the Berlin International Film Festival for her poignant performance in the 2010 film "Caterpillar."

"It's not easy, but choosing the harder path makes life more worthwhile. The more hurdles there are, the climb becomes worth it," Terajima said.

Kabuki performances feature stylized dancing and makeup, powerful live music, and elaborate costumes and sets. Many popular storylines include star-crossed lovers, suicides and the pursuit of revenge. There is action as well, involving intricate stagecraft like revolving platforms and trapdoors. In some scenes, ropes are used so actors "fly" above the spectators.

Although Japan has been known for discriminatory attitudes toward foreigners and outsiders, Terajima hopes her son's French cultural background will give Maholo a unique edge in the world of Kabuki. But he may become a film actor like

herself. Terajima said.

"It must be felt. It's not just the lines you speak," she said. "I want him to act by digesting within what's received from the other, and then return that, changing one's heart with that received energy. That's fundamental to acting.'

Maholo hasn't committed either way, though he'll readily admit that delicious saucisson French salami is a driving factor for why he likes France - though not the only one.

"There is more freedom in France," he said, giving his dad a high-five.

at the Met. "It should be a shame." (AP) 

**OXON HILL, Md:** Fifteen months ago, **Dev Shah** spent a miserable five hours spelling outdoors in chilly, windy, damp conditions at a supersize regional competition in Orlando, Florida, only to

fall short of his dream of returning to the Scripps National Spelling Bee.

"Despondent is the right word," Dev said. "I just didn't know if I wanted to keep continuing.' Look at him now.

Soft-spoken but brimming with confidence, Dev asked precise questions about

This image released by HBO shows Sydney Sweeney in a scene from 'Reality.'

obscure Greek roots, rushed through his second-to-last word and rolled to the National Spelling Bee title Thursday night.

Dev, a 14-year-old from Largo, Florida, in the Tampa Bay area, first competed at the national bee in 2019, then had his spelling career interrupted. The 2020 bee was canceled because of COVID-19, and in the mostly virtual 2021 bee, he didn't make it to the inperson finals, held in his home state on ESPN's campus at Walt Disney World.

Then came the disaster of last year, when he was forced to compete in the Orlando region because his previous regional sponsor didn't come back after the pandemic.
"It took me four months to get him

back on track because he was quite a bit disturbed and he didn't want to do it," said Dev's mother, Nilam Shah.

When he decided to try again, he added an exercise routine to help sharpen his focus and lost about 15 pounds, she said.

Dev got through his region. He flexed his knowledge in Wednesday's early rounds by asking questions that proved he knew every relevant detail the bee's pronouncers and judges had on their computer screens. And when it was all over, he held the trophy over his head as confetti fell.

"He appreciated that this is a journey, which sounds very trite but is really quite true," said Dev's coach, Scott Remer, a former speller and study guide author. (AP)

### **Space**

### **Boeing capsule delay**

# ESA Mars livestream interrupted by 'rain'

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla., June 3, (AP): A European spacecraft around Mars sent its first livestream from the red planet to Earth on Friday to mark the 20th anniversary of its launch, but rain in Spain interfered at times.

The European Space Agency broadcast the livestream with views courtesy of its Mars Express, launched by a

Russian rocket from Kazakhstan in 2003.

It took nearly 17 minutes for each picture to reach Earth, nearly 200 million miles (300 million kilometers) away,

and another minute to get through the ground stations.

The transmission was disrupted at times by rainy weather

at the deep space-relay antenna in Spain.

Still, enough images made it through to delight the European space officials besting the bourlong livestream. The

ropean space officials hosting the hourlong livestream. The initial views showed about one-third of Mars, which gradually grew bigger in the frames before shrinking again



Wood

earlier, officials said

in the frames before shrinking again as the spacecraft circled the planet. White clouds could clearly be seen in some of the shots.

"If you were currently sitting on

"If you were currently sitting on board Mars Express ... this is what you would be seeing," said **Simon Wood**, the mission's spacecraft operations engineer. "We typically don't normally get images in this way."

Pictures and other data usually are stored aboard the spacecraft and later

transmitted to Earth, according to Wood, when the spacecraft's antenna can be pointed this way.

Near real-time footage from so far away is "rather rare"

Near real-time footage from so far away is "rather rare," according to ESA. The agency pointed to the live broadcasts by the Apollo moonwalkers more than a half-century ago and, more recently, live snippets from spacecraft deliberately crashing into the moon and an asteroid.

"These missions were all pretty close to home and others farther away sent perhaps an image or two in near real-time. When it comes to a lengthy livestream from deep space, this is a first," ESA said in a statement before the event.

#### **Pictures**

The rain on the plains in Spain cut into the number of pictures shown. ESA devoted only an hour to the livestream because it did not want to overload the spacecraft's batteries.

Mars Express traveled to the red planet with a lander, dubbed Beagle-2, which lost contact with Earth as it attempted to touch down on the Martian surface.

More than a decade later, NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter captured pictures of Beagle-2. Although it made it to the surface, the lander's solar panels didn't fully unfurl.

Boeing's astronaut capsule faces more launch delays after the discovery of problems that should have been caught

Boeing and NASA announced the latest setback Thursday.

Until recently, the Starliner capsule was on track for a July test flight with two astronauts to the International Space Station, a planned trip that was already well behind schedule.

But final reviews uncovered issues with the parachute lines and other problems that were present on last year's test flight with no one on board and, officials said, should have been caught years ago.

As for whether Starliner might fly by year's end, Boeing program manager **Mark Nappi** said, "I think it's feasible, but I certainly don't want to commit to any dates or time frames" until the problems are fixed.

The capsule is full of wire harnesses wrapped in white tape that's flammable, according to Nappi. Rather than trying to remove the hundreds of feet of tape, which was supposed to protect against scuffing, the company may cover it with a safer material.

The parachute lines also were not designed to be strong enough to meet safety standards.

"These tests were run many years ago. We reviewed those results. We missed those results, and this could have been caught sooner," Nappi said.

Following the retirement of the space shuttles more than a decade ago, NASA hired Boeing and SpaceX to transport astronauts to and from the space station. SpaceX has now completed 10 crew flights, three of them private. Boeing had to repeat its 2019 test flight without a crew because of software and other issues.

"NASA desperately needs a second provider for crew transportation," said **Steve Stich**, the space agency's commercial crew program manager.

The goal is to have one SpaceX and one Boeing taxi flight to the station each year.

#### car. Also

**NEW YORK:** A new work by US Poet Laureate Ada Limón, written for an upcoming NASA mission to Jupiter's moon Europa, is a glance at outer space that returns

back to Earth.

Limón's "In Praise of Mystery: A Poem for Europa," which she read Thursday night during a ceremony at the Library of Congress, is part of NASA's "Message In a Bottle Campaign" as the aeronautics and space administration prepares for a years-long journey. The Europa Clipper is expected to launch in October 2024, with "In Praise of Mystery" engraved on the spacecraft.

"Writing this poem was one of the greatest honors of my life, but also one of the most difficult tasks I've ever been assigned," Limón said in a statement released through the Library of Congress. "Eventually, what made the poem come together was realizing that in pointing toward other planets, stars and moons, we are also recognizing the enormous gift that is our planet Earth. To point outward is also to point inward."

During a recent interview with The Associated Press, Limón said she struggled at first with the poem, explaining that because of its official nature she couldn't rely on her usual instincts. After working on more than a dozen drafts, she received invaluable advice from her husband, **Lucas Marquardt**, who urged her to write the poem is if it were personal, a "poem that you would write anyway."

"I think of all the times as a child that I would look down and find a whole universe in the grass, or in a small, watery wedge from the creek across the street from my house," she said. "But than I also think that that was in tandem with looking up at the moon."

The 7-stanza poem begins as a tribute to "the night sky inky/with black expansiveness," a sky we read as an "unerring book of the universe." But, Limón adds, treasures can be found below the sky.

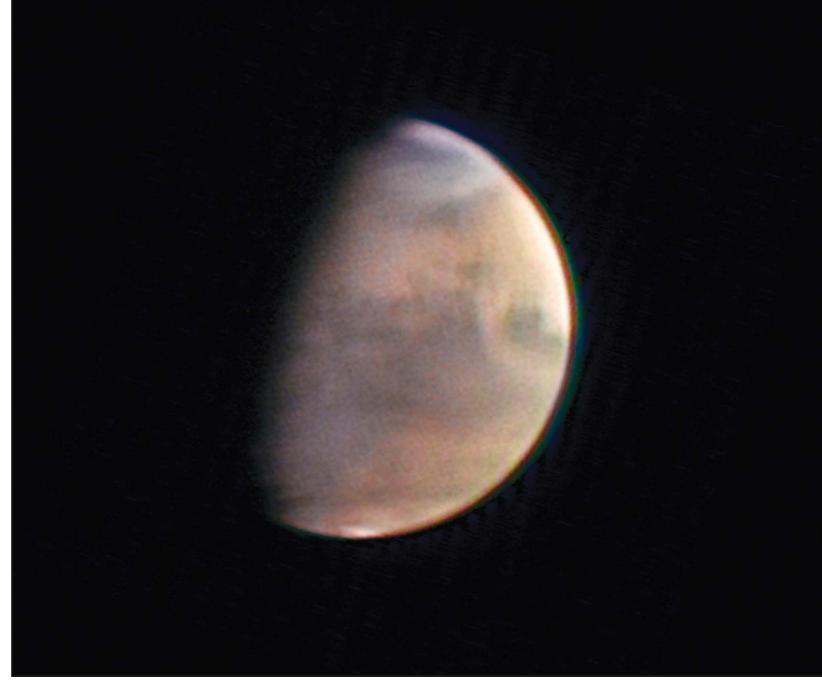
"O second moon, we, too, are made of water, of vast and beckoning seas.

We, too, are made of wonders, of great

and ordinary loves, of small invisible worlds, of a need to call out through the dark."

Limón, 47, has been poet laureate since 2022 and was recently appointed by Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden to a second term, lasting two years. Her books include "Bright Dead Things" and "The Carrying."

Scientists have long struggled to interpret Spinosaurus fossils to determine the animal's behavior in life, uncertain whether it swam while hunting or simply waded into water in search of prey. Field



This image provided by the European Space Agency and taken with the ESA's High Resolution Stereo Camera (HRSC) aboard the Mars Express spacecraft shows Mars as the spacecraft approaches the planet from a distance of 5.5 million kilometers. Launched in 2003, the spacecraft marked it's 20th anniversary, June 2. (AP)



This May 26, 2023, photo provided by the Jennifer Schuh shows a Mastodon Tooth in the sand at an Aptos, Calif., beach. A Northern California woman taking a Memorial Day weekend stroll on the beach has discovered a mastodon tooth that's at least 5,000 years old. Schuh found the foot-long (.30-meter) tooth sticking out of the sand on Friday at the mouth of Aptos Creek on Rio Del Mar State Beach, located off Monterey Bay in Santa Cruz County. (AP)

### Discovery

**Mastodon tooth found:** A woman taking a Memorial Day weekend stroll on a California beach found something unusual sticking out of the sand: a tooth from an ancient mastodon.

But then the fossil vanished, and it took a media blitz and a kind-hearted jogger to find it again.

find it again.

Jennifer Schuh found the foot-long (.30-meter) tooth sticking out of the sand on Friday at the mouth of Aptos Creek on Rio Del Mar State Beach, located off Monterey Bay in Santa Cruz County on California's central coast.

"I was on one side of the creek and this lady was talking to me on the other side and she said what's that at your feet," Schuh recounted. "It Ivooked kind of weird, like burnt almost."

Schuh wasn't sure what she had found. So she snapped some photos and posted them on Facebook, asking for help.

The answer came from Wayne Thompson, paleontology collections advisor for the Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History

tory.

Thompson determined that the object was a worn molar from an adult Pacific mastodon, an extinct elephant-like species. "This is an extremely important find," Thompson wrote, and he urged Schuh to

But when they went back to the beach, the tooth was gone.

"I was so excited to get that call," said Liz Broughton, the museum's visitor experience manager. "Jim told us that he had stumbled upon it during one of his regular jogs along the beach, but wasn't sure of what he had found until he saw a picture of the tooth on the news."

"We are thrilled about this exciting discovery and the implications it holds for our understanding of ancient life in our region," museum Executive Director Felicia B. Van Stolk said in a statement. (AP)

**Spinosaurus exhibit unveiled:** The newest addition to the Field Museum on Chicago's lakefront will give visitors a glimpse of the largest predatory dinosaur yet discovered via a 46-foot (14.02 meter) cast of a Spinosaurus skeleton suspended high above the museum's main hall.

Field Museum officials unveiled the cast with its distinctive fin and crocodilelike jaws on Friday. It will be available for visitors starting Saturday.

### **The Conversation**

### Weight-loss pills still pose more questions than answers

### 3 drugs key tools against obesity

**By Wesley Dudgeon**College of Charleston

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

In the past five years, several new drugs have been brought to market that could lead to a profound, if not revolutionary, change in how health care providers - and the public - view weight loss.

der the brand names Wegovy, Ozempic and Mounjaro - have shown remarkable effects on weight loss in clinical trials.

While Wegovy is approved by the Food and Drug Administration for weight loss, the other two medications are only approved as treatment for type 2 diabetes, though they do also contribute to significant weight loss. This has led to increased demand for these drugs, causing a shortage of Ozempic and Mounjaro in early 2023 that threatened the availability of these drugs for diabetes patients.

Globally, more than 650 million people are obese, and by 2030, an estimated 1 billion adults will be obese. This makes obesity the most prevalent chronic disease in the world.

As an exercise science scholar, I have spent more than 15 years studying the effects of diet and exercise on the human body, primarily focused on body composition changes such as gaining skeletal muscle or losing body fat, or both. In my lectures, I present data on the detrimental impacts on personal health of being overweight or obese. Then I show that, aside from surgical intervention, the best way to lower body fat is with starting an exercise program and improving dietary habits.

### Diabesity

These new drugs have now altered what I teach in the classroom, and as a researcher I believe they raise many questions about the current approach to weight management and health. While these medications hold promise, they are not wonder drugs. In my view, they warrant much more research before they become the basis for a new weight management protocol.

Ozempic and Mounjaro are FDA-approved for the treatment of type 2 diabetes, which affects more than 37 million people in the US. On top of that, nearly 100 million people are considered prediabetic, meaning that together over 40% of the US population suffers from an inability to properly manage blood sugar.

Obesity and type 2 diabetes are closely related conditions, so much so that some experts are now calling the two conditions "diabesity." These dire

figures are what prompted pharmaceutical companies to search for new weight loss treatments.

Type 2 diabetes is a condition in which your body no longer responds to the hormone insulin, which in healthy people regulates glucose, or sugar, levels in the blood. Prolonged elevated blood sugar, if left untreated, can lead to heart disease, vision loss and even death

Wegovy and Ozempic are a class of drug known as a semaglutide. Since people with type 2 diabetes are unable to properly manage blood sugar, injections with this class of drug help the body release the proper amount of insulin after eating by mimicking a naturally occurring hormone called GLP-1.

At the same time, semaglutides also reduce the release of the hormone glucagon, which works opposite of insulin to increase blood sugar. In non-diabetics, these two hormones work together to maintain normal blood sugar levels. But since this mechanism is not functioning properly in diabetics, which leads to high blood sugar, semaglutides help to control blood sugar and also reduce appetite.

### Treatment

For this reason, Ozempic received approval from the FDA in 2017 as a treatment for type 2 diabetes. But during the clinical trials for type 2 diabetes, pharmaceutical companies quickly recognized Ozempic's potential as a weight loss tool.

This led to the release of a new drug, Wegovy, which has a higher dose of semaglutide. A 2021 study showed that once-weekly injections of Wegovy over the course of 68 weeks resulted in about a 15% loss of body weight in adult participants with obesity.

The other novel medication in the news lately, Mounjaro, acts like a semaglutide, stimulating GLP-1, but it also mimics a second hormone called glucose-dependent insulinotropic polypeptide. This dual-hormone action works to not only lower blood sugar levels and increase insulin sensitivity, but also slows the digestive system and decreases appetite.

decreases appetite.

In early 2021, scientists began analyzing the data from a clinical trial program focused on using semaglutide treatments in people with obesity, which included more than 4,000 patients. Over 80% of participants lost more than 5% of their body weight, with the most common side effects being nausea, diarrhea, vomiting and constipation.

This data on effectiveness and efficacy led the FDA to officially approve Wegovy as a weight loss drug in the summer of 2021. The huge demand that ensued led to the recent shortages

of Wegovy, forcing many physicians to look for other options. That's when Ozempic and Mounjaro entered the picture as off-label weight loss medications, even though they are only FDA-approved to treat type 2 diabetes.

In April 2023, the pharmaceutical company Eli Lilly released the results of the second phase 3 clinical trial of Mounjaro. The results were, quite frankly, amazing: Compared to a placebo, the 938 obese or overweight adults with type 2 diabetes lost more than 34 pounds, or roughly 15% of their body weight, with no required fitness and nutrition program.

This most recent study tracked with the first clinical trial of Mounjaro, published in July 2022, that resulted in more than a 20% reduction in body weight in 2,539 adults. Similar to Wegovy and Ozempic, Mounjaro's most commonly reported side effects are general gastrointestinal distress such as nausea, vomiting and diarrhea.

The latest data from the National Institutes of Health estimates that more than 40% of US adults are obese and another 30% are overweight, meaning that 7 in 10 adults need to lose weight. The World Health Organization estimates that, based on a 2017 global burden of disease study, more than 4 million people across the world are dying every year due to being overweight or obese, a trend that is also growing rapidly in children.

The WHO defines obesity as when an adult or child has a body mass index, or BMI, over 30; a BMI over 25 is considered overweight. In children, doctors often rely on percentiles, rather than an absolute number.

BMI is calculated by taking a person's weight and dividing it by the square of their height - a technique that isn't the most accurate for assessing body composition. But it is valuable for classifying millions of people where more accurate techniques such as skinfold measurements are not feasible.

Being overweight or obese greatly increases risks for other significant health complications, such as heart disease, type 2 diabetes, hypertension, osteoarthritis, stroke and asthma. In fact, obesity is responsible for nearly half of the total cost of chronic disease in the U.S. Studies show that obesity also leads to a decrease in life expectancy.

Recent data suggests that the direct medical costs of a person being obese in the US is more than US\$2,500 annually. And researchers estimate that the total cost of chronic diseases due to obesity in the US is more than \$1.7 trillion annually, which is 9.3% of the country's gross domestic product. Predictions show the annual cost of obesity will be more than \$4.3 trillion worldwide by 2030. (AP)

Museum researcher Matteo Fabbri said the cast is about 60% of a skeleton, the most complete specimen of the species.

"Spinosaurus is a very weird animal," Fabbri said. "The proportions of the entire body are incredibly weird in comparison to any other dinosaur. The tail is extremely long, the legs are incredibly short, and the skull reminds (us) of the ones we find

in modern crocodiles."
Fabbri is among a team of researchers



lk



Broughton

who in March published an article concluding that the density of Spinosaurus fossils means they likely did go underwater to hunt.

The team compared fossils with other

dinosaurs, extinct marine reptiles and living animals including seals and whales - knowing that animals that swim underwater for food have bones that are nearly solid compared to those that remain on land. (AP)

#### **Hurricanes rally from 19-3 down to edge Crusaders**

### Reds reach Super Rugby Pacific playoffs for first time

WELLINGTON, New Zealand, June 3, (AP): The Fijian Drua made history by beating the Queensland Reds 34-17 in Suva on Saturday to qualify for the quarterfinals of Super Rugby Pacific for the first time.

Moana Pasifika continued a big day for the Pacific teams, upsetting the Waratahs 33-24 in Sydney for their first win of the season.

In a see sawing game at Wellington, the Hurricanes produced a 27-26 comeback win over the second-place Crusaders and the league-leading Chiefs capped off the last weekend of the regular season with a 43-19 win over the Western Force in Perth.

The Drua moved up to seventh spot, pushing the Dunedin-based Highlanders out of the top eight, and will play the Crusaders in the first round of the playoffs. The Reds clung onto last of the quarterfinals positions after the Western Force were beaten, and will face the Chiefs next week.

The Reds, the only team to beat the Chiefs this season, had no answer for

Backed by a raucous home crowd, the Fijians broke out of a 17-17 stalemate at halftime to score three secondhalf tries while holding the Reds scoreless after the break.

#### **RUGBY**

When the final whistle sounded, Drua fans shook the National Stadium as they danced to Tina Turner's "Simply the Best.'

"You can see how happy we are

now," Drua captain Meli Derenalagi said. "Hats off to the soldiers (players) behind me for doing their duty today.

"First of all a big bula vaka levu (many thanks) to our fans who came out in numbers today, just to support their home team."

There were no signs in an even first half that the Drua would so thoroughly dominate the second. They outplayed the Reds at set pieces and buckled the defense with constant, strong ball-running so that the visitors couldn't easily escape their own half.

The win was triumphantly sealed by a try to star backrower Joe Tamani, who dashed 50 meters to finish a breakout as the crowd roared its approval.

The Drua scored the first try of the match after only four minutes when Selestino Ravataumada charged down a clearing kick by Reds flyhalf James O'Connor and collected the bounce to

The Reds responded immediately with a try to Ryan Smith but the Drua went ahead again with a try to Kelaveti

NAPLES, Italy, June 3, (AP): Napoli winger Khvicha Kvaratskhelia was

named Serie A player of the year and

will be presented with his trophy on

a bumper day of celebration for the

Kvaratskhelia will receive the award

before Napoli kicks off its final match

of the season on Sunday, at home to

Sampdoria. Luciano Spalletti will also

be presented with the coach of the year

southern team.

Fraser McReight scored for the Reds, who edged further ahead with an O'Connor penalty, but the Drua leveled the score at halftime with a try to Vilive Miramira.

The second half belonged to the Drua, who added tries to Misake Doge and Tevita Ikanivere as the Reds lost discipline and McReight went to the sin bin. Ta-

mani's try was a glorious finale. At Wellington, the Hurricanes rallied from 19-3 down to edge the Christchurch-based Crusaders

# Verstappen 'takes' pole at **Spanish GP ahead of Sainz**

Top rivals struggle

Verstappen didn't even need to use all of his time in qualifying after he set an untouchable flying lap. Red Bull brought him back to the garage while his rivals fought for the rest of the spots.

June 3. (AP): Max Ver-

stappen breezed his way

to pole position at the

Spanish Grand Prix on Saturday while his top

rivals struggled on the

damp track and will start

well behind the two-time

defending champion.

MONTMELO,

Spain,

He has four pole positions on the season and 24 in his career. He is also poised for another race win given the history of pole-sitters winning 23 of 32 races at Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya.

Red Bull teammate - and Verstappen's top challenger - Sergio Pérez will start Sunday's race from 11th place on the grid. Last weekend, Pérez crashed in qualifying for Monaco and had to start from the back of the grid.

### **MOTOR RACING**

Verstappen and Pérez have swept all six races this season. Verstappen leads Pérez by 39 points.

Fernando Alonso, third in the standings at 51 points behind Verstappen, could do no better than ninth. So it looks like his legions of Spanish fans may have to keep waiting for him to end his decade-long

Carlos Sainz of Ferrari gave the home crowd something to cheer about though by producing the second-best time right ahead of a surprising Lando Norris in third in his

"The car was really good today," Verstappen said.

"The conditions were a little tricky early on with the weather, but it was a really enjoyable drive. I have a lot of great memories here and hopefully we can have another one tomorrow.'

Verstappen showed in 2016 that he would one day become a force



Jockey Ryan Moore with Auguste Rodin, ahead of King of Steel ridden by jockey Kevin Stott, wins the Derby at the 2023 Derby Festival at Epsom Downs Racecourse, Epsom, England. (AP)

### **Auguste Rodin wins English Derby**

Top Irish trainer Aidan O'Brien won the English Derby for a record-extending ninth time when Auguste Rodin reeled in King Of Steel to win the 244th edition of Britain's richest flat race on Saturday.

With Ryan Moore in the saddle, Auguste Rodin won by a length and at odds of 9-2 at Epsom Downs. Auguste Rodin had a disappointing 12th-place finish when sent off as favorite for last month's 2000 Guineas but bounced

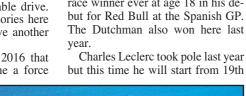
back in a longer race at the Derby. It looked as though 66-1 outsider King Of Steel had pushed into an unassailable lead coming into the final furlong but Auguste Rodin caught him up and ultimately won convincingly. White Birch ran on for third.

Jockey Frankie Dettori, who is retiring this year, was looking to win the classic for the third time but his horse, Arrest, wasn't in contention. Away from the race, a protester was detained by police after running onto the course.

Nineteen activists were arrested ahead of the Derby based on intelligence received by police officers, regarding plans to disrupt one of the social highlights of the English summer - a race first staged in 1780. (AP)

Mercedes was bouncing and he

#### that caused several cars to spin into the gravel early in qualifying. Alonso's Aston Martin took



in F1 when he became the youngest race winner ever at age 18 in his debut for Red Bull at the Spanish GP. The Dutchman also won here last

but this time he will start from 19th

Red Bull driver Max Verstappen of the Netherlands, (left), holds his Pole position award as he poses with Chelsea soccer team player Mason Mount after the Formula One qualifying session at the Barcelona Catalunya racetrack in Montmelo, just outside of Barcelona, Spain. (AP)

### **Bears mull abandoning plan**

CHICAGO, June 3, (AP): The Chicago Bears say they are considering abandoning their plan to build an enclosed stadium and entertainment complex on a suburban tract of land they recently purchased in favor of constructing one elsewhere in the region.

Citing a property assessment they said is too high, the Bears announced in a statement Friday that building on a 326-acre site in Arlington Heights, Illinois, is "no longer our singular focus."

"It is our responsibility to listen to other municipalities in Chicagoland about potential locations that can deliver on this transformational opportunity for our fans, our club and the State of Illinois," the team said.

The Bears announced in February they purchased the site of the shuttered Arlington International Racecourse from Churchill Downs Inc. for \$197.2

"The stadium-based project remains broadly popular in Arlington Heights, Chicagoland and the state," the team said. "However, the property's original assessment at five times the 2021 tax value, and the recent settlement with Churchill Downs for 2022 being three times higher, fails to reflect the property is not operational and not commercially viable in its current state.'

The Bears plan to pay for their stadium, but want taxpayer dollars to cover infrastructure costs, such as roads and sewers. The team said demolition work on the racetrack will continue.

### **FOOTBALL**

The Bears envision restaurants, retail and more on the property some 30 miles northwest of Soldier Field - all for about \$5 billion, with some taxpayer help. The city of Chicago proposed last summer enclosing Soldier Field and increasing its capacity from a league-low 61,500.

after his Ferrari was perplexingly

Rain during the third practice earlier Saturday left some wet patches some damage to the bottom after running through the gravel. Pérez also bounced off course into the

George Russell also had trouble and will start 12th right behind Pérez after complaining that his

"had no confidence with tires." He and teammate Lewis Hamilton. who was fifth, even touched at one point while trying to launch flying laps, causing bits of one of their cars to fly off.

### Barcelona's contract with F1 runs out after 2026 race

### Drivers split over possibility that Madrid could grab Spanish GPrix from Barcelona

MONTMELO, Spain, June 3, (AP): The Spanish Grand Prix has been held near Barcelona for more than three decades. Now city rival Madrid wants to snatch the event from its longstanding rival, sparking mixed reactions from F1 drivers.

Barcelona's contract with Formula One runs out after the 2026 race, and the possibility that Madrid could host the prestigious race has divided opinion this weekend at Montmelo, where the Grand Prix has been run since 1991. The Circuit de Barcelona-Catalu-

nya, 30 kilometers (18 miles) north of the city, is well known to drivers thanks to all the races as well as the preseason testing that until this year was conducted here in the winter. Lewis Hamilton opposes any move.

He has won the race a record six times and called it a "classic" circuit.

"I don't think I would want to lose Barcelona," the Mercedes driver said. "I do think it's really important we keep some of the classic circuits, at least the ones that provide great racing. Budapest is spectacular. Silverstone is spectacular. This track (in Montmelo)."

Beyond the always intense rivalry between soccer clubs Real Madrid and Barcelona, the two cities also have long competed to attract industry.

Madrid regional chief Isabel Díaz Ayuso, a conservative who has criticized the separatist leaders of Catalonia, said last month while successfully running for re-election that she was "convinced" that her city could persuade F1 to change host cities.

"I am convinced, but we are still negotiating and must wait. In any case, I am extremely positive," she told online newspaper Voxpopuli.

Madrid hosted the Spanish GP at the nearby Jarama circuit off and on from the late 1960s to early 1980s.

Now Ayuso is offering F1 an urban circuit in downtown Madrid. In recent years F1 has trended toward urban and temporary circuits,

which offer spectators the services and attractions of a city and are not difficult Catalan authorities said this weekend that they are committed to keeping the event. The track is run by a public

company with 80% owned by Catalonia's regional government. "This circuit has a present and a fu-

ture," said Roger Torrent, the head of



Atlanta Falcons quarterback Desmond Ridder, foreground, throws during the NFL team's football practice, in Atlanta. (AP)

business policy for the Catalan regional government. "I am convinced that we will have Formula One for many vears to come.

Spain had a second race at Valencia from 2008-2012, but it is not clear that F1 would want two races in the coun-

For drivers, the choice is more one of what kind of track they prefer.

While Hamilton likes the permanent Barcelona track, Ferrari's Charles Leclerc, who grew up in Monaco with its famous street circuit, said he would be fine with the swap.

"(Barcelona) is a track that we all know so well as drivers, so it would be strange to not come here," Leclerc said. "But me personally, I love street tracks. I think just the feeling that you get from it is very, very special. So Madrid would be really nice too."

### **MOTOR RACING**

Fernando Alonso, the home favorite, said that he wants permanent racing tracks to be the norm, not the exception.

"At the end of the day, it's up to the region if they are happy to host the race or not," he said. "So if they don't want the race, it is very easy then, because some other region will love to have it."

The Montmelo circuit is expected to see some 120,000 fans turn out for Sunday's race in a repeat of sellout crowds from last season.

But last year's race weekend was also hit by big problems for fans getting to and from the circuit. That drew a rebuke from F1, which called the situation "not acceptable."

### **Farke leaves Gladbach** Khvicha named player of yr

phy presentations, as Napoli will finally get its hands on the Serie A trophy after the match. The team clinched it with five rounds to spare. Kvaratskhelia was a relative un-known when he joined Napoli in the

That will just be the start of the tro-

offseason from Georgian team Dinamo Batumi for a reported fee of 10 million euros (\$10.7 million). But the 22-year-old forward was fundamental in Napoli earning its first

Serie A title in 33 years. So much so that he earned the nickname "Kvaradona" in homage to Napoli hero Diego Maradona, who led the team to its only two previous league titles. "Khvicha Kvaratskhelia`s impact

on the league has been impressive," Serie A CEO Luigi De Siervo said. "Congratulations to Napoli for having brought to Italy this talent, who from the very first matches showed off his repertoire of technique, dribbling, personality and creativity.

Borussia Moenchengladbach coach Daniel Farke left the German club after his season in charge ended with the club missing out

on qualifying for European competitions. Farke had been at Gladbach since June 2022 and led the team to a 10th-place finish in the Bundesliga after struggling for consistency



all season. Gladbach had been eighth at the winter break and in contention for the Europa League but drifted further away from the top teams toward the end.

Finishing 10th was the same result as the season before but represented a failure to turn around the club's recent slide after qualifying regularly for European competitions over the previous decade, including three appearances in the Champions League since 2015.

Gladbach said the decision followed a "detailed analysis" of the season. "After several intensive discussions, Daniel Farke and the club have come to the decision to go our separate ways,' sporting director Roland Virkus said in a statement. Three assistant coaches were leaving along with Farke.

Farke was previously coach of Norwich in England from 2017-21 and left his next job with Russian club Krasnodar without coaching a single game following the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Highlights of his time at Gladbach included beating champion Bayern Munich 3-2 in February and title challenger Borussia Dortmund 4-2 in November but the season ended on a low note as Gladbach won only three of its last 13 games following the victory over Bayern.

The Dallas United soccer team withdrew from a 32-team, seven-on-seven soccer tournament following an alleged racial slur during a match against West Ham.

### SOCCER

West Ham led 2-0 at the end of regulation in a match with a target score of 3 on Thursday night. West Ham players became agitated, there was yelling between the teams and West Ham players left, according to a Raleigh News & Observer report on the alleged racial slur.

"We have concluded that Dallas United violated TST's code of conduct," organizers of the competition, known as The Soccer Tournament, said on Twitter. "We have been in dialogue with leadership from both clubs and we are all aligned that the best path forward is Dallas United withdrawing from competition."

Friday's match between Dallas United and Far East United was canceled.

Dallas United said on Twitter that its players decided to withdraw from the tournament, which began Thursday and runs through Sunday.

Five soccer club executives and stadium officials arrested for their alleged roles in the stampede at an El Salvador league game that left nine fans dead and dozens injured will avoid prison by making payments to the injured and

relatives of the dead. A court on Friday ended the criminal process against three executives from the Alianza soccer club and two high-level officials from the Cuscatlan stadium where the May 20 quarterfinals match between clubs Alianza and

Play was suspended about 16 minutes into the match, when fans in the stands waving frantically got the attention of those on the field. People carried the injured out of a tunnel and down to the pitch. Local television transmitted live images of the aftermath of the stampede by Alianza fans. Dozens made it onto the field where they received medical treatment.

## Dodgers get off to impressive start in series

Blue Jays shut out Mets

LOS ANGELES, June 3, (AP): Clayton Kershaw beat the Yankees for the first time with nine strikeouts over seven innings of four-hit ball, and Mookie Betts hit two more homers in the Los Angeles Dodgers' 8-4 victory over New York on Friday night.

Betts hit a leadoff homer and an RBI single during Los Angeles' six-run, eight-hit first inning

against Luis Severino (0-1). Betts finished 4 for 4 with **RBIs** three in his second straight twohomer game for the NL-leading Dodgers, who got off to an impressive start



in this high-profile interleague se-

Kershaw (7-4) was 0-1 in four previous starts against the Yankees over his 16-year career, but the three-time Cy Young Award winner got a huge early cushion and didn't falter after allowing early homers by Giancarlo Stanton and Josh Donaldson, who both returned from lengthy injury absences.

Kershaw eventually retired his final seven batters, earning a standing ovation from Dodger Stadium after recording his final out. He has now beaten every team in the majors except Baltimore. He has never faced the Orioles, but the Dodgers are headed to Camden Yards next month.

Donaldson hit two homers in his first game since April 5 for the Yankees, who have lost two straight after a four-game winning streak. Stanton and Donaldson, who also hit a two-run homer in the ninth off Phil Bickford, had both been sidelined since April with hamstring injuries, but their power wasn't nearly enough.

A season-high 52,534 fans turned out for the latest meeting between major-market powerhouses and former New York rivals that have met in 11 World Series. The Yankees are making just their fifth trip to Chavez Ravine in the regular season and their first since August 2019.

Max Muncy added a two-run homer in the first, while J.D. Martinez homered and singled to extend his hitting streak to 16 games for the Dodgers.

### Diamondbacks 3, Braves 2

In Phoenix, Merrill Kelly threw seven strong innings, Lourdes Gurriel Jr. ripped a two-run double and Arizona beat Atlanta for its season-high sixth straight victory.

It was the first game of a series

between two of the top teams in the National League. It's no surprise the Braves are among that group, but the emergence of the Diamondbacks has caught some by surprise.

Arizona is 12 games over .500 for the first time since 2018 and on its first six-game winning streak since 2020.

Kelly (7-3) gave up two runs and five hits, walked three and struck out eight. He threw 100 pitches. Miguel Castro worked a high-wire ninth for his sixth save in seven chances.

Eddie Rosario homered twice for Atlanta. The Braves have lost five of

### Rangers 2, Mariners 0

In Arlington, Jon Gray pitched twohit ball over seven innings to win his fifth consecutive start, Marcus Semien scored the game's first run after extending his major league-best hitting streak to 21 games and the AL Westleading Texas beat Seattle.

Gray (6-1) struck out five and walked one to win a duel against Luis Castillo (4-3) that took only 2 hours,

Castillo limited the Rangers to one run over seven innings with six strikeouts and one walk. Texas entered averaging an MLB-best 6.29 runs per game and had scored 11 runs in each of its previous two home games - though those were before a 6-3 trip with series wins in Pittsburgh, Baltimore and

Grant Anderson, who made his big league debut Tuesday for Texas with seven strikeouts over 2 2/3 innings at Detroit, worked a scoreless eighth with one strikeout. Will Smith worked a perfect ninth for his 10th save in 11 chances, wrapping up the Rangers'

### Brewers 5, Reds 4, 11 innings

In Cincinnati, Victor Caratini drove in the go-ahead run with an infield grounder in a two-run 11th inning and Milwaukee beat Cincinnati following the ejection of Brewers starter Corbin

With the score 3-3, Burnes made a sliding, over-the-shoulder catch of Stuart Fairchild's blooper to end the sixth and celebrated by spiking the ball. Burnes and plate umpire D.J. Reyburn exchanged words, and Reyburn ejected the pitcher after Burnes had returned to the dugout.

Burnes, the 2021 National League Cy Young Award winner, allowed three runs and two hits with seven strikeouts while tying his season high with four walks. He was 0-2 over his prior three starts.

Before a crowd of 44,073, a regularseason record at Great American Ball Park, Elvis Pegureo (1-0) struck out one in a hitless 10th for his first major league win. Fernando Cruz (1-1) was

#### Blue Jays 3, Mets 0

In New York, Chris Bassitt took the mound after a 91-minute rain delay. ready to rush back to Toronto as his wife went into labor, and shut down his former team on three hits to lead the Blue Javs over New York.

Bassitt's wife, Jessica, was due to give birth to their second child.

The game was scheduled to start at 7:10 p.m. but began at 8:41 p.m. and didn't end until shortly after 11 p.m. George Springer started the night by homering on Justin Verlander's second pitch.

#### **BASEBALL**

Bassitt (6-4) tied his season high with eight strikeouts and walked none, throwing 101 pitches. He had not been to Citi Field since losing the decisive Game 3 of an NL Wild Card series against San Diego last October.

Jordan Romano finished the fourhitter for his 14th save in 15 chances, the Blue Jays' major league-high ninth shutout. New York has been blanked eight times, matching the Mets' total

#### Pirates 7, Cardinals 5

In Pittsburgh, Ke'Bryan Hayes hit a three-run homer in the seventh inning and Pittsburgh rallied past St. Louis for its third straight victory.

Hayes finished off a three-hit night

by sending the first pitch he saw from Giovanny Gallegos (1-3) into the leftfield bleachers to give the Pirates the lead. Josh Palacios followed two pitches later with his first career home run.

Carlos Santana had three hits for the Pirates, including a two-run double during a six-run seventh. Andrew Mc-Cutchen singled twice to boost his career hits total to 1,998.

Yohan Ramirez (1-0) got the win after striking out Tommy Edman with the bases full in the top of the seventh. David Bednar worked around a twoout single in the ninth by Paul DeJong for his 11th save.

### Astros 6, Angels 2

In Houston, Yordan Alvarez hit a two-run homer off Shohei Ohtani for a major league-best 50 RBIs, backing a strong start by Framber Valdez in Houston's victory over Los Angeles

Valdez (6-4) scattered five hits across seven scoreless innings to extend his winning streak to four games.

There was one out in the first when Alvarez connected on his team-leading 15th home run to make it 2-0. Rookie Corey Julks added a two-run shot off Ohtani (5-2) in the sixth to push the lead to 5-0.

Ohtani yielded a season-high nine hits and tied a season high with five runs in six innings for his second loss this year. Batting leadoff for the first time this season, the two-way star also had a tough night at the plate, going 0 for 4 with two strikeouts and a walk.

### Twins 1, Guardians 0

In Minneapolis, Jorge Polanco hit an RBI double in the seventh inning and Jhoan Duran finished a combined eight-hitter, helping Minnesota beat

Polanco's drive off Nick Sandlin (2-3) went high off the right-field wall, scoring Kyle Farmer from second base. The teams went a combined 1 for 11 with runners in scoring position before Minnesota broke through.

Brock Stewart (2-0) got three outs for the win, stranding a pair of runners in the seventh after Jovani Moran al-

Duran entered with one out in the eighth with Steven Kwan on second base and the heart of the Guardians order ahead. Duran struck out José Ramírez, intentionally walked Josh Naylor and struck out Andrés Giménez to end the inning. He then worked the ninth for his eighth save in nine

### Marlins 4, Athletics 0

In Miami, Edward Cabrera struck out 10 in six innings and Miami beat Oakland.

Cabrera (4-4) gave up four hits and walked one. JT Chargois, Andrew Nardi and Tanner Scott followed Cabrera, each throwing an inning to com-



Arizona Diamondbacks starting pitcher Merrill Kelly throws against the Atlanta Braves during the first inning of a baseball game in Phoenix. (AP)



Toronto Blue Jays' George Springer dives to catch a ball hit by New York Mets' Pete Alonso for an out during the seventh inning of a baseball game in

### **MLB Results/Standings**

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WASHINGTON,	luna	3 (AP)	· Racı	ilte and		
standings from the	oune	o, (AF)	on Fri	ilis allu Hav		
standings from the Miami	C IVILD	Oaklar	nd	uay. 0		
Toronto	3	NY Me	ets	0		
Texas	2	Seattle		Ö		
Chicago W. Sox	3	Detroit		Õ		
Minnesota		1 Cleveland 0				
Houston	6	LA Angels 2				
Colorado	7	Kansas City 2				
LA Dodgers	8	NY Ya		4		
Baltimore	3		ancisc			
Milwaukee	5		nati 11			
Pittsburgh	7	St Lou	is	5		
Washington	8	Philad	elphia	5 7		
Arizona	3	Atlanta		2		
Chicago Cubs	2	San Di	iego	1		
Am		League				
East Division						
	W	L	Pct	GB		
Tampa Bay	40	18	.690			
Baltimore	36	21	.632	3-1/2		
New York	34	25	.576	6-1/2		
Toronto	31	27	.534	.9		
Boston	29	27	.518	10		
Ce		Division		0.0		
Minnocoto	W	<b>L</b> 27	Pct	GB		
Minnesota	31		.534	0.1/0		
Detroit	26	29	.473	3-1/2		
Cleveland Chicago	25 24	32 35	.439 .407	5-1/2 7-1/2		
Kansas City	17	40	.407	13-1/2		
		vision	.230	10-1/2		
**	W	L	Pct	GB		
Texas	36	20	.643	_		
Houston	34	23	.596	2-1/2		
Seattle	29	28	.509	7-1/2		
Los Angeles	30	29	.508	7-1/2		
Oakland	12	47	.203	25-1/2		
National League						
East Division						
	W	L	Pct	GB		
Atlanta	33	24	.579			
Miami	30	28	.517	3-1/2		
New York	30	28	.517	3-1/2		
Philadelphia	25	32	.439	8		
Washington	25	32	.439	8		
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Milwaukee Pittsburgh	30 29		.526	-1/2		
Cincinnati	26	27 31	.456	-1/2 4		
Chicago	25	31	.436	4-1/2		
St Louis	25 25	33	.446	5-1/2		
			۱ ۵۴.	J-1/2		
West Division W L Pct GB						
Arizona	35	23	.603	GD_		
Los Angeles	35	23	.603	_		
San Francisco	28	29	.491	6-1/2		
San Diego	26	31	.456	8-1/2		
Colorado	25	34	.424	10-1/2		
		0.7		.0 1/2		

plete the five-hitter.

Jesús Sánchez homered and singled twice, and Bryan De La Cruz had two

The major league-worst Athletics lost their 12th straight on the road to drop to 12-47 overall. Shintaro Fujinami (2-6) was the loser.

### Cubs 2, Padres 1

In San Diego, Jameson Taillon pitched effectively into the sixth inning, Dansby Swanson homered among his three hits and Chicago beat San Diego.

Taillon (1-3), who came in winless over his previous eight starts with an 8.04 ERA, kept the Padres off-balance twice through their lineup. He gave up three hits and one run in a season-high 5 2/3 innings.

Padres starter Michael Wacha (5-2) struggled with control, issuing five walks in 4 2/3 innings. He gave up two runs and three hits while striking out

Chicago took the lead with a fielder's choice ground ball by Ian Happ to score Nico Hoerner from third in the third inning. Swanson hit a solo homer to left off Wacha to make it 2-0 in the fifth.

Mark Leiter Jr. finished up with a scoreless ninth for his third save.

### White Sox 3, Tigers 0

In Chicago, Mike Clevinger and four relievers combined on Chicago's fourth shutout, Tim Anderson scored a run and drove in one, and the White Sox beat Detroit,

Clevinger pitched three-hit ball over five innings in first start since May 17. He struck out six and walked one after being sidelined because of inflammation in his right wrist.

Keynan Middleton (1-0), Reynaldo López and Joe Kelly each gave up a hit while working a scoreless inning. Kendall Graveman retired all three batters in the ninth for his fifth save

#### Nationals 8, Phillies 7 In Washington, Lane Thomas sin-

gled in the go-ahead run in the eighth inning and Washington sent Philadelphia to its fifth straight loss, winning after blowing a six-run lead.

The defending NL champion Phillies have just five victories in their last 18

### **Liberty rally past Sky**

### Wilson scores 21 points, Parker moves up to 8th on career scoring list as Aces top Dream

COLLEGE PARK, Ga., June 3, (AP): A'ja Wilson scored 21 points, Candace Parker moved into eighth on the WNBA's career scoring list, and the Las Vegas Aces beat the Atlanta Dream 92-87 on Friday night.

Jackie Young scored 20 points, Kelsey Plum added 15 for Las Vegas (5-0). Parker finished with 13 points to pass Katie Smith (6,452) on the points list and now trails Sue Bird (6,803) for seventh place. Cheyenne Parker had 25 points

and 11 rebounds for Atlanta (2-3). Allisha Gray added 16 points and Howard scored 15.

#### Liberty 77, Sky 76 In Chicago, Breanna Stewart

banked in a go-ahead shot with 7.1 seconds left and New York rallied to beat Chicago in Courtney Vandersloot's return to the Windy

### **BASKETBALL**

Stewart finished with 19 points, 11 rebounds and five assists for New York (4-1). Betnijah Laney scored 17 points and Vandersloot, who was drafted third in 2011 by Chicago, had eight points and eight

Kahleah Copper led Chicago (3-3) with 20 points. Alanna Smith

games and are tied with the Nationals at the bottom of the NL East at 25-32.

Alex Call drew a two-out walk against Connor Brogdon (2-1) in the eighth, stole second and scored on Thomas' single to right center. Kyle Finnegan (3-2) pitched 1 2/3 innings for the victory, stranding the tying run on second in the ninth.

Nick Castellanos homered twice, singled, doubled and drove in five runs for Philadelphia. Down 7-1 after four innings, the Phillies tied it at 7 in the eighth.

### Rockies 7, Royals 2

In Kansas City, Ryan McMahon homered in the first inning and hit a go-ahead single in a six-run eighth and Colorado beat Kansas City to end a four-game losing streak.

Elias Díaz and Nolan Jones had two-run doubles in the eighth, among six hits by the Rockies in the inning. McMahon has reached safely in 11 consecutive games, batting .425\_(17 for 40) with five homers and 15 RBIs.

Brent Suter (4-0) allowed one hit over two scoreless innings in relief of Chase Anderson, who gave up two runs and four hits in six innings. Justin Lawrence struck out Jackie Bradley Jr. with the bases loaded for his second career save.

Kansas City has lost nine of 12, dropping to 17-40. Carlos Hernández (0-3) was the loser.

### Orioles 3, Giants 2

In San Francisco, Gunnar Henderson hit a go-ahead solo homer in the seventh, Dean Kremer struck out six over six innings and Baltimore beat San Francisco.

Kremer (6-2) allowed two runs on five hits and walked two while pitching a couple of hours from where he grew up in the Central Valley city of Stockton.

LaMonte Wade Jr. splashed a home run into McCovey Cove leading off the bottom of the first. Between innings, streamers flew to commemorate the 100th splash hit in Giants history. Logan Webb (4-6) had to pick up a stray stream before throwing a pitch in the top of the second.

Ryan O'Hearn and Jorge Mateo each hit RBI singles in the second for Baltimore, which got a nice start to a six-game trip following a 2-4 homes-



Lynx forward Napheesa Collier (24) shoots against the Connecticut Sun during the first half of a WNBA basketball game in Minneapolis. (AP)

made all seven of her field goals, including three 3-pointers, to score a career-high 18. Marina Mabrey finished with 15 points and Courtney Williams scored all seven of her points in the fourth quarter, including a go-ahead 3-pointer with 55 seconds left.

### Mystics 75, Wings 74

In Washington, Elena Delle Donne had 23 points and 10 rebounds to help Washington beat Dallas.

Ariel Atkins finished with 16

points, Shakira Austin had 12 points and 11 rebounds, and Natasha Cloud added 10 points and eight assists for Washington (3-2). Satou Sabally had 18 points, 14 rebounds, seven assists and three steals for Dallas (3-2). Arike Ogunbowale also scored 18 points with six assists and Natasha Howard added 16 points and 13 rebounds. Atkins made seven straight free

throws in the final minute for Washington. After she made two with 6.1 seconds left for a four-point lead, Sabally sank a long 3-pointer with 0.5 seconds left to get Dallas within one. The Mystics successfully inbounded it and the clock expired.

### Sparks 99, Mercury 93, OT

In Phoenix, Lexie Brown scored 26 points, Nneka Ogwumike had 21 points, 12 rebounds and six assists, and Los Angeles outlasted Phoenix

Brown drilled her third 3-pointer of the game with 1:03 left in the extra period to extend the Sparks' lead to 95-91. The Mercury tried to get the ball to Diana Taurasi, but Jordin Canada intercepted the pass and raced the other way for a layup and a six-point lead with 42.1 seconds

Canada finished with 16 points and five assists for Los Angeles (2-2), which also beat Phoenix in a season opener. Layshia Clarendon added 11 points.

Brittney Griner had 24 points and 11 rebounds for Phoenix (1-3). Taurasi and Sophie Cunningham each added 19 points.

### **Mourinho charged by UEFA for** verbally abusing ref at EL final

GENEVA, June 3, (AP): José Mourinho was charged by UEFA on Friday after being filmed aggressively cursing at the English match referee in a stadium garage after the Europa

UEFA said the Roma coach is charged for "insulting/abusive language against a match official" - who was later verbally abused by Italian fans at the airport in Budapest - after Sevilla's title victory in the Hungarian capital this week.

The European soccer body also pledged to review operations to protect match officials. The airport incident followed the first cup final since a major overhaul of UEFA security planning since the chaotic and dangerous scenes at the Champions League final in Paris one year ago.

Mourinho's disciplinary case was among a slew of charges UEFA opened into incidents at a testy, badtempered game that lasted more than three hours on Wednesday and led to a field invasion by celebrating Span-

Footage circulated on Thursday of Mourinho approaching referee Anthony Taylor in the garage and calling him a "disgrace" with an expletive.

Also on Thursday, Taylor and his family were harassed by Roma fans at the airport in Budapest.

The potential link between the two incidents likely means Mourinho will get a more severe sanction than the minimum two-game touchline ban demanded by UEFA disciplinary rules for "insulting or directing abusive language at a match official.

UEFA said on Friday it "vehemently condemns violent behavior" directed at the Taylors and called on players, coaches and fans to respect

It also created a security issue at the first showpiece final for UEFA since it was widely blamed in February in a damning report into the near-fatal organization of the 2022 Champions League final.

Four weeks ago, UEFA detailed how it would act upon recommendations by the Paris investigation panel to create safer cup finals, including giving a greater oversight role to its inhouse security department.

On Friday, UEFA said it would analyze what happened in Budapest and "incorporate valuable insights into our future event planning processes.

"UEFA maintains a close collaboration with local police and airport security starting from the referees' arrival in host cities," it said. "However, we are constantly striving to enhance the security measures for officials in coordination with local authorities.

### SOCCER

Roma lost to Sevilla in a penalty shootout after a 1-1 draw that saw players and officials clash on the field and in the technical area.

UEFA charged both teams with improper conduct which is activated for receiving at least five yellow cards shown. Taylor showed eight to Roma players and officials, including Mourinho, and six to Se-

"The referee seemed like he was

game. "The result was not fair and there are a lot of instances to re-exam-Roma players thought they should

Spanish," Mourinho said after the

have been awarded a penalty kick for a handball, and Mourinho said of them: "We lost, but with dignity." Roma also was charged over crowd

disturbances and acts of damage. Sevilla was charged because dozens of its fans invaded the field after the match and for fans throwing objects and lighting fireworks.

UEFA gave no timetable for its disciplinary panel to judge the cases.

16



Coco Gauff of the U.S. plays a shot against Russia's Mirra Andreeva during their third round match of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris

# SOCIES

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# City complete second leg of treble bid



Manchester City's players celebrate winning the FA Cup following the Emirates FA Cup final at Wembley Stadium, London. (AP)

Reigning Wimbledon champion Rybakina pulls out of French Open

### Gauff wins in all-teen showdown at French Open

PARIS, June 3, (AP): American Coco Gauff rallied from a tough opening set to beat Mirra Andreeva of Russia in an all-teen showdown in the third round of the French Open on Saturday.

Experience eventually told as the 19-year-old Gauff, who was the runner-up at Roland Garros last year, prevailed 6-7 (5), 6-1, 6-1, sealing the result with a cross-court backhand winner.

That ended an impressive Grand Slam debut for the 16-year-old Andreeva, who earlier this week became the youngest player to win a match in the women's main draw at the French Open since 2005.

Top-ranked Iga Swiatek continued her impressive run as she took just 51 minutes to beat Xinyu Wang 6-0. 6-0. Swiatek has dropped just eight games through three rounds.

However, reigning Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina pulled out of the French Open before her thirdround match against Sara Sorribes Tormo because she is sick.

Elsewhere in the women's draw. Bernarda Pera, Beatriz Haddad Maia and Anna Karolina Schmiedlova reached the second week of a Grand Slam for the first time in their careers.

Last year's men's finalist Casper Ruud recovered from losing the opening set to beat Zhang Zhizhen, ending a strong run by the Chinese player.

The fourth-seeded Ruud, who lost to Rafael Nadal in last year's final, won 4-6, 6-4, 6-1, 6-4.

"I'm very happy with being through the first three matches. It's tough," Ruud said. "It's been much more pressure, obviously, playing

### **TENNIS**

this year compared to last year.

"Last year, I could sort of just do my work in the shadow. This year it's a little more eyes on me ... I feel the pressure a bit different this year."

Zhang was the first Chinese man to reach the third round at Roland Garros since Kho Sin-Khie in 1937. Kho also reached the fourth round in 1936 but that proved a step too far for Zhang, despite a lightning start on Court Suzanne Lenglen.

Zhang broke Ruud in the opening game and went on to take the set as the Norwegian player grew more and more frustrated.

Matters grew worse for Ruud as he found himself 0-40 down on his serve early in the second set but he collected his emotions and - after a topsy-turvy set - went on to level the match at his first opportunity.

Ruud then improved in the last two sets and sealed the match with a forehand down the line on the first of two match points.

Sixth-seeded Holger Rune opened play on Court Philippe Chatrier and he comfortably dispatched qualifier Genaro Alberto Olivieri, who - at 231 - was the lowest-ranked player to reach the third round this year. Rune won 6-4, 6-1, 6-3 in less than



Barcelona's captain Alexia Putellas lifts the trophy after winning the Women's Champions League final soccer match between FC Barcelona and VfL Wolfsburg at the PSV Stadion in Eindhoven, Netherlands. (AP)

### **Barcelona win Women's Champions League**

Patricia Guijarro scored twice inside three minutes as Barcelona staged a stunning second-half comeback to beat Wolfsburg 3-2 in the Women's Champions League final on Saturday at PSV Stadium.

Fridolina Rolfö capped the Barcelona fightback by calmly firing into the far corner of the net after a mix-up in

the Wolfsburg defense to make it 3-2 in the 70th minute. Wolfsburg led 2-0 at the break thanks to goals from

Ewa Pajor and Alexandra Popp. The victory in front of a record crowd for a women's game in the Netherlands was a second European title for the Catalan team. (AP)

two hours.

It was harder work for Yoshihito Nishioka in his 3-6, 7-6 (8), 2-6, 6-4, 6-0 victory over Thiago Seyboth Wild. That was the 30th match at this year's French Open that has gone to

Also, Tomas Martin Etcheverry upset 15th-seeded Borna Coric, and Nicolas Jarry beat Marcos Giron.

Reigning Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina pulled out of the French Open before her third-round match on Saturday because she is

"I just wanted to give 100%, and obviously I'm far from being 100%," Rybakina said. "If I cannot breathe, there is no chance I can even run and try to compete.'

The No. 4-seeded Rybakina was supposed to face 132nd-ranked Sara Sorribes Tormo in the day's opening contest on Court Philippe Chatrier.

They were scheduled to begin playing at 11:45 a.m. local time, but instead, at that very moment, Rybakina sat down behind the microphone at a news conference to explain why she was withdrawing from the year's

second Grand Slam tournament. Sounding stuffed up, Rybakina explained that she has been running a fever, didn't sleep well the past two nights and had difficulty breathing during a warmup session Saturday ahead of her match. She said a doctor told her there is a virus going around "here in Paris."

Rybakina, who won each of her first two matches this week in straight sets, was considered among the top contenders for the championship at Roland Garros. She has won her past 10 matches, including a tuneup title on red clay at the Italian Open last

She plays a power-built game based in part on one of the best serves on the WTA Tour, which she leads in aces this season.



Japan's Yoshihito Nishioka celebrates winning his third round match of the French Open tennis tournament against Brazil's Thiago Seyboth Wild at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris. (AP)

major trophy, defeating Ons Jabeur in the final at Wimbledon.

Rybakina is a 23-year-old who was born in Moscow and has represented Kazakhstan since 2018, when that country offered her funding to support her tennis career. The switch was a topic of conversation during Wimbledon, because the All England Club barred athletes who represent Russia or Belarus from entering the tournament in 2022 due to the war in Ukraine.

The walkover allows the 26-yearold Sorribes Tormo to advance to the fourth round of a Grand Slam tournament for the first time in her career.

Rafael Nadal is expected to need about five months to recover from arthroscopic surgery on his left hip, a timeline that likely would keep him out for the rest of this season.

Nadal's spokesman, Benito Perez-Barbadillo, said on Saturday - the 22time Grand Slam champion's 37th birthday - that two procedures were performed Friday night by a trio of doctors at a clinic in Barcelona. One portion of the operation was for a tendon, the other for an old labrum

injury.
When Nadal announced last month that he would be missing the French Open because of the hip problem that has sidelined him since January, he said he hoped to be able to return at some point in 2023 but that he expected next year to be the last of his career.

### Citizens edge United in FA Cup final

LONDON, June 3, (AP): Manchester City's mission to win a treble of major trophies stayed on track after beating Manchester United 2-1 in the FA Cup final on Saturday, with the first of Ilkay Gundogan's two goals coming after a record 13 seconds. With City having already re-

tained the Premier League, now only a first-ever Champions League title stands between Pep Guardiola's team and immortality in English soccer.

Gundogan, City's captain, scored the quickest goal in an FA Cup final - timed by British broadcaster BBC at 12.91 seconds - only for United midfielder Bruno Fernandes to convert a 33rd-minute penalty against the run of play af-

ter Jack Grealish was adjudged to

### **SOCCER**

have handled the ball.

If Gundogan's opener was probably his best goal for City, his 51st-minute winning goal might be one of his scrappiest as he met a cross from Kevin De Bruyne from a free kick with a left-foot volley that bobbled between two United defenders and past goalkeeper Da-

vid De Gea. United was looking to protect its proud status as the only team to win the league-FA Cup-European Cup treble, in 1999, but needs a favor from Inter Milan in the Champions League final in Istanbul on June 10.

It was the 142nd FA Cup final and the first between the two Manchester clubs, with Prince William and United great David Beckham among those in attendance at Eng-

land's national stadium. City's class of 2023 became the 13th team in English soccer history to clinch a league-and-cup double while the Abu Dhabi-controlled team won a 16th trophy since 2011, when City ended its 35-year title drought by winning the FA Cup.

It was the 13th trophy in Guardiola's seven years at the club and the 34th of his managerial career.

The latest haul of trophies comes in the same season that the club was charged by the Premier League with more than 100 breaches of financial rules. City denies the charges.

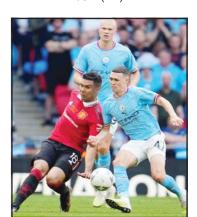
After the final whistle, City's players ran from the halfway line and jumped for joy in front of their fans waving blue and white flags.

Right at the heart of the celebrations was Gundogan, who might leave City after the Champions League final because he is out of contract. He would depart as a club

In City's final game of last sea-



Manchester City's Kevin De Bruyne controls the ball during the English FA Cup final soccer match between Manchester City and Manchester United at Wembley Stadium in Lon-don. (AP)



United's Casemiro, Manchester (left), and Manchester City's Kalvin Phillips challenge for the ball during the English FA Cup final soccer match between Manchester City and Manchester United at Wembley Stadium in London. (AP)

son, he scored two late goals to complete a turnaround from 2-0 down against Aston Villa and clinch the Premier League with a 3-2 win.

The Germany midfielder has been arguably City's star performer in the final stretch of this season, too, and gave City that stunning start after taking the kickoff him-

He passed the ball back to goalkeeper Stefan Ortega, who booted it forward for Erling Haaland to flick on. United defender Victor Lindelof could only partially clear to Gundogan, who volleyed in right-footed from the edge of the area.

United was looking to clinch a double of domestic trophies in Erik ten Hag's first year in charge, having won the League Cup in February, but more importantly ensure its class of 1999's legacy was preserved.

Ten Hag's team was dominated, though, until the last 10 minutes when substitute Alejandro Garnacho caused havoc down United's left wing. He instigated a chance in stoppage time that saw Raphael Varane bundle the ball onto the top of the crossbar before City cleared.

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**Editor-in-Chief AHMED AL JARALLAH** 

**Editorial Office:** Airport Road, Shuwaikh

Telephone: 24813566 & 24849144 Fax: 24818267

Advertising: Tel: 24813805 Fax: 24845708 P.O. Box 2270, 13023 Safat, Kuwait E-mail: arabtimes@arabtimesonline.com E-mail: advt@arabtimesonline.com

Annual Subscriptions: Individuals KD 45/- Companies and Official Departments KD 75 Airmail charges extra for Fax: 24839487

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