

Kuwaitis vote with hopes for reform

Non-governmentals to monitor poll

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh
Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, June 5: Kuwaiti eligible voters are set to flow to polling stations nationwide tomorrow (Tuesday) in order to elect a new National Assembly (Parliament), pinning high hopes that the country's aspired reforms and development would be notched up.

As many as 793,646 eligible voters involving 386,751 males and 406,895 females are poised to pick 50 out of 207 candidates to represent them at the new legislature for a term of four years. Vote centers will open at 8:00 am local time (5:00 GMT) and close at 8:00 pm local time (5:00 GMT). Vote counting will begin immediately at polling places. The fresh electoral race followed an order made in May to dissolve the former parliament "only out of respect for the people's will and return to the nation, which is the source of all power and authority". Another edict was then announced, calling on voters to stand prepared to cast their ballots in a new electoral process slated for June 6 (Tuesday). Thirty-four male and female rivals are vying in the First Constituency, where there are a total of 99,779 eligible voters, including 48,348 males and 51,431 fe-

males. The Second Constituency has 45 male and female candidates contesting the race to win the votes of 90,394 people (44,289 males and 46,105 females). There are 34 hopefuls, both males and females, in the Third Constituency, which has 137,978 voters (66,226 males and 71,752 females). Forty-seven male and female candidates are competing for the votes of 208,740 people (100,832 males and 107,908 females) in the Fourth Constituency. The Fifth Constituency includes 47 rivals and 256,755 eligible voters (127,056 males and 129,699 females).

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Iran to reopen Saudi mission

Maduro welcomed

Newswatch

KUWAIT CITY: The Kuwaiti Cabinet focused during its weekly meeting, Monday, on a number of topics pertaining to projects connected with youth development, the workforce, and boosting cultural activities.

During the meeting, Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs **Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi** briefed the meeting on projects aimed at cultivating the youths' talents.

The minister touched on the establishment of a business pioneering technical complex in Kuwait as well as promoting projects to employ youth during the summer and encouraging the youth's artistic tendencies via graffiti wall project to beautify public places.

On his part, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs **Dr. Khaled Al-Fadhel** and several top brass at the Civil Service Commission (CSC) informed the meeting of a scheme to immediately employ ex-celting new universities' graduates. (KUNA)

BERLIN: The labor minister of Qatar, which faced intense scrutiny over its treatment of migrant workers in the run-up to last year's World Cup soccer tournament, was elected Monday as the president of the United Nations labor agency's annual conference.

Asian and Pacific nations proposed **Ali bin Samikh al-Marri** to lead the International Labor Agency's two-week conference in Geneva. Regional groups take turns nominating the meeting's chair. (AP)

RAMALLAH: The Israeli occupation forces arrested on Monday 22 Palestinians, including 15 citizens from the village of Al-Mughayyir, near Ramallah city, which has been under siege for nearly a month.

The rest of the arrests were distributed among the governorates of Tulukarm, Jericho and Bethlehem, Palestinian Prisoner's Society (PPS) said in a statement. (KUNA)

ISTANBUL: NATO Secretary-General **Jens Stoltenberg** made no breakthrough on Sunday in talks about Sweden's membership in the military organization with Turkish President **Recep Tayyip Erdogan**, with officials from the two countries to meet in just over a week to try to bridge their differences.

NATO wants to bring Sweden into the fold by the time U.S. President **Joe Biden** and other allied leaders meet in Lithuania on July 11-12, but Turkey and Hungary have yet to endorse the move. (AP)

PESHAWAR: Pakistani troops and militants exchanged fire in a north-western region along the border with Afghanistan in a shootout that killed two soldiers and two militants, the army said Monday.

The shootout took place late Sunday in North Waziristan, a district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province that is a former stronghold of the Pakistani Taliban, a militant group also known as Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan or TTP. (AP)

JERUSALEM: A Palestinian toddler who was shot by Israeli troops in the occupied West Bank last week died of his wounds, Israeli hospital officials said Monday.

Mohammed al-Tamimi was shot in the head last Thursday near his village of **Nebi Saleh** while riding in a car with his father. He was airlifted to Israel's Sheba Hospital, which announced the 2-year-old boy's death. (AP)

TEHRAN, June 5, (Agencies): Iran's foreign ministry announced it would reopen its diplomatic missions in Saudi Arabia this week, restoring diplomatic ties after a seven-year rift, state-run media reported on Monday.

The foreign ministry's spokesman, **Nasser Kanaani** said that the Iranian Embassy in Riyadh, its consulate general in Jeddah, and office of the permanent representative to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation would officially reopen on Tuesday and Wednesday.

In March, Iran and Saudi Arabia agreed to establish diplomatic ties, in a Chinese-brokered deal, representing a major breakthrough in the region.

Saudi Arabia broke ties with Iran in 2016 after protesters invaded Saudi diplomatic posts in Tehran and the northeastern city of Mashhad during demonstrations triggered by the execution of a prominent Shiite cleric and 46 others in the oil-rich Kingdom.

Kanaani added that Iran's Embassy in Riyadh and its consulate general in Jeddah had already begun operating to help Iranian pilgrims heading to Saudi Arabia to perform Hajj, or Islamic pilgrimage, set to commence by the end of June.

Saudi Minister of Foreign Affairs Prince **Faisal bin Farhan bin Abdullah** last week met with his Iranian counterpart **Hossein Amir-Abdollahian** in Cape Town, South Africa, 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) reported.

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

They expressed a shared desire 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 report.

The meeting was attended by 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-Anqari**, and the Director General of Foreign Minister's Office **Abdulrahman Al-Dawood**.

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

Also:

DUBAI: Saudi Arabia has welcomed Venezuelan President **Nicolas Maduro** on an official visit, reaching out to yet another U.S. foe as the oil-rich kingdom engages in a flurry of diplomacy.

Maduro arrived late Sunday in the Red Sea city of **Jeddah**, where he was greeted by Saudi officials, according to the state-run Saudi Press Agency.

It did not give a reason for the visit or elaborate on his schedule, but Saudi Arabia is hosting an international conference on combating extremism later this week in the capital, Riyadh. The gathering will be co-chaired by U.S. Secretary of State **Antony Blinken**.

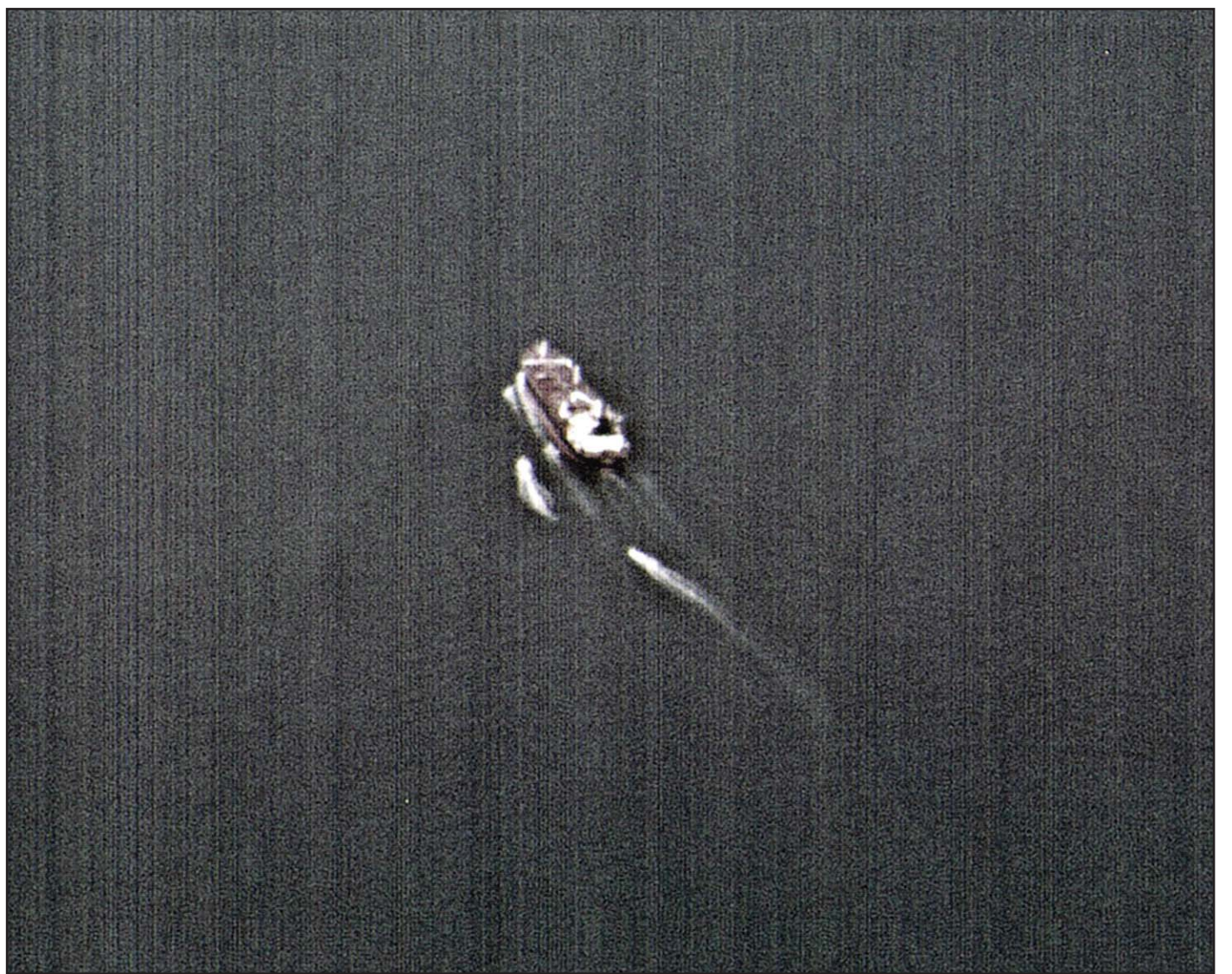
Saudi Arabia has been a close U.S. ally for decades, but relations have been strained in recent years. Over the last few months, the kingdom has restored relations with Iran's theocracy and Syria's President **Bashar Assad** - both seen as pariahs in the West.

Last month, the Saudis welcomed Ukraine's President **Volodymyr Zelenskyy**, a close Western ally, to an Arab League summit. But days later, they hosted a senior Russian official who is under Western sanctions.

The Saudis say they are pursuing their own national interests in a world increasingly defined by great power competition. Experts say the diplomatic surge is aimed at shoring up regional stability and improving the kingdom's image as it seeks international investment for massive development projects.

Maduro was re-elected in 2018 after judges banned his main opponents from competing, plunging the country into a severe political and economic crisis. Most opposition parties refused to recognize the election results and challenged Maduro's rule by creating an interim government, a push for change that fizzled out over the past two years.

Washington backed the opposition and imposed heavy sanctions on Maduro's autocratic government, hoping that would spark change. But Maduro's government dug in and resisted the sanctions with support from **Russia, Turkey** and **Iran**.



This still image taken from surveillance video from a U.S. Navy Boeing P-8 Poseidon shows three Iranian Revolutionary Guard fast-attack vessels near a commercial ship in the Strait of Hormuz Sunday, June 4, 2023. (AP)

Guard fast-attack boats 'harassed' ship

The U.S. Navy said Monday its sailors and the United Kingdom Royal Navy came to the aid of a ship in the crucial Strait of Hormuz after Iran's Revolutionary Guard "harassed" it.

Three fast-attack Guard vessels with armed troops aboard approached the merchant ship at a close distance Sunday afternoon, the U.S. Navy said in a statement. It offered black-and-white images it said came from a U.S. Navy Boeing P-8 Poseidon overhead, which showed three small ships close to the commercial ship.

The U.S. Navy's guided-missile destroyer **USS McFaul** and the Royal Navy's frigate **HMS Lancaster** responded to the incident, with the Lancaster launching a helicopter.

"The situation deescalated approximately an hour later when the merchant vessel confirmed the fast-attack craft departed the scene," the Navy said. "The merchant ship continued transiting the Strait of Hormuz without further incident."

The Strait of Hormuz, the narrow mouth of the Arabian Gulf, sees 20% of the world's oil pass through it. (AP)

Kuwait commends OPEC+ decision

Oil output cuts extended till 2024 end

VIENNA, June 5, (Agencies): Oil ministers of the OPEC and non-OPEC oil producing alliance, known as OPEC Plus, extended on Sunday the participating countries voluntary oil crude production cuts till end of 2024.

In a press statement following their meeting in Vienna today, the ministers said they decided to "adjust the level of overall crude oil production for OPEC and non-OPEC Participating Countries in the Declaration of Cooperation (DoC) to 40.46 mb/d, starting 1 January 2024 until 31 December 2024".

They argued that the move was taken in light of the continued commitment of the alliance to achieve and sustain a stable oil market and to provide long-term guidance for the market.

"And in line with the successful approach of being precautionary, proactive, and pre-emptive, which has been consistently adopted by OPEC and non-OPEC Participating Countries in the DoC," they added.

The ministers extended the mandate of the Joint Ministerial Monitoring Committee (JMMC) and its membership, to closely review global oil market conditions, oil production levels, and the level of conformity with the DoC and this Statement, assisted by the Joint Technical Committee (JTC) and the OPEC Secretariat.

They pointed out that the JMMC would hold a meeting every two months and the OPEC and non-OPEC Ministerial Meeting (ONOMM) would be held every six months.

They granted the JMMC the authority to hold additional meetings, or to request an OPEC and non-OPEC Ministerial Meeting at any time to address market developments, whenever deemed necessary.

The ministers re-affirmed that the DoC conformity is to be monitored considering crude oil production, based on the information from secondary sources, and according to the methodology applied for OPEC Member Countries.

They reiterated the critical importance of adhering to full conformity, and subscribe to the concept of compensation by those countries who produce above the required production level, in addition to their already decided production levels.

The ministers said the 36th OPEC and non-OPEC Ministerial Meeting would be held on Sunday 26 November 2023, in Vienna.

Meanwhile, Kuwait will continue its voluntary oil output reduction by 128,000 bpd until the end of 2024, Minister of Oil Manaf Al-Hajri said Sunday.

This voluntary cut comes as a precautionary

measure taken in coordination with the countries partaking in the OPEC+ deal on the decrease announced last April, Al-Hajri, also Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment and Acting Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs, added in a statement issued by the Ministry of Oil.

This reduction will be from the output level agreed upon in the 35th ministerial meeting of the OPEC held earlier in the day, Al-Hajri, also Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, stressed.

Kuwait's Minister of Oil Manaf Al-Hajri Sunday lauded the decision made by the OPEC+ group on reducing oil output by two million bpd until the end of 2024.

The decision is in favor of market balance and offers required reassurance, Al-Hajri, also Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment and Acting Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs, made the statement issued by the Oil Ministry.

Al-Hajri, also Chairman of the Board of Directors of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, headed Kuwait's delegation to the 186th OPEC ministerial meeting held Saturday and the 35th OPEC and non-OPEC producing countries held in Vienna earlier in the day.

Upgrade seeks to counter China

US, India agree to cement defense ties during meeting

NEW DELHI, June 5, (Agencies): India and the US agreed on Monday to cement their defense relationship after holding extensive talks on security issues.

The Indian Defense Ministry said in a statement that its minister **Rajnath Singh** held bilateral meeting with US Secretary of Defense **Lloyd Austin** who arrived in New Delhi yesterday on a two-day official visit.

Both the ministers discussed several bilateral defense cooperation issues with special focus on ways to strengthen industrial cooperation.

"The two ministers' explored ways of building resilient supply chains. Both sides will identify opportunities for co-development of new technologies and co-production of existing and new systems and facilitate increased collaboration between defense start-up ecosystems of the two countries," the ministry said.

It also added that both the countries concluded a roadmap for US-India Defense Industrial Cooperation which will give a clear policy direction in the defense sector for the next few years.

"Both sides reviewed the robust and multifaceted bilateral defense cooperation activities and agreed to maintain the momentum of engagement. They welcomed the inaugural dialogues held recently focusing on Defense Artificial Intelligence and Defense Space," the statement said.

Peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region and other regional security issues were also taken up during the discussion.

In the meeting Indian Chief of Defense Staff **General Anil Chauhan**, Defense Secretary **Giridhar Aramane** and Secretary, Department of Defense R&D and Chairman Defense Research and Development Organization **Samir V Kamat** were

also present.

The visit of US Secretary of Defense assumes importance as India and the US are firming up their regional security understanding especially through QUAD and other multinational bodies which China suspects is aimed at countering its increasing regional and global influence.

Austin on Monday discussed upgrading partnership with India, a major arms buyer, and set a roadmap for cooperation for the next five years as both countries grapple with China's economic rise and increased belligerence, officials said.

Austin's visit comes as India strengthens its domestic defense industry by acquiring new technologies and reducing reliance on imports, particularly from Russia, its largest supplier of military hardware despite the ongoing war in Ukraine.

Prayer Timings

Fajr 03:14 Asr 15:21
 Sunrise ... 04:48 Maghrib ... 18:45
 Zohr 11:46 Isha 20:16

Local

Expected weather for the next 24 hours:

By Day: Hot and partly cloudy to cloudy with light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind with speeds of 05-35 km/h.

Weather

By Night: Rather hot and cloudy to partly cloudy with light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind with speeds of 08-28 km/h.

Station **Max Exp** **Min Rec**
 Kuwait City 45 32

Kuwait Airport 45 34
 Abdaly 46 32
 Jahra 46 32
 Salmiyah 42 33
 Ahmadi 43 35
 Nuwaisib 47 32
 Wafra 45 32

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



Kuwait National Guard celebrated cadets' graduation at Al-Somoud camp.

KUNA photo

Schools admission hits crisis

'Not allowed to violate student density'

KUWAIT CITY, June 5: Some parents are facing a crisis in registering their children in some private schools for the 2023/2024 academic year. They have been placed in waiting lists, after being told that the capacity in these schools are limited and the registration process is limited by some regulations, reports Al-Rai daily.

According to an official source in the General Administration of

Private Education, some private schools already have high student densities, while others seek to maintain the quality and distinction of their educational system by organizing admission tests for new students. In both cases, the administration cannot oblige these schools to register students, as they have special regulations and conditions that determine the admission process.

The source said, "The Ministry of Education has set the density ceiling in each educational system. Any transgression in this regard is not permitted and is considered a violation that is recorded on the school, for which

legal measures are taken."

He explained that the ministry excluded some schools from the density ceiling during the last academic year due to the fact that no new schools were opened during the COVID-19 crisis, including Arab and model schools. In Arab schools, there are more than 42 students in one class, and in model schools, there are more than 28 students in one class. This situation is exceptional due to the lack of investment in this system.

The educational systems are many and varied. Parents can register in other schools despite the difference in their tuition fees. Schools are not obligated to register old students who fall behind the deadline set for the end of registration. A student is not considered registered if he does not pay the registration fees for the next academic year. All schools set their registration dates and publish them either by text messages, e-mails, or by posting bulletins at their entrances.

The source attributed the apology of some schools for the non-registration of students to the severe shortage of human cadres working in them, including cleaning workers and educational and administrative bodies.

In this regard, President of the Foreign Schools Union Nora Al-Ghanim affirmed that the reasons for this are many and varied, including the presence of great pressure.

Adhere

She said these schools are closed because of student densities, or because schools adhere to a specific number of students per class, or are unable to open additional classes due to a shortage of teachers or the small spatial capacity of the school itself.

Al-Ghanim stressed that these schools cannot have overcrowded classrooms; otherwise they will lose the recognition of the international oversight bodies.

She explained that, "The solution lies with the responsible government agencies, including the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Education, in granting distinguished private schools, regardless of their educational system, whether it is typical Arab or foreign, to approve expansion. This is better than granting new licenses to other schools that may take time to prove their excellence and the quality of their educational system."

Schools do not prevent students from getting admitted if they were able to accept them. However, each school has special circumstances that prevent it from doing so. The elements of school success lie not only in a good teacher or curriculum and good management, but also in other factors that contribute to success, including the number of students in the class.

A class that has 20 to 25 students is not the same as one with 40 to 45 students. The educational quality will certainly differ, especially with the significant increase in student demand for private schools in recent years."

Furthermore, Al-Ghanim explained that investing in education has become repellent instead of being attractive to many investors. This is because many obstacles and decisions are placed before them, making them ponder many times about investing in this field or in another field that brings a greater return. Investment in education, if it does not stem from an educational thought, affects the general social interest over private commercial interest, and the school will not be as distinguished as it will be.

Some distinguished foreign schools have set conditions for accepting students, including passing a placement test in order to maintain the quality of their educational system in compliance with the standards and controls approved by international bodies. Some cannot accept an additional number that exceeds their capacity due to their commitment to a specific number of students per semester. Any increase in this number is unacceptable and damages the reputation of its educational system.

In addition, an educational source stressed the necessity of facilitating government procedures regarding the issuance of licenses and granting the necessary approvals for the vertical and horizontal expansion of distinguished private schools, especially in residential areas that suffer from a small number of schools.

He highlighted that there is a great demand from Kuwaiti students to enroll in private schools.



Kuwait Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives new EU Ambassador to Kuwait

KUNA photo

FM receives new diplomats

Kuwait Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah met on Sunday a number of Arab and foreign ambassadors who presented their credentials during several receptions.

The Foreign Minister received the credentials of the new Ethiopian, Algerian, and EU Ambassadors to the State of Kuwait. During the receptions, Sheikh Salem welcomed the diplomats and wished them luck on their upcoming ventures.

The meetings discussed the latest developments in the world and ways to enhance cooperation between Kuwait and

forementioned parties.

Meanwhile, the Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Al-Sabah received on Sunday the United Nations' (UN) coordinator for the Black Sea Grain Initiative, Abdullah Abdulsameer Dashti, discussing the latest on the deal that allows the safe export of grain from Ukrainian ports. Kuwait firmly supports any measure that seeks to protect global food security, in addition to efforts aiming to find a definitive solution to the Russia-Ukraine conflict, the foreign minister underlined. (KUNA)

'Hot, dry, dust-laden winds'

'Al-Bawareh' and unstable weather

KUWAIT CITY, June 5: The Meteorological Department of the Directorate-General of Civil Aviation said Kuwait witnesses what is known as the Al-Bawareh season, which starts from the second week of June and continues until mid-July, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Dr. Hassan Dashti, observer at the DGCA Met department told KUNA today, the Al-Bawareh winds are seasonal and are known as the beginning of the summer season, as they are followed by a very hot, dry weather and frequent hot, dust-laden winds making the weather condition throughout this period unstable, reports Al-Jarida daily.

He added the desert climate of Kuwait is characterized by a long summer period, high temperatures, long hours of daily solar radiation, and an increase in rate of evaporation, and it begins clearly with the beginning of June, in which the high air recedes and the Indian seasonal depression advances with its expansion to Africa and continues until the end of next September.

He indicated the average wind speed is between 50-60 kilometers per hour, and its gusts may exceed 90 kilometers per hour,

causing dust to rise, which causes a decrease in horizontal visibility.

He stated the region has witnessed in recent years an increase in the frequency of dust storms associated with the Al-Bawareh winds due to the lack of rainfall, the dryness of the soil, the lack of vegetation cover and the fragmentation of the soil. Dashti warned of the negative effects of these dust storms, which require finding quick scientific and practical solutions and mitigating them or adapting to their negative effects, especially amid the climatic changes taking place in the region.

Nod to allowance: The Civil Service Commission in the Ministry of Health, has given the final nod to grant infection allowance to Kuwaiti civilian employees working at the Airport Security, the Airport Passports departments of the Directorate-General of Civil Aviation and employees of the General Administration of Land Ports Security, who are in charge of completing entry, exit and fingerprinting procedures for travelers at the Al-Nuwaiseeb, Al-Salmi and Abdali ports", reports Al-Jarida daily.

The CSC approval came based on the proposal submitted by the First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and Acting Minister of Defense Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled, who asked for the speedy completion of the disbursement procedures for the beneficiaries, reports Al-Jarida daily.



Dr. Dashti



His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah with some of the exceptional athletes.

KUNA photo

'Work together for Kuwait'

PM honors exceptional athletes

KUWAIT CITY, June 5, (KUNA): Under the auspices of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, the Public Authority for Sport (PAS) in cooperation with Kuwait Olympic Committee hosted a ceremony on Sunday honoring Kuwaiti exceptional athletes for the year 2023.

On behalf of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Sheikh Ahmad conveyed, in a speech at the ceremony greetings and blessings to all athletes and recognizing their achievements in various sport fields and events.

The premier added that most of the honored sports federations and clubs today have reached advanced stages when they participate in tournaments, expressing his aspiration that the State of Kuwait has become a strong competitor in the region and international stage.

Sheikh Ahmad also addressed his sons, the athletes, "We must not look back, as Kuwaitis we will not benefit much from it."

Let us put aside our differences and work together for a better future to Kuwait sport.

His Highness the premier mentioned that those in charge of the Public Sports Authority are among the best young people and are currently working on developing strategic plans for the future, calling on everyone to cooperate with them to improve Kuwaiti sport.

Sheikh Ahmad also expressed his pride in the achievements that Kuwaiti athletes made and the high levels they presented that culminated in obtaining the highest ranks, calling on them to continue such progress and raise the flag of Kuwait high in the upcoming sports events.

For his part, Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs, Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi, delivered a similar speech in which he affirmed that the celebration of this distinguished group of athletes comes as an appreciation and culmination of their achievements, indicating that the patronage of His Highness the Prime Minister represents a clear motive for the honorees to continue to thrive in all international forums.

Meanwhile, Chairman of the Kuwaiti Olympic Committee, Sheikh Fahad Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, said in a statement to KUNA that the honoring ceremony, which included 350 male and female athletes from 23 sports organizations, is an affirmation of the permanent care given by the political leadership and state officials to the sports sector.

His Highness the Prime Minister honored the distinguished male and female athletes for the year 2023 from various Kuwaiti bodies, committees, federations and sports clubs.

The ceremony was attended by the Director of PAS, Yosef Abdullah Al-Baidan, the President of the Kuwaiti Olympic Committee, Sheikh Fahad Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and senior state officials.

3,500 from army can vote

Nationality card must to vote

KUWAIT CITY, June 5: The Public Relations and Security Media Department of the Ministry of Interior stated that as part of the preparations for the voting process for the 2023 parliamentary elections on June 6, the General Administration of Nationality and Kuwaiti Travel Documents has called on citizens registered on the electoral lists and who did not wish to apply for a replacement for a lost or damaged nationality certificate must visit the General Administration of Nationality and Kuwaiti Travel Documents in the Dajeej area in person, reports Al-Rai daily.

The daily added, the applicant must bring along the original civil card or a recent certificate issued by the Public Authority for Civil Information and 4 personal photos measuring 6x4, during official working hours.

The administration added, no one will be allowed to cast the ballot without the original Kuwaiti nationality certificate or a replacement for a lost or damaged document is obtained.

Meanwhile, around 3,500 trainees, officers and non-commissioned officers are eligible to vote in the upcoming parliamentary election; since their names are included in the lists of voters, reports Al-Rai daily quoting sources.

Sources confirmed this is legal, given that the abovementioned citizens have yet to complete their courses and no decision has been issued regarding their appointment as military personnel.

Sources clarified that all those enrolled in military colleges under the ministries of Defense and Interior are allowed to vote, because they have not graduated from the colleges.

diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'Hospitals in Kuwait should be managed with int'l expertise'

"IF YOU are very ill, you have no choice but to visit a hospital in Kuwait and unfortunately you may not come out much better. In fact, in some cases for the elderly and other people with chronic problems, complications from the disease can lead to death," columnist **Dr Youssef Abdul Mohsen Al-Haroun** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

"We have heard many stories from relatives, friends and others of how a loved one could have been hospitalized and doctors prescribe broad spectrum antibiotics not knowing exactly what the problem is but hoping this might fix it.

"This may work for some patients but may put other patients in worse conditions. They may have allergic reactions to these medicines.

"Then the medical team tries to solve the problem they created by performing surgery or putting patients on ventilators which eventually leads to death. Or they develop hospital-acquired infections, which contribute significantly to illness and death, affecting up to 30 percent of ICU patients.

"So why do hospitals make us more sick? Why do hospitals make us more likely to die? The main reason for this is - far from generalizing - a combination of hospital mismanagement, negligence of physician and nursing care, and finally bad architectural design.

"There are good doctors and great nurses who are praised for their hard work and giving to improve people's lives for the better.

"However, there are also some who don't care and don't do their duty diligently. I call on the Ministry of Health in all its sectors to employ qualified Kuwaitis or foreign doctors who graduated from the best universities and have strong experience in their fields.

"Don't hire bad doctors! You deal with people's lives, parents and children. Likewise, hospitals must be managed with international expertise with decades of experience, not local individuals who do not know how to manage. Management is an art and not every good doctor has the ability to run a hospital.

"What is the point of building billions of hospitals across Kuwait with poor management? It's like buying a fancy and expensive car and giving it to someone who doesn't know how to drive it. It will lead to an accident in the end.

"Hospitals are among the most expensive facilities to build, with complex infrastructure, technologies, systems and safety rules. But the evidence suggests we've built them all wrong — and that the shortcomings aren't simply



Dr Al-Haroun

naesthetic or uncomfortable.

"All of these design flaws could kill us. There is also a lot we can do to improve the patient experience, which, of course, is closely related to how comfortable and well patients are.

"Some of the most interesting research on the way hospitals are built points to nature's role in promoting healing. The research, spearheaded by Roger Ulrich, now a professor of architecture at the Health Care Building Research Center at Chalmers University of Technology in Sweden, suggests that when it comes to recovery from illness, the more nature the better.

"But all too often, patients and doctors find themselves trapped in dark rooms and sterile corridors with little natural light or views of nature: too much concrete, not enough jungle and trees.

"Some research has studied patients who recovered after surgery based on whether they were assigned to a room with a window facing nature or a wall.

"The study, now one of the most widely cited in the hospital design literature, found that patients looking at trees had shorter hospital stays and took less pain medication than those viewing a wall.

"We need to completely rethink how we care for health and patients in Kuwait, introduce more natural sunlight and green spaces in and around hospitals and more environmental psychology approaches to make people more positive and thus speed up recovery, God willing.

"I hope that one day the government and the Ministry of Health will take people's lives seriously not only by building new hospitals, but how to design them, put the right person in the right place in their management, and choose only the best in the world to work in them to serve everyone who lives in this good land.

"So the next time we really need to go to the hospital, we can really feel safe and, God willing, feel better. Until that happens, we have nothing but supplication. Oh God, change the conditions, change our situation to the best."

Also:

"A referendum is a healthy process that usually accompanies elections in advanced democracies. It comes with very important conditions to achieve the goal, hence, it is not considered a tool for negatively influencing the course of elections — a crime severely punished by the Kuwaiti law," columnist **Sami Al-Nisf** wrote for **Annahar** daily.

"The first conditions of an honest referendum are laid down by parties known for their impartiality. For example, it is not permissible for profitable or biased

parties to be entrusted with the referendum, since they will maneuver the process for the benefit of those they support, pay for or believe in.

"It is also necessary to ensure the scientificity and transparency of the sample of participants, so the result reflects the constituency concerned. It is important as well to clearly indicate the number of members of the segment before determining the percentage obtained by each candidate.

"Therefore, choosing a sample of 20 voters in a constituency whose total number of voters is tens or hundreds of thousands will definitely mislead the voters and the observers, because a candidate who gets only two votes will appear as if he has a double chance of winning compared to the one who gets one vote from the sample. This is misleading because the percentage drawn from such a very small number means nothing at all."

□ □ □

"We are going through days of a lot of talk about the political issue, given the general condition of the State, individuals, societies, and government and private institutions, as well as the upcoming 2023 National Assembly election," columnist **Abdulrahman Aba Zera** wrote for **Annahar** daily.

"Social mobility characterizes the State of Kuwait, considering the large space that the government sometimes gives to the candidate to present his supposed aspirations.

"Undoubtedly, the voter could be affected by this general condition of the State, as the political arena might become a large space and a wide arena for rumors, gossip, false promises and the adoption of issues without the slightest knowledge of these issues — neither the candidate nor the voter. Thus, psychological chaos is formed for everyone associated with such a confusing scene, which may directly and indirectly affect the individual, in addition to our collective attitude.

"It is the duty of a fully sane citizen, who knows his rights, to express his aspirations by choosing his representative in this scene for a period of four years. The State has enabled him to exercise his democratic right. He must know who he chooses, how he chooses and why he chooses this or that candidate.

"In this manner, our thoughts are not based on negative choices that reflect on our psychological state. This psychological crisis may accompany us for four years, so we must choose carefully. We should not be courteous in choosing who will represent us, and become part of our future aspirations and the visions we aspire to achieve in order to serve the people and the country."

—Compiled by Mai Elsoukary

Other Voices

The last talk, before passing away

By Ahmad alsarraf

I have reached a ripe old age, and lived a happy life that was not disturbed by anything other than the painful memories of the invasion and occupation of my country by Iraq; and today I have no need for anything other than health, as I have enough to live in luxury, inside or outside Kuwait, for the rest of my life.

Therefore, on a personal level, I do not need favors from any candidate, deputy, or official, with full respect for everyone, and for the rest of the honorable people who contest the National Assembly, despite their fewness, and they often know what I mean, and this is what I hope.

I am stripped of every interest or purpose, and my standing with this candidate or others, is mainly due to my jealousy over the interest of my country, and not to personal benefits, as among those who support his candidacy are those whom I have not met, and I have no commercial interest, narrow or broad, in choosing and supporting these candidates, for I am not worried about my fate, but rather about the fate of this country, which continues to erode, and I am also worried about the future of my children, grandchildren, family, and the rest of the good citizens, whose number is decreasing every day.



alsarraf

From this humble rostrum, I invite all those who love Kuwait to set aside their emotions and judge their minds, as they choose who will represent them in the next Parliament, which will, in my opinion, be the most dangerous in the history of Kuwait, and its role will be decisive. Either its results, with the sincere and serious cooperation of the government, will pull us out of the pit we find ourselves in, if not our situation will get worse.

You have to choose the best, and this will not happen if we do not leave our homes on June 6, and cast our ballot but not on sectarian or tribal basis, or whoever owes allegiance to his guide ... albeit abroad.

Stop complaining about the existence of corruption and ruin, and try to change something by trying to choose the best, not the one that tickles the emotions for cheap gains for such people will even deny you your livelihood.

Make a good choice, as the opportunity will not be repeated, and I say it without any cheap purpose. You should vote today for those who have previously supported us in previous articles and tweets. These are symbols that we know for sure the truth about their nature and their sincerity, at least, by knowing who attacks them and wants them to fail!

I repeat again that I am financially, psychologically and emotionally sound, and I have no personal motive in supporting the best people!

□ □ □

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

'Pollution causes cancer, heart disease'

'Avoid airborne gases, dust and fumes'

KUWAIT CITY, June 5: In reaction to a report titled "Air pollution in residential areas threatens health" that was published recently, health experts affirmed that pollution in general and inhalation of some types of fumes and gases may cause lung cancer, heart disease, and other illnesses, reports **Al-Qabas** daily.

These experts said some diseases caused by continuous exposure to pollutants may not show symptoms in the short term.

They stressed the need to tighten control for improving air and water quality, and protecting the environment from pollution.

In this regard, gastroenterology, internal medicine, liver and endoscopy consultant **Dr Ghanem Al-Salem** warned against direct exposure to toxic fumes and gases in the event of their spread in any oil or other areas, after the concerned authorities announce their presence, in order to ensure the preservation of public health for citizens and residents.

She explained that the most prominent diseases associated with environmental and air pollution that last for several years are chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, lung cancer, cardiovascular disease, pulmonary fibrosis, stomach and pancreatic cancer, and eye infections. Exposure to polluted air can render pregnant women more vulnerable to the risks of premature birth. The risk ratios diminish with a decrease in the period of exposure to polluted atmospheres in the vicinity of the areas.

Dr. Al-Salem advised workers who are exposed to polluted air to avoid exposure to airborne gases, dust and fumes.

She insisted that children, the elderly, and people suffering from asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and other lung disorders should avoid outdoor exercise when the air contains high levels of pollutants, based on the announcement of reliable government sources in the country at the time.

Dr. Al-Salem stressed the need to stay home until the air quality improves in the event of pollution, as well as ensure the house is clean, ventilated constantly, and are free of dust, in addition to using specialized devices to detect the accumulation of carbon monoxide gas in homes, if possible.

She also stressed the need to follow the instructions of the Ministry of Health and the concerned authorities in this regard.

Dr. Al-Salem highlighted the keenness of Kuwait about transparency and publishing important information in this field on official websites, documented newspapers and official social networking sites.

In addition, Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies at the International College of Law, **Dr. Muhammad Al-Ajmi** affirmed the need to address the problems of environmental pollution in the country in order to pre-



Dr Al-Salem

'No dealing with bedouins'

'Valid ID card mandatory'

KUWAIT CITY, June 5: The Central System for Remedying the Status of Illegal Residents (CSRSIR) informed the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Higher Education to suspend dealing with transactions of Bedouin residents except for those holding a valid identification/security card, reports **Al-Qabas** daily.

According to informed sources, CSRSIR stressed the need to return to the previous decision, as per which no transaction pertaining to the Bedouin residents will be completed without the presence of a valid security card issued by CSRSIR.

The three-month period for the exception issued by the Council of Ministers for the exclusion of expired card holders from completing their transactions in the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Higher Education and Ministry of Health has passed, due to which it is necessary to return to the decision which was issued prior to the exception.

CSRSIR demanded the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Higher Education to instruct the concerned authority to notify 31 Bedouin employees regarding the need to visit the CSRSIR office in order to take the necessary procedures according to their legal status and obtain valid cards, as well as the need to complete the procedures for renewing their services.

serve the health of the residents of the areas surrounding oil facilities and factories, especially those located in the south of the country.

He explained that the direction of air plays a major role in transporting factory pollutants to nearby areas. The density of pollutants depends on the distance of the areas from the sources of pollution. The southeastern wind contributed to the transfer of pollutants from the sites of Ahmedi refinery, Shuaba Port and Port Abdullah, to the areas of Fahaheel, then Mangaf, Sabahiyah, and decreased in areas far from the sites of these factories and refineries. The longer the life span of these factories and oil refineries, the higher the percentage of pollutants resulting from them.

Dr. Al-Ajmi stressed the importance of activating the role of the concerned government agencies in monitoring the levels of pollution in the air, in order to preserve the health of citizens and residents in all areas.

He revealed that the air quality in the country has deteriorated due to wrong environmental practices.

680 Asians, Africans from 8 nations ousted in 3 days

New biometrics center opened

KUWAIT CITY, June 5: The Public Relations and Security Media Department of the Ministry of Interior said 680 expatriates belonging to eight Asian and African countries have been administratively deported to their respective countries within three days, from May 27 to May 29, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The security sources told the daily, the deportees were held at the Talha Prison and that before being deported they were fingerprinted and photographed and all procedures related to their deportation process were completed within a record time and flown out of the country.

The reasons for their deportation varied between administrative deportation and verdicts issued by the criminal court, in addition to those caught for violating the residence and labor laws.

The sources indicated that the deportation of this large number of expatriates in just 3 days is seen as the first in recent years in terms of numbers, which confirms the deportation prison works for the speedy completion of deportation procedures to ensure deportees don't stay behind bars for long periods unlike what used to happen a few years back.

□ □ □

New center opened: Director for Human Resources and Information Technology at the Interior Ministry **Sheikh Mubarak Salem Al-Ali** recently inaugurated the biometric fingerprint center at the Police Force Affairs General Department in Mubarak Al-Abdullah, reports **Al-Rai** daily.

The center operates 24 hours a day to serve the ministry's employees and their immediate families.

During the inauguration, **Sheikh Mubarak Salem Al-Ali** disclosed that the opening of the center is in compliance with the directive of First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and acting Minister of Defense **Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled** to provide facilities, harness capabilities and address obstacles in front of employees at the Ministry of Interior; including officers, non-commissioned officers and civilians.



Photo taken from the event.

'Benefiting from financial markets'

By Mujahid Iqbal

KUWAIT CITY, June 5: Pakistan Employment Forum Kuwait (PEFK) and NoorCM Academy, a subsidiary of NCM Investments, jointly held a 2-day workshop last week on the topic, Introduction to online trading and Benefiting from Financial Markets which was a stepping stone to creating the know-how in the community and to introducing to the basics of Financial Markets, create awareness on how to avoid online financial scams and shed a light on the importance of regulation in Investment Sector. A large audience not only from financial backgrounds but from different professions attended the educational event.

The training was commenced with a detailed presentation by **Mohsin Khan**. He shed light and presented efficiently to edu-

cate how to invest securely and safely in Global Financial Markets. The session was a blend of lecture, insights, and presentation followed by a quiz and QA session.

At the end of the session, the president of PEFK, **Muhammad Irfan Adil** thanked the audience for participating in the educational training workshop. He applauded all the efforts by PEFK Team, NCM Investment, and Noor CM Academy to make this training fruitful and possible for the Pakistani and other Urdu-speaking communities residing in Kuwait. He thanked, **Faraz Mushtaq**, Head of Marketing NCM Investment, and his whole team for this interactive event. At the end of the workshop, giveaways were presented to the audience and refreshments were served.

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LOCAL

Envoy affirms strength of bilateral relations between Russia, Kuwait

New ambassador briefs press after presenting his credentials

KUWAIT CITY, June 5: The Ambassador of the Russian Federation Vladimir Zheltov affirmed the strength of the bilateral relations between his country and Kuwait, reports Al-Qabas daily.

In his first interview with the local press after presenting his credentials, he praised the Kuwaiti policy, which he described as "wise, balanced and pragmatic."

The ambassador said, "We noticed that the current Kuwaiti leadership has continuity and persistence in approaching conflicts between all major countries in the world without any exception."

Kuwait is one of the first Arab countries to recognize Russia. Even during the days of the Cold War, the days of friction and competition between the two poles, the Kuwaiti leadership did not put eggs in one basket. This is a balanced, pragmatic and wise policy."

Respect

He expressed his country's respect for this approach and for Kuwaiti politics.

Ambassador Zheltov affirmed his keenness to strengthen the political, economic, humanitarian, military and technical files, highlighting that the Russian-Kuwaiti political dialogue is still ongoing, and there is a mechanism for political consultation.

He stressed that Kuwait's Ministry of Foreign Affairs is concerned with dialogue with all parties in the world.

The ambassador revealed that the third session of the Russian-Gulf dialogue will be held in July in Moscow, with Kuwait's participation in it.

He affirmed that his country was and will remain on the side of Arab friends, and has



Vladimir Zheltov

principled positions on the basic issues of the Arab world, especially the Palestinian issue and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Ambassador Zheltov said, "Russia is an important country for Kuwait, so nothing could affect our relationship from any external side. In the former Soviet-Kuwaiti and the Russian-Kuwaiti relations, the Kuwaiti side attached great importance due to the balanced and pragmatic policy. This is the main message that I extracted from my meeting with the Crown Prince which took a third of an hour and during which the focus was solely on the bilateral relations."

Exemption

Regarding Kuwait's position with Russia in the Ukrainian crisis, he reiterated that Kuwaiti policy is balanced, pragmatic and wise, adding, "Irrespective of the external pressures, Kuwait still practices a neutral policy regarding what is going on in Ukraine." Regarding the mutual agreement for visa exemption, Ambassador Zheltov said, "We are in the process of attracting tourists to Russia. We are working on a policy for canceling visas with countries that bring tourists."

There are countries in the Arabian Gulf, such as the UAE, Oman, Saudi Arabia and

Kuwait for which we are interested in canceling entry visas not only for holders of diplomatic and special passports, but for all citizens, in return for treating our citizens reciprocally.

We submitted a draft decision for canceling visas for these countries. This issue is now with the Kuwaiti side. Thousands of visas have been issued to Kuwaitis and residents from Kuwait, There is a daily flight operated by Jazeera Airways between Moscow and Kuwait."

Investments

Ambassador Zheltov sent a message of reassurance to the Kuwaiti investors, saying, "There are no external restrictions imposed on trade or investments. Russia is a country that respects the rules of international law regarding ownership, as investments are safeguarded. However, the devil is always in the details."

All Kuwaiti and Gulf investments are respected by the Russian state, despite the sanctions imposed by Western countries on us, and on Arab and non-Arab investors. Investment needs security and stability, and foreign sanctions against Russia have affected the level of trade between Russia and Kuwait."

Ambassador Zheltov welcomed the cooperation with the Kuwaiti press, stressing that it enjoys a great degree of freedom due to the sensitivity of the Arab media in this region.

He indicated that government agencies pay more attention to social media, given the base of access to it and the base of people interested in obtaining accurate information.

Regarding the military cooperation between his country and Kuwait, Ambassador Zheltov revealed that there are some Russian-made weapons in Kuwait, such as missile launchers and armored vehicles, and there is talk about a tank deal. He added, "We are open to all Kuwaiti requests."

HH Crown Prince, PM send greetings

HH the Amir congratulates Denmark on National Day

KUWAIT CITY, June 5, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent Monday a cable to Queen of Denmark Margrethe II, congratulating her on her country's National Day, wishing the Queen good health and the Danish people all progress and prosperity.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-

Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable to Queen Margrethe II, congratulating her on her country's National Day and wishing her good health.

In the meantime, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah also sent a cable to Queen Margrethe II, congratulating her on her country's National Day.



Ambassador Dr Swaika with Muhaisen.

Indian envoy calls on Muhaisen

The Indian Ambassador to Kuwait HE Dr Adarsh Swaika called on Kuwait's Undersecretary of Information HE Naser Ahmed Muhaisen. Both sides

had very forward-looking discussions on further strengthening bilateral cooperation in media and information domain.



A company promoting the Moringa plant.

KUNA photo

Event promoting recycling held

KUNA marks World Environment Day

KUWAIT CITY, June 5, (KUNA): Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) held on Monday an event promoting recycling and environment protection in commemoration of the World Environment Day celebrated annually on June 5.

In a statement to KUNA, head of the public relations department Afdhal Al-Fulaij affirmed that the agency was keen on partaking in events highlight-

ing environmental causes.

The KUNA event focused on environmental and recycling projects in Kuwait, she revealed, affirming that countering pollution and safeguarding the environment was a global responsibility shared by all countries.

Several companies, promoting environmental friendly products, services, and recycling, took part in the KUNA event, she indicated.

Kuwaitis vote

Continued from Page 1

All ministries, authorities and state bodies have been working together for weeks in order to ensure the country's electoral race by taking all required measures and putting all potential at the disposal of voters.

The Ministry of Information, for its part, has invited 50 media representatives from all over the world to cover the parliamentary vote.

The Kuwaiti cabinet has recently asked several non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to partake in watching the country's forthcoming parliamentary elections due on June 6, only out of its commitment to ensuring fair and transparent elections.

The Health Ministry affirmed that it was ready for the 2023 parliamentary elections on June 6, Tuesday, via providing 123 fully equipped clinics at polling stations with the participation of 740 medical staff in addition to 30 ambulances.

In a press statement, the ministry's spokesperson Dr. Abdullah Al-Sanad said that five medical clinics will operate at the main voting centers, while 118 clinics would be at the subcommittee's headquarters.

He noted that 30 ambulances were dispatched according to the flow of the voters in each constituency.

Meanwhile, National Assembly Election number 35/1962 prohibits the circulation of election-related messages 48 hours before Election Day; but it does not stipulate penalties for whoever violates this stipulation, says constitutional expert Professor Muhammad Al-Fili.

According to Al-Fili some fake accounts on social media and other newspapers are taking a chance to violate the law, as they believe they are safe since there is no punishment for such a viola-

tion.

Nevertheless, he affirmed that well-known media institutions remain committed to the law in line with the Code of Conduct.

The campaigns of the candidates ended on Sunday, including the public meeting organized by former Assembly Speaker and Second Constituency candidate Marzouq Al-Ghanim with the theme, 'The way towards stability'.

During his campaign, Al-Ghanim stressed that he has always been committed to the Constitution and National Assembly Law. He said it is unacceptable to describe the previous era as the period of corruption, because this is tantamount to offending HH the late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. He pointed out that an era is not attributed to a prime minister or Assembly Speaker, as it is attributed to the head of State.

He also confirmed having evidence of a bank transfer made by a senior official at the office of HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah in favor of an individual who administers fake accounts on social media to curse some individuals while the latter is outside Kuwait. He was quick to clarify that he is sure the premier is not aware of such an incident.

He added that the Internet service was disrupted during a parliamentary session when the number of attendees decreased from 40 to 10. He explained the reason was that some MPs monitored social media and decided to vote according to the trend, not their own opinion.

He went on to say that in case he wins in the election slated for Tuesday, he will cooperate with the Prime Minister — either HH Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah or anyone else as part of his constitutional commitment.



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'How to do Business with the US Military'

ABCK-AmCham Kuwait, US Military host 2-session workshop

KUWAIT CITY, June 5: ABCK-AmCham Kuwait hosted a 2-session workshop on 'Contracting with the U.S. Military and Registering in Federal Government Systems' with speakers from the U.S. Air Force's 386TH ECONS, the U.S. Army's Regional Contracting Center - Kuwait (RCC-KU), and Joint Contingency Contracting System (JCCS). The goal of the event was to educate and inform vendors on how to do business with the U.S. military, the systems required to do so, and upcoming opportunities with each of the military entities that participated.

The first presentation discussed the purpose of JCCS, a U.S. Government IT system supporting contingency contracting since 2006. It is required for vendors to do business with the U.S. government to have an active and complete JCCS registration for all contracts in the CENTCOM AOR. The speaker highlighted that companies should view solicitations, submit proposals, and stay in contact with their local contract office for opportunities.

Consequently, the U.S. Air Force 386th ECONS presented on the topics of the Government Purchase Card (GPC) Program, Base Operations Support and Services (BOSS), Infrastructure (construction), Air Force Contract

Augmentation Program (AFCAP), and SAM registration. The speakers mentioned that the Government Purchase Cards (GPCs) are used for lower dollar purchases of supplies, services, and constructions, however, the BOSS Flight also makes purchases of communication support, camp support, engineering operations/security services, logistical support services, and airfield support.

Presenters provided an in-depth presentation on how to register as a vendor in SAM, which is mandatory for vendors to be eligible for contract awards above the \$35,000 USD micro-purchase threshold. They also discussed technical aspects of SAM such as creating a Sam.gov Login, creating NCAE, and requesting a UEID number.

Furthermore, speakers discussed the importance of the Synchronized Predeployment Operational Tracker (SPOT). SPOT is the U.S. federal government database for tracking and accountability of contractor personnel and equipment during contingencies, as he mentioned that it is important for CENTCOM Commanders to know how many, where, and what type of contractor personnel are in their AOR. Vendors who are not already registered in SPOT should reach out to their local contracting office for direction



Introduction of Vendor's Day

and update their Contracting Office representative whenever the POC and/or others entered in SPOT change(s).

To finalize the presentations, the U.S. mili-

tary spoke about their efforts in combatting human trafficking (Counter Trafficking in Persons (CTIP), Federal Acquisition Regulations as well as compliance and meeting

minimum requirements when it comes to vendors doing business with the U.S. Military and their employees. Presenters highlighted that companies get an annual CTIPS compliance certification based on their review, and explained the process of remediation if a company is found to be in violation of CTIPS.

The event concluded with a workshop in which vendors were able to meet with several entities from the U.S. military including the 408th Contracting Support Brigade, the U.S. Army's Regional Contracting Center - Kuwait (RCC-KU), The Air Force's 386th ECONS, the Joint Contingency Contracting System (JCCS), The Theater Contracting Center (TCC - SWA), RCC-OIR, The Army & Air Force Exchange Service and Host Nation.

ABCK-AmCham Kuwait is a non-profit organization operating since 1985 and is composed of Fortune 500 corporations, small and medium-sized companies, and prominent business leaders and entrepreneurs, both American and Kuwaiti. ABCK-AmCham Kuwait acts as an advocate for American interests in the state of Kuwait. For More Information, please visit our website at www.abckamkuwait.org or follow us on the social media channels @abck1985

'Make living better and healthier'

Indian embassy organizes millets promotion event at Mughal Mahal

KUWAIT CITY, June 5: Further to its objective of spreading awareness about the ecological, nutritional and economical benefits of millets the Indian embassy in Kuwait has dedicated June to promote these cereal crops by organizing the first event at the Mughal Mahal outlet in Sharq.

Speaking at the first launch of the event, the Indian Ambassador to Kuwait HE Dr Adarsh Swaika, said, under the leadership and vision of Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India, the Government of India celebrated 2018 as National Year of Millets with the determination to turn adoption of millets as a people's movement, and is now spearheading the celebration of IYOM 2023.

As part of overall efforts of the government of India throughout India and Indian missions and other stakeholders abroad, the Indian envoy said, the aim is to popularize the consumption of millets for a sustainable and beneficial lifestyle since millets are known to be a healthier option and has several other benefits.

This time, the Indian envoy added, the embassy has taken one step forward by reaching out to common man in terms of including millets in their daily diet and the embassy is making all efforts to make the cereals available in this part of the world.

During the event, Ms Diviya Kalra, daughter of Ashok Kalra

managing partner of Mughal Mahal, put up an elaborate display of dishes prepared from millets. Ms Kalra who wants to step into the footsteps of her father, also gave a brief presentation on the benefits of millets and how millets can "enrich our lives and make living better and healthier."

Millet refers to several varieties of small-seeded grasses that are cultivated as grain crops. Amongst these, pearl millet (bajra), finger millet (ragi) and sorghum (jowar) are the most popular. Minor millets include foxtail, barnyard and others. These crops are grown in marginal and dry lands in several countries in Asia and Africa, with India being the world's largest millet producer.

The global fame of this coarse grain can be traced back to March 2021, when the United Nations (UN) General Assembly at its 75th session declared 2023 the International Year of Millets (IYM2023).

Millets -- which are an excellent source of Vitamins A and B, potassium, calcium and iron -- helps control blood sugar, improves the digestive system, protects cardiovascular health, prevents onset of diabetes, good source of antioxidants and helps on weight loss.

The Mughal Mahal with the help of the Embassy of India, Kuwait would also like to raise awareness to ensure this crop is no longer neglected and the population in Kuwait gets to reap the various benefits of millets.



Photo from the event.

Kuwait is advanced in realm of consumers' protection: ESCWA

BEIRUT, June 5, (KUNA): Dr. Rola Dashti, ESCWA's executive secretary, has affirmed that Kuwait ranks among advanced states in the realm of consumers' protection.

Dr. Dashti, who was speaking after meeting a delegation of the Kuwaiti Ministry of Industry and Commerce, said Kuwait plays an eminent role in the issue of protecting the consumers, noting that Lebanon could learn from the Kuwaiti experience at this level.

At the Lebanese level, Beirut needs to learn how to apply ministerial decisions and activate the laws to stem upward trends of the commodities' prices, Dr.

Dashti said indicating that ESCWA, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, has been transferring successful experience of other countries in this respect to Beirut for shoring up the local economy.

ESWA is also seeking to boost imports and exports, support start-ups and medium enterprises, she added.

Meanwhile, the Kuwaiti assistant undersecretary for legal affairs, companies and commercial permits, Dr. Mohammad Al-Jalal, told KUNA the Kuwaiti delegation's visit to Beirut was intended to help the country cope with inflation and examine the Kuwaiti experience in this respect.

Project supports everyone in need inside Kuwait

KRCS distributes Eid clothes to 4K families

Students on waiting lists for admission at private schools face uncertain future

KUWAIT CITY, June 5: Some parents are facing a problem to register their children in some private schools for the 2023-2024 academic year and one of the reasons is the Ministry of Education has set the density ceiling in each educational system, and any transgression is looked upon as a violation committed by the school in which case the school is liable to be punished, reports Al-Rai daily.

Moreover, the General Administration of Private Education cannot oblige these schools to register more students, as they have special controls and conditions that determine the admission process.

The daily added, most of the stu-

dents are now on waiting lists since the schools have a limited capacity and to add insult to injury the capacity of schools is limited, the registration process is limited by some controls and an official source in the General Administration of Private Education said some schools already have high student densities, while others seek to maintain the quality and distinction of their educational system by organizing admission tests for new students.

The sources indicated that the ministry excluded some schools from the density ceiling during the last academic year due to the fact that no new schools were opened during the Corona pandemic.

CITRA seeks 'hidden client' feature

New way to protect consumer in telecommunications sector

KUWAIT CITY, June 5: According to informed sources, the Communications and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA) is preparing to contract with a company specialized in providing "hidden client" service, in preparation for conducting more field monitoring visits to telecommunication companies through this feature, with the aim of ensuring their compliance with the regulations and laws regulating for the sector, reports Al-Rai daily.

They explained that CITRA had previously applied this service, but it plans to expand its use and rely on it to a greater extent, especially after the success of the initial experiment launched by the authority last year. The value of the fines it collected from this experiment was close to a quarter of a million dinars. The submitted reports contributed to correcting many wrong practices.

The "hidden client" feature is a new way to protect the consumer in the telecommunications sector, as it conducts field visits in the form of a regular customer and goes through the customer experience to learn about the strengths and weaknesses in performance. He then carries out the evaluation process that he had been trained on previously, and prepares detailed reports regarding his experience and observations on the services provided and the employees' dealings with customers.

Contract

The previous contract involved undercover clients making 30 visits per month to the three telecommunication companies at an equal rate, i.e. about ten visits to each company. The variable that is expected to occur in the new CITRA contract is the doubling of the field visits of these clients to the telecom companies, and to limits that may reach the rate of making a daily visit to each telecom company at least in the first phase of the contract.

This step ensures coverage of all procedures to which real customers are exposed, and the reduction of violating procedures, either contractual or related to the quality of service, and the mechanism for dealing with customer complaints.

The undercover customer service is one of the field monitoring tools that CITRA will use more to ensure the continued improvement of the telecommunications companies' business environment, and achieve high protection of consumers' rights in this sector.

KUWAIT CITY, June 5, (KUNA): Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) said on Thursday that they distributed Eid clothes for 4,000 families in need, that are registered in KRCS records, in Kuwait.

In a statement to KUNA, KRCS Vice Chairman of Board of Directors Anwar Al-Hasawi said that distributing Eid Al-Adha clothes is one of the society's seasonal projects, to provide help to the limited income families and meet their needs.

Al-Hasawi affirmed the association's keenness to help these families by participating in religious and national occasions, as well as providing them with humanitarian assistance and healthcare.

He referred to Eid Al-Adha exhibition, which comes within the association's yearly held plans, and includes different products for all family members (clothing, shoes and accessories) as well as household items, stressing that all products are new and unused.



The Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to Malaysia, Rashid Al-Saleh, with the KUFPEC office team in Kuala Lumpur.

KUFPEC seeks to enhance existence in Asia

KUALA LUMPUR, June 5, (KUNA): Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Company (KUFPEC) seeks, through its office in Malaysia's Kuala Lumpur, to boost its regional existence and expand its exploration in Asia.

The office of KUFPEC in Kuala Lumpur presented a visual report by Yasmine Hussain on the basic business, operations and social responsibilities of the company, in addition to its future plans, in the presence of Kuwait's Ambassador to Malaysia Rashid Al-Saleh.

Speaking to KUNA in a statement, Al-Saleh lauded the company's activities and its regional office in Kuala Lumpur, stressing the importance of cooperation between the firm and the embassy.

Al-Saleh, meanwhile, discussed with Acting Director of KUFPEC office Ali Al-Saleem and its team the latest developments of the company's projects in Malaysia.

Al-Saleem welcomed, in a statement to KUNA, Al-Saleh's visit to the KUFPEC office.

In 2021, KUFPEC achieved the largest gas explora-



KUNA photos Kuwait's Ambassador to Malaysia, Rashid Al-Saleh, receives a souvenir from Acting Director of KUFPEC Office in Kuala Lumpur, Ali Salim.

tion achievement in the company's history off the coast of Sarawak, east of Malaysia.

The violations resulting from these visits will contribute to greatly narrowing the recurrence of violations in the telecommunication sector.

The undercover customer used by regulators in the telecommunications sector could be a citizen or resident, given that CITRA seeks to assess the quality of procedures followed with all customers, and protect their rights.

Meanwhile, the sources stressed that CITRA, within the framework of its su-

pervisory move to enable all customers of telecommunications services, seeks to oblige telecommunication companies to contract with all customers with special needs, unless the person has a mental illness.

They indicated that the sponsor requirement is to be dropped, which is what some telecommunication companies require from customers when contracting, especially from blind people.

The sources explained that it has

been noticed recently that complaints from people with special needs, especially the blind, have been increasing. Telecommunication companies require them to bring a sponsor to sign any contract with them. The sponsor is responsible for reading the terms of the contract for the customer, guaranteeing him in the event of any disruption in the payments of his contract, and justifying its position that the blind people are unable to read the contract.

Al-Azizia Water Company in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, a subsidiary of Abdul Razzaq Al-Sane & Sons Group Company, acquires SMT Plastic Company in Saudi Arabia



Abdul Razzaq Al-Sane & Sons Group Company (ARSG) announced that its subsidiary in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia "Al-Azizia Water Company" has officially completed its acquisition of SMT Plastic Company, a leader in the manufacturing of primary plastic products (preforms and caps) in the Middle East and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on the 4th of June 2023.

This acquisition is a major milestone in the

Group's expansion journey, which comes as part of its growth strategy, and in line with its vision to expand and enhance its business scope in terms of its current operational sectors and its geographical expansion. As always, ARSG's road map is to constantly seek the best opportunities that serve its goals in the further development of its present business sectors. This acquisition will reflect a positive addition to the Group's business portfolio in Kuwait and the GCC region.



UBS says it could complete Credit Suisse takeover on June 12

Switzerland's UBS said Monday that it expects to complete its takeover of longtime rival Credit Suisse as early as next week.

The two Zurich-based banks, longtime rivals, are uniting in a 3 billion-franc (\$3.3 billion) deal that was arranged hastily in March by the Swiss government and regulators after Credit Suisse's stock plunged and jittery depositors quickly pulled out their money.

The merger was aimed at stemming upheaval in the global financial system after the collapse of two U.S. banks shook confidence in the sector. The takeover will leave UBS as Switzerland's single banking titan.

UBS said Monday that it expects to complete the acquisition by as early as June 12.

"Completion is subject to the registration statement, which covers shares to be delivered, being declared effective

by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, and to satisfaction, or waiver by UBS, of other remaining closing conditions," UBS said in a statement.

The reputation of 167-year-old Credit Suisse was pummeled in recent years over stock price declines, a string of scandals and the flight of customers worried about the bank's future. (AP)



In this Oct. 21, 2015 file photo, the logo of the Swiss bank Credit Suisse is seen on a building in Zurich, Switzerland. (AP)

Market Movements

05-06-2023

	Change	Closing pts		Change	Closing pts
UAE - DFM	+1.37	3,652.64	EGYPT - EGX 30	-0.63	17,345.90
JAPAN - Nikkei	+2.20	32,217.43			
PAKISTAN - KSE 100	+0.68	41,638.53			
PHILIPPINES - PSEI	+0.15	6,521.64			
SAUDI - Tadawul	+0.64	11,293.59			

Business

Labor market partially recovers from pandemic slump

Consumer spending in Kuwait strong in Q1

By National Bank of Kuwait

The underlying drivers of consumer activity in Kuwait remain solid, including sustained job gains, government measures, and favorable demographics, with spending registering another firm rise in 1Q23. Nevertheless, growth has eased from previous quarters, as the effects of previous government stimulus and the post-pandemic demand rebound fade. Overall consumer spending is likely to continue to benefit from the government's intention to maintain an expansionary fiscal stance, supported by high oil revenues. That said, in the near term, spending growth could moderate further amid the volatile and overall weaker global macroeconomic environment and tighter monetary policy, which could weigh on consumer sentiment.

Spending robust despite easing growth, signaling resilience

Consumer spending, measured by total credit and debit card transactions (including ATM cash withdrawals), grew by 14% y/y in 1Q23, the same rate as the previous quarter and by 3.8% q/q. (Chart 1.) While growth has slowed from its peak of more than 30% early last year, it remains solid compared to pre-2019 levels, where growth averaged 7% y/y during 2014-19.

The initial trend of particularly strong overseas spending in the wake of the lifting of pandemic restrictions has now settled at more 'normal' levels. (Chart 2.) Card transactions outside of Kuwait did jump 20% y/y in 1Q23 (compared to a 7% rise in 4Q22), a quarter marked by a strong uptick in National Day overseas travel; although overseas spending still represents less than 6% of total consumer spending. As for local spending, growth further softened to 13% y/y.

Household credit softening amid higher interest rates

Household lending (excluding loans for the purchase of securities) has been providing solid support to consumer spending. The rate of increase in household credit has weakened in recent quarters, however, to 7% y/y at the end of 1Q23 (from 14% y/y in 1Q22), amid tighter monetary conditions. Lending growth in the 'consumer loans' sub-segment - which strips out housing loans and may be most closely related to the purchase of consumer durables - had slowed to 5.7% at the end of Q1 from a peak of 15.1% early last year.

Population and employment recovering

Population and labor markets both recorded a sharp recovery in 2022, following the return of some expats after their Covid-linked departures. The boost to private consumption from an expansion in the labor force and population growth, while undoubtedly positive, may not be so pronounced, given that most of the recent additions to the expat population and jobs are concentrated in labor-intensive and possibly lower-end jobs. Sustained job gains among Kuwaitis continue to be a solid driver of consumption growth, though.

According to data from the Kuwait Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI), the total popula-

tion of Kuwait reached 4.74mn in 2022, increasing by 8% y/y. The number of non-Kuwaitis rose by 11.1% y/y, outpacing the increase in Kuwaitis (+1.9%). Overall employment grew by 8.1% during the last six months of 2022, predominantly driven by the return of some expatriate jobs following the resumption of economic activity post-Covid. (Table 1.) Still, expat employment levels across many sectors are some way below their peak in 2019, suggesting a full recovery is yet to happen. Meanwhile, employment among Kuwaiti nationals inched up by 1.4% in the six months to December 2022 to 455K on mainly public sector job gains.

Average wages of Kuwaiti public sector workers rose by 1.8% y/y in 4Q22, the fastest growth rate in over two years, according to Kuwait Central Statistical Bureau and Labor Market Information System data. Broadly, increasing employment and growing

Consumer sentiment ebbing on unclear global outlook

As measured by ARA Research and Consultancy's Consumer Confidence Index, consumer sentiment has also been trending lower. (Chart 4.) Growing worries about the global economic outlook and moderating oil prices have contributed to the recently softer readings of the broad consumer sentiment index. The index for durable goods (consumer discretionary category) has been more volatile but is also broadly softening. The overall moderating trend in consumer confidence outlines some easing in growth in consumer activity.

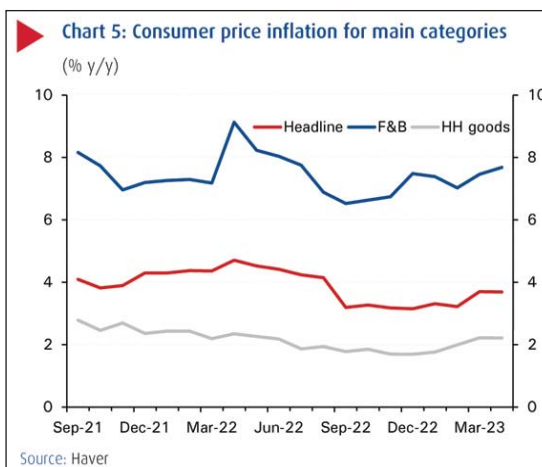
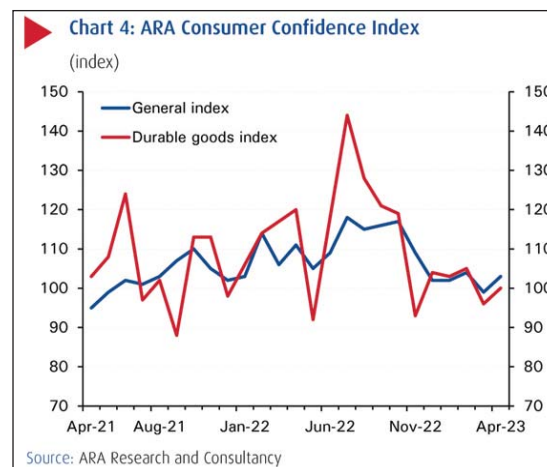
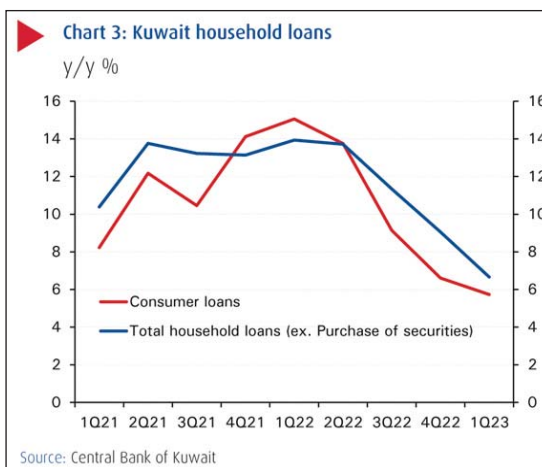
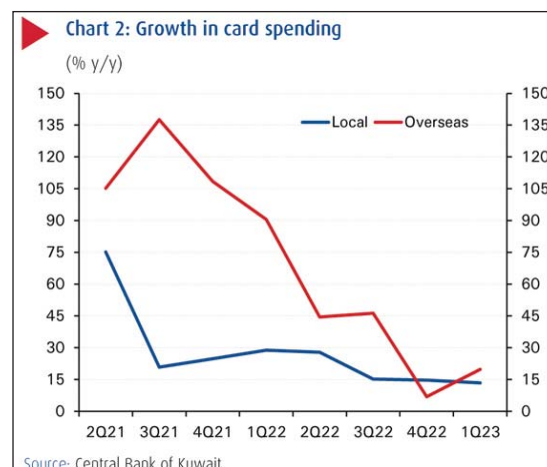
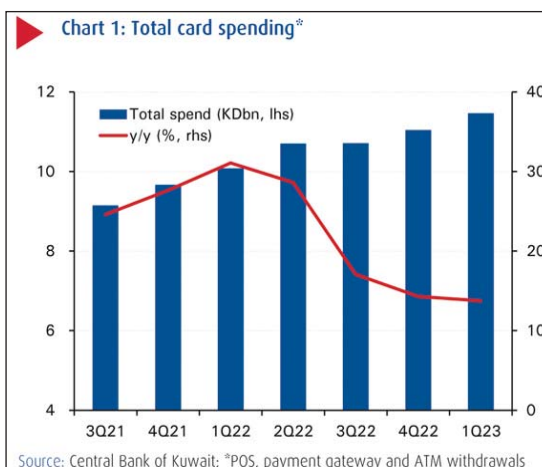
Inflation elevated, with food prices a main driver

Inflation in Kuwait in April stood at 3.7% y/y, unchanged from March but up from 3.2% at the end of 2022. Consumer prices have seen some renewed upward pressures this year across several key categories including food & beverages, clothing and housing services. (Chart 5.) Ramadan-related seasonality could explain some of this increase. Nevertheless, the overall inflation trend we see for the remainder of the year is one of moderation on easing consumer activity.

Fiscal stimulus could boost income and spending

We also expect fiscal policy to provide ongoing

support for the consumer sector going forward. The election of a new parliament in June could be followed by the approval of the draft budget for



	Employment ('000)			% y/y		
	Kuwaiti	Non-Kuwaiti	Total	Kuwaiti	Non-Kuwaiti	Total
2018	399	2,393	2,793	3.7	4.3	4.2
2019	409	2,522	2,931	2.4	5.4	5.0
2020	418	2,391	2,809	2.1	(5.2)	(4.2)
Jun-21*	423	2,338	2,761	1.3	(2.2)	(1.7)
Jun-22	449	2,167	2,616	6.1	(7.3)	(5.2)
Dec-22*	455	2,374	2,829	1.4	9.5	8.1

Source: PACI. Note: % change is for six months due to data unavailability.

FY23/24 proposed earlier this year. The draft outlined a 12% y/y increase in budgeted public expenditures, driven by a 13% rise in salaries and a 34% rise in subsidies. A part of this spending, however, consists of accrual payments to ministries for previous years' outlays so the positive impact on demand this year may be somewhat less. The government also aims to hire around 20K additional Kuwaiti employees in the public sector this fiscal year, which should support rising consumer demand.

WS drifts after report on economy

Asian stocks follow Wall St

NEW YORK, June 5, (AP): U.S. stocks were drifting Monday to begin what could be a quiet stretch following their best week since March.

The S&P 500 edged up 0.3% in morning trading. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 61 points, or 0.2%, at 33,705, as of 12:31 p.m. Eastern time, while the Nasdaq composite was 0.6 higher.

The indexes were listless after a report showed businesses in the accommodation, construction and other U.S. services industries grew in May for a fifth straight month, though by less than economists expected. It's the latest mixed reading on the U.S. economy, which has begun to slow under the weight of higher interest rates but has defied forecasts for a recession so far.

Stocks were roughly split between gainers and losers in the S&P 500. A gain for market heavyweight Apple helped lift Wall Street. It rose 1.7% ahead of an event where it's expected to unveil a long-rumored headset that will place its users between the virtual and real world.

In the oil market, crude gained after Saudi Arabia said it would cut back production in hopes of boosting its price. A barrel of U.S. crude rose 1.5% to \$72.84, and a barrel of Brent crude, which is the international standard, climbed 1.6% to \$77.36.

Both were close to \$120 a year ago, and their prices have fallen on worries that a strapped global economy would burn less fuel.

Elsewhere, Wall Street was relatively quiet. This upcoming week is light on earnings reports and top-tier economic data. That leaves few clues for the dominant question hanging over the market: Which will come first, the economy falling into a recession or inflation easing enough for the Federal

Reserve to cut interest rates?

That's why much attention is on next week, when the government will release the latest monthly updates on inflation at the consumer and wholesale levels. It's also when the Fed will meet next on interest rate policy. Traders are largely betting that it will stand pat on rates, which would mark the first meeting where it hasn't hiked in more than a year.

The bet on Wall Street, though, is that it could resume hiking rates in July. The reason for such a pause would be to give the Fed time to assess its furious pace of rate hikes over the last year.

The goal of high rates is to lower inflation by slowing the entire economy and dragging down prices for stocks, bonds and other investments. With rates at their highest level since 2007, several high-profile U.S. bank failures since March have already shaken the market, while the manufacturing industry has been contracting for months.

The job market, though, has managed to remain remarkably solid despite them. That's helped U.S. households continue to spend, which has kept the economy out of a recession.

Last week, data showed that U.S. employers unexpectedly accelerated their hiring in May, while increases in workers' wages slowed to keep some pressure off inflation.

Despite all the uncertainty about the economy, Wall Street remains on the edge of what's called a "bull market" following weeks of gains.

The S&P 500 is sitting just above 4,290, and if it finishes the day above 4,292.44, it will be more than 20% above where it was in mid-October. That would mean Wall Street's main measure of health has transformed from its frigid "bear market," when it fell more than 20% over nine months, into a powerful bull.

In the bond market, the yield on the 10-year Treasury fell to 3.69% from 3.70% late Friday.

The two-year Treasury, which moves more on expectations for the Fed, dropped to 4.49% from 4.51%.

It had been higher earlier in the morning, before the weaker-than-expected report on the U.S. services industries.

World stocks and Wall Street futures rose Monday after U.S. jobs data suggested a recession might be farther off while at the same time inflation pressures are weakening.

London and Frankfurt opened higher. Tokyo gained more than 2%. Shanghai and Hong Kong also rose.

Oil prices rose more than \$1.60 per barrel after Saudi Arabia announced it will cut output by 1 million barrels per day to support sagging prices.

Europe

In early trading, the FTSE 100 in London rose 0.4% to 7,641.19 and the DAX in Frankfurt gained 0.2% to 16,087.01. The CAC 40 in Paris was unchanged at 7,270.84.

Asia

In Asia, the Nikkei 225 in Tokyo advanced 2.2% to 32,217.43 and the Shanghai Composite Index added less than 0.1% to 3,232.44. The Hang Seng in Hong Kong gained 0.7% to 19,089.47. The Kospi in Seoul was 0.5% higher at 2,615.41 and the S&P ASX 200 in Sydney jumped 1% to 7,216.30.

India's Sensex opened up 0.5% at 62,844.36. Singapore and Jakarta gained. Markets in New Zealand and Thailand were closed for holidays.

Oil

In energy markets, benchmark U.S. crude rose \$1.64 to \$73.38 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract gained \$1.64 on Friday to \$71.74. Brent crude, the price basis for international oil trading, advanced \$1.65 to \$77.78 per barrel in London. It added \$1.85 the previous session to \$76.13.

Currencies

The dollar rose to 140.24 yen from Friday's 139.94 yen. The euro fell to \$1.0694 from \$1.0712.



People stand in front of an electronic stock board showing Japan's Nikkei 225 index at a securities firm Monday, June 5, 2023, in Tokyo. Asian stocks followed Wall Street higher on Monday after strong U.S. hiring data coupled with scant wage gains suggested a possible recession might be further away, but also that inflationary pressures are weakening. (AP)

Forecasting, monitoring and KI - Swarm intelligence for the energy transition at EM-Power Europe

With millions of solar installations, wallboxes and heat pumps, home storage systems and car batteries that will someday be able to feed electricity back into the grid, today's utility grid system is already so complex that utilities and grid operators would be lost without their digitalized systems. The more they know about when, where and how much electricity is being produced, fed into the grid and demanded by consumers, the

more precisely can they match their supply to the demand. This also makes it more profitable, as making up for shortages is expensive. When generation does not cover consumption within a balancing group, grid operators are forced to pay balancing costs. The more accurate the weather and yield forecasts for wind and solar power plants, the more successful the companies will be. Individuals who want to optimize

their self-consumption using batteries or controllable consumers like e-cars or heat pumps also require forecasts to determine what the electricity should be used for. The same goes for the energy management of buildings. At EM-Power Europe, the international exhibition for energy management and integrated energy solutions, companies from all around the world present their digitalization concepts as well as

innovative technologies and services for the optimized grid of the future. "Machine learning and AI play a crucial role in the irradiation forecast," Jan Remund, Head of the Department for Energy and Climate at Meteotest AG, a Swiss weather forecast provider, explains. The company is able to predict cloud movements by combining physical models with self-learning algorithms based on satellite images. "The accuracy for

the next few hours is quite high. The longer the time span, the less accurate the forecasts are," says Remund. His company collects irradiation and temperature data and uses it to make analyses, profiles and forecasts that can be integrated into the respective PV monitoring or control software. Companies can use the weather forecasts as a basis for calculating solar irradiation using dedicated software, or they can buy

such calculations. Grid operators rely on irradiation forecasts to balance the grid's feed-in and feed-out based on the production and demand forecasts. Meteotest, a monitoring and forecast specialist company from the South of Germany makes yield calculations based on the data of different weather forecast providers. The company also investigates how aerosols like ash or sand affect cloud formation.

Markaz: Kuwait's non-oil sector is expected to grow by 4.4% in 2023

GCC markets negative in May mainly due to short-term volatility

KUWAIT CITY, June 5: Kuwait Financial Centre "Markaz" recently released its Monthly Market Review report for the month of May 2023. Kuwait's All Share Index declined in May, posting a monthly loss of 4.8%. Among Boursa Kuwait's sectoral indices, Telecom and Banking sector lost 6.7% and 6.0% respectively for the month. Among Premier Market stocks, Mezzan Holding and Ali Alghanim Sons saw the biggest gains for the month, up by 12.4% and 7.7% respectively, on account of stronger earnings growth in Q1 2023. National Investments Co. fell the most for the month, down by 23.4%.

Kuwait consumer price inflation (CPI) rose by 3.7% y-o-y in April, the same

pace as in the previous month and 0.2% m-o-m primarily driven by food and clothing prices. Food inflation climbed to a nine-month high of 7.7% y-o-y. The World Bank expects Kuwait's economic growth to slow to 1.3% in 2023, down from 7.3% in 2022. The decline in oil and gas revenues and the slowdown in global economic activity are the main reasons for the fall in Kuwait's growth forecast. Kuwait's non-oil sector is expected to grow by 4.4% in 2023. On the positive side for the economy, the World Bank also expects Kuwait's inflation to decrease to 2.6% in 2023 and the current account surplus to reach 22% of GDP, compared to 26% in 2022.

Regionally, GCC markets were negative in May, with the S&P GCC composite index down 3.1% for the month. The decline was driven by the fall in oil prices, which weighed on investor sentiment. All equity indices, except Dubai and Bahrain, were negative for the month. Bahrain market rose 3.1% in the month, due to strong Q1 2023 corporate earnings and the positive sentiment surrounding the upcoming listing of Muntalakat Holding Company. The listing, scheduled for the second half of 2023, is

expected to attract foreign investors to the Bahraini stock market. Dubai market mildly gained 0.9% for the month, majorly driven by blue-chip stocks. Saudi markets witnessed a 2.6% monthly decline, primarily due to losses in the energy and banking sector stocks. Qatar National Bank and Emaar Properties were the top gainers among GCC blue chips, rising 4.6% and 3.7% for the month respectively.

The World Bank's Gulf Economic Update report has projected the GCC economies to experience slower growth in 2023 due to lower oil and gas earnings, and a global economic slowdown. The GCC region's economic growth is projected at 2.5% in 2023 and 3.2% in 2024. Qatar confirmed that the state's general budget recorded a surplus of QR19 billion (USD5.2 billion) in Q1 2023. The surplus will be utilized for purposes such as paying public debt, supporting the reserves of the Qatar Central Bank, and strengthening the assets of the Qatar Investment Authority. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) predicts that Qatar's medium-term growth will rise to around 4-4.5% after the expansion of the North Field boosts LNG production. Moody's Investors Service has upgraded Oman's ratings and maintained a positive outlook based on improvements in the country's fiscal surplus and spending restraint.



Rooftops on private houses are covered by solar panels to produce renewable electricity in Duellmen, Germany, Tuesday, May 3, 2022. The world is set to add a record amount of renewable electricity capacity this year as governments and consumers seek to offset high energy prices and take advantage of a boom in solar power. (AP)

High fuel prices contribute

Renewable energy surges on, driven by solar boom: report

BERLIN, June 5, (AP): The world is set to add a record amount of renewable electricity capacity this year as governments and consumers seek to offset high energy prices and take advantage of a boom in solar power, according to a new report Thursday.

The International Energy Agency said high fossil fuel prices - resulting from Russia's attack on Ukraine - and concerns about energy security had boosted the rollout of solar and wind power installations, which are expected to reach 440 gigawatts in 2023.

That's about a third more than the world added the previous year, taking the global installed capacity to 4,500 GW, roughly the combined total power output of the United States and China, the Paris-based agency said.

"The global energy crisis has shown renewables are critical for making energy supplies not just cleaner but also more secure and affordable," said Fatih Birol, the IEA's executive director.

"Governments are responding with efforts to deploy them faster," he said. Recent incentives to install renewables are already driving a significant uptake in the United States.

About two-thirds of this year's increase in renewable power capacity will come from photovoltaic, with both large-scale solar farms and consumer rooftop installations seeing significant growth.

IEA said manufacturing capacity for PV components was also surging, es-

pecially in China.

Construction of new wind farms is predicted to rebound after a period of low growth. However, in contrast to solar manufacturing, the supply chains for wind turbines aren't growing fast enough to meet demand, the agency said.

Birol also cautioned that power grids must be upgraded and expanded to cope with the intermittent nature of solar and wind power, which require a fundamentally different approach by network operators compared with existing coal, gas or nuclear plants.

The report forecast that several European countries, including Spain, Germany and Ireland, will see wind and solar's combined share of their overall annual electricity generation top 40% by 2024.

Shifting the global economy away from fossil fuels is one of the most important steps for reducing greenhouse gas emissions that cause global warming.

Experts say that to meet the Paris climate accord's goal of limiting temperature rise since pre-industrial times to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit), emissions need to be halved by 2030 and cut to "net zero" by mid-century.

The International Renewable Energy Agency, a separate body, has called for a major increase in wind and solar investments. Nations are expected to discuss setting an international target for the rollout of renewable energy at this year's U.N. climate summit in Dubai.

OpenAI boss is 'heartened' by talks with world leaders over will to contain AI risks

TEL AVIV, Israel, June 5, (AP): OpenAI CEO Sam Altman said Monday he was encouraged by a desire shown by world leaders to contain any risks posed by the artificial intelligence technology his company and others are developing.

Altman visited Tel Aviv, a tech powerhouse, as part of a world tour that has so far taken him to several European capitals. Altman's tour is meant to promote his company, the maker of ChatGPT - the popular AI chatbot - which has unleashed a frenzy around the globe.

"I am very heartened as I've been doing this trip around the world, getting to meet world leaders," Altman said during a visit with Israel's ceremonial President Isaac Herzog. Altman said his discussions showed "the thoughtfulness" and "urgency" among world leaders over how to figure out how to "mitigate these very huge risks."

The world tour comes after hundreds of scientists and tech industry leaders, including high-level executives at Microsoft and Google, issued a warning about the perils that artificial

intelligence poses to humankind. Altman was also a signatory.

Worries about artificial intelligence systems outsmarting humans and running wild have intensified with the rise of a new generation of highly capable AI chatbots. Countries around the world are scrambling to come up with regulations for the developing technology, with the European Union blazing the trail with its AI Act expected to be approved later this year.

"With the great opportunities of this incredible technology, there are also many risks to humanity and to the independence of human beings in the future," Herzog told Altman. "We have to make sure that this development is used for the wellness of humanity."

Israel has emerged in recent years as a tech leader, with the industry producing some noteworthy technology used across the globe.

Among its more controversial exports has been Pegasus, a powerful and sophisticated spyware product by the Israeli company NSO, which critics say has been used by authoritarian countries to spy on activists and dissidents.

SAN FRANCISCO, June 5, (AP): The hottest thing in technology is an unprepossessing sliver of silicon closely related to the chips that power video game graphics. It's an artificial intelligence chip, designed specifically to make building AI systems such as ChatGPT faster and cheaper.

Such chips have suddenly taken center stage in what some experts consider an AI revolution that could reshape the technology sector - and possibly the world along with it. Shares of Nvidia, the leading designer of AI chips, rocketed up almost 25% last Thursday after the company forecast a huge jump in revenue that analysts said indicated soaring sales of its products. The company was briefly worth more than \$1 trillion on Tuesday.

So what are AI chips, anyway? That isn't an easy question to answer. "There really isn't a completely agreed upon definition of AI chips," said Hannah Dehnen, a research analyst with the Center for Security and Emerging Technology.

In general, though, the term encompasses computing hardware that's specialized to handle AI workloads - for instance, by "training" AI systems to tackle difficult problems that can choke conventional computers.

Video game origins Three entrepreneurs founded Nvidia in 1993 to push the boundaries of computational graphics. Within a few years, the company had developed a new chip called a graphics processing unit, or GPU, which dramatically sped up both development and play of video games by performing multiple complex graphics calculations at once.

That technique, known formally as parallel processing, would prove key to the development of both games and AI. Two graduate students at the University of Toronto used a GPU-based neural network to win a prestigious 2012 AI competition called ImageNet by identifying photo images at much lower error rates than competitors.

The win kick-started interest in AI-related parallel processing, opening a new business opportunity for Nvidia and its rivals while providing researchers powerful tools for exploring the frontiers of AI development.

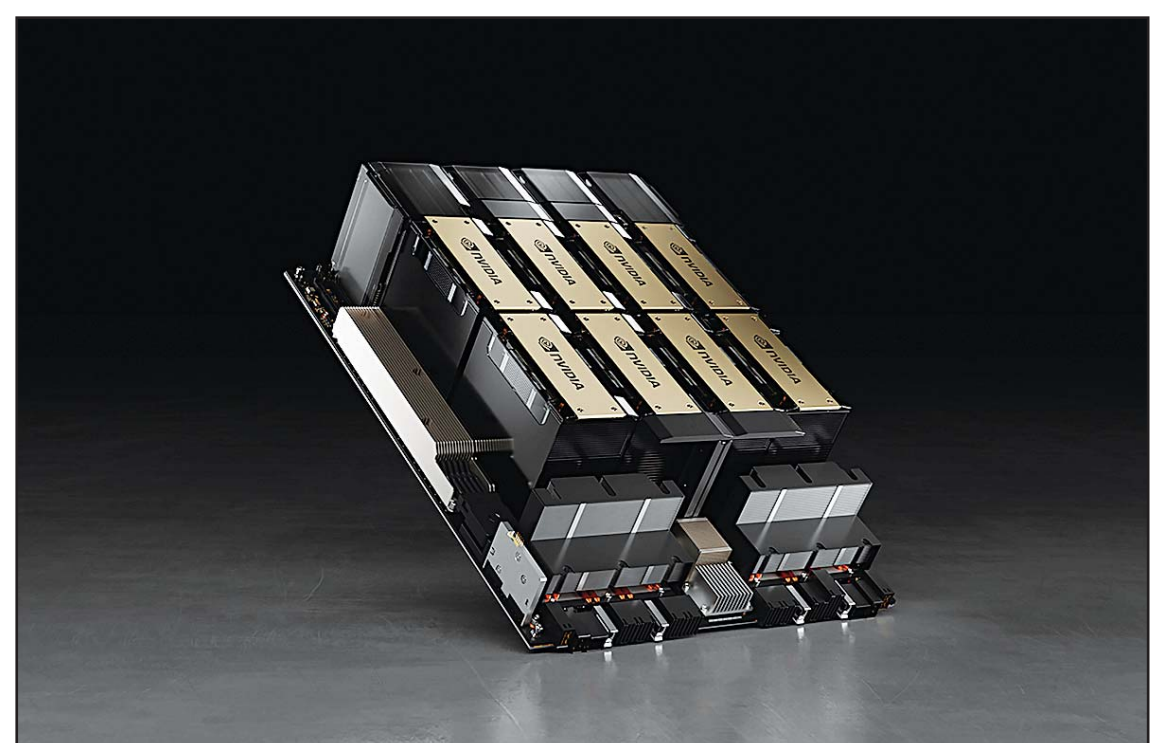
Modern AI chips Eleven years later, Nvidia is the dominant supplier of chips for building and updating AI systems. One of its recent products, the H100 GPU, packs in 80 billion transistors - about 13 million more than Apple's latest high-end processor for its MacBook Pro laptop. Unsurprisingly, this technology isn't cheap; at one online retailer, the H100 lists for \$30,000. Nvidia doesn't fabricate these complex GPU chips itself, a task that would require enormous investments in new factories. Instead it relies on Asian chip foundries such as Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. and Korea's Samsung Electronics.

Some of the biggest customers for AI chips are cloud-computing services such as those run by Amazon and Microsoft. By renting out their AI computing power, those services make it possible for smaller companies and groups that couldn't afford to build their own AI systems from scratch to use cloud-based tools to help with tasks that can range from drug discovery to customer management.

Other uses and competition Parallel processing has many uses outside of AI. A few years ago, for instance, Nvidia graphics cards were in

Investors see hot gold in them

AI chips are hot - here's what they are



This photo provided by the chipmaker Nvidia shows the company's HGX H100 module, which can use as many as eight AI chips to train artificial intelligence systems and perform other tasks. Such AI chips are tiny slivers of silicon designed to simplify and speed up the development of artificial intelligence systems such as ChatGPT, making them one of the hottest items in technology. (AP)

The Conversation

Fears of Chinese influence behind power surge

Committee on Foreign Investment in the US has grown more powerful

By Amitrajeet A. Batabyal

Rochester Institute of Technology

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

A Chinese private equity firm, Primavera Capital Group, acquired the well-known test preparation company Princeton Review and an online learning platform, Tutor.com, in May 2023.

The move, like other Chinese investments in tech and those that deal with personal information, is increasingly drawing the attention of politicians, the U.S. government and national security experts - especially as tensions rise between the U.S. and China.

What remains unclear, however, is if this seemingly routine business acquisition was reviewed by the Committee on Foreign Investment in the U.S., which has authority to examine transactions involving foreign investment. The committee is largely prohibited from publicly disclosing any information filed with it, including if it is reviewing a transaction or if one was referred for review.

While the committee is hardly a household name, its mission and expanding oversight have important implications for the U.S. economy and national security.

The Committee on Foreign Investment, a U.S. government interagency committee established in 1975 by President Gerald Ford, is tasked with studying and coordinating the implementation of policy on foreign investment in America.

Investment by foreign countries greatly benefits the U.S., supporting 10.1% of the total labor force in 2019. Yet beginning in the 1980s, the federal government grew increasingly concerned about potentially harmful effects of foreign investment in the U.S. For example, if a foreign firm gets control of sensitive technologies, it could hurt national competitive advantages or even threaten national security.

short supply because cryptocurrency miners, who set up banks of computers to solve thorny mathematical problems for bitcoin rewards, had snapped up most of them. That problem faded as the cryptocurrency market collapsed in

early 2022. Analysts say Nvidia will inevitably face tougher competition. One potential rival is Advanced Micro Devices, which already faces off with Nvidia in the market for computer graphics

chips. AMD has recently taken steps to bolster its own lineup of AI chips.

Nvidia is based in Santa Clara, California. Co-founder Jensen Huang remains the company's president and chief executive.

Warba announces Sunbula weekly draw winners

Warba Bank - the best bank in banking services for the corporate and investment sector and banking services for the investment sectors in Kuwait - announced the winners of the weekly Sunbula draw. The Bank will continue to make conduct weekly draws for 10 winners for the Sunbula account in the presence of a representative of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Warba Bank employees.

As for the lucky customers for the weekly Sunbula draw, 10 winners were chosen from Warba Bank's customers, each of whom received 1,000 Kuwaiti dinars. The Winners are: Mr. Waleed Hussein

Ali Al-Ansari, Mr. Salah Abdul-Wahhab Ali Najm, Mr. Muhammad Mister Shamrukh Al-Otaibi, Mr. Bader Nasser Ahmed Al-Omran, Ms. Dalal Khalid Kreidi Al-Dosari, Mr. AbdulRahman Taha Al-Ansari, Ms. Zainab Mufaddal Ramburwala, And Mr. Fawaz Salem Homoud Al Saqran, Mr. Nama Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Nama, and Mr. Mishaal Abdullah Al Ajmi. Meanwhile, the Sunbula account is the perfect choice for all those who wish to save money and achieve great financial returns on their balances at the same time; in addition to multiple opportunities to win cash prizes throughout the year. With regards to the conditions for winning the

Sunbula, Mr. Ahmed M. Almutawa, Area Manager Retail Banking Group states: "Only 100 KD is required to enter the weekly Sunbula draws and other major draws, whereby the customer still gets one chance per every 10 KD in the account, and the chances are calculated according to the lowest balance in the account during a month. Therefore, a full month must have passed in the account to qualify for the weekly draw, and two full months for the major draws to calculate the opportunities. There are no restrictions or limits for withdrawal and deposit, the higher the deposited amount, the greater the customer's chances of winning".



Ahmed M. Almutawa, Area Manager Retail Banking Group.

Get Kaspersky® Safe Kids for 3 months free from Zain app

Zain offers latest parental control tools to protect children online

KUWAIT CITY, June 5: Zain recently celebrated International Children's Day by announcing a new partnership with Kaspersky® Safe Kids to offer 3 months FREE when subscribing to the service from the Zain app. Kaspersky® Safe Kids brings the latest parental control tools to protect children online via a bundle of unique features that allow parents to monitor and control their kids' online usage on their smart devices to shield them from harmful and inappropriate content.

This step stems from Zain's tireless efforts to bring a safe and secure online experience for everyone, espe-

cially children, who continuously face the danger of being exposed to harmful and inappropriate content online. With this service, parents can enjoy peace of mind by having the ability to easily monitor and control their children's digital experience at any time and place.

Kaspersky® Safe Kids offers three main safeguards: monitoring and regulating children's online activities, limiting screen time, and setting boundaries to protect them from harmful content and interactions. The service is available via two dedicated apps, one for parents and another for children, and both apps fully support



Get 3 months on us - Kaspersky

English and Arabic interfaces. The apps are available on all popular operating systems for smartphones, tablets, and computers.

Monitoring

The service's top features include a precise and real-time child locator on the map, device use controls, application controls, online content filtering, calls and SMS monitoring, battery level tracker, screen time management, safe search in YouTube, and much more. Parents can easily control all these tools and more as they see fit.

Parental control apps and solutions

have become increasingly necessary in today's digital age due to the growing prevalence of internet connected devices and online platforms that expose children to potential risks such as cyberbullying, online predators, and explicit content. The COVID-19 pandemic has also led to increased remote learning and screen time, making parental control apps even more important for maintaining healthy technology habits and safeguarding children from online risks.

As parents cannot always be physically present to supervise their children's internet use, parental control apps provide an important layer

of protection and guidance to help children navigate the digital world safely and responsibly. For this, Zain was keen on partnering with Kaspersky, one of the world's biggest and most renowned cybersecurity companies.

Zain continues to stay ahead of the digital curve, offering the latest innovative technologies and services to customers. Representing Kuwait's biggest family of subscribers, the company is always committed to meeting customer expectations and serving their aspirations to provide the best and safest digital lifestyle experience.



A photo from the event.

Istanbul hosts aviation leaders

KA 'participates' in World Air Transport summit, IATA AGM

KUWAIT CITY, June 5: Kuwait Airways Chairman, Captain Ali Al-Dukhan and his accompanying delegation participated in the activities of the World Air Transport Summit and the 79th Annual General Meeting of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) held in the city of Istanbul, at the largest gathering of aviation industry leaders around the world from 4-6 June 2023.

On the sidelines of the event, Kuwait Airways Chairman, Captain Ali Al-Dukhan stated, "We are pleased to participate in the World Air Transport Summit, which coincides with the Annual General Meeting of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) in its 79th session, and held in Istanbul, strengthening relations between other airlines at the largest gathering of aviation industry leaders and experts around the world."

Al-Dukhan added, "This annual event attracts senior industry leaders, with more than 300 international airlines are members of the International

Air Transport Association. This is in addition to the presence of strategic partners and aircraft manufacturers, as well as representatives of international and regional organizations and authorities specialized in the field of aviation. Our participation comes within the framework of exchanging understanding and being acquainted with latest features and advancements present in the global aviation sector."

Al-Dukhan concluded by saying that topics of immense importance as well as significant developments related to the air transport sector at the global level were discussed during the summit, in addition to important events and factors effecting airlines around the world at all levels, such as global fuel prices and their effects, ensuring cyber security in airlines to prevent data breach, issues relating to environmental sustainability, and the latest developments related to the transition of airlines to sustainable aviation fuel to achieve net zero carbon emissions by the year 2050.



Representatives of Burgan Bank and Al Ahmadi Governorate.

Burgan renews its partnership with Al Ahmadi Governorate

KUWAIT CITY, June 5: Burgan Bank recently announced the renewal of its long-standing partnership with the Al Ahmadi Governorate, continuing its year-long sponsorship of local community initiatives under the governorate's social campaign for the fourth year in a row. Extending the cooperation aligns with the Bank's commitment to supporting community partners and its comprehensive social responsibility program.

As a national initiative designed to promote social and cultural development in Al Ahmadi, Kuwait's second-largest governorate, the social campaign aims to realize a wide range of goals that will positively impact everyday social life through multi-faceted programs targeting all segments of society.

Commenting on the renewed partnership, Mrs. Kholoud Rida AlFeel, Group Head of Marketing and Communications at Burgan Bank, said: "We take pride in the leading social role the Bank has built over the years. We are also delighted to resume our collaboration with Al Ahmadi Governorate to keep creating socially rewarding experiences for society. The success and significant impact of the governorate's campaign over the past few years, in terms of strengthening

social ties and driving positive change, has given us further motivation to continue this longstanding relationship and make a difference in the lives of our community members."

As part of the joint action, Burgan Bank will be supporting numerous activities and initiatives that are in line with its social responsibility pillars, which reflect the Bank's commitment to fostering education, sustainability, and environmental awareness. To this end, the Bank will sponsor the fourth edition of the Al Ahmadi Governorate's blood donation campaign in June to continue advocating for increased public health awareness. As for the month of October, the Bank will take part in the governorate's tree planting activities at various Al Ahmadi schools, as part of its ambition to reduce the impact of climate change across Kuwait and bring school students closer to nature. The Bank will also support the governorate's sports events, such as next year's Al Ahmadi Marathon, in continuation of its dedicated efforts to bolster the sports sector in Kuwait. In addition, the Bank will actively support the "Let's Be Aware" (Diraya) campaign through school visits to spread banking awareness and promote financial culture among children of all ages.

Co supports environment protection initiatives and projects

Boursa Kwt joins fight against plastic pollution on World Environment Day

KUWAIT CITY, June 5: Boursa Kuwait joined the fight to beat plastic pollution on World Environment Day 2023, reiterating its commitment to being a responsible and sustainable company that enters into strategic partnerships to support environment protecting initiatives and projects. The Kuwaiti stock exchange partnered with the United Nations Development Programme, the Regional Office for West Asia for the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the Environmental Voluntary Foundation (EVF), and Omniya Collection System to remind the global society of the importance of people's actions to curb plastic pollution. This year's World Environment Day also celebrates the steps governments and businesses are taking to tackle plastic pollution and transition to a circular economy.

The celebration of World Environment Day comes in line with Boursa Kuwait's Corporate Sustainability (CS) strategy, which aims at creating long-term economic, social and environmental value for the company's stakeholders. A fundamental component of its overarching business strategy, the CS strategy informs and inspires Boursa Kuwait's efforts to contribute to the sustainable development of the community in which it operates and is in line with Goal 13 - Climate Action - and Goal 17 - Partnership for the Goals - of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Mr. Naser M. Al-Sanousi, Senior Director of Marketing and Communication at Boursa Kuwait, commented on this occasion, saying: "As we commemorate World Environment Day, Boursa Kuwait proudly joins hands with our esteemed partners who share our vision for a sustainable future. Today, we come together to relay a message that symbolizes our collective commitment to protecting the environment through the adoption and promotion of sustainable living and business practices."

Resolve

"Our Corporate Sustainability strategy guides our approach to sustainability, and we are steadfast in our resolve to strive to create lasting change in our community and build a greener, healthier planet for generations to come. We pledge to help address plastic pollution and its detrimental impact on the environment together with our partners, and we are committed to working toward fostering a circular economy by supporting eco-friendly initiatives, promoting responsible consumption and reducing single-use plastics," added Mr. Al-Sanousi.

Ms. Hideko Hadzialic, UNDP Resident Representative said: "As we are celebrating World Environment Day 2023, marking its 50th anniversary under the theme #BeatPlasticPollution, let us work together on practical actions to fight the harmful effects of plastic pollution before it's too late. Plastic pollution has far-reaching impacts on nature, people's health and wellbeing, the climate as well as agriculture and the economy. Communities worldwide are realizing the serious consequences of plastic pollution and recognizing the urgent need for everyone to come together and take action."

Boursa Kuwait also took this opportunity to reinforce its partnership with the EVF and the Kuwait Dive Team in association with the UNEP, supporting the Dive Team's efforts for the preservation of Kuwait's marine environment and continuing their support of the Dive Team's initiatives.

Speaking on behalf of UNEP, Mr. Sami Dimassi, UNEP Director and Regional Representative, West Asia Region said, "It is very important to shed light on the partnerships between the private sector and the non-governmental organizations, especially when it comes to the environment and its preservation. We are grateful for our long-standing relationship with Boursa



Naser M. Al-Sanousi



Hideko Hadzialic



Sami Dimassi



Kuwait Dive Team



Sanaa Al-Ghemlas

Event empowers people with special needs

ABK participates in PADA annual career fair

KUWAIT CITY, June 5: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) recently announced its participation in the Public Authority for Disability Affairs' (PADA) fourth annual career fair. The event aimed to empower people with disabilities and provide them with opportunities to work in the banking sector, thereby promoting their integration into society.

Throughout the career fair, ABK employees engaged with job seekers, discussed available opportunities, and provided them with information about the Bank's recruitment process.

Afrah Al Arbash, General Manager of Human Resources at ABK, highlighted the Bank's commitment to supporting the empowerment of people with disabilities. She stated, "At ABK, we believe in providing equal employment opportunities to all individuals, including those with disabilities. We are proud to participate in this career fair organized by PADA, which aligns

with our commitment to promoting diversity and inclusion in the workplace."

The career fair offered a platform for people with disabilities to explore career opportunities, gain exposure to different companies and sectors, and interact with potential employers. The event aimed to raise awareness about their capabilities, dispel stereotypes, and encourage society to recognize their skills and potential.

The Bank's participation in this career fair aligns with its commitment to promoting social and economic empowerment for people with disabilities. By providing equal employment opportunities, ABK aims to promote a more

equitable and just society and contribute to building a diverse and inclusive Kuwait.

Al Arbash said, "We fully support PADA's mutual goal of supporting special needs individuals. Our participation in this event is a testament to our dedication pertaining to this cause and commitment to breaking societal barriers."

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.



Al Arbash

Kuwait and the Kuwait Dive Team, who have set a tremendous precedent for other organizations with their efforts to preserve Kuwait's marine environment."

Dr. Dari Al-Huwail, the Kuwait Dive Team's International Relations Officer, hailed Boursa Kuwait's support of the Team and the Environmental Voluntary Foundation, saying, "We're happy, proud and appreciative of the generous support from Boursa Kuwait and the United Nations Environment Programme for our efforts to lift harmful debris from Kuwait's Bay and the surrounding beaches. Since 2009, we have successfully lifted over 2000 tons of hazardous waste, of which 300 tons were plastic. Additionally, we have found that over half of the waste lifted in the past couple of years has been plastic. Let's join together on World Environment Day and beat plastic pollution."

Boursa Kuwait also announced a partnership with Omniya Collection System to recycle plastic and support plastic recycling initiatives. A non-profit Kuwaiti company, Omniya Collection System is on a mission to

make the country clean by spreading environmental awareness and separating plastic waste from the source for recycling and preventing it from reaching landfills or the sea.

Rewards

Boursa Kuwait became the first recipient of Omniya's "Blue Bottle" certificate, which rewards companies for their efforts to recycle plastic and promote a circular economy. This proactive approach aims to substantially reduce the stock exchange's environmental impact and contributes to the foundation of a sustainable future for Kuwait.

Speaking on behalf of Omniya Collection System, Chief Executive Officer Ms. Sanaa Al-Ghemlas said, "On World Environment Day, I am humbled to partner with Boursa Kuwait, the first recipient of our "Blue Bottle" certificate. Omniya is a non-profit company fully supported by the private sector, and I look forward to welcoming more companies from that sector to help us give Kuwait a sustainable future."

Boursa Kuwait's Corporate Sus-

tainability strategy stipulates ensuring initiatives apply and fall in line with the company's corporate social responsibility (CSR), industry best practice standards and investor expectations. With the two pillars of Community, and Environment, the strategy provides the foundation for creating strong and sustainable partnerships that ultimately achieve success and allows Boursa Kuwait to leverage the capabilities and strengths of other organizations specializing in different fields and integrate sustainability efforts with the company culture.

As part of the "Environment" pillar of the CS strategy, Boursa Kuwait has launched several green initiatives. In association with UNEP's Regional Office for West Asia, EVF, and the Kuwait Dive Team, Boursa Kuwait has sponsored a national campaign to remove hazardous waste from Kuwait Bay. The company also began a major initiative to renovate its buildings and facilities, which contributed to saving energy and water, thereby reducing its carbon footprint. It has also partnered with EnviroServe, the first electronics recycling company in Kuwait.



EVOQ DART-TQ+

At the 71st ASMS meeting, Bruker Corporation (Nasdaq: BRKR) highlights its commitment to develop novel technology and improved mass spec workflows for the applied markets requirements of robustness, ease-of-use, and highest confidence in food/beverage, forensic/toxicology, industrial and environmental analysis. Applied mass spectrometry is evolving to where customers require simplified, robust, cost-effective and environmentally sustainable workflows.

In response, Bruker is introducing the unique triple-quad (TQ) mass spectrometer EVOQ DART-TQ+, a high-performance workhorse that enables straightforward routine analysis from simplified tuning and method development through data analysis and report generation for improved efficiency and productivity. Featuring the first and only fully integrated DART™ (Direct Analysis in Real Time) ionization source, the EVOQ DART-TQ+ eliminates complex and time-consuming

Bruker introduces novel EVOQ™ DART-TQ+

gas or liquid chromatography for many point-of-need routine workflows. Bruker launches new impact™ II VIP high-resolution QTOF mass spectrometer with the novel VIP-HESI source, delivering ultimate sensitivity for comprehensive screening and quantitation tasks. Building on the proven reliability of the impact QTOF series, new technical innovations further enhance the sensitivity of the impact II VIP in Full-Sensitivity High-Resolution mode with no compromise

in high-performance mass resolution, sensitivity, and dynamic range. Bruker implements the new TargetScreener™ 4D which brings the power of TMS (trapped ion mobility spectrometry) to analyte screening and quantitation. Backed by more than 2,400 measured and predicted analyte CCS (collision cross section) values, TargetScreener 4D provides ultimate confidence in highly selective LC-TIMS-QTOF compound quantitation with even more reliable identification. (AP)

'Reigniting cancer moonshot'

Massive Bio joins CancerX to accelerate AI use in cancer care

NEW YORK, June 5: Massive Bio, a globally recognized leader in the oncology space, has announced its appointment as a founding member of CancerX, a groundbreaking initiative endorsed by The White House. This appointment situates Massive Bio at the forefront of a national public-private partnership aiming to revolutionize the fight against cancer. Spearheaded by the rejuvenated Cancer Moonshot initiative, CancerX is co-hosted by Moffitt Cancer Center and Digital Medicine Society (DiMe), bringing together diverse stakeholders to foster greater equity and reduce financial toxicity in cancer care and research.

leverage the power of AI and technology to drive innovative solutions for cancer care. Our partnership will foster greater equity in clinical trial access, ultimately bringing us closer to our shared vision of personalized, patient-centric healthcare."

As a trailblazer in the application of artificial intelligence in oncology, Massive Bio's involvement in CancerX symbolizes a significant leap towards combining the best resources from public and private sectors to expedite innovation in the fight against cancer. The alliance showcases the power of public-private partnerships in leveraging technology to advance precision oncology, clinical trials, and cancer research, thereby transforming the future of oncology and setting a new precedent for the role of AI in combating cancer.

As cancer continues to pose a significant global challenge, Massive Bio stands committed to mitigating this scourge. Selin Kurnaz PhD, Co-Founder, and CEO of Massive Bio echoed the firm's unwavering dedication to connecting cancer patients with clinical trials, regardless of their location or financial circumstances. "Massive Bio is proud to be part of this transformative journey. Being chosen as a founding member of CancerX confirms our dedication to advancing precision oncology and democratizing access to groundbreaking cancer treatments. We aim to bridge the divide between cancer patients and the world of clinical trials, inspiring a movement that boosts clinical trial enrollment rates to 20% in the United States," stated Dr. Kurnaz.

Massive Bio, a leader in leveraging artificial intelligence and concierge services to empower cancer patients, is thrilled to announce a non-exclusive partnership with The Oncology Institute (TOI), a premier provider of cutting-edge cancer care. This strategic alliance aims to redefine the landscape of cancer treatment by harnessing advanced AI technology and establishing an extensive nationwide network. cancer care but will also empower patients with access to the most advanced precision medicine available. Our combined expertise will open new doors for patients, connecting them to potentially life-saving treatments and groundbreaking clinical trials."

Dr. Arturo Loaiza-Bonilla, Co-Founder, and Chief Medical Officer of Massive Bio emphasized the vital role of clinical trials in the quest for improved cancer treatments. He noted, "All therapeutic innovations in oncology have emerged thanks to clinical trials. Yet, most patients don't have access to them. We aim to change that." Dr. Loaiza-Bonilla highlighted the firm's commitment to provide all cancer patients with equal access to cutting-edge treatments and emerging clinical trials, irrespective of their location or financial capability.

Under this visionary collaboration, Massive Bio will support TOI with evaluating the eligibility of patients for TOI's active clinical trial portfolio, utilizing their cooperative business model driven by AI and precision medicine. By leveraging sophisticated algorithms and comprehensive diagnostic information, Massive Bio will empower patients and ordering physicians at TOI with clinical decision-support and clinical trial matching services.

Deliberate
Santosh Mohan, Vice President, Digital, Moffitt Cancer Center emphasized, CancerX is a collaborative platform fostering innovation and collaboration in the fight against cancer. He noted, "Beating cancer demands bold innovation and deliberate collaboration. CancerX is creating a dynamic ecosystem where ideas can flourish, expertise and resources can be shared, and innovative solutions can be rapidly developed and equitably deployed in the fight against cancer. As a co-host, we take immense pride in the diverse and inclusive community of pioneers coming together as members, all driven by a shared commitment to advancing the goals of the Cancer Moonshot. Together, we will advance the frontiers of cancer research and treatment through digital innovation, while striving to reduce the incidence and burden of cancer for all people."

Cristina Green, Vice President of Clinical Research, shared her enthusiasm for this partnership, stating, "This collaboration with Massive Bio complements our ability to connect patients with advanced cancer therapies and cutting-edge clinical trials. By leveraging AI-driven precision medicine, we are confident that this partnership will accelerate breakthroughs in cancer research and deliver life-changing treatment options to our patients."

Jennifer Goldsack, CEO of the Digital Medicine Society (DiMe) and co-host of CancerX, expressed her excitement about the new collaboration. She said, "I am thrilled to collaborate with Massive Bio in the CancerX initiative. In our digital age, it's crucial that we

Furthermore, this collaboration will expand the scope of cancer research through Massive Bio's recent ChatGPT-powered chatbots for oncology research release during ASCO 2023.

'Provide quality care to patients'

Abu Dhabi's DoH, Eli Lilly collaborate for clinical research, healthcare innovation

ABU DHABI, UAE, June 5: The Department of Health – Abu Dhabi (DoH), the regulator of the healthcare sector in the Emirate, signed a Declaration of Collaboration with Eli Lilly, a global healthcare leader. As capital of the United Arab Emirates, this partnership reinforces Abu Dhabi's position as a leading destination for healthcare and life science by seeking to establish a framework for collaboration on clinical research, real-world evidence and healthcare technology.



Abu Dhabi DoH declaration of collaboration with Eli Lilly.

Witnessed by HE Mansoor Al Mansoori, Chairman of the Department of Health – Abu Dhabi (DoH) and Leigh Ann Pusey, Executive Vice President, Corporate Affairs and Communications at Lilly, the Declaration of Collaboration was signed by Dr. Asma Al Mannaai, Executive Director of the Research and Innovation Center at the Department of Health – Abu Dhabi and Irina Zaporozhets, Vice President and General Manager Middle East at Lilly.

Dr. Asma Al Mannaai said: "Through international collaborations, Abu Dhabi seeks to lead research groups supported by global partners to explore the resilience and sustainability of the healthcare sector worldwide, as well as provide quality care to patients. Under the directives of our wise leadership, Abu Dhabi is paving the way for the region's transformative journey through innovation, life science and valuable partnerships with global players in the field. The Department of Health – Abu Dhabi (DoH) is proud to partner with Eli Lilly to further improve healthcare outcomes, while providing quality care and breakthrough treatments to patients in Abu Dhabi and beyond."

Both parties will drive clinical research and life science activities in the Emirate with a focus on oncology, diabetes and neurological diseases, while leveraging Abu Dhabi's evolving healthcare and life science infrastructure and capabilities.

Focus

Irina Zaporozhets said: "Our collaboration with the Department of Health – Abu Dhabi reflects Lilly's deep commitment to expanding access to our medicines and promoting innovation to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of healthcare delivery."

Led by DoH, an Abu Dhabi delegation is visiting the United States between June 1st, 2023 and June 8th, 2023 to showcase the Emirate's partnership opportunities and explore collaboration with leading organisations in research and development, manufacturing and health innovation.

The delegation's mission will culminate in Boston, coinciding with Abu Dhabi's participation at BIO Interna-

Infection is challenging, debilitating disease

Seres, Nestlé announce US availability of Vowst, first FDA-approved drug for rCDI

CAMBRIDGE, Mass, June 5: Seres Therapeutics, Inc. (Nasdaq: MCRB) and Nestlé Health Science have announced that Vowst™ (fecal microbiota spores, live-brpk) is now commercially available for patients. Vowst, formerly called SER-109, is the first and only US Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved orally administered microbiota-based therapeutic to prevent recurrence of infection (CDI) in adults following antibacterial treatment for recurrent CDI (rCDI). Vowst is not indicated for the treatment of CDI.

eligible patients in my practice," said Carl Crawford M.D., Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine at Weill Cornell Medical College. "Recurrent C. difficile infection is a challenging and debilitating disease, and Vowst has potential to make a meaningful impact to this patient community."

Resources

Seres Therapeutics and Nestlé Health Science are committed to broad access for appropriate patients. The VowstVoyage Support Program offers a range of resources and programs designed to help eligible patients prescribed Vowst access and initiate treatment. The program includes the Vowst Co-Pay Savings Program for eligible, commercially insured patients to help reduce their out-of-pocket costs.

Vowst is indicated to prevent the recurrence of Clostridioides difficile infection (CDI) in individuals 18 years of age and older following antibacterial treatment for recurrent CDI (rCDI).

Recurrent C. difficile infection is a gastrointestinal infection caused by C. difficile bacteria. rCDI is linked to

dysbiosis of the gastrointestinal microbiome and is associated with increased morbidity and mortality. CDI has been characterized as an Urgent Health Threat by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). rCDI results in a substantial burden on the healthcare system with the average rCDI-related annual costs per patient at approximately \$43K.2

Seres Therapeutics, Inc. (Nasdaq: MCRB) is a commercial-stage company developing novel microbiome therapeutics for serious diseases. Seres' lead program, Vowst™, obtained US FDA approval in April 2023 as the first orally administered microbiota-based therapeutic to prevent recurrence of C. difficile infection (CDI) in adults following antibacterial treatment for recurrent CDI and is being commercialized in collaboration with Nestlé Health Science. Seres is evaluating SER-155 in a Phase 1b study in patients receiving allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplantation. The Company is also conducting research to inform further development of microbiome therapeutics for ulcerative colitis.

tional Convention 2023 to exhibit the Emirate's growth and development of its biotechnology industry.

The DoH is the regulatory body of the healthcare sector at the Emirate of Abu Dhabi and ensures excellence in

healthcare for the community by monitoring the health status of the population. DoH defines the strategy for the health system, monitors and analyses the health status of the population and performance of the system. In addition, DoH shapes

the regulatory framework for the health system, inspects against regulations, enforces standards, and encourages adoption of world-class best practices and performance targets by all healthcare service providers in the Emirate.

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'Deeply troubled' by Duke of Sussex's absence

Harry a no-show on first day of court showdown with UK tabloids

LONDON, June 5, (AP) — Prince Harry's highly anticipated showdown against the publisher of the Daily Mirror kicked off Monday without him present in court - and the judge was not happy.

Harry's lawyer said the Duke of Sussex would be unavailable to testify following opening statements because he'd taken a flight from Los Angeles after the birthday of his 2-year-old daughter, Lilibet, on Sunday.

"I'm a little surprised," Justice Timothy Fancourt said, noting he had directed Harry to be in court for the first day of his case.

Mirror Group Newspaper's lawyer, Andrew Green, said he was "deeply troubled" by Harry's absence on the trial's opening day.

The case against Mirror Group is the first of the prince's several lawsuits against the media to go to trial, and one of three alleging tabloid publishers unlawfully snooped on him in their cutthroat competition for scoops on the royal family.

Harry's lawyer, David Sherborne, said phone hacking and forms of unlawful information gathering were carried out on such a widespread scale, it was implausible the publisher's newspapers used a private investigator to dig up dirt on the prince only once, which is what they have admitted.

"The ends justify the means for the defendant," Sherborne said. Stories about Harry were big sellers for the newspapers, and some 2,500 articles had covered all facets of his life - from his illnesses at school to ups and downs with girlfriends, Sherborne said.

"There was no time in his life when he was safe from these activities," Sherborne said. "Nothing was sacrosanct or out of bounds."

Mirror Group has said it used documents, public statements and sources to legally report on the prince.

But Sherborne it was not hard to infer that Mirror journalists used the same techniques on Harry - eavesdropping on voicemails and hiring private eyes to snoop - as they did on others.

Harry had been scheduled to testify Tuesday, but his lawyer was told last week the duke should attend Monday's proceedings in London's High Court in case the opening statements concluded before the end of the day.

Harassment

When he enters the witness box, Harry, 38, will be the first member of the British royal family in more than a century to testify in court. He is expected to describe his anguish and anger over being hounded by the media throughout his life, and its impact on those around him.

He has blamed paparazzi for causing the car crash that killed his mother, Princess Diana, and said harassment and intrusion by the UK press, including allegedly racist articles, led him and his wife, Meghan, to flee to the US in 2020 and leave royal life behind.

The articles at issue in the trial date back to his 12th birthday, in 1996, when the Mirror reported Harry was feeling "badly" about the

divorce of his mother and father, now King Charles III.

Harry said in court documents that ongoing tabloid reports made him wonder whom he could trust as he feared friends and associates were betraying him by leaking information to the newspapers. His circle of friends grew smaller, and he suffered "huge bouts of depression and paranoia." Relationships fell apart as the women in his life - and even their family members - were "dragged into the chaos."

He says he later discovered that the source wasn't disloyal friends but aggressive journalists and the private investigators they hired to eavesdrop on voicemails and track him to locations as remote as Argentina and an island off Mozambique.

Mirror Group Newspapers said it didn't hack Harry's phone and its articles were based on legitimate reporting techniques. The publisher admitted and apologized for hiring a private eye to dig up dirt on one of Harry's nights out at a bar, but the resulting 2004 article headlined "Sex on the beach with Harry" is not among the 33 in question at trial.

Phone hacking that involved guessing or obtaining security codes to listen in on celebrities' cell phone voice messages was widespread at British tabloids in the early years of this century. It became an existential crisis for the industry after the revelation in 2011 that the News of the World had hacked the phone of a slain 13-year-old girl.

Owner Rupert Murdoch shut down the paper and several of his executives faced criminal trials.

People

Variety



This image released by Universal Pictures shows Cillian Murphy in a scene from 'Oppenheimer.' (AP)

Film

Nolan breaks down the best ways to watch a movie

'Oppenheimer' made to be seen on big screen

LOS ANGELES, June 5, (AP) — It's no secret that Christopher Nolan made "Oppenheimer" to be seen on the big screen. But not all big screens are created equal. That's part of the reason why Universal Pictures has made "Oppenheimer" tickets available early for over a thousand "premium large format" (or PLF) screens, with options including IMAX 70mm, 70mm, IMAX digital, 35mm, Dolby Cinema and more.

Knowing that even those words can get overwhelming and technical, Nolan went a step further: In an exclusive interview with The Associated Press, he offered a guide to his favorite formats, explaining why it matters and even where he likes to sit so that audiences don't feel like they need a film school degree (or one in theoretical physics) before settling on a theater.

"You rarely get the chance to really talk to moviegoers directly about why you love a particular format and why if they can find an IMAX screen to see the film on that's great," Nolan said. "We put a lot of effort into shooting the film in a way that we can get it out on these large format screens. It really is just a great way of giving people an experience that they can't possibly get in the home."

In a film about J. Robert Oppenheimer, the theoretical physicist who oversaw the development of first atomic bomb during World War II, this will be especially pivotal in viewing the Trinity Test, the first detonation of a nuclear weapon. Nolan and his effects teams recreated the blast, with all its blinding brilliance.

"We knew that this had to be the showstopper," Nolan said. "We're able to do things with picture now that before we were really only able to do with sound in terms of an oversize impact for the audience-an almost physical sense of response to the film."

"Oppenheimer," starring Cillian Murphy, opens in theaters on July 21.

"Oppenheimer" was shot using some of the highest resolution film cameras that exist. Like "Dunkirk" and "Tenet," "Oppenheimer" was filmed entirely on large format film stock, meaning a combination of IMAX 65mm and Panavision 65mm (think David Lean/"Lawrence of Arabia"), that's then projected in 70mm.

"The sharpness and the clarity and the depth of the

image is unparalleled," Nolan said. "The headline, for me, is by shooting on IMAX 70mm film, you're really letting the screen disappear. You're getting a feeling of 3D without the glasses. You've got a huge screen and you're filling the peripheral vision of the audience. You're immersing them in the world of the film."

Nolan has been shooting with IMAX cameras since "The Dark Knight." Audiences would regularly gasp at seeing its first shot projected in IMAX 70mm. Though it's "just a helicopter shot" of some buildings in Chicago, it helps explain the ineffable power of the format.

On a technical level, the IMAX film resolution is almost 10 times more than a 35mm projector and each frame has some 18,000 pixels of resolution versus a home HD screen that has 1,920 pixels.

The 5mm difference goes back to when that extra space on the film had to be reserved for the soundtrack. With digital sound, that's unnecessary and it is "purely a visual enhancement," Nolan explained.

Disappears

"We have to plan very carefully because by shooting an IMAX film, you capture a lot of information," he said. "Your movie is going to translate very well to all the formats because you're getting the ultimate amount of visual information. But there are different shapes to the screen - what we call aspect ratios. What you have to plan is how you then frame your imagery so that it can be presented in different theaters with equal success."

Starting with "The Dark Knight," they developed a system that they call "center punching the action" so that nothing is lost.

Cinematographer Hoyte van Hoytema is also always aware of the "frame lines for the different theaters" when looking through the camera.

On the biggest presentations, IMAX 1.43:1 (the massive square screen) the screen essentially disappears for the audience. For other formats like 35mm, the top and the bottom get cropped.

But, Nolan said, "from a creative point of view, what we've found over the years is that there's no compromise to composition."

The IMAX cameras are just too loud for dialogue

heavy scenes, but Nolan is optimistic about the new cameras being developed.

Some of "Oppenheimer" is presented in black and white for a very specific story reason.

"I knew that I had two timelines that we were running in the film," Nolan said. "One is in color, and that's Oppenheimer's subjective experience. That's the bulk of the film. Then the other is a black and white timeline. It's a more objective view of his story from a different character's point of view."

Nolan's desire for the black and white portions to be of equal image quality to the rest of the film led to the development of the first ever black and white IMAX film stock, which Kodak made and Fotokem developed.

"We shot a lot of our hair and makeup tests using black and white. And then we would go to the IMAX film projector at CityWalk and project it there," he said. "I've just never seen anything like it. To see such a massive black and white film image? It's just a wonderful thing."

For Nolan, the "best possible experience" to view "Oppenheimer" in theaters is the IMAX 70mm film presentations. These are also among the rarest, currently set for 25 locations in North America including the AMC Universal CityWalk in Los Angeles, the AMC Lincoln Square in New York, the Cinemark Dallas, the Regal King of Prussia near Philadelphia and the AutoNation IMAX in Fort Lauderdale.

The prints span over 11 miles of film stock, weigh some 600 pounds and run through film projectors horizontally.

There will also be over one hundred 70mm prints ("a fabulous presentation," Nolan said) sent to theaters around the world, with over 77 (and more to come) on sale in North America at major chains and many independent locations like the Music Box in Chicago and the AFI Silver in Washington D.C.

"The two formats are sort of different and I love them both," he said.

The sequences projected in IMAX 70mm really "come to life" on those screens, and vice versa for the 70mm sequences on those specific projectors. In IMAX theaters, for example, things shot with IMAX film cameras will expand vertically to fill the entire screen.

Features

ARABIC TIMES

TUESDAY, JUNE 6, 2023

NEW YORK: "Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse" opened in US and Canadian theaters with a massive \$120.5 million, more than tripling the debut of the 2018 animated original and showing the kind of movie-to-movie box-office growth that would be the envy of even the mightiest of Hollywood franchises.

Sony Pictures' "Across the Spider-Verse," the multi-verse spinning animated Spider-Man spinoff, sailed way past expectations, according to studio estimates Sunday, riding terrific reviews (95% fresh on Rotten Tomatoes) and strong buzz for the hotly anticipated follow-up to the Oscar-winning "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse."

In the sometimes formulaic realm of superhero movies, 2018's "Into the Spider-Verse" offered a blast of originality, introducing a teenage webslinger from Brooklyn, Miles Morales (Shameik Moore), a punk-rock Gwen (Hailee Steinfeld) and a host of other Spider-People. It launched with \$35.4 million on its way to \$384.3 million worldwide.

"Across the Spider-Verse," which exponentially expands the film's universe-skipping worlds, cost \$100 million to make, about half the cost of the average live-action comic-book movie. So at even the forecast \$80 million that "Spider-Verse" had been expected to open, "Across the Spider-Verse" would have been a hit.

Instead, it has turned out to be a box-office sensation, and the second largest domestic opening of 2023, trailing only "The Super Mario Bros. Movie." "Across the Spider-Verse," directed by Joaquim Dos Santos, Kemp Powers and Justin K. Thompson, even topped "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3," which debuted with \$118 million, for best opening weekend of the summer so far.

The film, shepherded by writer-producers Phil Lord and Christopher Miller, is part two in a trilogy that will conclude with a third chapter to be released next year. "Across the Spider-Verse" over-performed abroad, too, with \$88.1 million overseas.

After few family offerings for much of the first half of 2023, theaters are suddenly flush with kid-friendly entertainment. Last week's top film, the Walt Disney

Co.'s live action remake "The Little Mermaid," slid to second with \$40.6 million in its second weekend. After launching with \$95.5 million and \$117.5 million over the four-day Memorial Day weekend, "The Little Mermaid" dipped 57%, partly due to the formidable competition from "Across the Spider-Verse."



Steinfeld

Moore

Having cost a reported \$250 million to make, "The Little Mermaid" was met with mixed reviews but more enthusiasm from audiences, which gave it an "A" CinemaScore. But overseas, where previous Disney live-action remakes have thrived, is proving harder territory this time. The film added \$42.4 million internation-

ally over the weekend. (AP)

CAIRO: Ibrahim Bilal, a young Egyptian artist, amazingly succeeds in making use of his creative skills and expressive energy in creating highly accurate sculptural works on pencil tips.

Despite fragile materials and

small sizes of pencils used in sculpture, Bilal can carve artifacts, pharaonic statues, leaders, prominent historical figures, Quranic verses and mosques, as well as models of cars and animals.

Bilal's wonderful artistic works attracted the attention and admiration of thousands of social media users. (KUNA)

People & Places

Media

HK journo wins appeal

Chuck Todd is leaving NBC 'Meet the Press'

NEW YORK, June 5, (AP): **Chuck Todd** said on Sunday that he'll be leaving "Meet the Press" after a tumultuous near-decade of moderating the NBC political panel show, to be replaced in the coming months by Kristen Welker.

Todd, 51, told viewers that "I've watched too many friends and family let work consume them before it was too late" and that he'd promised his family he wouldn't do that.

Todd has often been an online punching bag for critics, including Donald Trump, during a polarized time, and there were rumors that his time at the show would be short when its executive producer was reassigned at the end of last summer, but NBC gave no

indication this was anything other than Todd's decision. It's unclear when Todd's last show will be, but he told viewers that this would be his final summer.

"I leave feeling concerned about this moment in history but reassured by the standards we've set here," Todd said. "We didn't tolerate propagandists, and this network and program never will."



Todd

Welker, a former chief White House correspondent, has been at NBC News in Washington since 2011 and has been Todd's chief fill-in for the past three years. She drew praise for moderating the final presidential debate between Trump, a Republican, and Joe Biden, a Democrat, in 2020.

Her "sharp questioning of lawmakers is a masterclass in political interviews," said Rebecca Blumenstein, NBC News president of editorial, in a memo announcing Welker's elevation on Sunday.

Now Welker, 46, will be thrust into what promises to be another contentious presidential election cycle.

The Sunday morning political interview show has aired since 1947, led by inventor and first host Martha Rountree. Its peak came in the years that Tim Russert moderated, from 1991 until his death in 2008, with its footing less certain since then. Tom Brokaw briefly filled in after Russert's death, and David Gregory replaced him until being forced out in favor of Todd.

Moderator

Welker will be the first Black moderator of "Meet the Press" and the first woman since Rountree left in 1953.

Todd said that he was proud of expanding the "Meet the Press" brand to a daily show, which initially aired on MSNBC but was shifted to streaming, along with podcasts and newsletters, even a film festival.

"He transformed the brand into a vital modern-day franchise, expanding its footprint to an array of new mediums, and kept 'Meet the Press' at the forefront of political discourse," Blumenstein said.

It didn't stop critics from jumping on to social media when they didn't like an interview Todd conducted. Trump even anointed Todd with one of his signature nicknames, Sleepy Eyes, and later called on NBC to fire Todd in 2020 over its airing of a CBS interview clip with his then-Attorney General William Barr. Todd later said the show had been unaware at the time of a longer soundbite of the interview that would have provided more context, and he apologized for the mistake.

Todd was roasted at the White House Correspondents' Association dinner in 2022 by Trevor Noah, who pointed him out in the audience and said, "How are you doing? I'd ask a follow-up, but I know you don't know what those are."

Todd alluded to his critics in announcing his exit on Sunday.

"If you do this job seeking popularity, you are doing this job incorrectly," he said. "I take the attacks from partisans as compliments. And I take the genuine compliments with a grain of salt when they come from partisans."

The goal of each show, he said, is to "make you mad, make you think, shake your head in disapproval at some point and nod your head in approval at others."

In the just-concluded television season, "Meet the Press" was third in viewers after CBS' "Face the Nation" and ABC's "This Week," each of them averaging between 2.5 million and 2.9 million viewers, the Nielsen ratings company said.

Also:

HONG KONG: An award-winning Hong Kong journalist won an appeal quashing her conviction related to work on her investigative documentary Monday in a rare court ruling upholding media freedom in the territory.

Bao Choy was found guilty in April 2021 of deceiving the government by getting vehicle ownership records for journalistic purposes after she had declared in her online application that she would use the information for "other traffic and transport related issues."

The investigative journalist was trying to track down perpetrators of a mob attack on protesters and commuters inside a train station during the massive anti-government protests in 2019 for her documentary.

Choy was fined 6,000 Hong Kong Dollars (\$765) for two counts of making false statements at that time and called it "a very dark day for all journalists in Hong Kong." That ruling also sparked outrage among local journalists over the city's shrinking press freedom.

On Monday, judges of the city's top court unanimously ruled in Choy's favor in a written judgment, quashing her conviction and setting aside the sentence.

"The issues of falsity and knowledge were wrongly decided against the appellant because her journalistic investigation into the use of the vehicle on the dates in question did fall into the wide catchall category of 'other traffic and transport related matters,'" the judgment read.

Even if it did not, it was "not an irresistible inference that she knew that to be false," the judgment said. There is no reason that "bona fide journalism" should be excluded from the phrase, it added.

Choy told reporters outside the court she was happy to learn about the judgment, saying it had stated the importance of the city's constitutionally protected freedom of press and speech.

"Over the last few years, we might have found that many things have disappeared quietly," she said. "But I believe our beliefs in our hearts can't be taken away that easily. No matter I win or lose today, the persistence (demonstrated) over the last few years is already a meaningful thing."

She said she hoped the outcome would be encouraging news to all reporters still working hard in the city.



Sierra Ferrell performs at Railbird Music Festival on Sunday, June 4, at The Infield at Red Mile in Lexington, Ky. (AP)

Music

Young artist doesn't dodge his father's legacy

Prine makes his own way in music

NASHVILLE, Tenn., June 5, (AP): Standing before a packed house at The Basement, one of Nashville's most intimate music venues, Tommy Prine talked about the death of his father.

"It sucks to lose a parent at any age - in my case when he was the world's greatest songwriter," he said during a recent sold-out show.

Prine's father, singer-songwriter John Prine, died of complications from the coronavirus in April 2020 at the age of 73. His death prompted a surge of worldwide mourning remarkable even for a time in which grief had become an everyday thing.

The heartbreak was especially acute in the music world. John Prine's kindness to aspiring musicians only added to the connections he made with his music. Many channeled their grief into tribute songs, straining to process the unthinkable.

It turns out something similar was happening in Prine's own family.

Last year, Tommy Prine released "Ships in the Harbor," a song as moving and vulnerable as anything written by anyone about Prine's father. It doesn't run from what he lost but pushes back against the impulse to curl up in the fetal position. It comes as close as any song out there to putting the colossal weight of grief caused by the pandemic in its proper place.

Now 27, Tommy Prine is poised to put out an entire album of songs about loss, love and growing up. "This Far South," set for release on June 23, is brave not only in the head-on way it deals with his father's death, but in how the son of a legend confronts the inevitable questions that come with practicing the same craft.

In an undertaking laced with risk, Tommy Prine neither turns away nor tries too hard. He's made an album that's all his own and it's mesmer-

izing.

"Honestly, even if my Dad wasn't who he was, I feel like I would've made the same record," Prine said in an interview with The Associated Press. "I didn't include these songs because of who he is, and I also didn't shy away from them because of who he is."

Writing songs helped Prine sort through all he had lost. The intimacy of that journey makes his father's legendary status feel almost like a distraction.

"I'm Tommy Prine and I lost my Dad in the pandemic, and that's going to be a focal point of what I'm trying to get across," he explained. "And like, I understand that it was a pretty public thing, and most people are going to have that context - and I think it will actually serve the record that they have that context - but you know, I don't think that they need to."

"I think they can just listen to it from the perspective of a young man who lost his father too soon."

Experience

The occasional references are vivid but never cloying: The card games they won't play, the conversations they won't have. In a beautiful song called "By the Way," he touches on the unique experience of hearing his father's voice in unexpected moments.

"I don't want to talk about the day you slipped away," Prine sings. "It's still hard to hear your voice in the songs that we used to sing."

But Prine shares other vulnerabilities, and the influences of people who aren't his father figure in as much or even more. The hand of co-producer Ruston Kelly, for example, can be heard in the album's anthemic flourishes and confessional lyrics. A song called "Reach the Sun" starts with a late-night panic attack but ultimately soars in a style reminiscent of Kelly's

best work, including the excellent album he just released.

Kelly joined Prine on stage at The Basement, and in an interview afterward mentioned another influence on both of them, Sufjan Stevens. Kelly had steered Prine toward Stevens' "Carrie & Lowell" album, and Prine heard a sound suited to the wistful urgency he wanted to convey.

Prine said he never set out to be a singer-songwriter - "It was probably the last thing I wanted to do for the rest of my life" - but it proved to be a "saving grace" when he confronted the challenge of losing his father.

Given the shadow that looms over anyone named Prine who dares to try his hand at creating original music, listeners would do well to imagine how they would respond if they didn't know this album came from the son of a legend. It's possible, maybe even likely, that Prine's music will find a whole new audience, on social media and in other ways music passes from hand to hand these days. Some listeners his age and younger may never have heard of his father, but these songs will make connections on their own.

But anyone who listens will hear the promise of an artist following his heart with uncommon courage. John Prine fans might hear something familiar in the album's disarming honesty, but they'd also encounter a new voice delivering music that crackles with intensity.

Prine says he doesn't think about the legacy question much, though it has crossed his mind. But that's just one more thing that he has put in its proper place.

"I'm just making the music that I want to make, and music that is a representation of who I am as a person," he said. "I had a completely different set of experiences growing up than my father had, and I have my own story to tell."



Tommy Prine poses for a portrait in Nashville, Tenn., on April 25, 2023, to promote his debut album 'This Far South,' set for release on June 23. (AP)



Cosby



Valentino

Variety

AMSTERDAM: The blockbuster exhibition of paintings by Dutch Master **Johannes Vermeer** closed its doors for the final time on Sunday, with the art and history national museum of the Netherlands hailing the show as its most successful ever.

The Rijksmuseum said the exhibition that drew on collections around the world to bring together 28 of the 37 paintings generally ascribed to Vermeer attracted 650,000 visitors from 113 countries during its 16-week run that started in early February.

The large number of visitors - including French President **Emmanuel Macron**, movie director **Steven Spielberg** and Oscar winner **Jamie Lee Curtis** - came despite the museum limiting numbers to ensure everybody got a good view of masterpieces such as "Girl with a Pearl Earring" and "The Milkmaid."

"Vermeer is the artist of peacefulness and intimacy. We wanted the visitors to enjoy it to the fullest," museum general director **Taco Dibbitts** said. "This was only possible by limiting the number of visitors."

The exhibition included seven paintings that had never previously been displayed publicly in the Netherlands, among them three from The Frick Collection in New York.

For art lovers who didn't manage to get their hands on one of the highly-sought-after tickets, six Vermeer paintings will remain on show in the Rijksmuseum's Gallery of Honor - four from the museum's own collection along with "The Girl with the Red Hat" from the National Gallery of Art in Washington and "Young Woman Seated at a Virginal" from The Leiden Collection in New York. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: A former model who alleges **Bill Cosby** drugged and sexually assaulted her and another woman at his home in 1969 sued him under a new California law that suspends the statute of limitations on sex abuse claims.

In her lawsuit, **Victoria Valentino**, 80, says she was an actress and singer 54 years ago, when she met Cosby, now 85. The comedian and actor later approached her at a Los Angeles café, where he spotted her crying over the recent drowning death of her 6-year-old son.

The Associated Press does not identify people who say they have been sexually

assaulted unless they come forward publicly.

Cosby offered to pay for a spa treatment for Valentino and a friend, and then sent a chauffeured car to pick the women up for dinner. That evening at a steakhouse, Cosby gave them each a pill, she said in the court filing.

"Here! Take this!" the lawsuit alleges

Cosby said to them. "It will make you feel better. It will make us all feel better."

Cosby then drove the women to his house, where Valentino passed out on a couch, and later woke up and witnessed him sexually assaulting her unnamed friend, according to the lawsuit. The court documents allege Cosby then

"engaged in forced s..." with Valentino while she was incapacitated from the drug.

Valentino's allegations come on the heels of lawsuits last year by six Cosby accusers in New York under a similar provision known as a "lookback" law that allows adults to file sexual abuse cases for allegations that had fallen outside the statute of limitations.

The former "Cosby Show" star, who has been accused of rape, sexual assault and sexual harassment by at least 60 women, has denied all allegations involving sex crimes. He was the first celebrity tried and convicted in the #MeToo era - and spent nearly three years at a state prison near Philadelphia before a higher court threw out the conviction and released him in 2021.

His spokesperson, **Andrew Wyatt**, said that Valentino's lawsuit lacks "any proof or facts" and that so-called lookback laws violate constitutional rights aimed at protecting crime victims and "those that are accused of a crime."

"What graveyard can Mr Cosby visit, in order to dig up potential witnesses to testify on his behalf?" Wyatt asked in a statement. "America is continuing to see that this is a formula to make sure that no more Black Men in America accumulate the American Dream that was secured by Mr Cosby."

The lawsuit in LA County Superior Court was filed nearly two years after Cosby left prison when the Pennsylvania Supreme Court overturned his 2018 sexual assault conviction. (AP)



Award-winning Hong Kong journalist Bao Choy shows the Court of Final Appeal written judgement to member of the press after being cleared by the city's top court in Hong Kong, Monday, June 5. Choy won an appeal quashing her conviction related to work on her investigative documentary Monday in a rare court ruling upholding media freedom in the territory. (AP)

Health

'Avoid off-brand drugs'

Hormone patches have lower BP risk than pills

WASHINGTON, June 5, (AP) — Women often use hormone therapy to relieve hot flashes and other menopause symptoms — and new research suggests patches or creams may be safer for their blood pressure than pills.

As women's bodies produce lower levels of reproductive hormones during menopause their risk for heart disease rises. High blood pressure further increases that risk — but it's not clear whether there's a link with hormone therapy for menopause symptoms.

Canadian researchers wondered if the way hormones are absorbed — orally, vaginally or through the skin -- could play a role.

The University of Calgary team examined health records of more than 112,000 women ages 45 and older who filled prescriptions for at least six months' worth of estrogen-only hormone treatment between 2008 and 2019. They tracked which women went on to develop high blood pressure at least a year after starting treatment.

While the differences weren't huge, women who took estrogen pills had a 14% higher risk of developing hypertension compared to those using skin patches or creams, the researchers reported Monday. Oral estrogen carried a 19% greater risk than vaginal versions.

The findings were published in the journal Hypertension.

Hormone therapy has a mix of risks and benefits that mean it's not for everyone. Today it's prescribed not to prevent disease but to relieve menopause-related symptoms — generally using the lowest possible dose for the shortest time. Most commonly used are combination pills of estrogen and another hormone, progestin. (Estrogen-only pills typically are prescribed to women without a uterus.)

Different versions of hormone therapy may work better for different menopause symptoms, something the study didn't address.

But it adds important clues to understanding the complex relationship between hormone therapy and blood pressure, said Dr. Garima Sharma, a women's heart specialist with Virginia's Inova Health System and the American Heart Association.

Sharma would like to see a more rigorous trial that compares different hormone versions. But she pointed to a possible biological explanation: Maybe oral estrogen affects enzymes linked to blood pressure as it's being processed, while skin and vaginal versions have much more limited activity in the body.

Still, "these findings are very clinically relevant," Sharma said in an email, and suggest it's especially important to monitor blood pressure in women who use oral hormone therapy.

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Obesity: The US Food and Drug Administration is warning consumers not to use off-brand versions of the popular weight-loss drugs Ozempic and Wegovy because they might not contain the same ingredients as the prescription products and may not be safe or effective.

Agency officials said this week that they have received reports of problems after patients used versions of semaglutide, the active ingredient in the brand-name medications, which have been compounded, or mixed in pharmacies. Officials didn't say what the problems were.

The trouble is that those versions, often sold online, contain a version of semaglutide that is used in lab research and has not been approved for use in people.

"Compounded drugs are not FDA-approved, and the agency does not verify the safety or effectiveness of compounded drugs," the notice said.

Sales of semaglutide products have soared in the past few years after the drug was shown to spur fast and significant weight loss. The drugs manufactured by Novo Nordisk include brands Ozempic and Rybelsus, used to treat diabetes, and Wegovy, approved to treat obesity.

Demand for the medications has outstripped supply. As of May, Ozempic and Wegovy remain on the FDA's list of drug shortages. When drugs are in short supply, compounding pharmacies are permitted to produce versions of those medications.

Consumers should only use drugs containing semaglutide with a prescription from a licensed health care provider and obtained from a state-licensed pharmacy or other facilities registered with the FDA, the agency said.

Births: US births were flat last year, as the nation saw fewer babies born than it did before the pandemic, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported Thursday.

Births to moms 35 and older continued to rise, with the highest rates in that age group since the 1960s. But those gains were offset by record-low birth rates to moms in their teens and early 20s, the CDC found. Its report is based on a review of more than 99% of birth certificates issued last year.

A little under 3.7 million babies were born in the U.S. last year, about 3,000 fewer than the year before. Because the numbers are provisional and the change was small, officials consider births to have been "kind of level from the previous year," said the CDC's Brady Hamilton, the lead author of the report.

U.S. births were declining for more than a decade before COVID-19 hit, then dropped a whopping 4% from 2019 to 2020. They ticked up about 1% in 2021, an increase experts attributed to pregnancies that couples had put off amid the early days of the pandemic.

More findings from the report: ■ The highest birth rates continue to be seen in women in their early 30s. The number of births for women that age was basically unchanged from the year before. Births were down slightly for women in their late 20s, who have the second-highest birth rate.

■ Births to Hispanic moms rose 6% last year and surpassed 25% of the US total. Births to white moms fell 3%, but still accounted for 50% of births. Births to Black moms fell 1%, and were 14% of the total.

■ The cesarean section birth rate rose slightly, to 32.2% of births. That's the highest it's been since 2014. Some experts worry that C-sections are done more often than medically necessary.

■ The US was once among only a few developed countries with a fertility rate that ensured each generation had enough children to replace itself — about 2.1 kids per woman. But it's been sliding, and in 2020 dropped to about 1.6, the lowest rate on record. It rose slightly in 2021, to nearly 1.7, and stayed there last year.

More complete and detailed 2022 numbers are expected later this year. That data should offer a better understanding of what happened in individual states and among different racial and ethnic groups, Hamilton said.

It also may show whether births were affected by the U.S. Supreme Court decision last June overturning Roe v. Wade, which allowed states to ban or restrict abortion. Experts estimate that nearly half of pregnancies are unintended, so limits to abortion access could affect the number of births.

If such restrictions are having an effect on births, it didn't show up in the national data released Thursday.

It's possible the abortion restrictions will lead to higher births rates in 2023 — more likely among younger women than older moms, said Ushma Upadhyay, a reproductive health researcher at the University of California, San Francisco. But even if there is a rise, it may not bring the nation back to pre-pandemic birth levels, given other trends, she added.

"I don't know if we'll ever get back there," she said.



Sharma



This Oct. 2, 2012 photo shows a low-dose estrogen skin patch. Women often use hormone therapy to relieve hot flashes and other menopause symptoms - and new research suggests whether they choose pills, patches or creams might matter for their blood pressure. The findings were published in the journal Hypertension on Monday, June 5. (AP)



A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket lifts off from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, Fla. June 4. The rocket, carrying 22 second generation V2 Mini Starlink satellites, is the first of two launches scheduled for June 5. (AP)



De la Cueva

Macron

Discovery

Island marks 1,000th bday: France's beloved abbey of Mont-Saint-Michel has reached a ripe old age. It's been 1,000 years since the laying of its first stone.

The millennial of the UNESCO World Heritage site and key Normandy tourism magnet is being celebrated until November with exhibits, dance shows and concerts. French President Emmanuel Macron is heading there on Monday.

Macron plans to deliver a speech and to see a new exhibit tracing the Romanesque abbey's history via 30 objects and pieces, including a restored statue of Saint Michael. Legend has it that the archangel Michael appeared in 708, duly instructing the bishop of nearby Avranches to build him a church on the rocky outcrop.

The exhibit, two years in the making, opened last month. It covers the complex process of building what is considered an architectural jewel on a rocky island linked to the mainland only by a narrow causeway at high tide.

Four crypts were constructed on the granite tip along with a church on top. The exhibit explains how the original structure, built in 966, became too small for pilgrims, spurring on the builders to create the 11th century abbey that stands to this day.

France has spent more than 32 million euros (\$34 million) over 15 years to restore the building, and the work is nearing completion. Authorities have also tried in recent years to protect the monument's surrounding environment from the impact of mass tourism.

One of the most popular French destinations outside Paris, Mont-Saint-Michel island attracted 2.8 million visitors last year, including 1.3 million for the abbey. It was not closed to visitors for the presidential visit, but local authorities were taking measures for it to go as smoothly as possible. (AP)

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Museum to unveil collections: It's not as if Madrid was short on world-ranking galleries with the likes of the Prado Museum, the Thyssen-Bornemisza and the Reina Sofia, among others.

Spain is set to unveil what is touted as one of Europe's cultural highlights of the year with the opening in the Spanish capital of The Royal Collections Gallery. The swanky new museum will feature master paintings, tapestries, sculptures, decorative art pieces, armory and sumptuous royal furniture collected by Spanish monarchs over five centuries, spanning the empire's Hapsburg and Bourbon dynasties.

"This is the biggest museum project in Spain in decades, and also in Europe", says Ana de la Cueva, President of the Patrimonio Nacional, a government body that runs the Gallery.

Unlike many other monarchies, Spain's

The Conversation

Stem cell therapies can provide new ways to stop tumors

Triggering cancers to become normal cells

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

How cells become cancerous is a process researchers are still trying to fully understand. Generally, normal cells grow and multiply through controlled cell division, where old and damaged cells are replaced after they die by new cells. Sometimes this process stops working, leading cells to start growing uncontrollably and develop into a tumor.

Traditionally, cancer treatments like chemotherapy, immunotherapy, radiation and surgery focus on killing cancer cells. Another type of treatment using stem cells called differentiation therapy, however, focuses on persuading cancer cells to become normal cells.

We are researchers who study how stem cells, or immature cells that can develop into different types of cells, behave in states of health and disease. We believe that stem cells can provide potential treatments for cancer of all types in many different ways.

Stem cells are unspecialized cells, meaning they can eventually become any one of the various types of cells that make up different parts of the body. They can replenish cells in the skin, bone, blood and other organs during development, and regenerate and repair tissues when they're damaged.

There are different types of stem cells. Embryonic stem cells are the first cells that initially form after a sperm fertilizes an egg, and can give rise to all other cell types in the human body. Adult stem cells are more mature, meaning they can replace damaged cells only in one type of organ and have a limited ability to multiply. Researchers can reprogram adult stem cells, or differentiated cells, in the lab to act like embryonic stem cells.

Because stem cells can survive

longer than regular cells, they have a much higher probability of accumulating genetic mutations that can result in loss of control over their growth and ability to regenerate. This is why many tumors harbor a small subpopulation of cells that function like stem cells. These so-called cancer stem cells are thought to be responsible at least in part for cancer initiation, progression, metastasis, recurrence and treatment resistance.

Accumulating evidence is also showing that cancer stem cells can differentiate into multiple cell types, including noncancerous cells. Researchers are taking advantage of this fact through a type of treatment called differentiation therapy.

Differentiation

The concept of differentiation therapy originated from scientists observing that hormones and cytokines, which are proteins that play a key role in cell communication, can stimulate stem cells to mature and lose their ability to regenerate. It followed that forcing cancer stem cells to differentiate into more mature cells could subsequently stop them from multiplying uncontrollably, making them become normal cells.

Differentiation therapy has been successful in treating acute promyelocytic leukemia, an aggressive blood cancer. In this case, retinoic acid and arsenic are used to block a protein that stops myeloid cells, a type of blood cell derived from the bone marrow, from fully maturing. By allowing these cells to fully mature, they lose their cancerous qualities.

Furthermore, because differentiation therapy doesn't focus on killing cancer cells and doesn't surround healthy cells in the body with harmful chemicals, it can be less toxic than traditional treatments.

There are many other potential ways to use stem cells to treat cancer. For example, cancer stem cells

can be directly targeted to stop their growth, or turned into "Trojan horses" that attack other tumor cells.

Quiescent cancer stem cells, which don't divide but are still alive, are another potential drug target. These cells typically play a big role in treatment resistance for various cancer types because they are able to regenerate and avoid death even better than regular cancer stem cells. Their quiescent quality can persist for decades and lead to a cancer relapse. They are also challenging to distinguish from regular cancer stem cells, making them difficult to study.

Researchers can also genetically engineer stem cells to express a protein that binds to a desired target in a cancer cell, increasing the efficacy of treatments by releasing drugs right at the tumor. For example, mesenchymal stem cells derived from bone marrow naturally migrate toward and stick to tumors, and can be used to deliver cancer drugs directly to cancer cells.

Stem cells can also be used to make organoid models, or miniature versions of organs, to screen potential cancer drugs and study the underlying mechanisms that lead to cancer.

Although, stem cells hold numerous advantages in their use in cancer therapy, they also face various challenges. For example, many current stem cell therapies that aren't used in combination with other drugs are unable to completely eliminate tumors. There are also concerns about stem cell therapies potentially promoting tumor growth.

Despite these challenges, we believe that stem cell technologies have the potential to open new avenues for cancer therapy. Integrating genetic engineering with stem cells can overcome the major drawbacks of chemotherapeutics, such as toxicity to healthy cells. With further research, cancer stem cell therapies may one day become part of the standard of care for many types of cancer. (AP)

Royal Collections do not belong to the crown but to the public, thanks to a historical twist nearly a century ago. Now, Patrimonio Nacional oversees palaces, monasteries, convents, and royal gardens across the country.

For Gallery director Leticia Ruiz, bringing together such a variety of extraordinary pieces makes it something of

"a museum of museums."

The inaugural exhibition will feature 650 of the more than 150,000 pieces Patrimonio Nacional manages, including works from Velázquez, Goya, Caravaggio, Titian and Tintoretto. Also featured will be some pieces from the world's best tapestries collection as well as ancient carriages and royal furniture. A third of



A Hawaiian monk seal and her newborn pup are seen on a Waikiki beach in Honolulu on June 29, 2017. A young Hawaiian monk seal has weaned and relocated, allowing a stretch of a popular Hawaii beach to reopen. May 30, after it was made off-limits to protect the endangered pup while it nursed. (AP)

the works will be replaced with new exhibitions each year.

Ruiz says the Gallery will offer visitors a unique vantage point of "the history of the Royal Palaces that are fundamental to the history of Spain and the world."

One standout piece is Velázquez's "White Horse," rearing up and without a rider, suggesting the court painter was just waiting to be told which king to put in the saddle.

Nearby, the light and facial expressions in Caravaggio's 1607 "Salome with the Head of John the Baptist" are equally captivating. The painting is one of the just four Caravaggios in Spain.

Then there is the multicolored cedar wood sculpture of Saint Michael slaying the Devil, a 1692 work by Spain's first female court sculptor Luisa Roldán. It is known that she carved the devil in the likeness of her husband and that she, herself may have been the model for Michael.

On the same floor is the first edition of Cervantes' "Don Quixote."

"For many centuries, the Spanish monarchs were the best collectors in history," said De la Cueva. Being able to buy and order from the best artists in the world "was a way of showing their power."

Built on the steep hillside opposite the Madrid's Royal palace and the Almudena Cathedral, the Gallery building itself is an impressive work of art.

Designed by Luis Mansilla and Emilio Tuñón, its unimposing vertical linear structure has won 10 architectural awards, including the 2017 American Architecture Prize. (AP)



Napoli's players celebrate after winning the Serie A soccer title trophy at the Diego Maradona Stadium, in Naples. (AP)

Ibrahimovic retires; Atalanta book spot in EL

Di Lorenzo becomes 1st Napoli player to lift Serie A trophy in 33 years

MILAN, June 5, (AP) — As Giovanni Di Lorenzo became the first Napoli player to lift the Serie A trophy toward the sky since Diego Maradona, the stadium named after the Argentine great exploded into a sea of joy.

Napoli had clinched its first Serie A title in 33 years with five rounds to spare but had to wait until the final day of the season to be presented with the trophy, in front of its own fans at the Stadio Diego Armando Maradona.

Players danced joyously as they each took their turns lifting up the scudetto, while the song "We Are The Champions" was played.

Di Lorenzo later led the team and the whole stadium in a rendition of "It's us, it's us, we are the champions of Italy." That came during further celebrations that lasted around three hours after the trophy presentation, with performances by musicians along with speeches. At the beginning of the party there was a tribute to Maradona, and the crowd loudly chanted "Diego! Diego!" Napoli signed off from a stunning season with a 2-0 win over already-relegated Sampdoria, in a match where on-the-field action mattered little.

Sunday saw another round of festivities in Naples, a city that hasn't really stopped celebrating since even before Napoli clinched the title.

And, just like most of the past month, the streets were packed with joyous Napoli fans, chanting and waving flags, and the air was tinged in blue — the team's colors — from flares.

There was also an incredible atmosphere inside the stadium, with the fans singing incessantly — mainly about being champions of Italy.

Luciano Spalletti, who announced at the start of the week that he is leaving the team, was presented with the Serie A coach of the year trophy before kickoff, while winger Khvicha Kvaratskhelia received his player of the season award.

Kim Min-jae and Victor Osimhen were also given trophies for best defender and forward, respectively.

The players also walked out carrying their children. Osimhen's son was wearing a smaller copy of the face

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mask his father wears during matches.

Osimhen set Napoli on the way to victory against Sampdoria with a penalty. It was his 26th league goal and the Nigeria international was the first African player to be crowned top Serie A goalscorer.

Giovanni Simeone doubled Napoli's lead with a stunning strike and celebrated by holding up a shirt with the No. 10 on it that Maradona wore in an actual match.

It was also an emotional match for veteran Sampdoria forward Fabio Quagliarella, who brought an end to his Serie A career at his hometown club.

There were also emotional scenes at San Siro as AC Milan bid farewell to veteran forward Zlatan Ibrahimović, who then surprised everyone by announcing his retirement from soccer.

The 41-year-old Ibrahimović had tears in his eyes on the sidelines as the Milan fans unfurled a giant banner at one end saying "Godbye" and chanted his name. Ibrahimović cupped his hands in the shape of a heart and blew kisses to the fans.

Milan beat Hellas Verona 3-1, while Spezia lost 2-1 at Roma, which played its first game since losing the final of this year's Europa League to Sevilla. That left Verona and Spezia locked on 31 points and means that, under new rules, there will be a playoff to decide which one remains in Serie A.

The playoff will take place next Sunday at a neutral ground.

Teun Koopmeiners netted a hat trick as Atalanta beat Monza 5-2 to book a spot in next season's Europa League.

Atalanta finished fifth, a point above Roma, which also qualified for the competition.

Juventus won 1-0 at Udinese to finish seventh and will play in the Europa Conference League next season unless it is banned from European competition by UEFA because of various legal troubles.

Also, Bologna won 3-2 at Lecce.

2-time NCAA champ Zhang becomes 1st LPGA Tour winner in pro debut

Hovland wins Memorial in playoff

JERSEY CITY, N.J., June 5, (AP) — Rose Zhang became the first player to win on the LPGA in her pro debut Sunday, capturing the Mizuho Americas Open with a par on the second playoff hole to beat Jennifer Kupcho and earn LPGA membership.

Zhang went from two-time NCAA champion to LPGA winner in a span of 13 days with a remarkable debut that lived up to the fanfare in the shadow of Manhattan.

She closed with a 2-over 74, missing an 8-foot par putt on the final hole at Liberty National to fall into a playoff with Kupcho (69).

On the first playoff hole, Zhang made an 8-footer for par and Kupcho made from 4 feet. Returning to the 18th again, Zhang hit a long approach to 8 feet for a chance at birdie. Kupcho came up short, went just over the back and made bogey. Zhang two-putted for the win.

The last female player to win as a pro in her debut was Beverly Hanson, who edged Babe Zaharias to take the Eastern Open in 1951.

Players celebrated with the 20-year-old from Stanford by handing her red roses. The victory was worth \$412,500 and it also earned Zhang an automatic LPGA Tour membership.

Viktor Hovland handled the toughest stretch at Muirfield Village and delivered three clutch putts at the end to win the Memorial in a playoff over hard-luck Denny McCarthy on Sunday.

Hovland closed with a 2-under 70 on another brutal test on a course baked all week by sun, forcing the playoff with a 30-foot birdie on the 17th — the only one on that hole in the final round — and saving par from behind the 18th green.

Back to the 18th in the playoff, Hovland barely got onto the front of the green, some 60 feet away from the

back pin, and two-putted by holing a 7-foot par putt.

It was his fourth PGA Tour victory and first on American soil, this one with a \$3.6 million winner's check and a handshake from host Jack Nicklaus. The Norwegian's previous wins were in Mexico twice and Puerto Rico.

It was a crushing loss for McCarthy, one of the purest putters on the PGA Tour. He showed his touch by saving crucial pars and playing bogey-free on a day when the average score was just under 75. His only bogey came on the 18th hole — twice.

Rory McIlroy chipped in from below the fourth green for birdie and had the lead on the front nine, but he gave away far too many shots on the back — three bogeys in a row — for a 75 that

GOLF

took him out of the picture.

Scottie Scheffler closed with a 67 and finished third and missed the playoff by one shot, remarkable considering he made the cut on the number. The No. 1 player in the world has not finished worse than 12th in his 13 starts this year.

Tom McKibbin held off a German challenge with a 3-under 70 to win the Porsche European Open in his debut season on the European tour on Sunday.

The 20-year-old from Northern Ireland started the final round as one of six players tied for the lead and went on to win by two shots.

Marcel Siem (71) and Maximilian Kieffer (70), who were both bidding to become the first German in 15 years to win a tour event on home soil, shared second place, along with French player Julien Guerrier (72).

McKibbin built a two-shot lead after the front nine but bogeys on Nos. 11 and 13 left him briefly tied with Siem and Kieffer before he recovered with a birdie on the 15th. Instead of playing it safe, McKibbin took a risk with his second shot on the 18th, playing a draw around a tree to hit the ball close to the pin for the eagle attempt.

Stephen Ames birdied the 17th hole and closed with a 5-under 67 on Sunday for a one-shot victory over Steve Stricker and Jerry Kelly in the Principal Charity Classic, giving Ames his third PGA Tour Champions title this year.



Hovland

Busch edges Hamlin for NASCAR Cup Series win



Kyle Busch (front), drives followed by Denny Hamlin (11) during a NASCAR Cup Series auto race at World Wide Technology Raceway in Madison, Ill. (AP)

MADISON, Ill., June 5, (AP) — Kyle Busch had been in and out of his car through a lengthy weather delay. He had idled on the track through two red flags. He had kept his poise through 11 cautions, including five down the stretch as he tried to protect his lead.

Must have seemed like Sunday's NASCAR Cup Series Race at World Wide Technology Raceway would never end.

CAR RACING

It finally did in the twilight, though, some six hours after the green flag initially dropped. Busch got a big push from Denny Hamlin on the last restart and then held him off in a green-white-checked finish for his third victory of the year.

"That was pretty awesome, man, to sit on the pole, lead a lot of laps and have my guys do such a great job today. It was pretty phenomenal for us," Busch said. "We're going to have a great time with this one. This one is pretty cool." Bubba Wallace brought out the 11th and final yellow when he was fighting for a top-10 finish and his brake rotor let go with five laps remaining, the last in a series of broken rotors that ended the race for at least three other drivers.

Busch, who had held off Kyle Larson on each previous restart, had one last phenomenal jump in him. He was well ahead of the rest of the field by the backstretch with just over a lap left and was never seriously challenged by Hamlin after he took the white flag, giving Richard Childress Racing another victory after triumphs at Talladega and Auto Club Speedway.

"Any time we give him a car capable of winning, he's going to win it," Childress said. "Those last three or four or however many restarts, I thought that was pretty tough, but I knew he would do his job." The win was especially gratifying for Busch's crew chief, Randall Burnett, who not only produced a car fast enough to win the pole in his hometown but also made all the right calls on Sunday. Burnett hails from nearby Fenton, Missouri, and had plenty of friends and family in a sellout crowd of about 60,000 on a brutally hot late spring day.

"It means a lot to me coming home," Burnett said.

Hamlin finished second while Joey Logano, the winner a year ago in the Cup Series debut at the track, got around Larson on the final lap for third. Martin Truex Jr. rounded out the top five ahead of Ryan Blaney, last week's winner at Charlotte.

"Long day for sure," Logano said after climbing out of his car. "There were four or five cars that were just better than us. We made some good adjustments at the end and we were in the hunt." It was a long day for Corey LaJoie, who filled in for Chase Elliott in the No. 9 car for Hendrick Motorsports and spent most of the day near the back before finishing 21st. Elliott was suspended for the race for intentionally wrecking Hamlin last week.

It also was a long day for everyone on pit stands. There were some technical issues that not only prevented them from having communication with teams back at their shops, but also limited the amount of data that they were able to see.

Messi eyes Barca

Saudi Arabian soccer 'league' to get more funding from Kingdom

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia, June 5, (AP) — Cristiano Ronaldo is already in Saudi Arabia. Karim Benzema looks sure to be next. And as the oil-rich kingdom pursues Lionel Messi as well, it is making sure that money continues to flow into the domestic soccer league.

Saudi Arabia on Monday made its already obvious intentions in world soccer even clearer by announcing a "privatization project" for companies to spend more on clubs — part of the Vision 2030 national development policy promoted by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who is also prime minister.

Saudi public sector organizations also will be encouraged to invest in sports with teams in the national soccer league a top priority.

"The Saudi Pro League ... will be supported in its ambition to be amongst the top 10 leagues in the world," the

state-owned Saudi Press Agency said in a news release.

Ronaldo has been the headline attraction so far, joining the Al Nassr club in January on a reported salary of \$200 million a year.

Benzema's move to join his former long-time Real Madrid teammate in the Saudi league is expected to be confirmed after he played an emotional farewell game Sunday after 14 years with the 14-time European champion.

Messi played his last game for Qatar-owned Paris Saint-Germain on Saturday and is weighing offers from Saudi Arabia and Inter Miami in Major League Soccer. He is also reportedly considering a potential return to Barcelona, where he spent 16 years before reluctantly leaving the financially troubled club for PSG in 2021.

The Saudi league has players from "over 40 different countries and has seen attendances increase by nearly 150% in the last year," the statement from the SPA said. "The privatization and ownership transfer of clubs aims to accelerate progress in a variety of sports across the kingdom further growing participation, providing cutting edge facilities, increasing competition and nurturing future champions."

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Saudi Arabia's domestic soccer and homegrown players are also flourishing.

The national team stunned Messi and Argentina with a 2-1 victory in their opening game at the World Cup in Qatar in November, and the Al-Hilal club won the Asian Champions League title in 2019 and 2021.

Barcelona has not given up hope of seeing Lionel Messi returning to the club despite increasing speculation about a pending move to Saudi Arabia, and his father said Monday that his son prefers to go back to the Catalan club.

Jorge Messi was in Barcelona and briefly answered questions from reporters after reportedly meeting with club president Joan Laporta.



Rose Zhang holds up the trophy after winning the Mizuho Americas Open golf tournament in Jersey City, N.J. (AP)



Rokas Pukstas of the United States (right), and Uruguay's Damian Garcia jump for a header during a FIFA U-20 World Cup quarterfinal soccer match at the Madre de Ciudades stadium in Santiago del Estero, Argentina. (AP)

Sports

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León 'claim' maiden Champs League title

LOS ANGELES, June 5, (AP): Lucas Di Yorio scored in the first half, and Club León secured its first CONCACAF Champions League title with a 1-0 victory over Los Angeles FC on Sunday night.

León won the first leg of the final 2-1 in Mexico on Wednesday night, and the Liga MX club thrilled its thousands of traveling supporters with another winning effort at LAF's daunting BMO Stadium, highlighted by Di Yorio's goal in the 20th minute.

León finished sixth in the Liga MX standings last month, but took out the defending Major League Soccer champions with superior play in both legs. León is the ninth Mexican club to win the Champions League in its current format, which began in 2002.

SOCCER

LAF won both the Supporters' Shield and the MLS Cup last fall, but fell short of an unprecedented treble for an MLS club. A year ago, the Seattle Sounders became MLS's first Champions League winner in the current format, making another argument for the leagues' increasing equality.

But LAF lost the Champions League final for the second time in four seasons. The club also lost the 2020 final to Tigres after knocking off León with a second-leg comeback victory earlier in that competition.

With a hunger to gain international recognition for their remarkable success in just six seasons of existence, LAF's coaches and executives had described this final as the most important match in team history, although most acknowledged the MLS titles mean more to fans.



León celebrates with the championship trophy after defeating Los Angeles FC in the second leg of the CONCACAF championship final soccer match in Los Angeles. (AP)

Heat roar back in Game 2

Jokic 41-point effort in vain

DENVER, June 5, (AP): Staring down a 2-0 deficit in the NBA Finals, as the visitors in a hostile arena where no road team had prevailed in more than two months, the Miami Heat decided to do what they've done throughout the post-season.

They found a way. Against all odds. Again.

The Heat tied the NBA Finals and had to overcome a monster 41-point effort from Nikola Jokic to do it. Gabe Vincent scored 23 points, Jimmy Butler and Bam Adebayo each had 21 and Heat beat the Denver Nuggets 111-108 in Game 2 on Sunday night.

"Our guys are competitors," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "They love these kind of moments."

Evidently. They were down by as many as 15 points, down eight going into the fourth, and those numbers signified they were going to lose. Denver was 11-0 in these playoffs when leading by double digits at any point in a game, and 37-1 this season overall when leading by at least eight going into the fourth.

The Heat didn't care. They outscored Denver 17-5 in the first 3:17 of the fourth to take the lead for good, eventually went up by 12, then frittered most of it away and had to survive a 3-point try by Jamal Murray as time expired.

BASKETBALL

"This is the finals," Adebayo said. "We gutted one out."

Game 3 is Wednesday in Miami. Max Strus scored 14 and Duncan Robinson had 10 - all of them in the fourth - for the Heat, who had a big early lead, then got down by as many as 15. They had no answers for Jokic, who was 16 of 28 from the floor, the last of those shots a 4-footer with 36 seconds left to get the Nuggets within three.

Denver elected not to foul on the ensuing Miami possession and it paid off. Butler missed a 3, and with a chance to tie, Murray missed a 3-pointer at the buzzer.

Denver lost at home for the first time since March 30, and for the first time in 10 home playoff games this year. And just as he did after a Game 1 win, Nuggets coach Michael Malone sounded the alarm after a Game 2 loss.

"Let's talk about effort," Malone said. "I mean, this is the NBA Finals and we're talking about effort. That's a huge concern of mine. You guys prob-

Uruguay, South Korea advance to semifinal

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina, June 5, (AP): Uruguay and South Korea advanced to the semifinals of the Under-20 World Cup on Sunday.

The South Americans beat the United States 2-0 in Santiago del Estero, dominating the match from start to finish. The Asian team, runner-up in the last U-20 World Cup in 2019 to Ukraine, secured its spot with a 1-0 victory against Nigeria thanks to a goal in extra-time.

SOCCER

Uruguay will take on Israel on Thursday, the same day South Korea will face Italy for a place in the final.

South Korea scored the only goal of their match in the fifth minute of extra-time. The header by Seok-Hyun Choi was one of the few chances either team had during the encounter.



South Korea's Kang Sang-yeon (front) is challenged by Nigeria's Daniel Daga during a FIFA U-20 World Cup quarterfinal soccer match at the Madre de Ciudades stadium in Santiago del Estero, Argentina. (AP)

Uruguay opened the scoring in the 21st minute after a counter-attack put Anderson Duarte in front of an empty

goal. The Uruguayans doubled their lead in the 56th minute through an own goal by Joshua Wynder.

The United States did not concede any goals in their first four matches in the tournament.

"That's life. If you don't have enough, you don't win," U.S. coach Mikey Varas told the official broadcaster after the match. "They fought, they have what they had and they had a great tournament here."

Uruguay coach Marcelo Brioli agreed that the first goal of the match came when the U.S. team was dominating.

"The first minutes of the match were hard, but our team's maturity made the difference," Brioli said.

None of the four teams left in the tournament has ever won it. Uruguay was runner up in 1997 and 2013. Israel is playing in the U-20 World Cup for the first time.



Miami Heat center Bam Adebayo (13) dunks while defended by Denver Nuggets forward Michael Porter Jr. (1) during the second half of Game 2 of basketball's NBA Finals in Denver. (AP)

ably thought I was just making up some storyline after Game 1 when I said we didn't play well. We didn't play well. ... This is not the preseason. This is not the regular season. This is the NBA Finals."

Murray had 18 points and 10 assists for Denver, while Aaron Gordon had 12 points and Bruce Brown scored 11.

"They just played hard, and like I said, it was more discipline," Murray said. "It's defeating when you're giving up mistake after mistake, and it's not them beating you, you're giving them open dunks or open shots. That's tough to come back from."

Strus, who was 0 for 10 in Game 1,

had four 3-pointers in the first quarter of Game 2. Butler made a jumper with 4:56 left in the opening quarter to put Miami up 21-10, tying the second-biggest lead any opponent had built in Denver so far in these playoffs.

In a flash, it was gone - and then some.

Ruud qualifies

Gauff reaches French Open quarters for 3rd straight year

PARIS, June 5, (AP): Coco Gauff put aside a skinned knee and a bad stretch in the first set to reach the French Open quarterfinals for the third consecutive year with a 7-5, 6-2 victory over Anna Karolina Schmiedlova on Monday.

Next for Gauff could be a rematch against No. 1 Iga Swiatek, who beat the 19-year-old American in last year's final at Roland Garros. Swiatek was scheduled to face Lesia Tsurenko in the fourth round later Monday.

Gauff grabbed a 5-2 lead against Schmiedlova, but then things got more interesting. Gauff got broken while serving for the set at 5-2 and again at 5-4.

She helped the 100th-ranked Schmiedlova - who had never been past the third round at a major tournament - with a double-fault, then dumped a forehand into the net to end a 21-stroke exchange, making it 5-all. In the next game, Gauff stumbled on the slippery clay in sun-splashed but windy Court Philippe Chatrier, scraping her right knee.

TENNIS

After she gathered herself to claim that set, Gauff was visited by a trainer, who placed a white bandage just below her knee. The edges of that patch began to curl up as Gauff played, and she removed it soon after.

The other women's quarterfinal on the top half of the draw Wednesday will be No. 7 Ons Jabeur of Tunisia vs. No. 14 Beatriz Haddad Maia of Brazil.

Tuesday's quarterfinals are Australian Open champion Aryna Sabalenka vs. Elina Svitolina, and 2021 French Open finalist Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova vs. Karolina Muchova. The only seeded player in the bunch is No. 2 Sabalenka.

Jabeur was the runner-up at Wimbledon and the U.S. Open last season, but she exited the French Open in the first round and it was the only major at which she hadn't been to the quarterfinals until now. She got there by beating Bernarda Pera, an American ranked 36th, 6-3, 6-1.

Jabeur managed to win all eight of Pera's service games, helped by taking 15 of 16 second-serve points. Pera didn't help herself, either, by making 33 unforced errors to just 13 winners.

"I was expecting her to play better," Jabeur said.

Haddad Maia reached her first Slam quarterfinal by outlasting 132nd-ranked Sara Sorribes Tormo 6-7 (3), 6-3, 7-5 in a fourth-rounder that lasted 3 hours, 51 minutes.

Before this trip to Paris, Haddad Maia never had been past the second round at Roland Garros or any other Grand Slam tournament.

Like Jabeur, Casper Ruud made his way to two Grand Slam championship matches last season. And like Jabeur, he came up short each time.

The No. 4-seeded Ruud, the 2022 runner-up to Rafael Nadal at Roland



Norway's Casper Ruud plays a shot against Chile's Nicolas Jarry during their fourth round match of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, Monday. (AP)

Garros and to Carlos Alcaraz at the U.S. Open, returned to the quarterfinals in Paris by defeating Nicolas Jarry 7-6 (3), 7-5, 7-5.

Jarry, who served an 11-month ban in 2020 for a positive doping test, went up 4-1 in the second set and 4-2 in the third, but Ruud turned things around each time.

Ruud's quarterfinal opponent will be No. 6 Holger Rune or No. 23 Francisco Cerundolo. Other men's matches Monday were No. 27 Yoshihito Nishioka vs. Tomas Martin.

Some friendly advice, sports fans: If Carlos Alcaraz is playing, do not look away. Even for a moment. Because it's likely he'll conjure up some sort of highlight-worthy mix of ability, athleticism and awareness that drops the jaw.

Anyone who's watched him play lately knows this. Anyone who's played against him lately knows this. And he knows this. Which is why the No. 1-ranked Alcaraz himself acknowledged through that now-familiar smile that he'll glance up at the stadium video boards "a lot of times" to see a replay of what he just did.

Up to his usual tricks at Court Philippe Chatrier on Sunday, Alcaraz mixed a bit of this - a back-to-the-net 'tweener lob - and a bit of that - a full-sprint-then-slide wide of the doubles alley for a backhand winner at a seemingly impossible angle - along the way to reaching the French Open quarterfinals with a 6-3, 6-2, 6-2 victory over No. 17 seed Lorenzo Musetti of Italy.

"Today he showed," Musetti said, "that he probably can win this tournament."

First things first. Next for Alcaraz, a 20-year-old from Spain who won the U.S. Open in September, comes what could be a tougher test: