

# CABINET RESIGNATION ACCEPTED ... ASSIGNED AS CARETAKER Inaugural Assembly session June 20

Little change seen in election



Former Parliament Speaker and 2nd Constituency winner Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanim with 6,661 votes celebrate with his supporters.



Photo by lehab Qurtal One female candidate emerged victorious – Jenan Bu Shehri who took the sixth spot in the Third Constituency with 5,048 votes.





Photo by Mohamad Morsi Abdulwahab Aref Al-Essa and his supporters celebrate his victory in the Parliamentary elections. Photo by lehab Qurtal Fares Saad Al-Otaibi celebrating his victory after winning 4,796 votes in the 3rd Constituency.

**Newswatch** 

## Pope set to undergo op

ROME, June 7: At the end of the general audience today (Wednesday) morning Pope Francis was admitted to Rome's A. Gemelli University Hospital where he was to undergo laparotomy and abdominal surgery under general anesthesia decided upon over the past few days by the medical team assisting the Holy Father, according to Vatican News.

The Pope's admission to the hospital follows a visit and consultation with doctors at the same facility on Tuesday afternoon.

The Pope will remain in hospital for several days to allow for a post operative course and full functional recovery. The surgery decided upon over

the satigety decladed upon over the past few days became necessary due to an incisional laporocele (hernia) that is causing recurrent, painful and worsening subjective syndrome.

The Holy See press office has announced that, as a precautionary measure, all papal audiences have been suspended until June 18, 2023.

**BAGHDAD:** Baghdad Operations Commander, Lieutenant General **Ahmed Salim** on Wednesday announced the death of four terrorists from so-called Islamic State (IS/Daesh) including the self-proclaimed Wali of North Baghdad.

The Iraqi forces ambushed and killed the four terrorists in **Tarmiya** district, north of Baghdad, based on accurate intelligence, Salim said in a press statement.

Meanwhile, in recent months the Iraqi forces have strengthened their presence in Tarmiya district, due to a number of security breaches as well as targeting army forces by terrorist organization "Daesh". (KUNA) 'Overall ties stronger'

## **Blinken in Riyadh for talks**

DUBAI, June 7, (AP): US Secretary of State Antony Blinken arrived Tuesday in Saudi Arabia and later met Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman amid strained relations between Riyadh and Washington.

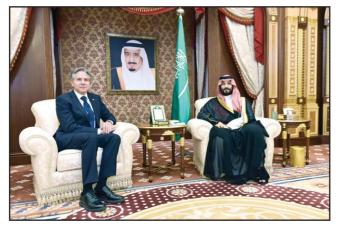
Blinken's trip, his second to Saudi Arabia since becoming America's top diplomat, comes after the kingdom under Prince Mohammed has been more willing to disregard the U.S. in striking its own decisions. Riyadh has clashed repeatedly with President Joe Biden on its supply of crude oil to global markets, its willingness to partner with Russia in OPEC+ and reaching a détente with Iran mediated by China.

However, Saudi Arabia still relies - like other Gulf Arab nations - on the U.S. to be the security guarantor for the wider Middle East as tensions over Iran's nuclear program in recent years have spilled over into a series of attacks. Riyadh and Washington also have been working in tandem to try and strike a lasting ceasefire in Sudan, which has been elusive during weeks of fighting between that country's military and a rival paramilitary force. And Saudi Arabia wants to end its war in Yemen, something also sought by the U.S.

"Under the hood, especially when it comes to security and a few other matters like that, the relationship is stronger than it was a year ago," said Hussein Ibish, a senior resident scholar at the Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington. "It looks more strained - and in some superficial ways it is - but it is overall stronger."

Blinken arrived to a Saudi Arabia more eager to engage internationally, particularly after being involved in prisoner swaps in Moscow's war on Ukraine. The kingdom hosted Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy last month at an Arab League summit, then Russia's sanctioned interior minister immediately after.

With oil prices well below \$100 a barrel, the Biden administration doesn't have an immediate concern over prices at the pump in the summer driving season.



Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (right), meets with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken in Jeddah, Wednesday, June 7, 2023. (AP)

### Winners congratulated

bers of the 2022 Parliament retained their seats while the number of new MPs reached 12.

Only one female candidate emerged victorious -- Jenan Bu Shehri who took the sixth spot in the Third Constituency with 5,048 votes. Following are the winners in each constituency:

**First Constituency:** 1. Abdullah Jassim Al-Mudhaf: 5,815 votes; 2. Osama Zaid Al-Zaid: 4,570 votes; 3. Ahmad Haji Lari: 3,738 votes; 4. Khaled Marzouq Al-Amera: 3,575 votes; 5. Hassan Abdullah Jawhar: 3,560 votes; 6. Dawood Suleiman Marafi: 3,434 votes; 7. Issa Ahmad Al-Kanderi: 3,185 votes; 8. Hamad Mohammed Al-Madlej: 2,888 votes; 9. Osama Issa Al-Shaheen: 2,869 votes; 10. Adel Jassim Al-Damkhi: 2,731 votes.

Second Constituecy: 1. Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanim: 6,661 votes; 2. Shuaib Ali Shaaban: 5,630 votes; 3- Abdullah Turki Al-Anbaei: 3,705 votes; 4. Falah Dhahi Al-Hajri: 3,265 votes; 5. Mohammed Barrak Al-Mutair: 3,091 votes; 6. Abdul Wahab Arif Al-Essa: 3,031 votes; 7. Bader Nashmi Al-Enezi: 2,752 votes; 8. Fahd Abdulaziz Al-Masoud: 2,652 votes; 9. Hamad Mohammed Al-Mutar: 2,432 votes; 10. Bader Hamed Al-Mulla: 2,360 votes.

Third Constituency: 1. Mohalhal Khaled Al-Mudhaf: 7,268 votes; 2. Ahmad Abdulaziz Al-Saadoun: 6,325 votes; 3. Abdulkarim Abdullah Al-Kandari: 5,878 votes; 4. Muhannad Talal Al-Sayer: 5,772 votes; 5. Abdulaziz Tariq Al-Saqoubi: 5,730 votes; 6. Jenan Bu Shehri: 5,048 votes; 7. Hamad Adel Al-Obeid: 4,815 votes; 8. Fares Saad Al-Otaibi: 4,796 votes; 9. Hamad Abdurrahman Al-Olayan: 4,782 votes; 10. Jarrah Khaled Al-Fouzan: 3,633 votes

Fourth Constituency: 1. Bader Sayyar Al-Shammari: 8,487 votes; 2. Mubarak Hummoud Al-Tasha: 8,376 votes; 3. Mutib Ayed Al-Thaydi: 7,721 votes; 4. Mohammad Awadh Al-Ruqaib: 7,196 votes; 5. Mohammad Hayef Al-Mutairi: 6,966 votes; 6. Mubarak Haif Al-Hajraf: 6,710 votes; 7. Abdullah Fahhad Al-Enizi: 6,567 votes; 8. Saad Ali Al-Rashidi: 6,228 votes; 9. Fayez Ghanem Al-Jomhour: 6,035 votes; 10. Shuaib Al-Muwaizri: 5, 873 votes.

**Fifth Constituency:** 1. Saud Abdulaziz Al-Asfour: 12,784 votes; 2. Hamdan Salem Al-Azmi: 10,863 votes; 3. Khaled Mohammad Al-Otaibi: 8,028 votes; 4. Hani Hussein Shams: 7,644 votes; 5. Marzouq Faleh Al-Habini: 6,775 votes; 6. Fahad Falah Al-Azmi: 6,443 votes; 7. Abdulhadi Nasser Al-Ajmi: 6,341 votes; 8. Mohammad Hussein Al-Mahan (6,324) votes; 9- Majed Musaed Al-Mutairi: 6,245 votes.; 10. Mohammad Hadi Al-Hewaila: 6,188 votes.

The First Constituency MPs changed by 10 percent with new MP Dawoud Marafi taking the sixth spot with 3,434; 30 percent in the Second Constituency with two new MPs -- Badr Nashni Al-Anzi in seventh place (2,752 votes) and Fahd Al-Masoud in eighth place (2,652) while former Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanim had a strong comeback, landing in first place with 6,661 votes.

The Third Constituency changed by 20 percent with new MPs Hamad Al-Elyan and Jarrah Al-Fawzan occupying the ninth and 10th places with 4,782 and 3,633 votes respectively.

The Fourth Constituency recorded the highest percentage change at 40 percent with the victory of four new MPs -- Badr Sayyar Al-Shemmari in first place with 8,355 votes; Meteb Raathan Al-Zaidi in third place with 7,570 votes; Muhammad Awadh Al-Regaib in fourth place with 7,175 votes and Fayez Al-Jomhour in ninth place with 6,007 votes

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh

Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, June 7: The Cabinet has forwarded to His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah a draft decree to inaugurate the first session of the National Assembly's 17th legislative term on Tuesday, June 20.

Meanwhile, an Amiri order was issued, Wednesday, accepting the resignation of the government and assigning His Highness Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and his Cabinet to act as care-taker government.

This order came within the framework and articles of the constitution and the National Assembly will be informed.

Earlier, the Cabinet held an extraordinary session on Wednesday at Bayan Palace under chairmanship of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Following the session, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Dr. Khaled Al-Fadhel said the ministers were briefed by First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and Acting Minister of Defense Sheikh Talal Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah as well as by Minister of Justice, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Dr. Amer Mohammad Ali Mohammad about the National Assembly elections and their results.

Polls of the assembly's 17th legislative term were held on Tuesday and final results of the polling were declared early today.

The ministers expressed appreciation for the great efforts exerted by the judiciary, the public prosecution, personnel of the ministries of interior, justice, information, health, education, the municipality, NGOs and volunteers.

They also applauded the voters whose patriotism was translated through their participation in the process and congratulated winners of parliamentary seats, wishing them success in serving the homeland and the citizens.

In line with provision 57 of the Constitution, the ministers examined the government resignation motion that would be submitted to His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah from His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Moreover, His Highness the Prime Minister, personally and on behalf of the executives, expressed deep gratitude to 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 on their valuable confidence and significant support.

He also lauded the ministers for their sincere efforts during the service.

Voters in Kuwait returned most of their lawmakers to Parliament in the third election in as many years amid widespread frustration with the ongoing political gridlock, according to results released Wednesday.

Thirty-seven lawmakers kept their seats in the 50-member assembly following Tuesday's election, the state-run KUNA news agency said.

Official results of the recent parliamentary elections held Tuesday showed 24 percent change; compared to the 2022 results, as 38 mem-

#### Weather

By Night: Rather hot with light to moderate southwesterly wind changing to northwesterly wind with speeds of 08-32 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear. Station Max Exp Min Rec Kuwait City 34

Kuwait Airport	45	
Abdaly	43	
Jahra	45	
Salmiyah	40	
Ahmadi	38	
Nuwaisib	42	
Nafra	45	

2

30

**Prayer Timings** Fajr ...... 03:14 Asr ..... 15:21 Sunrise .. 04:48 Maghrib .. 18:46 Zohr ..... 11:47 Isha ...... 20:17



Ahmad Lari

Hamad Al-Midlej

Abdullah Al-Anbaei

Fahd Al-Masoud

By Day: Hot with light to moderate southwesterly wind changing to southeasterly wind with speeds of 08-35 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.

Hassan Jowhar

Adil Al-Damkhi

Expected weather for the next

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

24 hours:

## **2023 Assembly poll winners and biodatas**

#### Winners in First Constituency





Abdullah Al-Mudhaf



Daud Maraf

#### Essa Al-Kandari Winners in Second Constituency





Marzouq Al-Ghanim



Abdulwahhab Al-Essa

#### Winners in Third Constituency



Muhalhal Al-Mudhaf



Muhannad Al-Saver



Abdulaziz Al-Sagabi

KUWAIT CITY, June 7, (KUNA): The main electoral committee in the 1st Constituency announced the 10 winners of National Assembly membership for the 2023, 17th legislative term, which took place Tuesday. The results

- in the following order: 1- Abdullah Jassim Al-Mudhaf (5,815) votes.
  - 2- Osama Zaid Al-Zaid (4,570) votes. 3- Ahmad Haji Lari (3,738) votes.
  - 4- Khaled Marzouq Al-Ameera (3,575) votes.
  - 5- Hassan Abdullah Jawhar (3,560) votes.
  - 6- Dawood Suleiman Marafi (3,434) votes.

7- Issa Ahmad Al-Kanderi (3,185) votes. 8- Hamad Mohammad Al-Madlej (2,888) votes. 9- Osama Issa Al-Shaheen (2,869) votes.

10- Adel Jassim Al-Damkhi (2,731) votes Polling stations closed at 08:00 pm (local time). seeing 207 candidates competing for 50 seats in the parliament

#### **Bios for '23 1st Constituency winners** Profiles of the 10 winners from the 1st Con-

stituency: 1- Abdullah Jassim Al-Mudhaf: Born in 1983. Holds Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the College of Administrative Sciences at the Gulf University for Science and Technology in Kuwait. Worked in the banking and investment sectors. Member of the annulled 2022 Assembly.

2- Osama Zaid Al-Zaid: Worked in the petrochemical sector. Member of the annulled 2022 Assembly

3- Ahmad Haji Lari: Born in 1955. Holds Bachelor's degree in Statistics. Member of the Municipal Council (1993 - 1995 - 1999). Member of the National Assembly (2006 - 2008 - 2013 supplementary. The annulled 2022).

4- Khaled Marzouq Al-Ameera: Holds a bachelor's degree in security sciences. Worked as an of-ficer in the Ministry of Interior. Member of the 2022 annulled National Assembly. 5- Hassan Abdullah Jawhar: Born in 1960. PhD

in Political Science. Professor of Political Science at Kuwait University. Member of the National As-sembly (1996 - 1999 - 2003 - 2006 - 2008 - 2020 - annulled 2022).

6- Dawood Suleiman Marafi: Born in 1982. Masters in Business Administration. Pioneer in the business sector.

7- Issa Ahmad Al-Kanderi: Born in 1963. Former minister. Diploma from the Commercial Institute. specializing in banking. Member of the National Assembly (2013 - 2016 - 2020 - annulled 2022).

8- Hamad Mohammad Al-Madlei: Born in 1984. Holds a Bachelor's degree in military sciences. Worked as an officer in the Ministry of Defense. Member of the Municipal Council (2010 - 2013) -Member of the 2022 annulled National Assembly. 9- Osama Issa Al-Shaheen: Masters of Law.

Member of the National Assembly (annulled 2012 - 2016 - 2020 - annulled 2022). 10- Adel Jassim Al-Damkhi: Born in 1965. PhD

in Islamic Sharia. Member of the National Assembly (annulled 2012 - 2016 - annulled 2022).

#### Winners in 2nd Constituency

The main electoral committee in the 2nd constituency announced the 10 winners of National Assembly membership for the 2023 17th legislative term. which took place Tuesday. The results in the following order:

- 1- Marzoug Ali Al-Ghanim (6.661) votes.
- 2- Shuaib Ali Shaaban (5,630) votes.
- 3- Abdullah Turki Al-Anbaei (3,705) votes
  4- Falah Dhahi Al-Hajri (3,265) votes.
- 5- Mohammad Barrak Al-Mutair (3,091) votes.
- 6- Abdulwahab Aref Al-Essa (3,031) votes.
- 7- Bader Nashmi Al-Enezi (2,752) votes.8- Fahd Abdulaziz Al-Masoud (2,652) votes.
- 9- Hamad Mohammad Al-Mutar (2,432) votes

10- Bader Hamed Al-Mulla (2,360) votes. Polling stations closed at 08:00 pm (local time), seeing 207 candidates competing for 50 seats in the parliament.

#### **Bios for '23 2nd Constituency** Profiles of 10 winners from 2nd Constituency: 1- Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanim: Born in 1968. Holds

3- Abdulkarim Abdullah Al-Kanderi: Born in 1981. PhD in business and commercial law. Works as a lawyer and professor at the Faculty of Law at Ku wait University. Member of the National Assembly (2013 - 2016 - 2020 and annulled 2022).

4- Muhannad Talal Al-Sayer: Born in 1981. Master of Private Law. Member of the National Assembly (2020 - annulled 2022).

5- Abdulaziz Tariq Al-Saqoubi: Born in 1986 Bachelor of Architecture from the College of Engineering and Petroleum at Kuwait University 2008. Master of Architecture from University of Cincinnati. Member of the National Assembly (2020 - annulled 2022).

6- Janan Mohsen Ramadan: Born in 1973. Bachelor of Chemical Engineering from Kuwait University. Master of Chemical Engineering from Kuwait University. Member of the annulled 2022 National Assembly

7- Hamad Adel Al-Obeid: Born in 1982, Holds a Bachelor's degree in Comparative Jurisprudence and Fundamentals of Jurisprudence from Kuwait University. Holds a Master's degree in Islamic eco-nomics from Cairo University. Member of the annulled 2022 National Assembly.

8- Fares Saad Al-Otaibi: Born in 1974. Bachelor's degree in Business Administration. General Controller in Kuwait Municipality. Member of the National Assembly (2013 - 2020 - annulled 2022)

9- Hamad Abdurrahman Al-Olayan: Born in 1982. Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Kuwait University. Worked in banking sector. 10- Jarrah Khaled Al-Fouzan: Born in 1989.

Bachelor's law degree. General Manager of Cyber Systems.

#### Winners in 4th Constituency

The main electoral committee in the 4th Constituency announced the 10 winners of National Assembly membership for the 2023 17th legislative term, which took place Tuesday. The results in the following order:

- 1- Bader Sayyar Al-Shammari (8,487) votes.
- Mubarak Hummoud Al-Tasha (8,376) votes.
- 3- Mutib Ayed Al-Thaydi (7,721) votes.
  4- Mohammad Awadh Al-Ruqaib (7,196) votes.
- 5- Mohammad Hayef Al-Mutairi (6,966) votes.
- 6- Mubarak Haif Ål-Hajraf (6,710) votes. 7- Abdullah Fahhad Al-Enizi (6.567) votes
- 8- Saad Ali Al-Rashidi (6,228) votes.
- 9- Fayez Ghanem Al-Jamhour (6,035) votes.

10- Shuaib Al-Muwaizri (5,873) votes. Polling stations closed at 08:00 pm (local time), seeing 207 candidates competing for 50 seats in the parliament

#### Bios for '23 4th constituency winners

Profiles of 10 winners from 4th Constituency: 1- Bader Sayyar Al-Shammari: Born in 1973. Re-tired Major General from the Ministry of Interior. Formerly Director of Jahra Immigration.

2- Mubarak Hummoud Al-Tasha: Holds PhD in private law compared to Islamic law. Legal advisor to the Minister of Justice and Minister of Awqaf Teacher of personal status law at Kuwait University. Teacher of civil law at the Commercial Institute. Member of the annulled 2022 National Assembly.

3- Mutib Ayed Al Thaydi. Born in 1968. Holds a Bachelor's degree in Education. Former Vice Presi-dent of the Educational Association at the College of Basic Education. Works as a teacher in the Ministry of Education.

4- Mohammad Awadh Al-Ruqaib. Born in 1981 He holds a Bachelor's degree in accounting. Former executive in Kuwait Credit Bank (KCB). Former member of the Municipal Council.

5 - Mohammad Hayef Al-Mutairi. Born in 1964 Holds a BA in Islamic Studies. Imam and preacher at the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs. Member of the National Assembly (2008 - 2009 - 2012 - 2016 annulled 2022). 6- Mubarak Haif Al-Hajraf. Born in 1970. Holds

Master's degree in law and a diploma in private law. Member of the National Assembly (2016 - 2020 - annulled 2022). 7- Abdullah Fahad Al-Enizi. Born in 1976. Bach-

elor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from Ku-wait University. Member of the Municipal Council (2009). Member of the National Assembly (2016 annulled 2022). 8- Saad Ali Al-Rashidi. Born in 1965. Holds a high school diploma. Worked in the Ministry of Interior. Member of the National Assembly (2008 - 2009 - annulled 2012 - 2013 - 2016 - 2020 - annulled 2022). 9 - Fayez Ghanem Al-Jamhour. Born in 1971. Holds a Bachlor's degree in Sharia. Former execu-tive at Ministry of Public Works. Businessman. Former MP in the 2020 National Assembly. 10- Shuaib Shabab Al-Muwaizri. Born in 1959 Holds a diploma in police sciences. A former colonel in the Ministry of Interior. Former minister. Member of the National Assembly (2009 - annulled 2012 -2016 - 2020 - annulled 2022).





Hamad Al-Matar

Khaled Al-Ameera

Osama Al-Shaheen



Badar Al-Mullah







Bader Al-Shimmari

Mubarak Al-Hajraf



Mubarak Al-Tasha

Abdullah Fahhad

Winners in Fourth Constituency

Bader Al-Enezi

Hamad Al-Obaid Faras Al-Otaibi





Jarrah Al-Fouzan















Shuaib Al-Muwaizri



Saad Al-Rashidi



Fayez Al-Jamhour



a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering. Member of the National Assembly (2006 - 2008 -2009 - annulled 2012 - 2013 - 2016). Held the position of Speaker of the National Assembly (2013 · 2016 - 2020). Former Chairman of Kuwait Sports Club - Member of the Society of Engineers and the International Association of Mechanical Engineers.

2- Shuaib Ali Shaaban: Born in 1984. Holds a Bachelor's degree in Police Sciences from Saad Al-Abdullah Academy for Security Sciences. An officer in the Kuwaiti Ministry of Interior. Member of the National Assembly (2022 annulled).

3- Abdullah Turki Al-Anbaei: Born in 1983. Bachelor's degree from Kuwait University. Worked in the private sector. Member of the National As-(2022 annulled).

4- Falah Dhahi Al-Hajri: Director of the Attariah Center for Memorizing the Holy Qur'an. Member of the National Assembly (2022 annulled).

5- Mohammad Barak Al-Mutair: Born in 1969. Holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration. Member of the National Assembly (2003 -2006 - 2008 - 2016 - 2020 - 2022 annulled) 6- Abdulwahab Aref Al-Essa: Born in 1988. Bach-

elor's degree in Political Science from Kuwait University. Worked in media and commerce. Member of the Kuwaiti Journalists Association. Member of the National Assembly (2022 annulled).

7- Bader Nashmi Al-Enezi: Born in 1979. Holds a Bachelor's degree in media from Kuwait University. An employee at the Public Authority for Communications. Chairman of the Board of Directors' Union (2009 - 2011).

8- Fahd Abdulaziz Al-Masoud: Born in 1961. Holds a Master's degree in computer engineering. is a computer engineer at Kuwait Airways

9- Hamad Mohammad Al-Mutar: Born in 1970. Holds a PhD in Industrial Chemistry. Member of the Faculty of Graduate Studies. Member of the National Assembly (annulled 2012 - 2020 - annulled 2022).

10- Bader Hamed Al-Mulla: Born in 1971. Holds a Doctorate in law. A lawyer and member of the teaching staff at the Saad Al-Abdullah Academy for Security Sciences. Member of the National Assembly (2016 - 2020 - annulled 2022)

#### Winners in 3rd Constituency

The main electoral committee in the 3rd Constituency announced the 10 winners of National Assembly membership for the 2023 17th legislative term, which took place Tuesday. The results are as following:

- Mohalhal Khaled Al-Mudhaf (7,268) votes.
   Ahmad Abdulaziz Al-Saadoun (6,325) votes.
- 3- Abdulkarim Abdullah Al-Kandari (5,878) votes.
- 4- Muhannad Talal Al-Sayer (5,772) votes
- 5- Abdulaziz Tariq Al-Saqoubi (5,730) votes.6- Janan Mohsen Ramadan (5,048) votes.
- 7- Hamad Adel Al-Obeid (4,815) votes.
- 8- Fares Saad Al-Otaibi (4,796) votes.
- 9- Hamad Abdurrahman Al-Olayan (4,782) votes.
- 10- Jarrah Khaled Al-Fouzan (3,633) votes. Polling stations closed at 08:00 pm (local time).

seeing 207 candidates competing for 50 seats in the parliament

#### **Bios for '23 3rd Constituency winners**

Profiles of 10 winners from 3rd Constituency 1- Mohalhal Khaled Al-Mudhaf: Born in 1971. Diploma in Mechanical Engineering. Member of the teaching staff at the Industrial Institute in the Public Authority for Applied Education. Member of the

National Assembly (2020 - annulled 2022). 2- Ahmad Abdulaziz Al-Saadoun: Born in 1934. Former Speaker of the National Assembly. Member of the National Assembly (1975 - 1981 - 1985 - 1992 - 1996 - 1999 - 2003 - 2006 - 2008 - 2009 annulled 2012 and 2022) - Assistant Undersecretary for Telegraph and Telephone Affairs at the Ministry of Communications, President of Kuwait Football Association from 1968 to 1976.

#### Winners in 5th Constituency

The main electoral committee in the 5th Constituency announced the 10 winners of National Assembly membership for the 2023 17th legislative term, which took place Tuesday. The results in the following order:

- 1- Saud Abdulaziz Al-Asfour (12,784) votes.
- 2- Hamdan Salem Al-Azmi (10,863) votes.
- 3- Khaled Mohammad Al-Otaibi (8,028) votes.
- 4- Hani Hussein Shams (7,644) votes.
- 5- Marzouq Faleh Al-Habini (6,775) votes. 6- Fahad Falah Al-Azmi (6,443) votes.
- Abdulhadi Nasser Al-Ajmi (6,341) votes.
- 8- Mohammad Hussein Al-Mahan (6,324) votes.9- Majed Musaed Al-Mutairi (6,245) votes.

10- Mohammad Hadi Al-Huwaila (6,188) votes Polling stations closed at 08:00 pm (local time), seeing 207 candidates competing for 50 seats in the parliament

#### **Bios for '23 5th Constituency winners**

Profiles of 10 winners from 5th Constituency: 1- Saud Abdulaziz Al-Asfour. Master's in Mechanical Engineering from the United States. Worked in the field of media and journalism. Member of the National Assembly (annulled 2022)

2- Hamdan Salem Al-Azmi. Born in 1968. Master's in Civil Law. Attorney and legal researcher at the Ministry of Interior. Member of the National Assembly (2013 - 2016 - 2020 and annulled 2022).

3- Khaled Mohammad Al-Otaibi, Born in 1966. Bachelor's degree in Police Sciences. Member of the National Assembly (2016 - 2020 - annulled 2022).

4- Hani Hussein Shams: Born in 1970. Bachelor's degree in Commerce, majoring in accounting from Kuwait University. Member of Parliament (annulled 2022).

5- Marzouq Faleh Al-Habini: Born in 1952. Bachelor's degree in Business Administration. Worked as Acting Director of Health Affairs in Kuwait Municipality. Member of the National Assembly (1996 - 1999 2003 - 2006 - 2008 - annulled 2022) and Member of the National Council of 1990. 6- Fahd Falah Al-Azmi: Ex-military.

Abdulhadi Nasser Al-Ajmi: Born in 1974. Holds a PhD in Islamic history. Professor of History and Civilization at the College of Arts at Kuwait University.

8- Mohammad Hussein Al-Mahan: Holds a Diploma in IT from Cambridge, the United Kingdom. Bachelor's degree in Media from October 6 University, Egypt. Masters from Cairo University. Holds a PhD. Member of the National Assembly (annulled 2022).

9- Majed Musaed Al-Mutairi: Born in 1972. Bachelor's of Business Administration. Worked for the Kuwait Oil Company. Member of the National Assembly (2016 and annulled 2022).

10- Mohammad Hadi Al-Huwaila. Born in 1971 PhD in administration and a master's in political science. Member of the teaching staff at the Saad Al-Abdullah Academy for Security Sciences and the Arab Open University. Member of the National Assembly (2008 - 2009 - 2013 - 2016 - 2020 and annulled 2022).



Winners in Fifth Constituency

Saud Al-Asfour







Abdulhadi Al-Ajmi

Muhammad Al-Mahhan



Khaled Al-Otaibi





Hani Shams

Majed Al-Mutairi



Muhammad Al-Huwaila



3

## LOCAL

## diwaniya 🕐 چيوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

## 'Need to solve farmers' problems, facilitate entry of trained workers'

"SELF-SUFFICIENCY in the issue of foodstuffs is one of the important things that contribute to the independence of the will of any country, and its ability to make decisions that suit it, without colliding with the threats of countries that possess these foodstuffs and can export them to countries that need them," columnist **Dr. Mohammed Al-Azmi** wrote for **Al-Rai** daily.

"It is not possible to underestimate any food commodity, whatever its value, as long as it is included in human needs, whether vegetables, fruits, livestock, fish, and others.

"Although Kuwait is a desert country, and its fresh water resources are scarce, and it depends primarily on desalination of sea water, and this is done through exorbitant costs, yet the

Kuwaiti farmer was able to prove his presence in providing many of the nutritional needs of the Kuwaiti society, especially vegetables and poultry, meat and fish.

"Kuwait's farms have many specifications that help them intensify agricultural production with high quality, contribute to the stability of Kuwait's national food security, and fill the market's needs for those indispensable products at the level of families and individuals.

"When we go to consumer cooperative societies or supermarkets, we will find that the Kuwaiti product is distinguished by many specifications that make it acceptable and more demanded by the consumer than imported products, especially since it is fresh and did not travel long distance.

"On the other hand, we urge the officials to pay more attention to the Kuwaiti farmer, and to try to support him by all means and capabilities, because this includes seeking self-sufficiency as much as possible in food commodities, which brings about the desired stability, and it is assumed not to reduce any agricultural product, and work to support all products.

"Moreover, solving the problems facing farmers, the most important of which is facilitating the entry of trained manpower into Kuwait, and providing suitable water for irrigating crops, in addition to marketing, which is a big stumbling block as a result of which losses are incurred by farmers, which may cause them frustration and abandon agricultural work to another, more profitable activity.

"The organization of training courses to qualify Kuwaiti farmers is important and necessary, through the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training in cooperation with the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fisheries Resources."

#### Also:

"Voting is the means whereby a group of citizens in an electoral district express their opinion after political consultations and using debates and electoral campaigns. This electoral system elects people who manage the highest positions, legislation and oversight in the country, as is the case in Kuwait according to the prevailing electoral system through legislation according to the approval and we find these people masterfully concealing this reality and bitter content during the election time.

reality and bitter content during the election time. "The voter has a great responsibility to read between the lines with analysis in order to extricate the country from the backwardness through legislation and oversight instead of pushing the country towards mock interrogations that meet the interests of selfish people with their own interests at the expense of Ku-

wait. "The role of women is undoubtedly great and prominent in changing the arena and tipping the scales. In previous years, we have witnessed the candidates' methods of exploiting their voice to suppress them in legislation and forgetting their humanitarian files."

"Confirming the democratic practice, the people exercised their right to choose their representatives in the National Assembly. His Highness the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad, may God make his soul rest, said after the liberation of Kuwait from the Saddamist occupation: 'I call on my fellow citizens to prove to the whole world that the Kuwaiti democracy is not imported, but rooted in the hearts of Kuwaitis," columnist **Abdulmohsen Al-Hussaini** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

"From this standpoint, the people headed to the polling stations to elect members of the National Assembly in an atmosphere of freedom and public participation in choosing the lawmakers who, in coordination with the government, will lay down the State policy, as well as the foundations for building a modern State and a prosperous future for Kuwait.

"We remember the statement of His Highness the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad, may God make his soul rest, that democracy guarantees the citizen's right to express his opinion through the press or media -- the major means for expressing opinions. This confirms freedom of the press, culture and thought, as well as free dialogue between brothers in the legislature and the bureaus. There is no law that prevents dialogue and discussion of various issues.

"Everyone adhered to this approach, which urged the international community to respect the Kuwaiti policy. This stance had a positive impact on the position of other countries in supporting the Kuwaiti right to liberation and contributing to the international army that was prepared to defend and liberate Kuwait.

"Now, after the people chose their representatives in the National Assembly, the members of the new Assembly and the Council of Ministers must shape the future of Kuwait, establish the principles of justice and equality among citizens, raise their standard of living or improve their living conditions by raising salaries and wages, develop public facilities and provide the best services to citizens.

"We hope that everyone will move away from the previous quarrels and rivalries that led to the decline of various activities in the country. People expect their representatives to focus on development projects, set a policy to build a prosperous future for Kuwait, take care of the youths and give them the opportunity to assume leadership positions. Citizens also look forward to the State working with the National Assembly to support the national economy."

## **Drug-free test for all new arrivals, some residents**

'Iqama' linked with negative result

**KUWAIT** CITY, June 7: The Ministry of Interior, in coordination with the Ministry of Health, is putting the final touches on a plan to conduct a "drug-free test" for adult expatriates as part of a package of proposals that the ministry is working on to combat the scourge of drugs, limit its spread in the country, and dry up its sources, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

According to security sources, the concept, which was drafted by a team that included security experts and officials of the health sector and was initially accepted when it was presented to the Council of Ministers, includes the establishment of health centers specialized in conducting drug-free tests, in coordination with the Criminal Evidence Department.

The intention is to link issuance of visa - either for work, visit or joining family - with a negative drug test result. This test will be added to the regular medical tests required for newly arriving expatriates and some categories of residents upon renewal of their residence permits.

The resident will have to undergo the test and submit its result within the rest of the requirements when applying for the renewal of his residency.

The Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Health is working on identifying the centers that are equipped for this purpose, similar to the biometric centers, in addition to allocating specialized medical and security staff.

In the event that the result of the test is positive and it is proven that the expatriate took drugs, deportation measures will be taken against him immediately, and the residency is not renewed.

The sources said, "No one will be complacent with any-

to follow the procedure will

expose himself to account-

centers will be linked elec-

tronically to the residence

affairs departments in the

The sources said they

expect the new vision to be

implemented after complet-

ing necessary research and

discussions about it, add-

ing that preparations for its

implementation would begin

as soon as the Ministry of In-

terior finishes the biometric

file for citizens and expatri-

They affirmed that the Council of Ministers wel-

comed the proposal put forward by the First Deputy

Prime Minister, Minister of

Interior and Acting Minister

of Defense Sheikh Talal Al-

Khaled, and requested that it

be studied thoroughly from

make some legal amend-

ments that require the ap-

proval of the National

Assembly, the sources indicated that the proposal will

Referring to the need to

They added that the test

ability.'

ates.

all aspects.

governorates.

### Other Voices

## Our money squandered on translating medicine

#### **By Ahmad alsarraf**

It is known that medicine is advanced in non-English speaking countries, such as France, Italy, Ukraine, Russia, Germany,

Japan, Korea, Thailand, Israel and Spain, where it is taught in their languages, and its doctors are well aware of the importance of mastering the English language, so that

they can continue to see the latest developments, which are the main source of communication in English-speaking countries such as America, Canada, Britain and Australia.

alsarraf

Also, the medically developed countries, which are not English-speaking, have wealth, deep medical experience, and the ability to communicate with the latest developments in the world of medicine, in contrast to the wellknown heritage of their hospitals and laboratories.

We have absolutely no right to compare ourselves with them and say that as long as they studied medicines in their languages, and succeeded, so we will succeed also, because we basically lack all the elements of teaching medicine in our Arabic language.

It is not enough for a country to translate medicine into its language, in order for it to have, within years, a distinguished medical staff.

We belong to the Third World countries, or underdeveloped and teaching medicine to our students in Arabic will overthrow all the achievements that have been lectures, which are often held in English.

We hope that those who took over the administration of the Center for Arabization of Medicine recently, and for whom we have the utmost respect, will they benefit us from what the center has accomplished over four or five decades? And did it really take all this very long time to complete their dictionary?

Are they confident that the hundreds of thousands of Arabic language, expressions and designations that have been used will already be fully known and understood by those who have recently graduated from high school?

I also hope that they will conduct a survey among Kuwaiti doctors to find out the extent of their "knowledge" of the existence of this center in the first place, after all these years have passed since its establishment, and the spending of tens or hundreds of millions of dollars on it, and the extent of their approval of the translation project, basically?

How will the center translate developments in the world of medicine on a daily basis, and inform medical students about them, firsthand, and after their graduation?

Dr Khaled Al-Saleh, in his response to our article on the Arabization of medicine, states that learning medicine, or science in general, in the mother tongue enables a person to understand his subject in a more creative way.

This is true, and we support it, but it is not necessarily in medicine, and not exclusively in our case. Learning in the language of the state is effective, but it requires -- in medicine in particular -- a high level of education in that country, in addition to its civilizational and technical progress. The advancement of medicine in France, for example, did not happen in an environment isolated from the rest of society, but rather it is a part of it, and the virtuous doctor has only to give us the medical progress of France, Italy and Germany, and then take his comfort in translating whatever terms he wants into the Arabic language, and until then it is preferred that the situation remain as it is. It is the least harmful situation, compared to what it seeks to implement. We have no doubt that the dear doctor will not advise anyone to receive treatment in a country that, half a century before others, Arabized medicine, knowing that learning it in the mother tongue does not necessarily mean that a person will be able to understand his subject in a more creative way.



Dr Azmi

of the majority in the National Assembly," columnist **Dr. Ghadeer Mohammad Aseeri** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

"The country is going through accelerating political events, which are the Kuwaiti National Assembly elections. The challenges facing the female and male voter are great to achieve political balance and stability from violent political fluctuations. Voting is required for the voice of development and constructive legislation away from chaos and personal choices.

"The behavior of revenge is a primitive behavior that destroys a homeland, and destroys the culture of modern civilization that calls for, distinguishes, and innovates in the modern regional environment in enacting laws and modern projects.

"There are two types of voting, positive and negative. Whoever votes for the homeland, the public interest, development, progress, coexistence, acceptance, construction, humanity, equality and social justice is voting for the advancement of Kuwait through positive laws, and the other type is voting according to sect, tribe, origin and confinement to a family, factional, sectarian or ethnic bloc for success. The personal interest of the closure at the expense of the homeland, as it ends with negative results, the demolition and regression of laws in Kuwait.

"Today, the danger of voting is very important, as there are some candidates who seek to isolate Kuwait from its Gulf, Arab, and international surroundings,

#### 

"A visitor in developed countries sees wonders on their roads, as whoever walks on these roads feels comfortable and at ease," columnist **Motlaq Al-Qarawi** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

"The roads in these countries are paved according to specifications. There is periodic follow-up and continuous maintenance. Therefore, the users do not criticize the roads. They are satisfied with the good work and safety of roads.

"We export oil and make asphalt, yet the viewer of our roads finds himself walking on sandy roads. He is afraid of bumps, cracks and flying gravel. He does not fear for his car. He fears for his life and that of his family members. This revolves around the interests of some who only care about achieving their goals, throwing the interest of the country and the people behind their back.

"Reform begins with fear of God and dedication at work. The country will benefit from this blessing if personal interests are set side.

"We do not want broken roads even if they are new, such as Sabiya Road and Sheikh Jaber Bridge, may God have mercy on us. We want what we could be proud of in front of the world and cherish in front of everyone.

"The main roles of every official are to keep away from stakeholders and fight against corruption, so let everyone who reads this message consider it."

- Compiled by Mai Elsoukary

#### **News in Brief**

**Kidnap report rejected:** The Embassy of Kuwait in Azerbaijan has vehemently denied the rumor spread on social media about the kidnapping of a Kuwaiti in Baku, reports Al-Anba daily.

In a press statement, the embassy stressed that the rumor is baseless; clarifying the Kuwaiti had an argument with the driver accompanying him during his stay in Baku and it did not exceed two hours.

The embassy affirmed that it followed up the issue through legal means and it spares no effort in serving citizens, calling on everyone to refrain from spreading false information.

#### 

**'Wafra connection hub':** Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Gulf Electrical Interconnection Authority Eng Ahmad Al-Ibrahim has confirmed that the Wafra station of the authority serves as the connection hub with neighboring countries, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The Secretariat General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) issued a statement quoting Al-Ibrahim as saying that the authority, in cooperation with experts in the Ministry of Electricity and Renewable Energy in Kuwait, conducted several technical and economic studies to enhance the link between the authority's networks and Kuwait.

He explained that the studies confirmed the need to build a new station as per the Kuwaiti technical specifications; disclosing the station aims to achieve economic goals like expanding the central capacity, taking into consideration the significant increase in power consumption during summer.

He said this is in addition to strengthening the connection capacity to be able to handle power related emergencies in GCC countries.

**Approval obtained:** The Ministry of Health has obtained approval from the regulatory authorities to renew the lease contracts for buildings use as housing for the medical staff – 17 buildings at a total cost of KD8.5 million, reports Al-Qabas daily quoting sources.

Sources said the regulatory authorities also approved the rental of hotel apartments to meet the medical staff housing needs of the ministry at a cost of more than KD500,000.

Sources affirmed that the ministry is working hard to gradually move to its own buildings, instead of maintaining the rental system that has been in place for a while in order to regulate its general budget and rationalize spending in general.

**Many cars on fire:** Firefighting teams from Sulaibikhat and Ardhiya fire stations controlled a fire that broke out in a number of vehicles in Andalus, reports Al-Rai daily.

The daily added, after the Public Relations and Media Department of the Directorate-General of Fire Department (DGFD) received a report fire engines were sent to the area and the fire was controlled immediately without causing any casualties.

The daily did not say what caused the fire. Investigations are continuing. one who fails to implement the decision. Whoever fails made so far.

The translation of medicine that took nearly half a century was nothing more than a waste of time, money and effort, and often has nothing to do with medicine because the majority of those who study medicine in Arabic are unable to understand its meanings, which are very difficult even for an Arabic language teacher, so how about a government high school graduate?

The proof that Arabization was a waste of time and money is that almost no one ever heard of their dictionary, which was issued in 1973.

Therefore, it is better to continue teaching medicine in the practical language, which is English, and not leave it to a method that is already more difficult.

On top of what that means by severing the connection of those who learn medicine in Arabic with all medical developments, almost daily, and severing their connection to any seminars, courses, internal and external, and

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be among the government's priorities during the parliament's 17th legislative term, which will begin after the elections scheduled to be held on Tuesday, June 6. **E-interface app:** The Acting Director General of Kuwait Municipality Eng. Saud Al-Dabous announced the application of an electronic interface in Ahmadi Municip

application of an electronic interface in Ahmadi Municipality to issue financial disbursement decisions related to site allowances for engineers and those occupying positions of an engineering nature. This makes Ahmadi Municipality the first municipality branch to use such an interface, reports Aljarida

daily. In a press statement, Eng. Al-Dabbous explained that the financial and administrative sector in Kuwait Municipality played the role of the financial and administrative support departments in the municipality branches in all governorates to reduce the documentary cycle for issuing the allowance to engineers.

#### **UK launches new Electronic Travel Authorisation scheme**

## Visitors from GCC countries and Jordan to pay £10 for ETA

UK's new Electronic Travel Authorisation scheme (ETA) will cost just £10, making travel to Britain cheaper and easier for visitors from the Gulf and Jordan.

Nationals from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states and Jordan will soon only be required to pay £10 to apply for an ETA, which will allow them to visit the UK multiple times over a two-year period. This is compared to Gulf nationals currently paying £30 per visit to the UK under the current

KUWAIT CITY, June 7: The Electronic Visa Wavier (EVW) scheme and Jordanian nationals £100 for a visit visa.

The scheme is set to launch for Qatari nationals in October 2023, and for the rest of the Gulf Cooperation Council states and Jordan in February 2024 ahead of a worldwide expansion throughout 2024.

Earlier this year, the UK government announced plans to introduce a new ETA scheme as part of a digitisation of the UK border by 2025 to further enhance border security and the customer experience. An

ETA is a digital permission to travel for those visiting or transiting through the UK who do not need a visa for short stays, or who do not currently hold another UK visa.

Immigration Minister Robert Jenrick said:

Visitors from the Gulf states and Jordan make a huge contribution to the UK's tourism industry and the new ETA scheme will make it easier and cheaper for them to travel to the UK.

The cost of an ETA will be one of the best value in the world compared to similar international schemes. This small additional cost to visitors will enable us to bolster the security of the UK border and keep our communities safe.

Minister of State for the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia

Lord Ahmad said: I'm delighted that our partners across the Gulf and Jordan will be the first to benefit from the UK's new Electronic Travel Authorisation scheme. This scheme is further proof of the strong partnership between the UK and countries across

#### the region.

By cutting costs and visa requirements, the ETA scheme will ensure visitors from the Gulf states and Jordan can enjoy travelling with ease to the UK, boosting business and tourism links between our countries

Gulf visitors are highly valuable to the UK economy, with over 790,000 Gulf visitors spending £2 billion during their stays in the UK last year.

The move to the ETA scheme means that the visa requirement

will be removed for nationals from GCC states and Jordan, bringing the requirements for them to visit the UK in line with other visitors, such as those from the US and Australia.

The application process for an ETA will be simple and fast to complete, with the process being entirely digital via a mobile phone app. To apply, individuals will need to provide biographic and biometric details such as a digital photograph and answer a set of suitability questions.

## **MoE signs contract for supply**, operation of fingerprint units

#### Additional work hours payment to be deposited soon

KUWAIT CITY, June 7: The Ministry of Education has signed contracts for the supply, installation and operation of fingerprint devices to mark the attendance of employees in government schools, which are expected to start working during the next academic year 2023/2024, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The daily added, the employees had varying opinions and they remained divided between supporters and opponents of the idea of having fingerprints attendance in schools.

The Al-Jahra Educational zone said the supporters and opponents of this decision had their views on the reasons that prompted them to take their respective positions, as some emphasized that the adoption of the fingerprint system will contribute to controlling work, and eliminating nepotism and

favoritism by some school administrations, while others believe that it will contribute to create an atmosphere of reluctance from the teaching staff and give rise to more obstacles.

The President of the Teachers' Association, Hamad Al-Houli, said Dr Al-Faris that the association is not

against the application of fingerprinting in absolute terms, but rather has reservations about the application mechanism, as the procedures is marred by shortcomings, and "we have addressed, as an association, the former minister of education, Dr. Muhammad Al-Faris, about the existence of obstacles regarding fingerprint and the nature of teachers' work in schools.

He pointed out that the Civil Service Commission did not respond to several queries, and did not resolve them until now, despite the passage of years since they were raised and Dr Al-Faris at the time had requested that teachers be excluded from the implementation of this decision.

Meanwhile, the payment for the additional work hours rendered by the faculty members at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) in the second semester of academic year 2022/2023 will be deposited to their accounts soon, reports Al-Anba daily quoting sources.

Sources revealed the relevant form has been forwarded to the Central Bank of Kuwait; indicating the beneficiaries thanked Director General of PAAET Dr Hassan Al-Fajam, his deputies, the Financial Department director and all employees for their efforts.





AmCham Kuwait in Collaboration with the

International Labour Organization (ILO) Held Workshop on Combatting Forced Labor & Trafficking

From left: Siham Nuseibeh - Technical Officer at ILO, Pete Swift - Chairman of the Board of ABCK-AmCham Kuwait and John Redfield CTIP Lead for RCC-KU from the U.S. Military.

### AmCham Kuwait in collaboration with ILO holds workshop on 'combating' forced labor & trafficking in persons

KUWAIT CITY, June 7: AmCham Kuwait, in its unwavering commitment to corporate social responsibility (CSR), has partnered with the ILO, a leading international organization in labor rights and social justice, to spearhead this significant initiative. The workshop provided a platform for participants to engage in meaningful discussions, share experiences, and explore strategies to combat forced labor and human trafficking. Representatives from government bodies, industry leaders, and other relevant stakeholders came together to address the multifaceted dimensions of these issues.

The event commenced with opening

John Redfield, the speaker from the U.S. Military spoke about their efforts in combating human trafficking (Counter Trafficking in Persons (CTIP)), Federal Acquisition Regulations as well as compliance and meeting minimum labor law requirements. Redfield 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.

Through educational workshops such as this one, organizers aimed to contribute to the eradication of forced labor and human trafficking, making a lasting impact on the lives of vul nerable individuals. This workshop aligns with Kuwait's commitment to uphold human rights and its determination to eliminate all forms of modern slavery. Through knowledgesharing, capacity-building, and collaborative efforts, the workshop intends to foster a culture of respect for human dignity and promote inclusive economic growth. ABCK-AmCham Kuwait is a nonprofit 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 has acted as an advocate for American interest in the state of Kuwait. For more information, please visit our website at www. amchamkuwait.org or follow us on the social media channel @abck1985

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

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remarks from Pete Swift, Chairman of AmCham Kuwait, who warmly welcomed the participants and emphasized the importance of global challenges that require collective action across the sectors. Swift then introduced Siham Nuseibeh, Technical Officer at the UN's International Labour Organization (ILO) and Mr. John Redfield CTIP Lead for RCC-KU from the U.S. Military.

The workshop highlighted the importance of responsible business practices and encouraged companies to adopt robust policies and procedures to prevent forced labor and human trafficking in their operations and supply chains. Participants gained valuable insights from experts in the field, who shared best practices, case studies, and innovative approaches to promote ethical and sustainable business practices.

#### **Inaugural Assembly**

#### **Continued from Page 1**

The Fifth Constituency changed by 20 percent with the victory of new MPs -- Fahd bin Jame'e in sixth place with 6,405 votes and Abdulhadi Nasser Al-Ajmi in eighth place with 6,320 votes.

The Islamic Constitutional Movement (ICM) took three Parliamentary seats through the victory of Osama Al-Shaheen, Hamad Al-Matar and Abdulaziz Al-Saqaabi.

The Salafi Movement got three seats -- Hamad Al-Obaid, Mubarak Al-Tasha and Fahd Al-Masoud; the Independent Islamist got six seats -- Adel Al-Damkhi, Fayez Al-Jomhour, Hamdan Al-Azmi, Abdullah Al-Anbaie, Jarrah Al-Fawzan and Muhammad Al-Hewaila.

On the other hand, the Peace and Justice Alliance lost its parliamentary seats as former MPs Khalil Al-Saleh and Saleh Ashour lost in the election.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Wednesday cables to candidates winning seats in the National Assembly, congratulating them on earning the Kuwaiti people's trust.

His Highness the Amir called on the winners of the 2023 elections to carry the responsibility of representing the people and diligently and realize their aspiration for a better future for Kuwait.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received

Wednesday a congratulatory cable from His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

In the cable, His Highness the Crown Prince congratulated His Highness the Amir on the success of the parliamentary poll.

In reply, His Highness the Amir sent a cable to His Highness the Crown Prince thanking him for his sincere sentiments, evaluating national responsibility of citizens towards practicing their constitutional rights to select their candidates.

His Highness the Amir also prayed to Allah the Almighty to maintain the dear homeland safe, secure, and stable.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent cables on Wednesday congratulating the candidates that won seats at the National Assembly during the elections, which occurred yesterday.

His Highness the Crown Prince wished the future MPs luck in their upcoming endeavor to represent the people of Kuwait.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent cables on Wednesday to the winners of the '23 National Assembly elections. The cabinet congratulated on Wednesday the candidates who were voted in the National Assembly during the 2023 elections on Tuesday, wishing them utmost luck in their future endeavor.

5

#### Locals from various walks of life speak out

## Women lost out, with only 1 scoring win in recent elections

#### By Chaitali B. Roy

Special to the Arab Times

A ccording to Sean Yom, Se-nior Fellow at the Project on Middle East Democracy based in Washington DC, Kuwait is the most liberalised Arab monarchy with a considerably powerful National Assembly. Though constrained by a royally appointed government, the parliament is chosen through competitive voting, which augers well for the country's politics. But despite having the most "empowered parliament" in the Gulf, different branches of political governance have reached a kind of impasse in Kuwait. In recent years, there have been frequent confrontations between the executive and the elected branches leading to flash elections. Elections in September 2022resulted in an oppositionled parliament. Two female candidates emerged victorious- the highest number in a decade. In March 2023, the results of this election were upended, and the previous parliament was reinstated. In April, the country's leadership announced the dissolution of this parliament and announced the country's third election in as many years. On June 6, Kuwait's seventh general election took place in just over a decade following repeated political crises that have stalled reforms. Once again, women lost out, with only Jenan Bousheri scoring a win. To get a sense of the people's mood after the recent political upheavals, Arab Times reached out to locals from various walks of life.

Nejoud Al Yagout - Poet -Activist

The fact of the matter is that I no longer have expectations.



None whatsoever. Having said that, though, I still retain hope, albeit false. I hope that the MPs will one day in the near future focus on education, the advancement of knowledge,

progression, infrastructure, abolishing articles such as Article 153 and Article 182, protecting the rights and the dignity of women and minorities and children, respecting expatriates, opening the country to tourism, securing freedom of religion and worship for all, and promoting a community which prides itself on egalitarianism and coexistence.

Bushra Al Muawed - Retired

#### Shaima Bin Hussein - Entrepreneur and Women's Rights activist

In all elections, whether for the parliament, municipality, or civil society, we seek what's best for our country.We need parliamentarians who will improve the educational



and system provide justice women's for rights, including the rights of children of Kuwaiti women. They will ensure our civil liberties, ensure more cultural and sports ac-

Hussein tivities that keep the youth busy and find housing solutions.

Yes, indeed, we voted ten months ago, but we still need to keep the hope and faith that good people can represent us in parliament and ensure the survival of democracy

Dr Shahd Al Shammari - Assistant Professor of English

> I am happy that we have at least one woman in parliament as there is more support after the last elections. I hope to see more positive changes

and

Al Shammari reforms. There needs to be a focus on disability and disabled women in education and healthcare.

Bashar Al Huneidi - Environmental Activist & Founder of Kayak4Kuwait

We fervently desire that Kuwait reawakens from its harrowing ordeal and realises that we, the patriots, can rescue it from the clutches of an insidious enemy slowly devouring its essence. We ardently aspire for corruption to be classified as a grave betrayal and addressed with the full force of the law, ensuring that its punishment matches its severity.We passionately yearn to prioritise environmental preservation and the utmost commitment to sustainability, valuing them over monetary gains and actively aligning with our national needs today and in the future.We whole-

heartedly envi-Kuwait sion embarking on a green revolution across all its institutions, transforming into a harmoni-

#### Dr Abeer Al Omar

Regardless of changes in the names of PM and with the parliament being dismissed over and again, the rumours that a fully democratic system may be on hold for the next two to four years might be the best among the worst solution. It will give the government space for execution (though we know this will provide more room for corruption, at least it will let the wheel move and allow us to see what the government can do without the interference of the parlia-



Dr Al Omar

I doubt this, as even the government body needs to be modernised. It has become

ment members.

challenging situation in the country that needs a revamp from the corrup-

tion, entitlement, and laziness that has emerged in a non-homogeneous society and culture before one brings changes or economic developments. The educational system and forced laws to ensure people respect the system and each other is a top priority.

Hussain Mairza - Retired Banker The parliamentarians should

have a clear list of objectives they can tackle with target dates, for which the peo-



their disposal to put the required pressure and hold the government accountable for doing the needed job. Vot-ers should avoid tribal affiliations and vote selling to select suitably qualified candidates. But I am not expecting this parliament to be efficient either.



Al Ostad

#### Strength and leadership

## Kuwaiti women still struggle to find 'rightful place' in political narrative

#### By Chaitali B. Roy Special to the Arab Times

Who is Mudhawi? I had asked. Dr AlanoudAl Sharekh, the quiet, unassuming award-winning academic, activist, and founding member of Abolish 153, had guietly explained that Mudhawi is a traditional name from the Arabian Gulf region. It conjures up an image of a wise woman open to embracing all.

While working on my first book, 'Women of Kuwait: Turning Tides', I realised that strength and leadership in Kuwaiti women are deeply ingrained in their DNA irrespective of stereotypes, education, and socio-economic standing. It is rooted in the 'Mudhawis', the wise old women who kept the home fires burning and looked after their flock when Kuwait was emptied of ablebodied men who sailed the seas for months, either pearl diving or trading. These 'Mudhawis' took on the mantle of leadership and strength for months. Despite being unschooled, they made up for it with their wisdom, fortitude and instinct. And sadly, despite this rich legacy of 'Mudhawis' centuries later, Kuwaiti women still struggle to find their rightful place in the political narrative of their country.

Women are indeed underrepresented in political offices almost everywhere around the world. According to UN Women, only 26.5 per cent of parliamentarians in unicameral or bicameral legislatures are women, an increase from 11 per cent in 1995. Globally there are 22 states where women account for less than 10 per cent of parliamentarians in single or lower houses, including one lower chamber with no women at all. These figures are from a January UN 2023 report. According to the UN Women, at the current rate, gender parity in national legislative bodies will not be achieved until 2063, even though the United Nations has strongly advocated for Women's equal participation and leadership in political and public life as essential to achiev-ing Sustainable Goals development by 2030.

According to a report published in the European Journal of Political Economy, equitable representation of women in politics has induced changes in parliamentary deliberations, policy choices, and a better provision of public goods. Under representation affects policy choices, potentially reducing women's welfare and overall community development. In Kuwait, the amendment in the Election Law No.35/1962 in 2005 opened the door for female participation in parliamentary and local elections. In 2009, for the first time, women won 8 per cent of the seats in a highly contested election.But Kuwaiti women's representation in parliament declined considerably, and in 2020, 29 female candidates campaigned for seats, including Safa Al Hashem, the only sitting MP, with none succeeding. It was a big blow.The 2022 elections saw two women. Alia Al Khaled and Jenan Bushehri, win, signalling Kuwaiti women's return to parliament. Recent political upheavals saw these two women exit parliament, and once again, uncertainty dominated. On June 6, elections in Kuwait saw the return of only one woman to the parliament. "I believe the voting behaviour this time will be different," Leannah Al Awadhi, cofounder and program manager of Mudhawi's List, had predicted last week.Mudhawi's List was founded to support Kuwaiti women entering politics. In 2020, DrAlanoud Âl Sharekh, Leannah Alawadhi, Dalal Boresli, Iman Dashti and Asrar Hayat launched 'Mudhawi's List', an online platform that aims at supporting women running for elected office by linking them with volunteers and in-kind donation providers. The forum backs women candidates with essential campaign services and raises awareness about women's importance in leadership positions. Looking back at the recent election results, the forum has its work cut out for the future. "Mudhawi's List helps female candidates gain visibility and educates voters on all available options for women running for office. We also connect those candidates who need help with creatives and volunteers to assist them with their campaigns through a database that the platform compiles," Dr Al Sharekh told me in an earlier interview. Recent political happenings have



Leannah Alawadhi and Dalal Boresli, co-founder of Mudhawi's List, a forum that empowers and supports Kuwaiti women running for elected office.

proved that structured and continuous training and awareness provided by Mudhawi's List is required not just for women who want to join politics but alsofor the general public to make them more politically conscious.

Dalal Boresly, a cofounder of Mudhawi's List, while speaking to Arab Times, says their participation in #EKWIP Empowering Kuwaiti Women in Politics planted the seed of Mudhawi's List. "As part of the EKWIP programme, Emily's List in Wash-ington invited us to a gala dinner. At that dinner, we discussed doing something similar in Kuwait," recalls Dalal. Emily's List is one of the most significant resources for women in politics in the United States. They train and empower women to run, win and change the world.

Leannah Al Awadhi liked Emily's List because men and women worked side by side to bring about changes. "They support anyone with aspirations to run for office," she says. Although, Leannah still remembers the initial criticism Mudhawi's List faced with their support of all female candidates. 'When we started Mudhawi, we could not cherry-pick candidates. Even now, we don't have enough female contenders to choose from. Once we have enough women running, and it becomes a fair game, which is a long way ahead, we can cherry-pick candidates we want to shed light on.' Although Kuwaiti women have moved towards modernisation at a greater speed than their counterparts in other Gulf States, a significant gender gap exists in the higher echelons of leadership, especially in politics. Despite an available talent pool with skilled and qualified women, there is, unfortunately, a confidence gap, perhaps even an ambition gap inspired by social conditioning and a lack of resources that keep Kuwaiti women away from public service. Women have the skills and talent to run, but they need help to transfer them to the political realm, and that is where Mudhawi's List hopes to play a part. Speaking about the limited political representation of women in Kuwait, Dalal observes, "We still don't have acceptance from the society for a woman to be in parliament. To a certain extent, women are accepted in higher positions in corporates and ministries, but people don't accept the idea of having a woman in parliament." Dalal went on to voice what some senior women's rights activists had shared with "Regarding Kume earlier. waiti women who have already reached these positions of power, people believe or assume they did not achieve anything. But this is not true. We have a research team working on this information. They check the laws that women parliamentarians have supported, and there are many." Leannah Al Awadhi believes that comparing male and female parliamentarians in Kuwait regarding achievement is unfair. "It is a very unfair comparison to make. You cannot compare the progress of hundreds of men in office for 60 years to the ten years that women have been allowed in office," she says. Leannah also believes it is the lack of unity among the liberals in Kuwait that do not support the cause of women in politics. 'I believe that all the Liberals in Kuwait are not united like they used to be in the past. They are all very scattered, and it is bad for women," says Leannah. Both Dalal and Leannah also draw attention to another critical issue associated with women politicians, the issue of digital harassment and cyberbullying that acts as a deterrent for women wanting to enter politics in Kuwait. The digital harassment of women

reflects existing patterns of violence and discrimination against women and girls in politics and elsewhere. "One of the things that women face when they reach positions of power in Kuwait is that they are always put under the spotlight," says Leannah. "Women politicians anyways are more prone to cyberbullying than their male counterparts. In Kuwait, it just happens 100 times more.'

Female candidates lack some of the essential advantages that men take for granted, not just in terms of social bias and access to influence but also in terms of fewer opportunities to practice politics, opportunities that lead to gateway positions that then springboard most men into office, like boards of sports clubs, NGOs or coops, municipality councils and student unions. Even those lucky or strong enough to gain experience usually lack funding and find it challenging to build the right networks and capacity to run and win. Mudhawi's List guides capable women to become more productive as politicians. "One thing that we think is super important is how we present ourselves as leaders," says Leannah. "Compared to our male counterparts, we need to fight more on our online presence. So we put the candidates in touch with media creators and content providers.'

Traditionally, women are restricted from visiting male diwaniyas. However, this has recently changed, with female politicians turning to their families for support. "To run for elections, you need male allies,"explains Dalal. 'You need your family's blessings. So most women who made it to the parliament campaigned in diwaniyas with their brother, husband or father." According to Thuraiya Al Hashemi, former Visiting Fellow of The Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington, despite efforts to promote women's presence in government and elected legislative bodies, women across the GCC countries face several challenges in realising gender equality, including patriarchy, religion, culture, and lack of political awareness, often among women themselves. In Kuwait and the GCC, women voters are heavily influenced by their husbands, fathers, or brothers due to a lack of political awareness among Kuwaiti women. However, more women would vote independently if they had a better understanding of the political system and vote for candidates who advocate for their rights. Fifteen women entered the frav this year. "The political situation is unstable. In less than three years, we had three elections. People tend to get fed up,"Leannah says. Last year was good for Mudhawi's List, as two of the three female candidates they supported made it to the parliament. The candidates last year had their A-game on. They were fighting hard, and we did our best for them."But this year, results have been disappointing, with only Jenan Bousheri making it to the parliament. "It saddens me," said Leannah when asked about the result. "However, I am not surprised about the outcome of having one woman in office. I think this further highlights the fact that we need more women to run for office for a more inclusive parliament. In the future, Dalal Boresly and Leannah Al Awadhi hope to see more deserving and capable candidates enter the fray. They want to motivate and educate the public to make the right choice for candidates who deserve their trust. It is a long and challenging journey, but like the'Mudhawi' whose tired but brave eyes scanned the horizon for the returning ships, they will do all to succeed.



Mairza

## Dalal Al Ostad - Kuwaiti stu-

### I hope the election results bring a



dent in Edinburgh



radical change developing in tourism, open-

ing visas, and developing our road and public transport system. I look forward to a Kuwait where social and eco-

#### nomic reforms will be designed to reduce the ecoon the oil sector



#### **Banker and Travel Consultant** Unfortunately, the political situ-

ation in Kuwait spreads despair and a lack of optimism for the

power

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Al Muawed

opposite in these elections, change their attitudes, and pay attention to the state's real problems and development in all fields.



tions to thrive. We earnestly

long for enhanced police surveillance on our roads, coupled with rigorous enforcement of traffic laws, serving as safeguards for the innocent lives at risk from the perilous conduct of drug-impaired, intoxicated, or unruly young drivers.We sincerely hope to witness the eradication of self-serving MPs who prioritise personal gains over crucial matters, abandoning the use of dubious political tactics to cling to their seats.We strongly advocate for the eradication of legalised honour killings, a deplorable emblem of Kuwait's current social inequality, which is a profound source of disgrace.

#### Khalled Al Barrak- Businessman

I think continuing with the same system of having one vote for each citizen is contributing to no change in the foreseeable future. The one-vote law has created more divisions among electorates. Votes are now being cast for individual candidates.

As a result, accountability is hard to achieve. This law has helped to create a community that seeks authority and loyalty towards individuals in high posts. Those individuals are commonly made up of groups of the same family members, backgrounds or religious views, which undermines the country's power and creates a regime within the regime.

#### Kuwaiti diplomacy, a source of soft power: KRCS

### 'Kuwait's humanitarian efforts paint positive picture'

KUWAIT CITY, June 7, (KUNA): Over the years, Kuwaiti humanitarian efforts painted a bright positive picture of the state to the outer world, stated Kuwait Red Crescent Society official, Khaled Al-Zaid.

On sideline of Qatar Red Crescent Society celebration of world international humanitarian law day in capital city of Doha, Al-Zaid, head of the public relations and media department at KRCS told KUNA that Kuwaiti diplomacy, a source of soft power, sought to fortify humanitarian dimensions within its foreign policy.

He indicated that the name of Kuwait became synonymous with humanitarian charitable work, adding that a work paper titled "Media and Humanitarian Diplomacy" was discussed highlighting Kuwait's role.

Al-Zaid mentioned that Kuwait's efforts extended beyond the borders of Arab world to reach nations far and wide as it also joined numerous active and vital international organizations such as the World Food Program, World Health Organization, UNRWA and many oth-

KRCS caught on the importance of media in raising awareness regarding humanitarian situations early on, mentioned al-Zaid while also taking note of the society's efforts in ensuring the sustainability of humanitarian work.

He further commented saying that in this day and age media and diplomacy became closely intertwined, as the instrument of media is quite influential on public opinion.



Head of the public relations and media department at KRCS

#### World Bank offers dim outlook for the global economy

The global economy is likely slowing sharply this year, hobbled by high interest rates, the repercussions of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the lingering effects of the coronavirus pandemic.

That's the latest outlook of the World Bank, a 189-country anti-poverty agency, which estimates that the international economy will expand just 2.1% in 2023 after growing

- DFM

- KSE 100

Tadawu

UAE

SAUDI

PAKISTAN

PHILIPPINES - PSEi

**Market** Movements

+0.26

+0.49

+1.31

+0.49

Change Closing pts

3,687.63

42,119.22

6,564.70

11,372.83

3.1% in 2022.

Speaking to reporters Tuesday, Indermit Gill, the World Bank's chief economist, called the latest findings "another gloomy report." The bank, he said, expects "last year's sharp and synchronized slowdown to continue to this year into a sharp slowdown." "By the end of next year, a

"By the end of next year, a third of the developing world will not meet the per-capita income level that they had at the end of 2019," he said. Still, the bank's latest Global Economic Prospects report

marks an upgrade from its previous forecast in January. That estimate had envisioned worldwide growth of just 1.7% this year. The Federal Reserve and

The Federal Reserve and other major central banks have been aggressively raising interest rates to combat a

07-06-2023

- Nikkei

- EGX 30

JAPAN

EGYPT

resurgence of inflation, set off by a stronger-than-expected rebound from the pandemic recession, persistent supply shortages and energy and food price shocks caused by the Ukraine war.

But the global economy has proved surprisingly resilient in the face of higher borrowing costs, and the World Bank predicts that growth will accelerate to 2.4% in 2024. (AP)



The World Bank building in Washington, Monday, April 5, 2021. The global economy is likely slowing sharply this year, hobbled by high interest rates, the repercussions of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the lingering effects of the coronavirus pandemic according to the latest outlook of the World Bank. (AP)

# Business

#### Fund's success came in three categoriesk'

## Kamco Investment Fund wins '23 Refinitiv Lipper Fund awards

KUWAIT CITY, June 7: Kamco Invest, a regional non-banking financial powerhouse with one of the largest AUMs in the region, announced that the Kamco Investment Fund won in 3 categories during the 2023 Refinitiv Lipper Fund Awards in recognition of the fund's exceptional performance and risk-adjusted returns. Lipper's quantitative and proprietary methodology in awarding funds is a truly independent and uncompromised assessment of each fund's performance.

The MENA market awards were announced in May 2023, recognizing funds with outstanding performance based on Refinitiv's rigorous assessment process. Kamco Investment Fund was named the Refinitiv Lipper Fund Awards Kuwait 2023 Winner in the categories of "Best Equity Fund Over 3 Years", "Best Equity Fund Over 5 Years", and "Best Equity Fund Over 10 Years". The fund outperformed its respective benchmark during the mentioned periods with Kamco Investment Fund achieving 59.2% over 3-years (Benchmark 54.2%), 72.7% over 5-years (Benchmark 62.4%), and 90.0% over 10-years (benchmark 58.6%) as of 30 April 2023.

Commenting on the awards, Salah Al Wuhaib, Senior Executive Director of Equity and Fixed Income at Kamco Invest, said, "We are proud to be recognized once again by Lipper for the consistent performance of the Kamco Investment Fund. These results were achieved due to the diligent investment philosophy and active fund management style that we apply when managing our mutual funds and investments. Furthermore, we make it an effort to prioritize our clients' best interests, a dynamic that



Change Closing pts

31,913.74

17.347.57

-1.82

-0.82

Salah Al Wuhaib

lies at the forefront of our model, when structuring our various innovative and top-tier products and services."

Mahmoud Tifouni, Director – Equity and Fixed Income, said, "Receiving these awards and recognition from a specialized entity truly acknowledges the strength of our asset management strategy, whether it is during periods of market growth and prosperity, or dur-



Mahmood Ali Tifouni

ing times of uncertainty and market volatility. The fund's performance over the short, medium, and long terms while outperforming its benchmark over these periods is a clear testimony to this."

Robert Jenkins, Head of Research, Lipper, Refinitiv, said, "The 2023 Refinitiv Lipper Fund Awards recognize those award-winning managers who navigated their shareholders through the impacts of a global pandemic and then the perfect storm of economic shocks leading to generational inflation pressure and global central bank interventions. Prospects for potential recessionary forces taking hold and subdued returns across most major asset classes in 2023, highlights the need for adept stewardship of one's investments. Fund managers will need to guide their investors through these challenging times and position them favorably for the eventual recovery." Jenkins added, "We applaud the

Jenkins added, "We applaud the 2023 Refinitiv Lipper Fund Award winners such as Kamco Invest for delivering outperformance and the accompanying comfort of consistency to investors' portfolios through a cross-current of global economic disruptions."

Al Wuhaib concluded by congratulating the Asset Management Team, whose efforts and hard work have resulted in the leading position of Kamco Invest's Kuwait Equity Funds last year. The Kamco Invest Fund and Kamco Premier Market Index Fund were the top performing conventional funds, while the Al Durra Islamic Fund was the best performing Islamic fund in Kuwait during 2022.

It is worth mentioning that Refinitiv is one of the world's largest providers of financial markets data and infrastructure, serving institutions in different countries around the world. It provides leading data and insights, trading platforms and open data and technology platforms that connect a thriving global financial markets community – driving performance in trading, investment, wealth management, regulatory compliance, market data management, enterprise risk and fighting financial crime.

#### **OECD** predicts

## Wall Street drifts near the rates edge of a new bull market



Persistent inflation, higher interest rates will weigh on global economy

FRANKFURT, Germany, June 7, (AP): The global economy must steer through a precarious recovery this year and next as inflation keeps dragging on household spending and higher interest rates weigh on growth, banks and markets.

That was the takeaway Wednesday from the latest economic outlook by the Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. The group, made up of 38 member countries, raised its growth forecast this year to 2.7% from an estimated 2.2% in November and foresaw only a tiny acceleration to 2.9% next year.

The rebound from the COVID-19 pandemic and energy price spike tied to Russia's invasion of Ukraine is likely to be weak by past standards, with average growth of 3.4% recorded in the pre-pandemic years 2013-2019. The path ahead is fraught with risks, from escalation of Russia's war in Ukraine - with a dam collapse Tuesday that the sides blamed on each other - to debt troubles in developing countries and rapid interest rate hikes having unforeseen effects on banks and investors. 20 countries that make up more than 80% of the global economy. The U.S. should see annual inflation of 3.2% by the last quarter of this year, and Europe's rate should fall to 3.5%.

Those levels would provide some relief but are still above the 2% inflation targets for the European Central Bank and U.S. Federal Reserve, which have been rapidly raising interest rates to fight inflation. That increases the cost of borrowing to buy houses and invest in business expansion.

The OECD cautioned that while central banks need to maintain policies that restrict credit, they "must keep a watchful eye, given the uncertainties around the exact impact" of the rapid hikes.

"Signs of stress have started to appear" as higher borrowing costs slow property markets and raise concern

A currency trader talks on the phone near screens showing the Korea Composite Stock Price Index (KOSPI), (top left), and the foreign exchange rate between U.S. dollar and South Korean won at the foreign exchange dealing room of the KEB Hana Bank headquarters in Seoul, South Korea, Wednesday, June 7, 2023. Asian shares were mixed Wednesday after a day of listless trading on Wall Street in the absence of market-moving data. (AP)

#### Asian stocks mixed

#### NEW YORK, June 7, (AP): U.S. stocks were drifting Wednesday and hovering near the edge of a new bull market for Wall Street.

The S&P 500 was 0.2% lower in afternoon trading after giving up an earlier gain that had it above the 4,292.44 level. If it finishes the day there, the U.S. stock market's main measure of health would be 20% above where it was in mid-October. That in turn would mean the end to its painful bear market, which began in early 2022.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 37 points, or 0.1%, at 33,611, as of 12:11 p.m. Eastern time, while the Nasdaq composite was 0.6% lower.

Brown Forman rose 3.5% after the spirits company reported stronger profit for the latest quarter, thanks in part to growth for its Woodford Reserve brand. Also on the winning side was Dave & Buster's, which jumped 20.5% after reporting stronger profit for the latest quarter than expected.

Campbell Soup, meanwhile, sank 7% after reporting weaker revenue for the latest quarter than expected. It also gave a forecast for earnings for its full fiscal year that fell short of analysts' expectations, as price increases push some customers to buy less.

The market in general has climbed for months thanks to a resilient economy that's managed to defy predictions for a recession, along with soaring performances for a handful of big technology companies. Even if it does graduate from a bear market into a new bull, though, many challenges remain. Chief among them is the question that has vexed Wall Street from the start. Which will come first: a recession or inflation falling enough to get the Federal Reserve to cut interest rates?

That's why much of Wall Street's focus is on next week. The U.S. government is scheduled to release the latest monthly updates on inflation at the consumer and wholesale levels. The Federal Reserve will also hold its next meeting on interest rates.

The dominant expectation among traders is for the Fed to leave rates steady next week. That would mark the first meeting in more than a year where it hasn't hiked rates. But traders still expect the Fed to resume raising rates in July.

That's key because the goal of high interest rates is to corral high inflation by slowing the entire economy and hurting prices for stocks, bonds and other investments. The Fed has hiked its benchmark overnight interest rate to the highest level since 2007.

Pressure from high rates have already caused cracks in the U.S. banking and manufacturing industries, though the job market has remained remarkably solid.

Even though the S&P 500 is near a bull market, nearly as many stocks within it are down for 2023 so far as up.

One expected boost to the global economy has not come through, which has added to the pressure. In China, trade data pointed to a further slowing of the world's second-largest economy.

China reported its exports fell 7.5% from a year earlier in May and imports were down 4.5%, adding to signs of a

slowing of its economic recovery following the lifting in December of anti-COVID controls that disrupted travel and commerce.

The decline in exports was the first year-on-year drop in in three months, with export volumes falling below their levels at the start of the year. "And with the worst yet to come for many developed economies, we think exports will decline further before bottoming out later this year," Julian Evans-Pritchard of Capital Economics said in a commentary.

Stocks in Shanghai gained 0.1%, while Hong Kong's Hang Seng rose 0.8%.

Tokyo's Nikkei 225 index lost 1.8%, the sharpest decline in 12 weeks. Analysts said investors were selling to lock in recent gains since prices have risen to their highest level since the early 1990s.

In Europe, stock indexes were mixed.

In the bond market, the yield on the 10-year Treasury rose to 3.78% from 3.68% late Tuesday. It helps set rates for mortgages and other important loans.

The two-year yield, which moves more on expectations for the Fed, rose to 4.60% from 4.50%.

#### Asia

Asian shares were mixed Wednesday after a day of listless trading on Wall Street in the absence of marketmoving data.

China reported its exports fell 7.5% from a year earlier in May and imports were down 4.5%, adding to signs of a slowing of its economic recovery following the lifting in December of antivirus controls that disrupted travel and commerce.

The decline in exports was the first year-on-year drop in in three months, with export volumes falling below their levels at the start of the year. "And with the worst yet to come for many developed economies, we think exports will decline further before bottoming out later this year," Julian Evans-Pritchard of Capital Economics said in a commentary.

The Shanghai Composite index lost 0.1% to 3,192.41 while the Hang Seng in Hong Kong gained 0.7% to 19,232.94.

Tokyo's Nikkei 225 index lost 1.8%, the sharpest decline in 12 weeks, to 31,913.74. Analysts said investors were selling to lock in recent gains.

In Seoul, the Kospi was nearly unchanged at 2,615.60, while Australia's S&P/ASX 200 edged 0.2% lower to 7,118.00. Shares rose in Taiwan but fell in Bangkok.

#### Oil

In other trading Wednesday, a U.S. crude oil fell 49 cents to \$71.25 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. On Tuesday, it lost 41 cents to \$71.74 a barrel. A barrel of Brent crude, the international standard, sank 51 cents to \$75.78 a barrel.

Both were close to \$120 a year ago but have fallen amid worries about a strapped global economy's need for fuel.

#### Currencies

The U.S. dollar bought 139.32 Japanese yen, down from 139.66 yen. The euro fell to \$1.0677 from \$1.0695. "The global economy has begun to improve," OECD Secretary-General Mathias Cormann said at a news conference. "We are projecting a recovery over 2023 and 2024. However, at this point, it is a recovery to low global growth."

"Economic indicators are showing some improvement," he said. "But the upturn remains fragile."

It was a more optimistic outlook than the World Bank gave Tuesday, citing similar risks in its expectation for 2.1% global growth this year. That was still an upgrade from its January forecast of 1.7%.

Energy prices have fallen to pre-invasion levels, helping ease the worst of the recent outbreak of inflation. But those costs are still higher than they were before Russia began massing troops on Ukraine's border in early 2021.

Meanwhile, China's reopening after drastic pandemic measures has provided a boost to global activity.

But core inflation, which excludes volatile energy and food prices, is proving persistent as some companies raise prices to increase profits and workers push for higher wages amid relatively low unemployment.

The ÓECD sees inflation declining to 5.2% by year end from 7.8%at the end of last year in the Group of

a's about the impact of more expensive credit, the organization said. Countries that spent on pandemic relief for households and businesses already are grappling with higher

relief for households and businesses already are grappling with higher public debt and now have the added burden of more expensive costs to pay it down.

The United States and Europe both can expect only tepid growth.

The U.S. is facing challenges from higher borrowing costs in rate-sensitive areas like housing construction and manufacturing. As demand slows, unemployment is expected to gradually rise toward 4.5% in 2024 - up from 3.7% in May. With more jobs available and fewer pay increases, inflation is expected to moderate.

"Nonetheless, the economic outlook could worsen if rising interest rates expose further financial fragilities," the OECD said.

The failure of Silicon Valley Bank and two other U.S. lenders highlighted problems that could emerge in the banking system if financial institutions suffer losses on investments like bonds, whose value falls when rates go up.

Most of the globe's growth will come from Asian economies such as China, India, Indonesia and Singapore. Growth in China is expected to reach 5.4% this year and 5.1% next year as services such as tourism and entertainment recover from COVID-19 lockdowns and infrastructure spending supports a construction boom. Exports should be tempered by weak global demand.



People walk on a shopping street in Essen, Germany, on May 31, 2023. The global economy must steer through a precarious recovery this year and next as inflation keeps dragging on household spending and higher interest rates weigh on growth, banks and markets. That was the takeaway Wednesday June 7, 2023 from the latest economic outlook by the Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. (AP)

### **BUSINESS**

Global Lead

#### SEC brings charges against Coinbase

The Securities and Exchange Commission sued cryptocurren-cy platform Coinbase on Tuesday, charging the company with operating an unregistered securities platform and brokerage service.

The lawsuit comes a day after the SEC filed charges against Binance, the world's largest crypto exchange, and its founder Changpeng Zhao are accused of minuping invoctor funde misusing investor funds, operat

ing as an unregistered exchange and violating a slew of U.S. securities laws. shares plunged Coinbase

nearly 20% in the early morning trading on the news. In its complaint, the SEC said Coinbase made billions in being the middle man for cryptocurren-

cy buyers and sellers but did not give investors lawful protections while acting as a broker. "Coinbase has for years de-

fied the regulatory structures and evaded the disclosure requirements that Congress and the SEC have constructed for the protection of the national securities markets and investors," the SEC said in its complaint, which was filed in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York. It seeks injunctive relief, disgorgement of ill-gotten gains plus interest, penalties, and other equitable relief. (AP)

Burgan Bank announced that it will be sponsoring and actively participating in Al Ahmadi Gov-ernorate's blood donation drive campaign for the fourth year in a row. The campaign, titled "Every Drop...Saves a Life," is set to take place at Al-Kout Mall on June 9, 2023, under the auspice of His Excellency Sheikh Fawaz Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Al Ahmadi Governor. The campaign comes as part of Burgan

Bank's social responsibility program, which involves a range of goals, including raising the public's awareness of health and wellness

In light of the Bank's renewed support for the annual blood donation drive, Ms. Hes-sa Hussain Al-Najadah, Sen-ior Manager of Corporate and CSR Communications at Burgan Bank, commented: "We continue to focus our efforts

on promoting the health sector in Kuwait as part of our social responsibility program and our culture of supporting all segments of society. To this effect, we continue to sponsor the annual blood donation drive to educate the public on the importance of regularly donating blood throughout the year to ensure a sufficient supply of blood components to relevant banks across Kuwait.

dents' progress. In conclusion a set of recommendations

was introduced to promote synergy between parents and

educators, universities and employers and the need for government's decision and support to reform initiatives.

today's wisest investment for a brighter and more sus-

tainable future'

On this occasion, Manager of Teaching and Learning Center at AU Ms., Rola Mourdaa Said: "Education is







Photos taken from the event

#### AU hosts Bridging the GAP – Quality of Education and Higher Education Forum

in Kuwait, schools, training centers and the ministry of

education, the forum was inspired by the famous quote

of Nelson Mandala, "Education is the most powerful weapon we use to change the world". The main tar-

get of the forum is to highlight the education system in

Kuwait and develop a balanced set of objectives that

allows the education system to be more economically

productive and working towards the enhancement of

On the 31st of May 2023, the Teaching & Learning Center at the Australian University (AU) organized its fourth Teaching and Learning Excellence Forum entitled "Bridging the Gap: 'Quality of Education and Higher Education', in partnership with the Kuwait Fund for the Advancement of Sciences and under the patronage of His Excellency the Minister of Education and Higher Education Mr. Hamad Al Adwani.

Attended by professionals from various universities

#### Grand Hyatt, Hyatt Regency participants

## KIB rewards its Black segment customers with 'special offers'

KUWAI CITY, June 7: Kuwait Inter-national Bank (KIB) announced signing two agreements with Grand Hyatt Kuwait 360 Mall and Hyatt Regency Al Kout Mall to provide its Black seg ment customers with special offers and exclusive discounts. This privileged segment can now benefit from special accommodation prices and exclusive discounts on recreational facilities and restaurants at the two luxurious hotels, especially during public and festive holidays like Eid Al-Adha.

On this occasion, Khalid Al Hulaibi, Segments Manager at KIB, said: "Since day one of launching our Black segment package, KIB has dedicated special and continuous attention to its elite segment customers, all while persisting with providing exceptional banking services and exclusive benefits designed for their enjoyment. These efforts aim to ensure that customers can take advantage of unique offers in the hospitality sector that exceed their expectations and add value to their lifestyles.'

Al Hulaibi added that the agreements reflect KIB's commitment to expanding its network of strategic partnerships with various local institutions and entities. He explained that these partnerships aim to provide KIB's cus-



#### Khaled Al Hulaibi

mier shopping experience, and entertainment facilities to take the customer experience to the next level of luxury and entertainment.

With KIB's Visa Infinite credit card, Black segment customers will be able to benefit from the Black concierge service and get up to 5% cashback on their purchases. Moreover, the Black segment package enables subscribed customers to enjoy other exclusive benefits, such as fast-tracking financial requests and a permanent 50% discount on safe deposit boxes. The segment also grants members yearly free local and international transfers and access to the finest airport lounges internationally, with exclusive discounts on stores, hotels, and restaurants, and many more. It serves to note that KIB provides its Black segment customers with a wide range of unique banking solutions and products, in addition to a variety of exclusive benefits. These include priority banking and financial transactions through a private customer relations manager as well as access to dedicated banking service rooms at different branches via the VIP telephone service. The Bank also allows customers to choose where to conduct their banking needs through priority booking for branch visitation via the online website or KIB Mobile application.

## stc celebrates World Environment Day in collaboration with influencer 'Bu Jarrah'

individual and societal well-being in line with Kuwait Vi-

sion 2035 and under the umbrella of UNESCO's inter-

The Forum included 3 sections: Keynote Speeches; Panel Discussion: Tackling Quality of Education and Higher Education - Current Situation, Challenges and pro-

posed Solutions; and Workshops tackling Game-Based

Learning, Inclusivity and the effect of Psychology on stu-

'Our Environment, Our Life' initiative reinforced

KUWAIT CITY, June 7: Kuwait Telecommunications Company – stc, a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers, enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, celebrated World Environment Day with numerous activities in collaboration with influential Kuwaiti personality, Youssef Al-Omran, also known as "Bu Jarrah", and a large group of volunteers. The activities were launched within stc's latest campaign under the slogan "Our Environment, Our Life", which focused on environmental sustain-



#### **Burgan Bank sponsors Blood Donation Campaign**

tomers with more opportunities and privileges and strengthen the Bank's position as a leading banking institution in Kuwait. They also affirm KIB's pledge to support the local tourism and hospitality sectors and promote collaborations between the vital banking and hotel sectors

Grand Hyatt Kuwait 360 Mall is a distinguished business and lifestyle destination in Kuwait. It includes many international, oriental, and local restaurants, health clubs and spas, ballrooms, meeting venues, and much more. Meanwhile, Hyatt Regency Al Kout Mall is characterized by its strategic location and stunning views of the Arabian Sea. In addition, the hotel offers recreational amenities, a pre-

#### Deal signed in Cairo

## **UAE and Egypt 'advance' dev** of Africa's biggest wind farm

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates, June 7, (PR Newswire): Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company PJSC - Masdar, one of the world's leading clean energy companies, along with Infinity Power, Africa's largest renewable energy developer, and Hassan Allam Utilities, a sustainable infrastructure focused investment platform, signed an agreement with Egypt's New and Renewable Energy Authority to secure land to build a 10-gigawatt (GW) capacity onshore wind farm in Egypt, set to be one of the largest in the world, with a project value of over US\$ 10 billion.

The signing in Cairo was witnessed by Egyptian Prime Minister, HE Moustafa Madbouly, HE Dr Sultan Al Jaber, UAE Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology, HE Dr Mohamed Shaker El-Markabi, Minister for Electricity and Renewable Energy, Mohamed Jameel Al Ramahi, Chief Executive Officer of Masdar, Nayer Fouad, Chief Executive Officer of Infinity Power, and Hassan and Amr Allam, Chief Executive Officers of Hassan Allam Holding.

The landmark wind project will produce 47,790 GWh of clean energy per year and reduce around 9 percent of Egypt's annual carbon emissions by displacing 23.8 million tonnes of carbon dioxide annually. The wind farm will also help Egypt meet its strategic objective of sourcing 42 percent of its energy from renewables by 2030. The 10 GW plant will save the North African nation an estimated US\$ 5 billion in natural gas costs a year.

The original agreement to develop the 10 GW wind farm was signed between Masdar, Hassan Allam Utilities and Infinity Power and the Egyptian

Electricity Transmission company and witnessed by the presidents of the UAE and Egypt on the sidelines of the UN climate change conference, COP27, in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt last year.

As the UAE's flagship renewable energy company, Masdar's role demonstrates its deep and lasting commitment towards supporting African nations such as Egypt to meet their ambitious renewable energy objectives. The project is being developed by the consortium led by Masdar and its partners: Infinity Power, Masdar's joint venture with Egypt's Infinity, which is Africa's largest pure play renewable power company; and Hassan Allam Utilities, a sustainable infrastructure focused investment platform.

HE Dr Sultan Al Jaber, UAE Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology, Chairman of Masdar and COP28 President-Designate, said: "This 10GW onshore wind project is set to be one of the largest wind farms in the world, and largest on the African continent. It is a sign of the strong partnership between the UAE and Egypt, with great potential to create jobs, cut emissions and power homes with clean electricity at competitive economical costs.3

The world needs to triple renewable energy capacity by 2030 to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement. Projects like these will support the global efforts to reduce the impact of climate change and help keep the ambition of 1.5 intact while enabling significant socio-economic growth. The UAE looks forward to hosting COP28, we continue to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the Global South in their efforts to decarbonize and secure a just energy transition.'

#### ability and preservation.

The campaign consisted of several activities that aimed to spread awareness on the importance of environmental preservation, reflecting one of the key pillars behind stc's extensive corporate social responsibility (CSR) program. In one of the initiatives, stc collaborated with "Bu Jarrah" to cover a large dangerous enclosure at Abu Al-Hasaniyah Beach, while also cleaning the shoreline. The area was made safe to prevent beachgoers from falling into the hole, while ensuring that all waste was removed from the surrounding area.

In a statement, stc indicated that the activities under its campaign aimed to showcase the importance of environmental preservation during the internationally recognized day for such activities, which enabled stc to engage with the community and its employees. while shedding light on an important aspect of life. In recognition of those who participated in the activities, stc distributed environmentally friendly souvenirs.

Commenting on the initiative, Dan-ah AlJasem, General Manager of Corporate Communications at stc, said, At stc, we firmly believe that it is our shared responsibility to empower the ounger generation and youth related initiatives, in addition to safeguarding and protecting our environment. The initiatives launched under our CSR program not only amplify our message of environmental conservation, but also aim to spark inspiration among participants, enhancing their understanding and commitment towards environmental protection."

AlJasem added, "On behalf of stc, would like to express my gratitude to Youssef Al-Omran and his team, and all those who played a role in achieving the successful outcome of these initiatives. Their collective efforts and contributions were purely directed to protect and raise awareness on the environment. As an influential member of this community, stc is committed to playing a key role in supporting and backing dif-

Participants during their participation in filling the hole



Boujarrah and stc's public relations team with the campaign participants

## Protests as unions make last-ditch bid to resist higher retirement age

PARIS, June 7, (AP): French union activists marched on the headquarters of the Paris Olympics and slowed traffic at the capital's Orly Airport with strikes Tuesday as they sought to reignite resistance to a higher retirement

But the last-ditch effort drew fewer followers than at the height of the movement earlier this year, and even some union leaders seemed ready to move on.

President Emmanuel Macron's move to raise the retirement age from 62 to 64 - and force the measure through parliament without a vote - in-

ferent initiatives that aim to preserve the environment."

Preserving the environment is one of the key pillars under stc's CSR framework. Based on this strategy, the Company has organized and particiflamed public emotions and triggered some of France's biggest demonstrations in years. But the intensity of anger over the pension reform has ebbed since the last big protests on May 1, which more than 500,000 people attended in Paris alone, and since the measure became law in April.

As part of Tuesday's actions, a third of flights were canceled at Paris' Orly Airport because of strikes, and about 10% of trains around France were disrupted. Around 250 marches, rallies and other actions were planned around the country to mark the 14th day of national protest since January over the

pated in a series of initiatives that shed

light on the importance of protecting

the local ecosystem for a sustainable

future. More recently, stc was the main

sponsor of the Gulf University of Sci-

ence and Technology's 'Ocean Plastic

pension reform.

A small group of activists with the hard-left CGT union pushed their way into the headquarters of the 2024 Olympics in the Paris suburb of Saint-Denis, chanting anti-Macron slogans.

In Paris, mild tensions flared near a restaurant in the Left Bank as individuals engaged in minor vandalism of bus shelters and threw objects at police. Police quickly dispersed the crowds.

Thousands gathered along the embankments of the Seine River near the gold-domed Invalides monument before setting off on their march to southeast Paris.

Week', an initiative dedicated to artistic displays created by students using recycled material found while cleaning up beaches, that included setting a Guinness World Record for the largest bottle cap word.

## **Dubai International Chamber expands global reach**

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates, June 7, (Business Wire): Dubai International Chamber, one of the three chambers operating under Dubai Chambers, has inaugurated a new international representative office in Jakarta, Indonesia.

This press release features multimedia. View the full release here: https://www.businesswire.com/ news/home/20230607005451/en/

Dubai International Chamber's new international

representative office in Indonesia was inaugurated during a special ribbon-cutting ceremony held yes-terday in Jakarta. From L - R: H.E. Abdulla Salem Al Dhaheri, Ambassador of the UAE to the Republic of Indonesia; Mr. Hassan Al Hashemi, Vice President of International Relations, Dubai Chambers; H.E. Bahlil Lahadalia, Minister of Investment for Indonesia; H.E. Ahmed Ali Al Sayegh, Minister of State to the UAE Cabinet; Mr. Abdulla Baqer, Regional Director - Middle East and CIS, Dubai Chambers; and H.E. Husin Bagis, Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to the UAE. (Photo: AETOSWire)

The opening of the chambers' 18 th international office comes as part of the 'Dubai Global' initiative, which was launched to establish 50 offices worldwide by 2030, attract new business and investments to Dubai, and reinforce the emirate's position as one of the world's leading commercial hubs.

### **BUSINESS**

#### WH website highlights infrastructure, manufacturing investments

The White House is launching a website to map and track tens of thousands of infrastructure projects and private manufacturing investments, an effort by the administration to show the positive impact of its policies on the U.S. economy to a skeptical public.

The site, Investigov, documents roughly 32,000 infrastructure projects and more than \$470 billion worth of investments in the production of electric vehicles, batter-

ies, computer chips, biotech, clean energy and other sectors. President Joe Biden is seeking reelection in 2024 by trying to show how his policies are reshaping the U.S. economy to address climate change and compete with rivals such as China.

The president promoted the new website during a meeting Tuesday with his Cabinet, as part of a large effort to keep public attention on a string of legislative wins during

Biden's first two years, when Dem-ocrats controlled both the House and Senate.

Following \$1.9 trillion in pan-demic relief, Biden signed a \$1 trillion bipartisan infrastructure bill into law. He also secured more than \$250 billion to invest in computer chip production and scientific research and created new tax incentives for renewable energy sources that are worth hundreds of billions of dollars.

"You can go down to every city, town, anywhere on the map and find out exactly how much we've invested so far, what the investment is for and how it's going to affect your community," Biden said of the new website during the meeting in the Cabinet Room at the White House.

Natalie Quillian, deputy White House chief of staff, said the site shows that Biden's agenda is "underway and working." (AP)

NJR Clean Energy Ventures and NJ American Water highlight innovative solutions



President Joe Biden listens as he meets with Denmark's Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen at the Oval Office of the White House in Washington. (AP)

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#### 'Demand for energy is growing, yet emissions are not growing as fast'

## Leaders gather in Paris to accelerate wringing more out of every ounce of fuel

PARIS, June 7, (AP): As 30 energy, environment and trade ministers plus 50 CEOs assemble in Paris for the 8th international conference on energy efficiency, the International Energy Agency is urgently calling for greater investment in energy efficiency for factories, cars and appliances to meet international climate goals.

The agency touted recent global progress: A report released Wednesday says that demand for energy is growing, yet emissions are not growing as fast. Efficiency is increasing every year as technology improves, and last year that increase was twice the average of the previous five years.

"We're at a real juncture where more efficient, more clean, more affordable technology is starting to dominate," said Brian Motherway, chief of energy efficiency at the IEA, during a press conference Tuesday.

Eliminating wasted energy is the most affordable way to bring goods and services to the people who need them - while slowing greenhouse gas emissions - the main driver of global warming, energy experts say.

Government policies that encourage energy efficiency are driving the trend. Japan has strengthened laws that favor energy efficient buildings. The European Union agreed this year to reduce its total energy consumption by some 12% compared to its 2020 forecast, by improving buildings, heavy industry and private transportation. The United States allocated a record 95 billion dollars over ten years through the Inflation Reduction Act to increase energy efficiency in power generation, buildings and cars. And India passed important legislation to decrease the amount of energy used by homes.

"Government initiatives are critical because they get big buildings, they get big housing projects, they get industry (and) they have to take it seriously, said Daniel Kammen, a professor of energy at the University of California, Berkeley who was not involved in the IEA report.

According to the report, total public and private investment in energy ef-ficiency increased by 15% in 2022 to \$600 billion from the previous year. This year, investment is expected to grow by only 4%, which Motherway called concerning.

To limit global warming to just 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) and avoid severe climate disruption, the SHORT HILLS, N.J., June 7, (AP): From air conditioning to vacuum cleaners, New Jersey has long been known for its innovations, and now it is home to the largest floating solar array in North America. Consisting of 16,510 solar panels, the 8.9-megawatt (MW) solar array covers 17 acres of the Canoe Brook reservoir in Short Hills, New Jersey. The clean power generated is enough to power 1,400 homes annually and will provide approximately 95% of the power needs for New Jersey American Water's Ca-noe Brook Water Treatment Plant. The Canoe Brook floating solar ar-

ray is turning underutilized space into a source of clean energy. Owned and operated by NJR Clean

world needs to double energy efficiency for the rest of the decade. Annual investment of \$1.8 trillion is needed to make that happen, the report says.

The technology exists, we just need to prioritizing spending, Philippe Delorme, executive vice president of Energy Ventures (CEV), the renewable energy subsidiary of New Jersey Resources (NYSE: NJR), the array uses an innovative racking system that enables the panels to float on water. Projects like this offer a novel approach to developing solar and a practical solution to the challenge of finding suitable locations to accommodate large scale commercial solar installations. Built mostly on man-made lakes or reservoirs, where tides and saltwater will not impact the panels, floating solar projects turn beneficial use space into clean energy. Innovative approaches to clean energy, like Canoe Brook, are increasingly important in densely populated areas, such as New Jersey. "Floating solar technology creates

Europe operations for Schneider Electric said in a press conference.

Experts not involved in the report agreed. "Governments should be doing more, whether that relates to appliance efficiency, cars or buildings,' said Steven Nadel, executive director

new opportunities for underutilized bodies of water, allowing space that would otherwise sit vacant to enable large-scale renewable energy generation, which helps to bring the benefits of clean energy to even more customers," said Robert Pohlman, Vice President of NJR Clean Energy Ventures. "As a leader in New Jersey's solar marketplace, we look forward to working with New Jersey American Water to support its power needs and advance the state's clean energy and climate goals.

"As the state's largest water and wastewater utility company, it is essential for us to be good stewards of the environment by operating efficiently and in a manner that helps protect our natural resources," said Mark McDonough,

of the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy.

As far as growth in demand, electricity saw the most growth, with oil and coal just behind. Demand for natural gas saw an overall decline.

Electric vehicles and heat pumps

president of New Jersey American Water. "This initiative provides a meaningful reduction of traditional energy use that benefits the environment, as well as our customers through limited capital expense and reduced power costs."

"Sound and consistent investment in renewable energy is critical to reducing climate pollution and the resulting flooding, wildfire, and extreme heat repeatedly harming New Jersey's communities and economy," said Commissioner of Environmental Protection Shawn M. LaTourette. "The Canoe Brook Floating Solar Facility project is an example of innovative leadership by critical partners in business and industry working hard to ensure the Garden State reduces its climate risk.

grew in popularity last year, adding to the demand for electricity. Heat pumps efficiently wring energy out of the air, or more occasionally, the ground, and they pump heat either into or out of a building depending whether they are heating or air conditioning.

## China trade tumbles in May, adding to signs economic recovery slowing

Rate hikes in US and Europe depressed demand for Chinese exports

BEIJING, June 7, (AP): China's exports fell 7.5% from a year earlier in May and imports were down 4.5%, adding to signs an economic rebound following the end of anti-virus controls is slowing as global demand weakens under pressure from higher interest rates.

Exports slid to \$283.5 billion, reversing from April's unexpectedly strong 8.5% growth, customs



#### **The Conversation**

#### **Blockchain is a key technology**

Computer scientist explains why post-crypto-crash future is bright

#### By Yu Chen

Binghamton University, State University of New York

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

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People hear a lot about blockchain technology in relation to cryptocurrencies like bitcoin, which rely on blockchain systems to keep records of financial transactions between people and businesses. But a crash in public in cryptocurrencies like trust TerraUSD - and therefore a massive drop in their market value - doesn't mean their underlying technology is

accessed their records and determine who is authorized to do so.

Banking and finance benefit from integrating blockchain networks into their business operations. Instead of trying to develop cryptocurrencies with new or different capabilities, the financial sector has recognized that blockchain systems are a reliable way to store information about traditional currencies like the dollar, euro and yen, as well as financial products.

Blockchains provide consumers with the convenience of being able to monitor their transactions as they are processed, almost in real time from anywhere. Banks also benefit from blockchains, with the opportunity to conduct business between institutions

data showed Wednesday. Imports fell to \$217.7 billion, moderating from the previous month's 7.9% contraction. China's global trade surplus narrowed by 16.1% to \$65.8 billion.

Trade weakness adds to downward pressure on the world's second-largest economy following lackluster factory and consumer activity and a surge in unemployment among young people.

"China's exports will remain subdued, as we anticipate the U.S. economy to enter recession," Lloyd Chan of Oxford Economics said in a report.

Factory output and consumer spending revived after controls that cut off access to major cities for weeks at a time and blocked most international travel were lifted in December. But forecasters say the peak of that rebound probably has passed.

Retail spending is recovering more slowly than expected because jittery consumers worry about the economic outlook and possible job losses. A government survey in April found a record 1 in 5 young workers in cities were unemployed.

#### Contracting

Factory activity is contracting and employers are cutting jobs after interest rate hikes to cool inflation in the United States and Europe depressed demand for Chinese exports.

Exports to the United States tumbled 18.2% from a year earlier to \$42.5 billion after the Federal Reserve raised its benchmark lending rate to a 16-year high to curb surging inflation by slowing business and consumer activity.

Imports of American goods sank 9.9% to \$14.3 billion. China's politically volatile trade surplus with the United States narrowed by 21.9% to \$28.1 billion.

China's economic growth accelerated to 4.5% over a year earlier in the three months ending in March from the previous quarter's 2.9%. It would need to accelerate further to reach the ruling Communist Party's official growth target of "around 5%" for the year.

April's "disappointing activity data" suggest "suggests China's domestic demand recovery has lost steam following the reopening-induced bounce," Chan said.

For the year to date, imports fell 6.7% from the same five-month period of 2022 to just over \$1 trillion, while export growth fell close to zero. Exports edged up 0.3% to \$1.4 trillion.

Imports from Russia, mostly oil and gas, rose 10% over a year ago to \$11.3 billion. Exports to Russia surged 114% to \$9.3 billion.

China is buying more Russian en-

In this Wednesday, Nov. 3, 2021 file photo, delegates gather inside the venue on another day at the COP26 U.N. climate summit in Glasgow, Scotland. (AP)

### Agenda spat at UN climate talks as top official sees chance to ask difficult questions in Dubai

BERLIN, June 7, (AP): Nations resumed talks on tackling global warming Monday with the aim of shaping a deal that might put the world on track to prevent a dangerous increase in temperatures, as the U.N.'s top climate official called for deep cuts in fossil fuel use.

Diplomats began two-week negotiations in Bonn, Germany, despite failing to agree on a formal agenda because of differences on the topic of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The issue lies at the heart of the climate problem, since burning oil, coal and gas is responsible for most warming that's occurred since preindustrial times.

Simon Stiell, who heads the U.N. climate office, told The Associated Press in an interview over the weekend that limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit) will require a phaseout of fossil fuels, something many oilproducing countries have pushed back on.

Environmental campaigners have lamented that this year's U.N. climate summit will be held in the United Arab Emirates, a major fossil fuel exporter, and presided over by the chief executive of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company. The host nation has pushed back against this criticism.

Stiell said that having leaders gather in Dubai this fall should be seen as an opportunity.

"We have a president (for the talks) who has significant experience in the oil and gas sector, in an oil and gas producing nation," he told reporters in Bonn. "It provides an opportunity to ask some very difficult questions, but also to seek

ergy to take advantage of price cuts, helping to shore up the Kremlin's cash flow after the United States, Europe and Japan cut off most purchases to punish Moscow for President Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine.

Beijing can buy Russian oil and gas without triggering Western sanctions. China has become Russia's biggest export market and an important source of manufactured goods.

Also in May, China's imports from the 27-nation European Union fell 38.6% to \$24.5 billion. Exports to Europe fell 26.6% to \$44.6 billion. Beijing's trade surplus with Europe narrowed by 3% to \$20.1 billion.

some very difficult but needed answers.'

Asked about calls for curbs on the presence of fossil fuel lobbyists, Stiell said that his office is looking into ways of ensuring greater transparency based on the experience of previous meetings, known in U.N.-speak as Conferences of the Parties, or COPs.

"Some of those measures may actually be put in place before the next COP, to help ensure the transparency and the integrity of the process," he said, without elaborating.

Stiell said the failure to adopt an agenda at the start of the technical talks in Bonn was "not desirable, but it's not uncommon.

'There will be consultations with parties with regard to the unresolved agenda items. But the important thing is work has started," he said, adding that he hopes negotiators from almost 200 countries can have a "productive and constructive engagement.'

Asked about the importance of reducing fossil fuel use, Stiell said that "the science is clear."

"Halving emissions by 2030 and reaching 'net zero' by 2050 requires a deep cut and reduction, the phasing out, phasing down of all fossil fuels," he said.

He welcomed the steep rise in renewable energy production, with unprecedented levels of investment and deployment of solar and wind power in recent years.

"That's one half of the equation," Stiell said. "But the other requires those deep cuts in fossil fuel production and consumption, and that we are not seeing."

also worthless.

In fact, there are plenty of other uses for this type of system, which does not rely on centralized storage and where many people can participate securely, even if they don't all know each other. As a computer scientist exploring new technologies for future smart communication network technologies, I, along with many engineers and developers, have shown that blockchain technology is a promising solution to many challenging problems in trust and security of next-generation network-based applications. I see several ways blockchains are proving themselves useful that aren't tied to cryptocurrency.

Modern global supply chains require a huge amount of information for the massive number of products being shipped around the world. They suffer from limits on data storage capacity, inefficient paper processes, disjointed data systems and incompatible data formats. These traditional centralized data storage methods cannot efficiently trace the origin of problems, like where a poor-quality product came from.

Storing information on a blockchain improves integrity, accountability and traceability. For example, IBM's Food Trust uses a blockchain system to track food items from the field to retailers. The participants in the food supply chain record transactions in the shared blockchain, which simplifies keeping track.

Data ownership and privacy are top concerns in the health care industry. Current centralized systems cannot meet all the diverse needs of patients, health service providers, insurance companies and governmental agencies. Blockchain technology enables a decentralized system for access control of medical records where all stakeholders' interests are protected.

Blockchain systems not only allow health care service providers to securely share patients' medical records but also enable patients to track who has more efficiently and securely.

Today's manual process of recording property rights is burdensome and inefficient. Traditional paper documentation is time-consuming, labor intensive, not transparent and vulnerable to loss. Blockchain technology eliminates inconvenience, inefficiency and errors, and reduces the cost by migrating the entire process into a digital form.

Blockchain systems allow owners to trust that their deed is accurate and permanently recorded. Remote access is particularly meaningful to people living in areas without sufficient governmental or financial infrastructure.

Validating votes and maintaining voter privacy seem like conflicting requirements. Blockchain systems hold promise as a means to facilitate a fair and transparent modern voting system. Because it's almost impossible to tamper with a blockchainenabled voting system, it can maintain a transparent electoral process.

In the November 2018 midterm elections in West Virginia, a blockchain-based voting system was used and found to be secure and reliable.

A smart city embeds information and communication technologies into its facilities, infrastructure and services to provide its residents a convenient, intelligent and comfortable living space. A smart city is essentially a network of many devices that can communicate with each other to share data. Connected devices can include people's smartphones, vehicles, electrical meters, public safety monitoring systems and even homes.

These systems have performance, security and privacy requirements that centralized information systems cannot handle. Blockchain is a key networking technology for building smart cities because it's able to optimize operations, enhance security guarantees and increase mutual trust among participants. (AP)

#### Japan earmarks \$107 billion for developing hydrogen energy to cut emissions

TOKYO, June 7, (AP): Japan's government on Tuesday adopted a revision to the country's plans to use more hydrogen as fuel as part of the effort to reduce carbon emissions.

The plan sets an ambitious target to increase the annual supply by six times from the current level to 12 million tons by 2040. It also pledges 15 trillion yen (\$107 billion) in funding from both private and public sources to build up hydrogen-related supply chains over the next 15 years.

Japan's decarbonization strategy centers on using so-called clean coal, hydrogen and nuclear energy to bridge its transition to renewable energy. Russia's war on Ukraine has deepened concerns over energy security and complicated that effort, but other advanced Western nations are pushing for faster adoption of renewable energy, such as solar, wind and geothermal.

So far, Japan is relying on hydrogen mainly produced using fossil fuels.

Some experts say strategies like commercializing the use of hydrogen and ammonia mainly cater to big business interests and major industries that are heavily invested in fossil fuel-based technologies and have power over the government policies.

The revised plan prioritizes nine strategic areas, including development of water electrolysis equipment, fuel storage batteries and large-size tankers for transporting hydrogen.

"Hydrogen is an industrial sector that can make a triple achievement of decarbonization, stable energy supply and economic growth in one shot," Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno said at the Cabinet meeting Tuesday. "We will promote (hydrogen) on a large scale, both demand and supply."

Japan's leaders say they want to turn the country into a "hydrogen society," but the hydrogen industry is still in its initial stages. The government is still drafting legislation to support building necessary infrastructure and supply chains for commercial use of pure hydrogen and ammonia, another source of hydrogen.

At a hydrogen council meeting with industrial leaders last week, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said Japan aims to achieve an "Asian zero-emission community," contributing Japanese technology in hydrogen, ammonia and other decarbonization technologies.

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### **BUSINESS**

**The Conversation** 

#### Absence of women at top of economic ladder has many implications

## Most super rich couples have husbands as sole breadwinners

By Yill Yavorsky, University of North Carolina, Charlotte and Sarah Thebaud, University of Calfornia, Santa Barbara

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

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M en are the sole breadwinners in over half of super rich heterosexual couples – defined as those in the top 1% of households – while the women are not employed, according to our new peer-reviewed study. That's twice the rate of less affluent heterosexual couples.

Our finding is based on 30 years of data, from 1989 to 2019, from the Federal Reserve's Survey of Consumer Finances. We examined how couples divide work, focusing on three different wealthy groups - the super rich, the just plain rich and the upper middle class, as defined by their wealth percentile, and compared them with those of less affluent couples.

To get a better sense of how much money we're talking about and the extreme differences among these groups, super rich couples in the US had a median net worth of US\$17.6 million in 2019. That compares with \$2.3 million for rich couples - those in the next 9% of the wealth distribution - and \$796,000 for the upper middle class, who were in the 10% after that. Our fourth group comprised everyone below the 80% threshold, with median wealth of just \$67,000.

We found that, in 2019, 53% of super rich heterosexual couples had arrangements in which the woman was not gainfully employed, compared with 27% of rich couples, 20% of upper-middle-class couples and 26% of less affluent couples.

On the flip side, just 28% of super rich couples had both the man and woman working full time. In rich, upper-middle-class, and less affluent households, that figure was 51%, 61% and 50%, respectively

Looking at the data over time is revealing. Whereas the share of couples in which only the man worked has modestly declined over the last 30 years for the other groups, it remained high among the super rich. The uniquely high prevalence of sole male-breadwinner arrangements among the super rich is a symptom of stark class and gender inequalities in the US economy.

Rising class inequality between the super rich and all others has been driven by a handful of men's incomes and wealth rising exponentially compared with everyone else's.

#### Intact

And even though women have made progress in entering professional jobs that pay \$100,000 or more, the glass ceiling - or perhaps more appropriately, the diamond ceiling – is still firmly intact.

Accordingly, a woman's objectively high income may seem less consequential to the overall household finances when her husband earns an exorbitantly high income of a million or more. Or, it may seem trivial when the couple has massive amounts of wealth exceeding \$10 million.

The absence of women at the top of the economic ladder has many implications

The super rich are inordinately powerful in the workplace and in politics. If the majority of the wealthiest married women are not in the workforce, it is unlikely they have the same degree of public influence as their husbands. So men continue to exercise the majority of societal power associated with the super rich.

We also know that family structure shapes people's worldviews and behaviors. Previous research shows that men with stay-at-home wives are less supportive of women in their own workplaces, including being less likely to promote them. This suggests that the most powerful leaders in the workplace and in politics may not be as eager to support women's career advancement or family-friendly workplace policies as some might hope.

We don't know what exactly drives super rich couples' work-family decisions

We believe that at least some of the women in these couples exit the labor force after their partner achieves economic success - and their incomes are no longer needed to maintain their lifestyle.

It's also possible that some super rich men's wealth accumulation was made possible, in part, by their wives' unpaid labor throughout their careers.

The most highly compensated jobs in the US economy tend to require long hours, frequent travel and the ability to be on call 24/7 – all of which tend to be incompatible with raising children and managing a household.

Men may have been able to meet these intense job demands and become financially successful because they have wives who stepped back from their own careers, freeing them from the majority of household responsibilities - a dynamic that few women have access to. (AP)

#### **NerdWallet**

## **Robo-advisers offer impact portfolios**

Does ESG actually do any good?

#### **By Alana Benson** NerdWallet

ESG, or environmental, social and corporate governance criteria, has become a lightning rod for contention. The right says it's woke hogwash, and the left says it can save the planet. But few can say what ESG has actually done.

#### Measure in polar bears

If you're putting in the effort of researching companies, deciphering ESG scores and choosing investments, you probably want to know what your dollars are actually doing.

I've long wished for an app that would tell you exactly how many polar bears you're saving with X number of dollars in ESG investments. Unfortunately, ESG statistics and impact reports don't deal in polar bears.

Measuring ESG's output of good is tricky. "Good" is not necessarily a concept we all agree on. Plus, to show how a company is doing, ESG uses numerical scores that are not easily deciphered.

Here's one example: A major energy drink manufacturer had an ESG score of 0. The company massively reduced the amount of forced labor in its supply chain thanks to shareholder interventions, says Andrew Behar, CEO of As You Šow, a non-

#### 'Practice budgeting'

How to uncover and address your teenager's money fears

#### **By Elizabeth Ayoola** NerdWallet

**R**umor has it teenagers only wor-ry about their phones and their friends. But what if they worry about money, too?

Research from the 2022 Junior Achievement Teens & Personal Finance Survey found that over 54% of teens feel unprepared for their financial futures. One way parents could help their kids feel more prepared is by addressing their money fears.

#### Uncover money fears

There are several ways to learn about your teen's money fears, but a good place to start is by looking at yours.

"(Parents) have to look at their own issues because what you bring to the table is what your kids are going to pick up, even if you tell them to do the opposite," says Michele Paiva, a Downingtown, Pennsylvania-based licensed psychotherapist whose work focuses on trauma recovery, and financial education and therap Get introspective about what your feelings about money are and how that might show up in your home. For instance, if you're always arguing with your partner about their or your spending habits, this could contribute to your teen developing insecurities having enough to keep up with peers in terms of affording the same things.

"There is a lot of stress and worry and fears and feelings of judgment when it comes to kids who are currently living in poverty," Butler-Davis says. "And it really does have a significant impact on the way that they feel about themselves, and so it affects their levels of self-esteem."

Butler-Davis also says teens have fears about not being able to make enough to sustain themselves. This money fear often comes from poverty as a form of chronic trauma, she adds. Chronic trauma happens when you're repeatedly exposed to traumatic events. In this instance, it may relate to trauma caused by a lack of financial security

"Oftentimes that trauma can lead into phases of PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder), where you see kids grow up to either have severely detached relationships with money or severely insufficient or maladaptive relationships with money," Butler-Davis says. This can lead to people hoarding their money so they don't end up like their parents or spending t all, she adds Develop relationship with money Reversing your teen's money fears won't happen in a day. However, with time and effort, you might help them turn those fears into confidence. One way is through affirmations, which is a form of encouragement, says Clemons. "Being a therapist, I'm all about affirmations. One thing I love is, 'I am in control of my success,' and what success means for every person could be different." She suggests exploring what success looks like for your child and reminding them they're in control of that success. Depending on what your child's money fears are, another way to help them is by providing them with financial literacy, says Butler-Davis. This could help a child who is worried about how they'll pay for college or keep up with expenses when they become an adult. Being actively engaged could look like taking them to open a savings account or teaching them about credit cards. You could also practice budgeting with them and let them shadow financial planning activities vou do. Finally, for kids who are afraid they aren't valuable if they don't have tons of money, you can help them by reorienting how they determine their value: The biggest thing is knowing that you as a person are valuable no matter what you have, but also that your value is not placed in the money that you have," Paiva says. (AP)

**Banks' reliance on chatbots for** 

## customer service worries CFPB

Give bad info, send money to wrong place?

NEW YORK, June 7, (AP): Can you trust Erica, or Sandi or Amy to increasingly control parts of your financial life without giving you inaccurate information or sending money to the wrong place?

That's what the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau is asking in a report released Tuesday, where the bureau lays out a number of concerns about the growing use of chatbots by banks to handle routine customer service requests.

The CFPB worries that banks or loan-servicing companies may cut back on human customer service employees and push an increasing number of routine tasks to AI. Further, the regulator says poorly designed chatbots could run afoul of federal laws that govern how debts are collected or how personal information is being used.

"If firms poorly deploy these services, there's a lot of risk for widespread customer harm," said Rohit Chopra, director of the CFPB, in an interview with The Associated Press.

For several years, banks have been handling more and more customer service requests with chatbots,

#### More innovation or isolation?

Apple Vision Pro goggles unleash a 'mixed reality'

#### **By Michael Liedtke**

Reporters are a skeptical bunch, so it was unusual to hear so many of them raving about their firsthand experience with Apple's next Big Thing: the high-priced headset called Vision Pro, a device infused with totally virtual reality as well as augmented reality that projects digital images on top of realworld settings.

But after wearing the Vision Pro during a half-hour demonstration me-ticulously orchestrated by Apple, I joined the ranks of those blown away by all the impressive technology Apple has packed into the goggles-like headset. Still, that excitement was muted by a disquieting sense of having just passed through a gateway that eventually will lead society down another avenue of digital isolation.

#### Upsides

But first the good stuff. Vision Pro

memories recorded with one of the device's 12 cameras (the demo included heartwarming scenes of a child's birthday party and a campfire scene). It can make watching a 3-D movie, such as the latest Avatar film, feel like you are sitting in an IMAX theater while relaxing on your own couch. It can thrust you into surreal moments (at one point, I watched in wonder as a butterfly first shown in a virtual screen depicting a prehistoric era seemingly fluttered across the room and landed in my outstretched hand as I sat on a couch).

And the demo featured just enough glimpses of the way sporting events appear through the goggles to realize that the powers that be in professional and collegiate football, basketball, baseball and hockey are bound to find ways to incorporate the technology into subscription services that make viewers feel like they are sitting in the front row

profit working to increase corporate environmental and social responsibility.

Reducing forced labor was overwhelmingly better for the brand, and the return on investment outweighed the cost of implementing new practices. Much of the focus of making this change was on improving the company's ESG score (which went from 0 to 26 out of 100), but the result was a significant reduction in forced labor.

#### Greenwashing and ESG

How do you assign a number to positive impact? There are a few ways, such as pounds of carbon prevented from entering the atmosphere, or dollars donated to charity, but even those numbers can be misleading. Those misleading, or sometimes entirely false, claims are called greenwashing.

Many automated financial advisers, or robo-advisers, now offer impact portfolios. Those portfolios are typically made up of exchange-traded funds built along certain themes, such as investing in clean energy. A few say they donate to charities. But several of these funds haven't donated a dollar.

ESG is a grading system that can be used to combat greenwashing by providing quantitative data. But since the term "ESG" isn't regulated, that can cause even more confusion.

"We did a report where we noticed that there were 90 mutual funds with ESG in their name, and 60 of them got a D or an F on ESG from us.' says Behar. "So we did an analysis of their prospectuses. The bottom line is that the prospectus language is in no way correlated to the holdings, and no way correlated to the (fund) name.'

#### **Dollars impact**

If you're trying to figure out what the overall good output is from ESG, you may be searching for a long time. Those numbers don't exist (at least not yet). What does exist are examples of individual companies slowly making change over time.

A single company decreasing the amount of forced labor in its supply chain due to ESG and shareholder advocacy is indisputably good - and that's not the only example out there.

ESG guidelines, and the people who use them, have led to large-scale reductions in pesticide use, increased sustainability programs and increased diversity within company workforces. Many of those companies also saw increases to their bottom lines alongside the ESG-inspired changes they made. So, yes, ESG does actually create seriabout their ability to manage their finances Once you've looked within, explore learning about money as a family. Paiva says playing Monopoly is a fun way to spark money-related conversations: "Do I want to spend all of my money on property? If I land on someone, do I have enough money for rent? If I go to jail, do I have enough money to get out of jail?"

Conversations can go beyond a Monopoly board to asking scenario-based questions. Ask them what they'd do if they had \$100 today, suggests LaQueshia Clemons, an accredited financial counselor and licensed clinical social worker in Middletown, Connecticut.

"Use those types of questions to kind of gauge where they're at and then, based on (the) child, go a little deeper to have that conversation with them," she says

#### **Understand money fears**

Timmesha Butler-Davis holds a doctorate in social work and is a licensed independent clinical social worker who owns Mastery Counseling and Consulting in Ewing, New Jersey. She works with teens at a trauma-informed group in Camden, New Jersey, and they discuss money fears often. A common one she comes across is teens - especially kids who are growing up in poverty - having fears about not

ous, measurable good.

And while you may not be able to get a dollar-to-net-impact metric just yet, that doesn't mean that ESG isn't worth investing in. ESG innovations are popping up all the time that help everyday investors make better choices.

Some exchange-traded funds now have a feature that automatically removes companies that fall outside of the bounds of set ESG levels, says Alexandra Mihailescu Cichon, chief commercial officer of RepRisk, an ESG data science company

#### Don't lose hope

Amid what can feel like trickery and highly targeted marketing, what are well-intentioned investors to do? Keep the faith.

"I think we're in a stage where we're in a bit of a transition between the era of commitments and pledges," Cichon says. "And now we've moved on to the next era, which is more about execution of all of these commitments. And then, as part of that execution, that is really about measuring that impact and seeing whether it actually effects the change.'

This era of change has come about because investors have demanded more from the companies they invest in. Despite the greenwashing and politics, the landscape and popularity of ESG investments have changed dramatically. Massive amounts of money have poured into sustainable investments over the last few years.

This, more than anything, has sent a clear message that investors are fed up with business practices that do more harm than good. And the outrage at the lack of transparency surrounding those practices reinforces that investors will continue to hold businesses accountable until they start seeing real change. And maybe even save some polar bears. (AP)

often with female-sounding names like Sandi for Santander, Amy from HSBC, or Eno at Capital One.

#### Inquiries

Bank of America runs the biggest and most successful financial chatbot under the Erica brand. Erica - the last five letters in America - now handles hundreds of millions of inquiries a year from BofA's customers.

Initially bank chatbots were used to for basic inquiries, like changing a customers' address or phone number, or telling a customer where the nearest branch is or what the routing number might be on their account. But as banks have invested millions into these services, chatbots have gotten especially sophisticated, able to understand full sentences or even help a customer move money around or pay a bill. The CFPB estimates that roughly four out of every 10 Americans interacted with a bank chatbot last year, a figure they expect will grow.

Banks are getting ready to roll out even more advanced AI-like services. JPMorgan Chase is reportedly developing plans to use ChatGPT and artificial intelligence to help customers pick appropriate investments. Bank of America bankers can use Erica to build customer profiles and potentially recommend products to those customers. While these services may save

customers minutes or hours waiting on hold to reach a human to ask a routine question, the agency has concerns about whether these chatbots will be able to handle the nuances



Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Director Rohit Chopra, speaks from the South Court Auditorium on the White House complex in Washington, April 11, 2022. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau released a report Tuesday where the bureau lays out a number of concerns about the growing use of chatbots by banks to handle routine customer service requests by customers. (AP)

is a highly sophisticated device that is fairly easy to set up and incredibly intuitive to use. The setup requires using an iPhone to automatically take some assessments of your eyes and ears. If you wear prescription glasses (I wear contacts) some additional calibration will be needed, but Apple promises that won't be complicated.

Once that's all done, you will quickly find that putting on the Vision Pro is also simple, thanks to a knob on the side that makes it easy to ensure a the headset fits comfortably. And unlike other headsets, the Vision Pro isn't an awkward-looking piece of nerdware, although the goggles aren't exactly chic, despite looking a bit like something you might see people wearing on a ski slope, jet fighter or race car.

Controlling the Vision Pro is astoundingly easy. Users just press a button above the right goggle to pull up a virtual screen of apps, including familiar standbys for photos, messaging, phone calls, video streaming and web browsing. Opening an app just requires looking straight at it, then pinching a thumb and finger together. The same app can be closed with a finger pinch or can be moved to the side by holding two fingers together and moving them in the direction where you want to place it.

Not surprisingly, Apple's well-curated demonstration cast the Vision Pro in the best-possible light. The headset clearly seems like it could be quite popular for business purposes, improving productivity, collaboration and video conferencing, especially in an era when more work is being done remotely.

Without causing the disorienting effects common in other virtualreality headsets, the Vision Pro can immerse you in stunning visuals, 3-D displays of faraway places. It can insert you into videos of past

and complicated nature of consumer protection laws without giving customers inaccurate information.

#### Transaction

"There are federal laws that give customers rights when it comes to debts, or disputing a transaction, and if customer service agents are being substituted for chatbots, that can pose problems if that software gives them inaccurate information," Chopra said.

The bureau also found that older customers or customers whose primary language is not English may end up in a customer service "loop"

To Apple's credit, the Vision Pro is also designed in a way that allows users to still see those around them, if they so choose.

#### Downsides

My mixed feelings about Apple's first foray into mixed reality ironically stems from just how well-designed the Vision Pro is by a company that has been behind this sort of game-changing technology on numerous occasions during the past 40 years, ranging from the Macintosh computer to the iPhone.

It feels like this may be another instance in which Apple has accomplished something that has eluded other tech companies by cracking the code to make both virtual- and augmented-reality more compelling and less disorienting than a variety of other ho-hum headsets have done over the past decade or so.

The only reason the Vision Pro isn't going to be an immediate sensation is its cost. When it hits the US market early next year, it will sell for \$3,500, which makes it probable it will start out as a luxury item unaffordable to most households - especially because the headset isn't going to supplant the need to buy a new iPhone or smartphone running on Android every few years.

The most likely scenario is that Vision Pro in some ways is Apple's testbed for mixed reality that will encourage the development of more apps especially designed to take advantage of the technology. The next ripple effect will be an array of other products equipped with similarly compelling technology at lower price points that stand a better chance sucking more people - including children - into a realm that threatens to deepen screen addictions to the detriment of real-world interactions among humans. (AP)

and unable to reach a human agent.

"Time and again, we found complaints of customers getting stuck in circular arguments with a robot or getting wrong information," he said.

Chopra, both in his current role as director of the CFPB and previously as a commissioner at the Federal Trade Commission, has repeatedly raised concerns that banks and companies may violate consumer laws if they poorly implement algorithms or artificial intelligence software. There have been numerous reports of chatbots from Microsoft, Google and other companies that have used bias language when prompted.

### **BUSINESS**

#### Innovative solution aims to disrupt the transgenic animal model

## IPA releases new Al-driven rapid therapeutic screening platform

VICTORIA, British Columbia, June 7: ImmunoPrecise Antibodies Ltd. (NASDAQ: IPA) ("IPA" or the "Company") has introduced a transformative AI-driven rapid therapeutic screening platform, the result of a collaboration between IPA Canada and its subsidiary, BioStrand®. This innovative solution aims to significantly expedite the early stages of drug discovery by enabling the early elimination of less promising therapeutic candidates, thereby reducing time, cost, and the risk of failure during later stage discovery.

The current transgenic animal mod-el market, reaching USD 17.7 billion in 2021 and expected to grow by 8.1% CAGR from 2022 to 2028<sup>1</sup>, has been widely adopted in novel therapeutic discovery, primarily to avoid what was previously seen as time-consuming, expensive, risk-laden, and sometimes unsuccessful humanization processes. However, despite its widespread adoption, transgenics pose limitations of their own, such as a lack of diversity in therapeutic outputs, loss of therapeutic efficacy, and high costs. Addressing these challenges, BioStrand's recently patented technology introduces a reliable, scalable, and cost-effective alternative for early-stage therapeutic discovery.

BioStrand's platform, termed the HYFT® Proprietary Proteome Presence Assessment, optimizes potential therapeutic drug candidates at an early stage using the multi-functional LENS ai<sup>TM</sup> humanization platform integrated with its patented HYFT technology. This allows a multitude of potential therapies to be analyzed concurrently, reducing analysis time and costs, and ensuring that only the most promising candidates proceed further into the drug discovery process.

The concept of humanization refers to the computational process of making an antibody or protein from a non-human source resemble human proteins. This is crucial for reducing the likelihood of immune responses against therapeutics, while preserving their functionality.

#### Technology

BioStrand's patented HYFT technology, incorporated into their proprietary LENS ai software, screens the entire human proteome (the entire complement of proteins that is or can be expressed by a cell, tissue, or organism), as well as various animal proteomes, against candidate therapeutics. This screening is accomplished in under . This process advances the most 'human-like' molecules, speeding up humanization, reducing the manipulation required before use in clinical trials, and offering a rapid, scalable, and cost-effective alternative to transgenic animal models.

Other existing methods can only assess candidates against a subset of the human proteome, which can result in an incomplete evaluation of a protein's humanness and immunogenicity. HYFT technology, however, uniquely addresses this limitation with several distinct advantages, including:

Leveraging these unique capabili-es, the HYFT Proprietary Proteome Presence Assessment offers a more accurate and complete assessment of candidates' humanness and immunogenicity. This supports the development of safer, more effective therapeutic proteins and antibodies while greatly streamlining the drug development process. "IPA's smooth fusion of computerdriven humanization and immunogenicity testing paves the way for faster development and boosts the potential of new treatment methods," stated Dr. Ingrid Brands, Co-Founder and General Manager of BioStrand. "Our dedication to innovation and pushing the limits of AI-driven therapeutic discovery is represented in this collaboration and integration. We're all about setting new standards in medicine and driving value for our investors.

IPA has provided insights into its strategic approach for monetizing this breakthrough technology. The plan involves targeting their extensive existing client base, which includes 19 of the top 20 pharmaceutical companies and hundreds of biotechnology firms. These clients typically face substantial costs, when using transgenic animals, to progress a single therapeutic candidate through the commercialization process. These costs often reach tens to hundreds of millions of dollars per molecule, encompassing upfront payments, milestone payments, and commercial royalties.

#### Quality

By introducing a more reliable, efficient, and cost-effective solution via IPA's AI-driven platform, the Company is well-positioned to provide greater results and value for its clients, reducing their costs and accelerating their drug discovery timelines. This increase in quality, productivity, and value is expected to translate directly into increased revenue streams for IPA, fostering substantial financial growth for the Company and its investors.

BioStrand's HYFT technology extracts unique patterns, known as Universal Fingerprint<sup>™</sup> patterns, from the entire biosphere, and integrates them with various data sources, such as scientific papers and medical records. The resulting Knowledge Graph encompasses over 660 million HYFTs and more than 25 billion relations, providing a powerful resource for researchers and AI-driven analysis. The LENS ai platform, powered by HYFT technology, takes advantage of the latest advancements in large language models (LLMs) to bridge the gap between syntax (sequences) and semantics (functions). This enables the platform to extract valuable insights from vast amounts of data, without the limitations of traditional LLMs. IPA's support of BioStrand's pioneering work reinforces its commitment to investing in cutting-edge biotechnology solutions with the potential to transform the industry.

ImmunoPrecise Antibodies Ltd. has several subsidiaries in North America and Europe including entities such as Talem Therapeutics LLC, BioStrand BV, ImmunoPrecise Antibodies (Canada) Ltd., and ImmunoPrecise Antibodies (Europe) B.V. (collectively, the "IPA Family"). The IPA Family is a biotherapeutic research and technology group that leverages systems biology, multi-omics modeling, and complex artificial intelligence systems to support its proprietary technologies in bioplatform-based antibody discovery. Services include highly specialized, full-continuum therapeutic biologics discovery, development, and out-licensing to support its business partners in their quest to discover and develop novel biologics against the most chal-

lenging targets. Forward-looking information involves known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors which may cause the actual results, performance or achievements stated herein to be materially different from any future repressed or implied by the forward-looking information. Actual results could differ materially from those currently anticipated due to a number of factors and risks, including, without limitation, the risk that the integration of IPA's LENS ai humanization platform with its HYFT technology may not have the expected results, as well as those risks discussed in the Company's Annual Information Form dated July 28, 2022, and the Company's Form 40-F, dated July 29, 2022. Should one or more of these risks or uncertainties materialize, or should assumptions underlying the forward-looking statements prove incorrect, actual results, performance, or achievements may vary materially from those expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements contained in this news release.

PALO ALTO, Calif., June 7: Transcarent, a health and care experience company that makes it easy for people to access high-quality, affordable care, announced a part-nership with ViewFi, bringing world-class orthopedic and musculoskeletal care directly to patients. ViewFi will power Transcarent's Orthopedic Consult solution, part of the Transcarent Surgery Care experience.

According to the United States Bone and Joint Initiative, Musculoskeletal diseases affect more than one out of every two persons in the United States over the age of 18. The direct healthcare costs of musculoskeletal disease and lost wages were estimated to be \$980.1 billion per year in 2012-2014.

Transcarent's Orthopedic Consult solution, powered by ViewFi, allows Members to be evaluated virtually by top-quality orthopedic physicians and surgeons, often removing the need to travel for evaluations or wait weeks for an in-person appointment. The industry average wait time to see an orthopedic provider is 16.9 days, up 48% from 2017. With Transcarent, Members can see an orthopedic provider for a comprehensive diagnostic exam virtually in less than two days. Transcarent Members receive rapid access, within the Transcarent app, to top orthopedic providers virtually from the comfort of their home - reducing high-cost specialty or emergency department visits which means Members get the care they need faster

"We know that providing easy access to a high-quality orthopedic consultation as a part of our Surgery Care experience removes another barrier for our Members as they address their health and care needs," said Glen Tullman, Chief Executive Officer of Transcarent. "Our partnership with ViewFi means that our Members have easy access to some of the best orthopedic providers directly from their homes, resulting in less disruption for our Members, and translating to a faster road to recovery and less missed work. This is another example of how the Transcarent Surgery Care experience prioritizes the needs of our Members to have access to high-quality, affordable care on their terms.

MSK diseases affect more than one out of every 2 persons in US

## **Transcarent enhances surgery care** experience with ViewFi partnership

#### 'Strategic evolution'

Vulcan accelerator connects CDISC, HL7, ICH M11 in project to digitize exchange of research

ANN ARBOR, Mich., June 7: A structured, harmonized, digitized protocol accessible to the biopharmaceutical industry and to researchers in the care setting will enable transformations to improve clinical research. The project an-nounced by HL7 Vulcan and CDISC will build on work products of ICH M11 to accelerate this vision. Vulcan is an HL7® FHIR Accelerator dedicated to connecting clinical and translational research to clinical care through Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR®). CDISC is a nonprofit standards development organization that develops standards that support acquisition, exchange, submission, and archive of biopharmaceutical data. CDISC is also a member of Vulcan. ICH M11 is the topic of the International Council for Harmonization to create a Clinical electronic Structured Harmonised Protocol (CeSHarP).

"The project marks an important milestone in the long journey towards a digital protocol," said Vulcan Co-Chair, Amy Cramer. "Over the years, various organizations have contributed key building blocks. Vulcan is pleased to serve as a convener where contributors across the global research community can collaborate towards this shared and important goal."

"We are looking forward to partnering with ICH M11 and HL7 on this important project that aims to enable the digital transformation of protocols in support of automation," said David Evans, President and CEO, CDISC. "This project represents another step in CDISC's strategic evolution to embrace

ing an internationally renowned clinical team with ViewFi's leading MSK technology platform

governance of clinical research information standards, not just clinical data standards.'

FHIR-based exchange standard for ICH's Clinical electronic Structured Harmonised Protocol (CeSHarP), aligned to CDISC standards, will enable value across the clinical trials ecosystem. ICH M11 is developing a clinical protocol template, guideline, and technical specification, which will serve as the project's foundation.

#### Leveraged

CDISC's Unified Study Definition Model (USDM), co-developed with TransCelerate BioPharma, will be leveraged to accelerate development of the content model in addition to other inputs such as CDISC Controlled Terminology and Vulcan FHIR® Implementation Guides,

The project will be executed within the HL7 Vulcan Project Framework and supplemented by a Joint Leadership Forum to foster alignment among CDISC, ICH M11, and HL7 Vulcan. It is now in the discovery and scoping phase with full kick off anticipated this summer.

CDISC creates clarity in clinical research by convening a global community to develop and ad-vance data standards of the highest quality. Required by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Japan's Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency (PMDA), recommended by the China National Medical Products Administration (NMPA) and adopted by the world's leading research organizations, CDISC

liamson, Chief Executive Officer of ViewFi. "Our providers are able to recommend surgery when

standards enable the accessibility, interoperability, and reusability of data. With the help of CDISC standards, the entire research community can maximize the value of data for more efficient and meaningful research that has invaluable impact on global health.

Health Level Seven® International (HL7) is an ANSI-accredited, not-for-profit standards developing organization with the mission of empowering global health interoperability. With affiliates in over 30 countries, HL7's global membership envisions a world in which everyone can securely access and use the right data when and where they need it. Widely implemented by vendor and healthcare systems, and required by governing bodies around the world, HL7 standards deliver solutions for health information technology, including HL7® Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR®), Version 2 (V2) and Clinical Document Architecture (CDA®).

A HL7® FHIR® Accelerator, Vulcan's mission is to accelerate interoperability of health data to seamlessly integrate clinical and translational research with clinical care in order to reduce burden, enable learning health systems, and improve patients' lives. Vulcan is a diverse research community that creates FHIR® implementation guides for the exchange of health and research data, creating alignment at the development of standards through to implementation. HL7 Vulcan Accelerator is currently accepting new members.

ceive additional support for complex care needs like cancer and ehavioral health.

#### Delivers

The patient-focused ViewFi Health technology platform delivers orthopedic exams with bestpractice exam content and groundbreaking technology capabilities. ViewFi offers this technology platform combined with a clinical team of leading providers, with support from Hospital for Special Surgery, spanning a broad range of orthopedic specialties. Combinprovides high-quality, low-cost, convenient entry to orthopedic and musculoskeletal care for individuals

"ViewFi and Transcarent are aligned in our commitment to change how care is delivered, ensuring that consumers are prescribed the very best care plan from the outset. The most important step in an MSK care journey is a clinically proven comprehensive exam and plan of care, and the ViewFi platform and providers can diagnose and make individualized treatment recommendations for our patients. This is a differentiator for us and for Transcarent," said Michael Wilthat's the appropriate treatment, prescribe medications, order and review advanced imaging, or order physical therapy, all based on what's right for the patient. Getting it right from the start is critical to achieving great patient satisfaction which translates to the best outcomes at the lowest cost."

Transcarent is a health and care experience company that makes it easy for people to access highquality, affordable care. Through an integrated mobile or web platform, Members can access Every-Day Care, for example, chat with a provider in less than 60 seconds, Pharmacy Care, Care@Home (or close to it), Surgery Care, or re-

Transcarent takes accountability for results - offering at-risk pricing models and transparent impact reporting to align incentives towards a measurably better experience, better health, and lower costs.

ViewFi is a virtual care platform built for orthopedic and musculoskeletal injuries and care, developed by a world-class medical team of HSS-trained orthopedic surgeons and specialists. We offer virtual healthcare, at-home exams, and one-on-one appointments with world-class orthopedic MDs to get patients on the path to diagnosis and recovery, faster than ever before.







**Dr.Abdul Nazer** MBBS.MD Dermatologist & Cosmetolgist

Phone: 24 734 000 Hotline: 60 749 749





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#### Combat veteran Jones' 'Unbroken Bonds of Battle' out in June

## Murakami says pandemic, war in Ukraine create walls

TOKYO, June 7, (AP): Japanese writer Haruki Murakami says walls are increasingly built and dividing people and countries after Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the COVID-19 pandemic fueled fear and skepticism.

"With feelings of suspicion replacing mutual trust, walls are continually being erected around us," Murakami said in late April at Wellesley College. That speech, "Writing Fiction in the Time of Pandemic and War," was released Wednesday in The Shincho Monthly literary magazine published by Shinchosha Co.

"Everybody seems to be confronted with a choice - to hide behind the walls, preserving safety and the status quo or, knowing the risks, to emerge beyond the walls in search of a freer value system," he said. Like the protagonist in his new novel.

"The City and Its Uncertain Walls" was released in April in Japan and an English translation is expected in 2024. The protagonist, as Murakami described, faces a tough choice between two worlds: an isolated walled city of tranquility with no desire or suffering, and the real world beyond the walls filled with pain and desire and contradictions.

The novel is based on a story he wrote for a magazine soon after becoming a novelist but was never published in book form. He said he knew it had important ideas and put it aside because he wanted to rewrite it.

Some 40 years later, he discovered "this tale fits perfectly with the age we live in now."

Murakami started rewriting the book in March 2020, soon after COVID-19 began spreading around the world, and finished it two years later, as the war in Ukraine passed its one-year mark.

Variety

"The two big events combined and changed the world in dramatic ways," he said.

The sense of safety that came with a common belief in globalism and mutual economic and cultural dependency "crumbled with Russia's sudden invasion of Ukraine," Murakami said, spreading fear of similar invasions elsewhere. Many countries, including his home Japan, have since bolstered their military preparedness and budgets.

As the war continues without an end in sight, so do the high walls being built around people, between countries and individuals, Murakami said. "It seems to me that the psychic condition - if someone isn't your ally, he is your enemy - continues to spread."

#### Trust

"Can our trust in each other once more overcome our suspicions? Can wisdom conquer fear? The answers to these questions are entrusted to our hands. And rather than an instant answer, we are being required to undergo a deep investigation that will take time," Murakami said.

He says that, while there's not much a novelist can do, "I sincerely hope that novels and stories can lend their power to such an investigation. It's something that we novelists dearly hope for."

Murakami has made other efforts to encourage people to think, combat fear or tear down walls. He hosted the radio show "Music to put an end to war" a month after Russia' invaded Ukraine. His Japanese translation of "The Last Flower," former New Yorker cartoonist James Thurber's 1939 anti-war picture book, will be released later this month from Poplar Sha. Did the protagonist stay inside the walls? "Please try reading the book yourselves," Murakami said.

#### Also:

**NEW YORK:** Combat veteran and Fox Nation host **Johnny Joey Jones** has a book coming out in June about serving with the Marines Corps in **Iraq** and **Afghanistan** and the friendships he formed.

Fox News Books, Fox News Media's publishing imprint, has announced that Jones' "Unbroken Bonds of Battle," will come out June 27.

Jones, 36, was a bomb technician who served eight years with the Marines before a devastating explosion in Afghanistan in 2010 — he stepped on an IED (improvised explosive device) — cost him both of his legs.

"For years people have asked me to write a book about 'my story," Jones said in a statement released Sunday by Fox Books. "However, I've always known all along that the most important part of my story is the amazing collection of people and warriors who've become a part of my life. Each of them with inspiring and heroic stories of their own."

Jones, 36, was a bomb technician who served eight years with the Marines before a devastating explosion in Afghanistan in 2010 — he stepped on an IED (improvised explosive device) — cost him both of his legs.

"Unbroken Bonds" is part of Fox Books' "Modern Warriors" series, which also includes Pete Hegseth's ""Modern Warriors: Real Stories from Real Heroes."





This image released by Paramount Pictures shows Primal in a scene from 'Transformers: Rise of the Beasts.' (AP)

Film

ARAB C TIME THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 2023 **NEW YORK:** The auction house Sotheby's will buy the modernist **Marcel Breuer**-designed building that housed New York's Whitney Museum of American Art for nearly 50 years, Sotheby's announced. Sotheby's will start moving its

New York sale room and galleries to the Breuer building on **Madison Avenue** in 2024 and will open to the public the following year, the auction house announced. "We are honored to acquire and

write the next chapter of such an iconic and well-known New York architectural landmark," Sotheby's Chief Executive Officer Charles F. Stewart said in a statement.

The cantilevered Madison Avenue building designed by the Hungarian-born Breuer opened in 1966 as the third home of the Whitney, which had been founded in 1930 to showcase American art. The five-story granite and concrete structure is considered an important example of the architectural style known as brutalism.

The building was leased to the Metropolitan Museum of Art for five years after the Whitney's 2015 move to its new Renzo Pianodesigned building at the foot of the High Line, the elevated park on Manhattan's west side. The Met operated the former Whitney building as the Met Breuer until 2020, and the Frick Collection has occupied the building since 2021 while its permanent home is being renovated.

Sotheby's is buying the building from the Whitney for an undicsclosed sum. "The iconic Breuer Building

will always be a beloved part of the Whitney's rich history," Whitney Director **Adam Weinberg** said. "We are pleased that it will continue to serve an artistic and cultural purpose through the display of artworks and artifacts."

The art-loving public will retain access to the building after Sotheby's moves in, as the auction house puts works on display before they are sold. The Breuer building a block from Central Park is more centrally located than Sotheby's current global headquarters on York Avenue on Manhattan's far east side. (AP)

**WASHINGTON:** The Biden administration is weighing in on the controversy over **Pink Floyd** cofounder Roger Waters, saying his Sequel tries but fails to energize the saga

## **Beasts enliven new 'Transformers'**

#### **By Mark Kennedy**

With the "Transformers" franchise clearly at a crossroads, its latest protectors have turned to their deep bench of characters. But just adding more robots won't transform this tired series.

"Transformers: Rise of the Beasts" returns the franchise to its galaxy-wide self-importance after taking a nice detour with 2018's smaller "Bumblebee." We have a new cast of animal robots and a very evil enemy in the planet-eating Unicron, but they're not used right and the movie limps from fight to fight.

The key to the film is actually a key, some sort of ancient glowing shaft that will open a portal in space and time. Everyone wants it - to go home, to kill planets or to save planets. The audience may also want to use it to beam into a more interesting movie.

Directed by Steven Caple Jr. - using a screenplay by Darnell Metayer, Erich Hoeber, Jon Hoeber and Josh Peters based on a story by Joby Harold - "Transformers: Rise of the Beasts" is a big swing that seems to portend a multi-film arc nestled in time after "Bumblebee" and before the first live-action "Transformers" movie.

The problem with "Transformers: Rise of the Beasts" is the same problem faced by all of the installments - balancing the humanity with the metal. "Bumblebee" got the ratios right by bringing the machine down to size.

But a wide gulf between the humans and the giant space robots immediately appears in the new movie, with Optimus Prime being his classic, anal drill sergeant self - "If we are to die, then we will die as one," he'll intone. As the movie stutters on, the robots seem to soften only when the beasts show up for the last third - they mourn, get angry, feel protective, love even. The filmmakers also have tried to bridge the divide with none other than Pete Davidson, who voices the juvenile robot Mirage, a wisecracking, fist-bumping silver Porsche 911 with a less rigid way of expression: "Don't mess with my boy!" and "Prime, you got to learn how to relax, my man." It mostly works - best line: "I'm not scared. That's just engine oil!" - but Davidson seems trapped inside that steel.

The special effects are astounding but sometimes numbing at the same time. The beasts - especially a nostril-flaring gorilla - are gorgeously realized and the baddies look cool as they control elements in space and time, like building sky walkways as they move on them.

#### Vintage

Setting the movie in 1994 gives the filmmakers some vintage fun, like adding beepers and references to O.J. Simpson, plus a soundtrack including A Tribe Called Quest and LL Cool J. But even here they get stuff wrong, like using Biggie's "Hypnotize," which came out in 1996, and having a character sing "Waterfalls" by TLC a year before it came out.

The Autobots are represented by Optimus Prime (voiced by veteran Peter Cullen), Bumblebee and Arcee (voiced by Liza Koshy). Then there are the Terrorcons, led by Scourge (Peter Dinklage), who controls swarms of horrifying insect robots and says things like: "Rip the flesh from their bones."

On the puny human side, Anthony Ramos plays an ex-military electronics expert from Brooklyn named Noah, who has a sick younger brother -Dean Scott Vazquez, the best actor of the bunch - and is tempted to criminality to get him proper care. On his first heist, he accidentally gets into Mirage and, after an excellent high-speed chase, meets the rest of the Autobots. Looking for the portal key, he meets Elena, played by Dominique Fishback, a museum intern with an astonishing ability to recognize everything from a fake Leonardo da Vinci painting to an Nubian sculpture even though she's never been outside New York. Soon she'll be roaming ancient tombs in Peru like Indiana Jones.

Real-life friends Ramos and Fishback have talked about their chemistry, but none of it made it onto the screen. Just like the robots, their scenes are overly heightened and overacted, like an intense bubble of distilled humanity between giant robot fights. It's not clear even what their relationship is - more siblings? Would-be-lovers?

Much too late come the titular stars of the show - the beasts. There's Optimus Primal, a 13-foottall metallic silverback gorilla voiced by Ron Perlman; Cheetor, a cheetah the size of a small truck voiced by Tongayi Chirisa; Airazor, a peregrine falcon who shoots fire, voiced by Michelle Yeoh; and Rhinox, a battering ram on legs, voiced by David Sobolov. The film comes to life with them.

They've been hiding out on Earth, too, and a lot longer than the Autobots. They've even become sort of fans of us humans: "There is more to them that meets the eye. They are worth saving," says Optimus Primal.

We Earthlings turn out to have been housing an awful lot of secret sentient robots and this latest clutch arise from the shadows like cicadas at a time when A.I. and ChatGPT are a societal worry. Look, maybe we should be anxious. ChatGPT clearly could have a written a better movie.

"Transformers: Rise of the Beasts," a Paramount Pictures release which arrives in theaters Friday, is rated PG-13 for "intense sequences of sci-fi action and violence, and language." Running time: 127 minutes. One star out of four. (AP)

recent performances in Germany were antisemitic.

The State Department said Tuesday that Waters has "a long track record of using antisemitic tropes" and a concert he gave late last month in **Germany** "contained imagery that is deeply offensive to Jewish people and minimized the Holocaust."

Weinberg



Stewart

The comments came in a written response to a question posed at Monday's State Department press briefing about whether the administration agreed with criticism of Rogers from the US special envoy to combat antisemitism, Deborah Lipstadt.

"Special Envoy Lipstadt's quote-tweet speaks for itself," the

department said.

In a May 24 tweet after the concert in **Berlin**, during which Waters appeared on stage in a costume reminiscent of Nazi-era Germany, Lipstadt denounced the musician by echoing comments from EU antisemitism envoy **Katharina von Schnurbein**, who is German. "I wholeheartedly concur with @EUAntisemitism 's condemnation of **Roger Waters** and his despicable Holocaust distortion," Lipstadt wrote in reply to a tweet from von Schnurbein.

Shortly after the concert, police in Berlin said they had opened an investigation of Waters on suspicion of incitement over the costume he wore. (AP)

## **NEWS/FEATURES**

## **People & Places**

#### **Obits**

### **Artist Gilot dead** 'Girl from Ipanema' singer Gilberto dies

NEW YORK, June 7, (AP): Astrud Gilberto, the Brazilian singer, songwriter and entertainer whose off-hand, English-language cameo on "The Girl from Ipanema" made her a worldwide voice of bossa nova, has died at age 83.

Musician Paul Ricci, a family friend, confirmed that she died Monday. He did not provide additional details.

Born in Salvador, Bahia and raised in Rio de Janeiro, Gilberto became an overnight, unexpected superstar in 1964, thanks to knowing just enough English to be recruited by the makers of "Getz/Gilberto," the classic bossa nova album featuring saxophonist Stan Getz and her then-husband, singer-songwriter-guitarist João Gilberto.



"The Girl from Ipanema," the wistful ballad written by Antônio Carlos Jobim and Vinícius de Moraes, was already a hit in South America. But "Getz/Gilberto" produc-er Creed Taylor and others thought they could expand the record's appeal by including both Portuguese and English language vocals. In a 2002 interview with friends posted on her web site www.astrudg-

Gilberto

ilberto.com, Astrud Gilberto remembered her husband saying he had a surprise for her at the recording studio.

"I begged him to tell me what it was, but he adamantly refused, and would just say: 'Wait and see ... Later on, while rehearsing with Stan, as they were in the midst of going over the song 'The Girl from Ipanema,' Joao casually asked me to join in, and sing a chorus in English, after he had just sung the first chorus in Portuguese. So, I did just that," she explained.

"When we were finished performing the song, Joao turned to Stan, and said something like: 'Tomorrow Astrud sing on record... What do you think?' Stan was very receptive, in fact very enthusiastic; he said it was a great idea. The rest, of course, as one would say, 'is history.

#### Translated

Astrud Gilberto sings "The Girl from Ipanema" in a light, affectless style that influenced Sade and Suzanne Vega among others, as if she had already moved on to other matters. But her words, translated from the Portuguese by Norman Gimbel, would be remembered like few others from the era.

Tall and tan and young and lovely

The girl from Ipanema goes walking And when she passes

Each one she passes goes, "Ah'

"Getz/Gilberto" sold more than 2 million copies and "The Girl from Ipanema," released as a single with Astrud Gilberto the only vocalist, became an all-time standard, often ranked just behind "Yesterday" as the most covered song in modern times. "The Girl from Ipanema" won a Grammy in 1965 for record of the year and Gilberto received nominations for best new artist and best vocal performance. The poised, darkhaired singer was so closely associated with "The Girl from Ipanema" that some assumed she was the inspiration; de Moraes had written the lyrics about a Brazilian teenager, Heloísa Eneida Menezes Paes Pinto. Over the next few years, Gilberto toured with Getz among others and released eight albums (with songs in English and Portuguese), among them "The Astrud Gilberto Album," "Beach Samba" and "The Shadow of Your Smile." But after 1969, she made just seven more albums and by 2002 had essentially retired from the business and stopped giving interviews, dedicating her latter years to animal rights activism and a career in the visual arts. She would allege that she received no money for "The Girl from Ipanema" and that Taylor and Getz (who would refer to her as "just a housewife") took undue credit for "discovering" her. She also felt estranged from her native country, alleging she was treated dismissively by the press, and rarely performed there after she became a star.



Ed Sheeran performs on NBC's 'Today' show at Rockefeller Plaza on Tuesday, June 6, in New York. (AP)

People



Prince Harry leaves the High Court after giving evidence in London, Tues-day, June 6. Prince Harry has given evidence from the witness box and has sworn to tell the truth in testimony against a tabloid publisher he accuses of phone hacking and other unlawsnooping He al enes that iourna ists at the Daily Mirror and its sister papers used unlawful techniques on an 'industrial scale' to get scoops. Publisher Mirror Group Newspapers is contesting the claims. (AP)

## Duke fails to recall specific stories Tabloids ruined childhood: Harry

LONDON, June 7, (AP): Prince Harry's historic showdown Tuesday with the publisher of a British tabloid exposed his deep suspicions of the press but offered little concrete evidence to support accusations of phone hacking that he said caused so much anguish in his life.

The Duke of Sussex became the first senior member of the royal family to testify in more than a century as he held a Bible in his right hand and, in a soft voice, swore to tell the "whole truth and nothing but the truth" in the High Court in London.

Harry accuses the publisher of the Daily Mirror of using unlawful techniques on an "industrial scale" to score front-page scoops on his life.

"It isn't a specific article; it is all of the articles," Harry said. "Every single article has caused me distress.

He suggested the articles were the result of phone hacking or some other unlawful information gathering meth-od that "desperate journalists" relied on for any news nugget about his life. The 38-year-old son of King Charles III is the first senior British royal since the 19th century to face questioning in a court. An ancestor, the future King

Edward VII, appeared as a witness in a trial over a gambling scandal in 1891. Harry has said the royal family avoided legal entanglements to prevent

having to be put in the witness box. The case dates from 1996 to 2011 a period when phone hacking by tab-loid journalists was later discovered to come from public comments his mother, the late Princess Diana, had given to reporters.

Information about his 18th birthday came from his own mouth and, apparently, palace press people who set up an interview with him and the Press Association, which was widely used or quoted in many papers, including the Daily Mirror.

A Daily Mirror story headlined 'Snap, Harry breaks thumb like William" in 2000 came from a spokesperson at his father's office, which had given the Press Association the news the day before.

Harry remained steadfast that the paper's former royal editor, Jane Kerr, who is due to testify Wednesday, re-

#### 

Françoise Gilot, a prolific and acclaimed painter who produced art for well more than a half-century but was nonetheless more famous for her turbulent relationship with  $\ensuremath{\textbf{Pablo Picasso}}\xspace$  - and for leaving him - died Tuesday in New York City, where she had lived for decades. She was 101.

Gilot's daughter, Aurelia Engel, told The Associated Press her mother had died at Mount Sinai West hospital after suffering both lung and heart problems. "She was an extremely talented artist, and we will be working on her legacy and the incredible paintings and works she is leaving us with," Engel said.

The French-born Gilot had long made her frustration clear that despite acclaim for her art, which she produced from her teenage years until five years ago, she would still be best known for her relationship with the older Picasso, whom she met in 1943 at age 21, his junior by four decades. The union produced two children - Claude and Paloma Picasso.

#### Independent

But unlike the other key women in Picasso's life - wives or paramours - Gilot eventually walked out.

"He never saw it coming," Engel said of her mother's departure. "She was there because she loved him and because she really believed in that incredible passion of art which they both shared. (But) she came as a free, though very, very young, but very independent person.

Gilot herself told The Guardian newspaper in 2016 that "I was not a prisoner" in the relationship.

"I'd been there of my own will, and I left of my own will," she said, then 94. "That's what I told him once, before I left. I said: 'Watch out, because I came when I wanted to, but I will leave when I want.' He said, 'Nobody leaves a man like me.' I said, 'We'll see.

Gilot wrote several books, the most famous of which was "Life with Picasso," written in 1964 with Carlton Lake. An angry Picasso sought unsuccessfully to ban its publication. "He attacked her in court, and he lost three times," said Engel, 66, an architect by training who now manages her mother's archives. But, she said, "after the third loss he called her and said congratulations. He fought it, but at the same time, I think he was proud to have been with a woman who had such guts like he had."

Born on Nov. 26, 1921, in leafy Neuilly-sur-Seine in suburban Paris, Gilot was an only child. "She knew at the age of five that she wanted to be a painter," Engel said. In accordance with her parents' wishes, she studied law, however, while maintaining art as her true passion. She first exhibited her paintings in 1943.



Larson Epstein

#### Variety

#### **COLLEVILLE-SUR-MER, France:**

World War II veteran Jake Larson, a 100-year-old American best known on social media under the name "Papa Jake," enjoyed giving hugs to the many fans he met during his trip to **Normandy** for D-Day commemorations.

Larson, who has more than 600,000 followers on TikTok, attended a ceremony on Tuesday at the American Cemetery marking the 79th anniversary of the assault that led to the liberation of France and Western Europe from Nazi control.

"I got in on the planning of D-Day ... I'm just a country boy. Now I'm a star on TikTok," he told The Associated Press with enthusiasm. "You can see me all over: 'Papa Jake.' I'm a legend! I didn't plan this, it came about.

Larson landed on Omaha Beach, where he ran under machine-gun fire and made it to the cliffs without being wounded.

"I'm 100 without an ache or a pain. You can't fake that," he said.

On Monday, Larson went to the Pegasus Memorial, a site commemorating a key D-Day operation, when troops

had to take control of a strategic bridge. That's where he met Bill Gladden, a 99-year-old British veteran : "I want to give you a hug, thank you. I got tears in

my eyes. We were meant to meet," Larson told Gladden, their hands clasped. He also went Sunday into a parade

alongside other U.S. veterans, using wheelchairs, at Sainte-Mere-Eglise, where thousands of paratroopers jumped not long after midnight on June 6, 1944.

At every stop on his Normandy trip, "Papa Jake" was greeted by people asking for a selfie - in return, he offered up a big hug, to their greatest joy. Several French followers posted comments on his TikTok account to tell their emotion at seeing him.

(AP)

**NEW YORK:** Nearly four years after **Jef**-**frey Epstein**'s death, thousands of pages of records obtained by The Associated Press

Dressed in a dark suit and tie as he sat in the witness box, Harry told Mirror Group Newspapers attorney Andrew Green that he had "experienced hostility from the press since I was born." The prince accused the tabloids of playing "a destructive role in my growing-up.'

Green apologized for the one instance Mirror Group has admitted to hiring a private investigator to dig up dirt on Harry, which was not among the claims he has brought. Mirror Group denies or doesn't admit his other allegations.

Green acknowledged that the duke had "lived a life of tabloid life intrusion," and then in a sympathetic tone set about dismantling his case.

Taken back in time to his 12th birthday and onward through early adulthood, he was confronted with articles that he has complained about and asked to identify the source of wrongdoing by Mirror Groups's journalists.

Harry was forced almost immediately to acknowledge that he wasn't certain he read the  $\overline{33}$  specific articles about him when they were published.

"Is it realistic, when you have been the subject of so much press intrusion by so many press, both domestic and international, to attribute specific distress to a particular article from 20 years ago, which you may not have seen at the time?" Green asked.

are shedding new light on the financier's time behind bars and a frantic response by federal corrections officials to his death.



A shop clerk arranges a Japanese writer Haruki Murakami's new novel 'The City and Its Uncertain Walls' on the first day for sale at Kinokuniya bookstore in Tokyo, on April 13, 2023. In a speech released June 7, Murakami says walls are increasingly built and dividing people and countries as fear and skepticism flourish following Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the COVID-19 pandemic. (AP) — Details Page 11

have been widespread. It led to revelations of more intrusive means such as phone tapping, home bugging and using deception to obtain flight information and medical records.

#### Information

Harry's fury at the UK press runs through his memoir, "Spare." He blames paparazzi for causing the car crash that killed his mother, and said 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.

When pressed to be specific about what information had been illegally harvested, Harry repeatedly told the lawyer that the source of information in stories was "highly suspicious" or that he should ask the reporter who wrote the article.

He said some of the journalists had been known for hacking or that there were invoices to third parties, including private investigators known for snooping, around the time of the articles. He suggested other records had been destroyed.

Time and again, as Green laid out evidence to the contrary and what was described by Harry as a nefarious act had a more innocent explanation.

The source of a 1996 story that mentioned how badly he was taking his parents' divorce appeared to have

The documents, including emails between jail officials and psychological evaluations, offer a fuller picture of Epstein as he awaited trial on sex trafficking charges at the now-shuttered Metropolitan Correctionalnassar Center.

Epstein killed himself at the federal jail in 2019. In the days and weeks that followed, corrections officials struggled to explain how such a high-profile detainee had managed to take his own life.

The records show how he was moved from the jail's general population to specialized housing and how he was briefly on suicide watch before being downgraded to psychiatric observation - his status when he killed himself.

Epstein was anxious and despondent during much of his time in jail, prompting concern from jail guards and psychological experts about his mental state. He complained often about jail life. including poor sleep, constipation, the color of his uniform and his treatment by other detainees. The noise from a broken toilet in his cell left him sitting in the corner with his hands over his ears, according to one psychologist.

But despite his litany of complaints, Epstein insisted that he wouldn't take his own life. Even after he was discovered on his cell's floor with a strip of bedsheet around his neck and placed on suicide watch for 31 hours, he denied that he was contemplating suicide, which he said was against his Jewish religion. Plus, he added, he was a "coward" who didn't like pain. (AP)

lied on some unlawful means to report the story "Probably herself or she got someone else to do her dirty work for her,"

he said. When asked whose phone she hacked, Harry suggested it could have

been the doctor's "Are you not in the realms of total speculation?" Green said.

"No, I do not believe so," Harry

said.

Harry said the articles caused him to become depressed and paranoid, distrustful of friends, who he feared were feeding information to the media. His circle of friends shrank, relationships fell apart and he felt constantly in the glare of the journalists who were shaping the narrative of his life.

"I genuinely feel that in every relationship that I've ever had - be that with friends, girlfriends, with family or with the army, there's always been a third party involved, namely the tabloid press," Harry said in a written witness statement released Tuesday.

Setting out the prince's case, his lawyer, David Sherborne, said Monday that from Harry's childhood, British newspapers used skullduggery to cover all facets of his life - from school injuries to experimenting with marijuana and cocaine, to ups and downs with girlfriends.

### **SCIENCE**

#### ARAB TIMES, THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 2023

#### Environment

#### 675m sans electricity

## 2.3 billion globally use polluting fuel to cook

UNITED NATIONS, June 7, (AP): Up to 2.3 billion people around the world are still using polluting fuels to cook and 675 million don't have electricity, according to a report released Tuesday by five international organizations.

The report said that at current rates, 660 million people are projected to be without electricity and 1.9 billion won't have clean cooking opportunities by 2030. That's the target date to achieve a United Nations goal set in 2015 "to ensure access to afford be achieved and the same set of the same set affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.

The report by the International Energy Agency, International Renewable Energy Agency, UN Statistics Division, World Bank and World Health Organization said that at the midway point toward the goal, the world is not on track to reach the energy target,



change. "The energy crisis sparked by Russia's invasion of Ukraine continues to have a profound impact on people all around the world," International Energy Agency Executive Director Fatih Birol said in a statement. "High energy prices have hit the most vulnerable hard, particularly those in developing economies

which will negatively impact the health of millions and accelerate climate

He said that while the transition to clean energy is happening faster than people think, a great deal of work is still needed to provide it to the billions still living without it.

#### Access

According to the report, global access to electricity increased from 84% in 2010 to 91% in 2021, but the pace of growth slowed in 2019-2021, which includes the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. While the electrification of rural areas contributed to progress, there is still a large gap in urban areas, it said.

More than 80% of those without electricity - 567 million in 2021 - lived in sub-Saharan Africa, similar to the deficit in 2010, it said.

The report also found that up to 2.3 billion people still use polluting fuels and technologies, including firewood.

Francesco La Camera, director-general of the International Renewable Energy Agency, said: "Cost-competitive renewable energy has yet again demonstrated remarkable resilience, but the poorest in the world are still largely unable to fully benefit from it.'

According to estimates by WHO in 2019, 3.2 million pre-mature deaths every year were attributable to household air pollution from polluting fuels and technologies.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said investing in clear and renewable solutions to achieve universal energy access "can play a crucial role in protecting the health of our most vulnerable populations."

Guangzhe Chen, the World Bank's vice president for infrastructure, called for urgent efforts "to ensure that the poorest and hardest-to-reach people are not left behind."

Wildfires: The US government can keep using chemical retardant dropped from aircraft to fight wildfires, despite finding that the practice pollutes streams in western states in violation of federal law, a judge ruled.

Halting the use of the red slurry material could have resulted in greater environmental damage from wildfires, said US District Judge Dana Christensen in Missoula, Montana.

The judge agreed with US Forest Service officials who said dropping retardant into areas with waterways was sometimes necessary to protect lives and property.

The ruling came after came after environmentalists sued fol-lowing revelations that the Forest Service dropped retardant into waterways hundreds of times over the past decade.

Government officials say chemical fire retardant can be crucial to slowing the advance of dangerous blazes. Wildfires across North America have grown bigger and more destructive



A small boat travels along the Honga River near the Chesapeake Bay, as the sky lights up at sunrise in Fishing Creek, Md., May 14, 2020. A report on the Chesapeake Bay released Tuesday, June 6, found strong disparities between communities in different parts of the bay's watershed in terms of health, economics and social justice concerns, presenting the challenges of improving the health of the nation's largest estuary in a larger context. (AP)

#### Health



### Preventive care may cost more in US

NEW ORLEANS, June 7, (AP): A judge's order that would eliminate requirements that health insurance plans include cost-free coverage of HIVpreventing drugs, cancer screenings and various other types of preventive care should remain on hold while it is appealed, the Biden administration argued before an appellate panel Tuesday

It's the latest legal skirmish over mandates in former President Barack Obama's signature health care law, commonly known as "Obamacare," which took effect 13 years ago.

Enforcing the judge's order could jeopardize preventive care for at least some of an estimated 150 million insured people, Alisa Klein, arguing for the administration, told three 5th US Circuit Court of Appeals judges in New Orleans.

Jonathan Mitchell, arguing for the law's challengers, said a stay on the ruling is unnecessary. Insurers and employers who provide employee health insurance would be unlikely to drop preventive coverage before the case is finally resolved because they would risk prosecution if they lose, he ar-gued. "No rational employer or insurer can take the risk," he said.

### Infertility is common in the US, but insurance coverage remains limited

NEW YORK, June 7, (AP): Jessica Tincopa may leave the photography business she spent 14 years building for one reason: to find cov-erage for fertility treatment.

After six miscarriages, Tincopa and her husband started saving for in vitro fertilization, which can cost well over \$20,000. But the pandemic wiped out their savings, and they can't find coverage for IVF on their state's health insurance marketplace. So, the California couple is saving again, and asking politicians to help expand access.

"No one should ever have to go through this," Tincopa said. Infertility, or the inability to get

pregnant after a year or more of trying, is a common problem. The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates the

can afford to pay quite a bit out of pocket," said Usha Ranji, associate director of women's health policy at KFF, a nonprofit that studies health care issues

Clouding this picture are insurer concerns about cost as well as questions about how much fertility coverage should be emphasized or mandated versus helping people find other ways to build families, such as adoption.

"If you're going to offer one, there should be a corollary and maybe even more significant benefits for adoption," medical ethicist Dr. Philip Rosoff said.

A total of 54% of the biggest US employers - those with 20,000 workers or more - covered IVF in 2022, according to the benefits ant Mer consu 36% in 2015. Walmart started offer-ing coverage last fall and banking giant JPMorgan began this year. Lauderhill (Florida) Fire Rescue Lt. Ame Mason estimates she and her husband have spent close to \$100,000 of their own money on fertility treatments over the past few years, including several un-successful IVF attempts. Mason and her husband both work for the same department. Her brother-in-law also has a fertility issue. He works for a bigger fire department in nearby Palm Beach County and got coverage. Mason said that couple has a son.



the outskirts of Guwahati, India, Mon-day, June 5. (AP)

over the past two decades as climate change warms the planet.

More than 200 loads of retardant got into waterways over the past decade. Federal officials say those situations usually occurred by mistake and in less than 1% of the thousands of loads annually

Christensen said stopping the use of fire retardant would "conceivably result in greater harm from wildfires — includ-ing to human life and property and to the environment." The judge said his ruling was limited to 10 western states where members of the plaintiff's group alleged harm from pollution into waterways that they use.

#### Also:

ANNAPOLIS, Md: A report on the Chesapeake Bay released Tuesday found strong disparities between communities in different parts of the bay's watershed in terms of health, economics and social justice concerns.

The findings show a larger context for the challenges of improving the health of the nation's largest estuary, since this was the first time an integrated environmental justice index was included in the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science's evaluation. The index considers social factors such as poverty, race, ethnicity, and preexisting health conditions.

While UMCES has considered elements in recent years like walkability and income disparities in communities, this year the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention added a new integrated environmental justice index that adds a health component that UMCES had not considered before. That includes data at census levels from more than 4,000 reporting regions in the watershed.

The health of the bay is a reflection of what's happening across its six-state watershed, which includes Delaware, Marvland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia and the District of Columbia.

Tuesday's report indicates that urban and rural areas face greater challenges than suburban areas under the environmental justice index, which includes social vulnerability, environmental burdens - such as air and water quality - and health vulnerability, such as underlying conditions like asthma or diabetes.

Rural parts of the bay's watershed like the Eastern Shore of Maryland and Virginia face greater challenges, said Bill Dennison, vice president for science application at UMCES.

'What's really apparent here is that to have a healthy ecosystem you have to have a healthy community. If you don't have a healthy community, the net result is the bay is going to feel the effect," Dennison said. "The inequities we're seeing at the economic, social, level are being manifested as well into the health of the bay.

Similar to last year, UMCES gave the overall health of the bay a "C" grade in its report card. However, the center noted the bay has been showing significantly improving trends overall

Still, the center's president, Peter Goodwin, said there's work to be done in order to reduce nutrient pollution. Although having more "nutrients" in the water might sound like a good thing, in this case, it's actually pollution like nitrogen and phosphorus from agricultural and urban runoff. The pollution acts like fertilizer and causes excessive growth of algae, which produces toxins that can sicken swimmers and harm fish.

"We need to pick up the pace of restoration so that we can hit our nutrient reduction targets in the future and ensure our resilience to climate change," said Peter Goodwin, president of the UMCES.

It's widely believed that states in the watershed won't make a 2025 deadline to significantly cut nutrients that flow into the

bay. The overall bay health score has increased by six points in the past two years, according to the report.

Of seven indicators, there were improvements in water clarity, nitrogen, phosphorus, and aquatic grasses.



Climber sets new goal: A Norwegian who is aiming to be the fastest climber to scale all the world's 14 highest mountains said Tuesday that she can achieve her goal in half the time she initially planned.

Kristin Harila, on return to Nepal's capital from the mountains on Tuesday, said she is setting a new target of scaling the peaks in three months, having already climbed eight of them in 40 days

She is attempting to beat the 2019 re-cord set by a male climber, who did in little more six months.

Harila, 37, is yet to climb Mount Manaslu in Nepal, which she hopes to do in the next few days, and then the five remaining peaks in Pakistan, including K2, the second highest in the world. She also reached K2 last year.

"I believe we can do it, if we do Manaslu now and the five in Pakistan, we can do in three months. So yes, three months is possible if we do Manaslu now," she said.

"We are very happy we have made eight and we are all safe and everyone is good," she said.

She began in April by scaling Mount Shishapangma followed by other peaks in China as well as Nepal, including Mount Everest. Her latest one was Mount Annapurna on June 5.

Her climb of Annapurna came very late in the spring season when most teams had already left the mountains.

"It was very nice but very difficult to climb Annapurna alone. No one was around, it was different. When there is lot of people it is much easier," she said.

Harila began her attempt in April 2022 with the aim of completing it by September. But she only managed 12 peaks because Chinese authorities had restricted access to foreign climbers during the coronavirus pandemic.

The current record is held by Nirmal Purja, a Nepal-born British citizen who scaled the 14 highest peaks in 189 days in 2019, beating the previous record of more than seven years set by a South Korean climber. (AP)

Volcano alert downgraded: Mexico lowered the alert level on the Popocatepetl volcano Tuesday after more than two weeks of its eruptions of gas and ash had drawn the attention of those living in its shadow and people around the world.

The 17,797-foot (5,425-meter) mountain just 45 miles (about 70 kilometers) southeast of Mexico City and known affectionately as "El Popo," had spread ash over towns downwind for days and spurred authorities to dust off their evacuation plans.

Some 25 million people live within 60 miles of its crater. But ultimately no

#### Agreement

That drew a skeptical response from Judge Leslie Southwick. "I don't quite see how that fits into our analysis,' said Southwick, who during the hearing asked attorneys to try to reach an agreement on how and when the lower court ruling should be enforced pending appeal. "You may be right, but it really is speculation if you want us to apply some of our sense of how insurance companies react."

The March ruling by US District Judge Reed O'Connor affected requirements for coverage driven by recommendations by the US Preventive Services Task Force. O'Connor ruled that because the task force is made up of volunteers, enforcing its recommendations violates the Constitution's Appointment Clause, which lays out how government officials can be appointed. As appeals continue, the administration isn't attempting to block immediate enforcement of O'Connor's ruling as it applies to the handful of Texas plaintiffs who filed suit. But it should not apply to the millions of people affected nationwide. Klein argued.

Southwick questioned that asser-

evacuations were ordered and experts said the emissions from the increased activity actually made a catastrophic eruption less likely.

National Civil Defense Coordinator



Antonius Makambombu, a worker of Sumba Sustainable Solutions, performs maintenance work on a solar panel on the roof of a customer's shop in Lain-deha village on Sumba Island, Indonesia, March 22, 2023. Up to 2.3 billion people around the world are still using polluting fuels to cook and 675 million don't have electricity, according to a report released Tuesday by five international organizations. (AP)

fects nearly one in five married girls or women between the ages of 15 and 49.

Yet coverage of fertility treat-ments can be hard to find in many corners of health insurance even as it grows briskly with big employers who see it as a must-have benefit to keep workers.

It's a divide researchers say is leading to haves and have nots for treatments, which can involve a range of prescription drugs and procedures like artificial insemination or IVF, where an embryo is created by mixing eggs and sperm in a lab dish.

"It is still primarily for people who

tion. "Once the district court decided that all these decisions were beyond the authority of the body that made it, I'm not sure what relief would have been appropriate," he said.

Not all preventive care is affected under the judge's ruling. An analysis by the nonprofit KFF foundation found that some screenings, including mammography and cervical cancer screening, would still be covered without outof-pocket costs because the task force recommended them before the health care law was enacted in March 2010.

O'Connor, a nominee of former President George W. Bush, is the same

Laura Velázquez lowered the alert level back to yellow phase two Tuesday on the recommendation of a scientific advisory panel, according to a statement from the government. It had been at yellow phase

judge who ruled more than four years ago that the entire Obama health care law was unconstitutional. That ruling was overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Those suing the federal government in this case include a conservative activist and a Christian dentist who oppose coverage for contraception and HIV prevention on religious grounds. The appellate judges are Edith Brown Clement and Southwick, who were also nominated by Bush; and Stephen Higginson, nominated by Obama.

An immediate ruling is not expected.

three, just a notch below a red alert on the stop light-style scale. (AP)

#### 

Reward offered for info: US authorities on Tuesday offered a \$5,000 reward for information on who killed a Hawaiian monk seal after one of the critically endangered animals was found dead on Oahu this year.

The female seal known as Malama was found dead on March 12 at Ohikilolo, a spot between Keaau Beach Park and Makua Valley, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said in a news release.

A post-mortem investigation found the cause of death to be "blunt force trauma." National experts on marine mammal radiology and forensics concluded the animal was intentionally killed, the release said.

Last year, Malama was treated for malnutrition at the Marine Mammal Center's Hawaiian monk seal hospital on the Big Island. She was released in January, after which she was in good condition and displaying normal seal behavior.

The Hawaiian monk seal is one of the most endangered seal species in the world. About 1,570 of the animals are in the wild. About 1,200 seals live in the remote Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, which are a string of atolls largely uninhabited by people. An additional 400 live in the main Hawaiian Islands, where Honolulu and other cities are located. They are found nowhere else. (AP)

#### Storm rally from 21-point deficit to beat Sparks

## Las Vegas holds off Connecticut in rematch of last year's WNBA finals

UNCASVILLE, Conn., June 7, (AP): A'Ja Wilson scored 23 points and grabbed 10 rebounds and the defending champion Las Vegas Aces remained undefeated, holding off Connecti-cut 90-84 in a rematch of the teams who played in last year's WNBA Finals.

Jackie Young added 22 points for Vegas (7-0), which led by as many as 19 points and withstood a furious fourth quarter comeback by Connecticut (6-2). Kelsey Plum had 17 points and Chelsea Gray added 14 points for the Aces.

"The good thing is that we played solid enough and we buckled down enough towards the end of that fourth quarter to walk out of here with a win," Aces coach Becky Hammon said.

Rebecca Allen scored 22 points for the Sun, hitting four of her six 3-pointers in the fourth quarter.

Alyssa Thomas had her seventh double-double of the season, scoring 14 points and grabbing 11 rebounds for the Eastern Conference leaders, who had a three-game winning streak snapped. Brionna Jones added 15 points.

The Aces jumped out to an early 11-4 lead, led 25-14 after a quarter and never trailed.

A steal and a layup by Candace Parker pushed the lead to 19 at 46-27. Vegas led 48-31 at the half and 70-53 after three quarters.

"We have a history of having slow starts," Wilson said. "So for us, we knew we had to come in with the mindset



of making sure that we could take the first punch, but also be able to throw it at the same time. And I think we

showed that. It was 74-56 before Allen led the Sun on a 17-2 run in the fourth quarter to cut the lead to just three points.

But a driving layup and free throw from Young pushed the lead back to 84-77 with 1:15 to go and the Aces held on.

Wilson

"We kept coming at them," Sun coach Stephanie White said. "We played more like Connecticut Sun

basketball in the second half. Nobody wants to come out without winning the ballgame, but I think we got some good momentum that we can build on.'

The Sun shot just 31% in the first half and made just two of their 14 attempts from 3-point range. They finished 10 of 26 from behind the arc and shooting 41% from the floor.

This was the first meeting of the two teams since the Aces beat the Sun in this arena 78-71 in Game 4 of the Finals last September to win the WNBA title.

The teams have a day off Wednesday before meeting again on the same floor Thursday night.

"We know everybody in the league has to do this at some point," Hammon said. "But obviously it's difficult playing such a good team, smart such a seasoned team, veteran team back to back like this. But it is what it is.

#### Storm 66, Sparks 63

In Seattle, Jewell Loyd had 25 points and eight rebounds and Seattle rallied from a 21-point first-half deficit to beat Los Angeles.

#### BASKETBALL

Seattle (1-4) avenged a 92-85 loss to the Sparks on Saturday with the second-largest comeback victory in franchise history

Rookie Jordan Horston scored a season-high 14 points and Ezi Magbegor had 13 points, 10 rebounds and three blocks for Seattle. Loyd became the third player in Storm history to reach 4,000 career points.

Seattle only had four points through the opening nine minutes of the game but scored 29 in the second quarter to get within 38-35 at the break. The Storm made just five of their first 25 field goals.

Nneka Ogwumike scored 22 points and grabbed 11 re-bounds for Los Angeles (3-3). Lexie Brown added 15 points and Jordin Canada, a two-time WNBA champion with Seattle, scored 11.

#### Sky 108, Fever 103 OT

In Chicago, Marina Mabrey scored 18 of her 28 points in the first half, Dana Evans scored all 19 of her points after halftime and the Chicago Sky beat the Indiana Fever 108-103 in overtime.

en 3-pointer with 50.1 Evans made a wide

## Hendriks gets first save since cancer as Giolito & White Sox edge Yankees

NEW YORK, June 7, (AP): Liam Hendriks earned his first save since returning from cancer, Lucas Giolito pitched six hitless innings and the Chicago White Sox beat the New York Yankees 3-2 on Tuesday night for their season-high fourth straight victory.

Isiah Kiner-Falefa ended Chicago's combined no-hit bid with a two-out RBI double in the seventh off reliever Joe Kelly on a ball that fell between center fielder Luis Robert Jr. and left fielder Andrew Benintendi, allowing Willie Calhoun to score.

Josh Donaldson hit his third homer in three games on the first pitch from Hendriks in the bottom of the ninth. Hendriks then finished the two-hitter by getting three straight groundouts.

The All-Star reliever returned to the mound May 29 from stage 4 non-Hodgkin lymphoma.

Seby Zavala homered in consecutive at-bats off Clarke Schmidt (2-6), driving in all three White Sox runs.

Giolito (5-4) struck out seven and walked three.

**Reds 9, Dodgers 8** 

In Cincinnati, Matt McLain singled to deep center to cap a three-run ninthinning rally, and Cincinnati beat Los Angeles.

Trailing 8-6 with one out in the ninth, Cincinnati loaded the bases against Caleb Ferguson (3-1), who then walked one batter and hit another, allowing the Reds to tie it. Shelby Miller gave up McLain's game-ending hit as Cincinnati snapped its nine-game losing streak against the Dodgers.

Eduardo Salazar (1-0) struck out two in one inning.

Cincinnati slugger Elly De La Cruz, ranked as the game's third-best prospect according to Baseball America, went 1 for 3 with a double, two walks and a run scored in his major league debut.

#### Marlins 6, Royals 1

In Miami, Luis Arraez had two hits to raise his major league-leading batting average to .401 as Miami beat Kansas City.

Second in the NL East, the Marlins have won five straight to improve to 34-28 - the first time they've been six

games over .500 since August 2016. Jesús Luzardo (5-4) allowed two hits in

#### Phillies 1, Tigers 0 In Philadelphia, Kyle Schwarber hit a

leadoff homer, Taijuan Walker threw seven scoreless innings and Philadelphia won its fourth straight.

Walker (5-3) allowed two hits, Seranthony Dominguez worked the eighth and Craig Kimbrel completed the threehitter, striking out the side in order for his Arcia's RBI single off reliever Drew Smith (3-2) gave Atlanta a 5-4 lead. Carrasco gave up six hits, including a second-inning homer to Ozzie Albies, and four runs in five-plus innings.

Cincinnati Reds' Luke Weaver throws to a Los Angeles Dodgers batter during the first inning of a baseball game in Cincinnati.

(AP)

Red Sox<sup>5</sup>, Guardians 4 In Cleveland, Rob Refsnyder had the go-ahead RBI single in a four-run eighth inning, James Paxton tied his season high **MLB Results/Standings** 

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Reds hold off LA Dodgers



in overtime to extend Chicago's lead to 101-96. Indiana turned it over on its next possession for the 16th time and Evans sank a runner in the lane for a seven-point lead.

Kahleah Copper added 24 points and Alanna Smith scored 18 for Chicago (5-3), which was coming off a stunning 19-point comeback against the New York Liberty on Sunday.



DATED-30th MAY 2023

#### TENDER NOTICE FOR REFURBISHMENT OF AUDITORIUM

Embassy of India, Kuwait invites bids from interested companies for refurbishment of its Auditorium including upgradation of acoustics, lighting, audio video equipment and all other technical requirements with other required minor civil work.

Prospective / Interested companies are advised to inspect the area and present their offers in a sealed cover marked "Offer for refurbishment of Auditorium- to be opened by addressee only" and addressed to the "Head of Chancery, Embassy of India, Diplomatic Enclave, Arabian Gulf Street, Safat 13015, Kuwait." The bid must be submitted at the Embassy on or before 26th June 2023.

A pre bid meeting with all prospective/interested bidders will be held at 1430 hrs on 11th June 2023 in the Embassy of India, Kuwait. 

The detailed tender document along with its annexure may be downloaded from Central Procurement Portal https://eprocure.gov.in/cppp/ and also the official website of the Embassy of India, Kuwait from https://indembkwt.gov.in/tenderkuwait-in-india.php. (please scan QR)

For any other clarification please contact Mr. S. James Jacob, Attache (Administration) on any working day (Sunday - Thursday) between 0800 hrs 1630 hrs on +96522513498 or email to: admnkuwait@mea.gov.in.



#### Advertisement

#### Hiring of Local Resource Persons in the Field of Yoga, Indian Music and Indian Dance

Applications are invited for hiring of Local Resource Persons in the Field of Yoga, Indian Instrumental Music - Tabla, Sitar, Harmonium) and Indian Classical Dance from Indian Diaspora and Kuwaiti Nationals

#### **Oualification and Experience**

- i Applicant should be a citizen of Kuwait or a resident of Kuwait having NRI status with work permit.
- ii Fluent in English and Local language
- iii Candidate should have minimum of 3 years of degree with 3 years of experience or 2 years diploma/certificate or training in the concerned field for a minimum period of 2 years from renowned institution/guru with 4 yeas of experience.
- iv Adequate knowledge of history, philosophy and traditions of Indian music, dance, arts and culture

#### Age: Between 25 to 50 years

2. Local Resource Persons are expected to conduct weekly training classes fo interested candidates of different age groups in these fields apart from contributing to organization of cultural events by the Embassy.

3. All interested candidates, with requisite qualification, may send their CVs and other supporting papers, as per the above requirements at: pic.kuwait@mea.gov.in on or before 30 June 2023.

seven innings, striking out eight. Miami scored five times in the fifth against Zack Grienke (1-6).

Arraez finished 2 for 4 with an RBI. Jesús Sánchez homered and Bryan De La Cruz drove in three runs.

**Rangers 6, Cardinals 4** In Arlington, Marcus Semien had a go-

ahead double to extend his majors-best hitting streak to 25 games, Dane Dunning (5-1) won again and AL West-leading Texas beat St. Louis.

#### BASEBALL

Nathaniel Lowe and Adolis García hit solo homers for the Rangers (40-20), who have won five straight. Even after allowing three homers over

his 5 2/3 innings, Dunning departed with the Rangers up 6-4.

Will Smith, the third Texas reliever, worked a perfect ninth for his 11th save in 12 chances.

Rookie left-hander Matthew Liberatore (1-2) allowed five runs (four earned) over four innings as the Cardinals dropped to 0-5 on their trip.

Athletics 11, Pirates 2

In Pittsburgh, Jace Peterson homered twice on a five-hit night and drove in five runs, and Oakland beat Pittsburgh to snap a 15-game road losing streak.

The major league-worst A's (13-50) broke open the game late behind Peterson, whose RBI single off Pirates ace Mitch Keller put Oakland ahead 3-2 in the sixth.

Peterson gave Oakland a five-run lead with a two-run homer off Chase De Jong in the eighth, then added another two-run shot off De Jong in the ninth. James Kaprielian (1-6) allowed two

runs on four hits in six innings for his first win since last Oct. 2. The A's had not won away from Oakland since beating the

Los Angeles Angels 11-10 on April 24. Keller (7-2) gave up five runs on eight hits and four walks with one strikeout in 5 1/3 innings. Pittsburgh's six-game winning streak was snapped.

#### Angels 7, Cubs 4

In Anaheim, Mike Trout and Matt Thaiss delivered two-run singles off Brandon Hughes (0-3) during the Angels' five-run fifth inning, Shohei Ohtani hit his 16th homer and Los Angeles beat Chicago.

Taylor Ward also homered for the Angels, who overcame an early 4-0 deficit.

Mike Tauchman had a two-run single and Matt Mervis followed with a two-run double in the second inning for the Cubs, who have lost four of six.

Tyler Anderson (3-1) overcame that rough second inning to pitch five innings of five-hit ball for the Angels. Carlos Estévez picked up his 15th save.

ninth save in as many chances.

Four Tigers pitchers held the Phillies to three hits in a game that took 2 hours, 7 minutes.

Schwarber drove a 2-2 fastball from Tyler Alexander (1-1) to right-center in the first, his 16th homer this season and third this month.

#### Blue Jays 5, Astros 1

In Toronto, Kevin Gausman matched his career high by striking out 13 over seven innings, George Springer, Bo Bichette and Daulton Varsho all homered, and Toronto beat Houston.

Gausman (5-3) gave up a leadoff homer to Mauricio Dubón on his second pitch but recovered to hold the Astros in check and win his third straight start.

The AL strikeout leader with 113, Gausman has struck out 10 or more a major league-leading six times this season. He gave up one run and four hits, striking out five of the final six batters he faced. The right-hander didn't issue a walk, the fourth time this season he's done that.

Astros rookie Hunter Brown (5-3) lost consecutive decisions for the first time. allowing three runs and three hits in six innings.

#### Brewers 4, Orioles 3, 10 innings

In Milwaukee, Joey Wiemer hit a gameending single with two outs in the 10th inning off Austin Voth (1-2) as Milwaukee rallied past Baltimore.

The Brewers moved one-half game ahead of Pittsburgh in the NL Central.

Brice Turang's RBI single in the eighth inning tied the game at 3-all after the Orioles had gone ahead on Ryan O'Hearn's solo homer in the seventh.

Peter Strzlecki (3-4) struck out pinchhitter Josh Lester to end the top of the 10th.

#### Rays 7, Twins 0

In St. Petersburg, Zach Eflin pitched into the seventh inning, Luke Raley tripled and homered, and major league-best Tampa Bay beat AL Central-leading Minnesota.

Eflin (8-1) allowed three hits and struck out nine over 6 2/3 innings.

Raley got his first career three-base hit, coming in his 102nd big league game, and scored in a three-run fourth. In the fifth inning, he hit a two-run shot off Louie Varland (3-2) that made it 5-0.

#### Braves 6, Mets 4

In Atlanta, Orlando Arcia drove in the go-ahead run in a four-run sixth as Atlanta beat New York.

Francisco Lindor and Pete Alonso hit two-run homers in the third, but Bryce Elder (4-0) regrouped with three scoreless innings and New York (30-31) lost its fourth straight, matching a season high.

The Mets led 4-1 before starter Carlos Carrasco allowed three runs in the sixth. with nine strikeouts, and Boston beat Cleveland.

Kiké Hernández drove in two runs and Masataka Yoshida had three hits for the Red Sox, who put their first six batters on base in the eighth against relievers Enyel De Los Santos (2-1) and Nick Sandlin.

Paxton (2-1) allowed two runs - both in the first inning - on six hits in seven innings, matching his longest outing since Sept. 3, 2019, with the Yankees.

Kenley Jansen worked a perfect ninth for his 13th save in 16 opportunities. Boston snapped a three-game skid.

#### Diamondbacks 10, Nationals 5

In Washington, Pavin Smith homered and drove in three runs as Arizona rallied against Washington's beleaguered bullpen.

Josh Rojas also had three RBIs for Arizona, which moved ahead of Los Angeles for the NL West lead. The Diamondbacks (36-25) have won seven of nine.

Former Diamondback Stone Garrett hit his first career grand slam for last-place Washington, which has lost three in a row and six of eight.

Erasmo Ramirez (3-2) relieved starter Jake Irvin in the fifth and plunked Christian Walker with his first pitch, committed a balk and walked Emmanuel Rivera to load the bases. Arizona sandwiched a pair of sacrifice flies around Gabriel Moreno's RBI single to make it 6-4

José Ruiz (2-1) pitched 1 2/3 scoreless innings.

#### Mariners 4, Padres 1

In San Diego, Logan Gilbert pitched seven strong innings, Teoscar Hernández and Julio Rodriguez homered and Seattle beat San Diego to snap a three-game skid.

Gilbert (4-3) allowed one run and three



Arizona Diamondbacks' Pavin Smith hits a two-run home run against the Washington National during the seventh inning of a baseball game at Nationals

Park in Washington. (AP)

hits. Paul Sewald pitched a scoreless ninth for his 12th save.

Hernández homered in the sixth off reliever Brent Honeywell (2-3) to give Seattle a 2-1 lead.

#### Giants 10, Rockies 4

In Denver, Giants rookie Patrick Bailey had three hits, all for extra bases, and San Francisco was bolstered by the return of Joc Pederson and Thairo Estrada from the injured list in a victory over Colorado.

Estrada doubled twice and had an RBI single. Pederson singled and scored in a five-run fifth inning that broke the game open. LaMonte Wade Jr. went 3 for 3 with a two-run single and three walks, and J.D. Davis drove in three runs.

Jurickson Profar had four hits and two **RBIs** for the Rockies.

Ryan Walker (2-0) pitched a hitless second inning in relief with two strikeouts in a bullpen game for San Francisco.

Dinelson Lamet (1-3) allowed three runs and six hits in three innings.

## **SPORTS**

## Zain concludes football season with Excellence Awards



Al Shaheen and Al Khashti with the winners and members of the technical committee.

Winners in six categories receive total of KD 30,000 cash prizes

KUWAIT CITY, June 7: Zain held a special Excellence Awards ceremony to recognize the top athletes in the recently concluded 2022-2023 football season of the Zain Premier League (Dawri Zain). During the event, the very best players were recognized on stage after being selected by the technical committee for their top performance, wining them the affection of fans and the wider local sports community. The special event was held at the St. Regis Hotel, attended by Ku-wait Football Association Chairman Abdullah Al Shaheen, Zain Kuwait Chief Corporate Affairs and Relations Officer Waleed Al Khashti, and members of the local sports community and local and regional sports journalists. During the ceremony, Zain and the KFA took to the stage to celebrate and award the top performers of the 2022-2023 season with the cash prizes announced at the season's kick-off last year. The recognition came after the technical committee officially announced the winners on-stage, after which they were presented with a total of KD 30,000 as cash prizes. The winners are: In addition to the above awards, Zain also presented a weekly Player of the Round Award of KD 500 that started with the ninth week. These prizes came to reflect Zain's keenness in recognizing those athletes who pursued excellence and elevated the league's performance. A special committee was formed in coordination with the Kuwait Football Association to outline the standards and criteria on which the winners were selected. The committee is membered by former Kuwaiti international players Saad Al Houti (as the committee's head), Wael Sulaiman, Osama Hussain, and Mohammed Benyaan, who were all recognized on stage by Zain during the event for their efforts in selecting the winners throughout the season. During the event, Zain also awarded the top three winners of the Zain Fantasy League for the 2022-2023 season. The online competition was kicked-off by Zain last year to bring local sports to the digital scene, and since featured the registration of near 5000 players. The winners are: first place winner Abdullah Almatrouk (KD 5000), second place winner Mohammed Algallaf (KD 3500), and third place winner Thamer Alhajeri (KD 1500). With this spectacular awards ceremony, Zain has successfully concluded the first season under its official sponsorship of the KFA's competitions for the 2022-2026 seasons, which includes the Kuwait Premier League (Dawri Zain), the Zain First Division League, H.H. the Amir's Cup, H.H. the Crown Prince's Cup, and the KFA Cup (Zain Cup). Zain's role centered around three main areas: supporting athletes with cash prizes, launching social events and interacting with fans at stadiums, and the first-ever Fantasy Football



The moment Mohammed Daham was announced Best Player.

Local sports community at the event.



An attendee poses for a photo.



League in Kuwaiti football's history. These contributions and more went in line with the KFA's vision to further enrich the local football scene, given that it is the most beloved sports among Kuwaitis. Zain firmly believe that the private

Zain firmly believe that the private sector has a vital and active role in developing the local sports and youth sectors, and it makes this belief a real-

Left to right: Some of the participants.

Winner	Club	Award
Mohammed Daham	Naser SC	Best Player (KD 10,000)
Taha Yaseen Alkhunaisi	Kuwait SC	League Top Scorer (KD 5000)
Shibeeb Alkhaldi	Kazima SC	League Top Local Scorer (KD 5000)
Abdulrahman Kameel	Kuwait SC	Best Goalkeeper (KD 5000)
Firas Alkhateeb	Fahaheel SC	Best Coach (KD 3000)
Hussain Ashkanani	Arabi SC	Best Rising Star (KD 2000)

ity by sponsoring and supporting some of the biggest sports programs in the nation.

This partnership with Kuwait's top football competition comes to strengthen the leadership role Zain plays in the local sports scene and is perfectly in line with the company's sustainability and social responsibility strategy towards the sports and youth sectors.



Some of the award winners.

SEA



Sports



Poland's Iga Swiatek celebrates winning her quarterfinal match of the French Open tennis tournament against Coco Gauff of the U.S. in two sets 6-4, 6-2, at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris. (AP)

## Latest sports scores at — http://sports.arabtimesonline.com **Swiatek reaches French Open semis**

Haddad Maia upsets Jabeur to advance; Alcaraz vs Djokovic

PARIS, June 7, (AP): This felt like a game Coco Gauff simply needed to claim if she intended to finally win a set, let alone a match, against No. 1 Iga Swiatek.

With shouts of "Go, Coco!" and "Allez, Coco!" emanating from the Court Philippe Chatrier stands, Gauff frittered away two break points as Swiatek served at 1-all. Then, at deuce, came the most memorable moment of Wednesday afternoon - and, while Gauff won the point, it soon would be Swiatek who seized complete control of this French Open quarterfinal that was a rematch of last year's final.

During a 14-stroke exchange, both women made their way to the net, and Gauff directed a swinging backhand volley right at Swiatek. The ball struck Swiatek's right leg, and she tumbled back onto the red clay, leaving rust remnants on her white dress and arm. That set up a third break chance for Gauff, but the 19-year-old American again failed to convert, and while it soon was 2-all, Swiatek pulled away from there to a 6-4, 6-2 victory.

"I didn't try to hit her. I was just trying to hit the ball hard in the middle of the court, and it happened to hit her, obviously. I apologized after, but I think she knows that's part of the game. If you hit a bad ball and you decide to run to the net, there's always a risk that you get hit - and there's always the risk that the person might miss, trying to avoid you," Gauff said.

#### **TENNIS**

"If I was in her position, I wouldn't be mad at me, either, because she ran forward. I think when I said sorry, she shook her head, and we had a mutual understanding that that was the only shot I really had.'

When a reporter asked Swiatek whether it's unusual to get directly hit like that, she agreed with the premise. She also said she couldn't be sure whether Gauff had another option.

"But I know Coco is a nice person, and she wouldn't mean it,' said Swiatek, a 22-year-old from Poland who is seeking a third title at Roland Garros and fourth Grand Slam trophy overall. "Nothing personal. It happens.'

She improved to 7-0 against No. 6



Spain's Carlos Alcaraz plays a shot against Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas during their quarterfinal match of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris. (AP)



MANCHESTER, England, June 7, (AP): With its massive spending power, Manchester City's run to the Cham-

Walker misses training session due to back problem

## **Unlikely CL finalists Inter out to upset Man City**

Benzema becomes latest star after signing with Al-Ittihad

Gauff and has won all 14 sets they've played against each other; that includes a 6-1, 6-3 victory for the 2022 championship in Paris. "Obviously," Gauff remarked, "you

lose to someone seven times, you feel crappy.

Ôn Thursday, Swiatek will meet No. 14 seed Beatriz Haddad Maia, the first woman from Brazil to reach a Grand Slam semifinal since Maria Bueno at the 1968 U.S. Open. The other women's matchup for a berth in Saturday's title match will be No. 2 Aryna Sabalenka, who won the Australian Open in January, against unseeded Karolina Muchova of the Czech Republic. One men's semifinal is set: No. 1 Carlos Alcaraz vs. No. 3 Novak Djokovic.

Haddad Maia advanced by coming back for a 3-6, 7-6 (5), 6-1 victory over No. 7 Ons Jabeur, a two-time major runner-up in 2022

Haddad Maia is a 27-year-old lefthander who was given a 10-month suspension after failing a doping test in 2019. She arrived in Paris with a 7-11 record at majors, never winning so much as one second-round match, until this 5-0 run.

"One of my qualities," Haddad Maia said, "is that I wait and I'm very patient and I never give up.'

Before even knowing she would face Swiatek, Gauff spoke about hoping for that opportunity. She insisted she wanted another shot at Swiatek, who has topped the rankings for more than a year.

Gauff tried some new tactics, with a measure of success early, looping high-arcing, high-bouncing shots, instead of her standard big hitting. This one was even early, at 4-4 in

the first set, before Swiatek edged ahead. First she held, then she broke at love, smacking a cross-court forehand to own that set, then raising her right fist and shaking it.

Swiatek's heavy-topspin forehand is probably her best shot. That also happens to be Gauff's weaker side. A glance at the stats demonstrated the disparity: Swiatek finished with a 12-1 advantage in forehand winners.

And it was Gauff, wearing a bandage on her right knee after scraping it in her previous match, who began having trouble with shot selection and execution. By the end, Gauff had far more unforced errors, 23, than winners, 13.

Yet to drop a set in the tournament,

Hernan Barcos of Peru's Alianza Lima (left), fights for the ball with Hulk of Brazil's Atletico Mineiro during a Copa Libertadores Group G soccer match at Alejandro Villanueva stadium in Lima, Peru. Atletico won 1-0. (AP)

Swiatek broke to go up 4-2 in the sec-ond with the help of a double-fault, and again in the last game with the help of another double-fault.

Gauff was told at her news conference that she didn't seem quite as crestfallen as she appeared to be after a fourth-round loss at the Australian Open in January.

"I wouldn't say I'm more at peace. To be honest, I'm still very frustrated, but I guess I'm trying not to show it as much," Gauff said. "Yeah, I don't want those pictures on the internet."

Two weeks ago, before the start of play at the French Open, the brackets were set for the tournament, and one possible semifinal matchup immediately demanded attention: No. 1 Carlos Alcaraz, the Next Big Thing in men's tennis, against No. 3 Novak Djokovic, the Current Big Thing in men's tennis.

The heightened anticipation was not merely because it would be fascinating to see the two of them play at Roland Garros. It also would be fascinating to see them play each other, period: They've only met once, and it was 13 months ago, with Alcaraz coming out on top.

So get ready: Alcaraz and Djokovic will finally share the stage again on Friday in Court Philippe Chatrier, where they will compete for a spot in the championship match.

"Since the draw came out, everyone was expecting that match - the semifinal against Novak. Myself, as well,' Alcaraz said after completing his half of the bargain by outclassing Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-2, 6-1, 7-6 (5) in the quarterfinals Tuesday night. "I really want to play that match.'

a surprise.

The same cannot be said for Inter Milan, City's opponent on Saturday in Istanbul.

While Inter is one of European soccer's most storied teams, it enters the game as an outsider, having somewhat surprisingly reached the final. After all, Inter is the third best team in Italy, a league that has long-since lost its shine after being considered the ultimate destination for the world's best players in the 1990s.

Inter finished the season 18 points behind league champion Napoli, the team many expected to go far before losing to AC Milan in the quarterfinals.

Inter went on to beat its city rival in the semifinals to advance to the final of European club soccer's elite competition for the first time in 13 years.

To put that achievement into context, this was the first time it had even been in the quarterfinals since 2011. when it was the defending champion. But it is also a club that has tasted success in recent years after winning the Italian league in 2021, back-to-back Italian Cups in 2022 and 2023, and the Italian Super Cup this season.

"Manchester City have won two tro-

#### SOCCER

phies (this season), but so have Inter. They will be facing an opponent who deserve to be in Istanbul as much as they do," Inter coach Simone Inzaghi said.

The power in European soccer has shifted considerably since Inter last won the trophy in 2010.

Back then City was still waiting for its first major piece of silverware since 1976. But backed by Abu Dhabi's ruling family, it has since gone on to win 16 more trophies, including seven Premier League titles.

This year City is bidding to become only the second English team to win the three biggest trophies in one season - the Premier League, Champions League and FA Cup.

Only Inter can stop City from emulating Manchester United's treble from 1999

Looking at the respective two teams on paper, some may consider it a mismatch.

While City has superstar signings like Erling Haaland, Jack Grealish and Kevin De Bruyne, Inter has a mishmash of players who have managed to reboot

## Soccer world waits for Messi decision with **AI-Hilal, Barca and Miami possible options**

Al-Nassr, the team of Cristiano Ron-

aldo since January; Al-Ittihad, the new

team of reigning world player of the

year Karim Benzema; and Al-Hilal,

the team heavily linked with a move

Messi, after all, has already estab-

lished a relationship with Saudi Arabia

by agreeing to a commercial contract

with the oil-rich Middle Eastern coun-

try last year to promote tourism there.

of Barcelona, where Messi's father

- Jorge - was on Monday to intensify

speculation about a possible return to

Messi "would like to return" to Bar-

celona, Jorge Messi said, but it seems

a push if the club - in economic turmoil

in recent years - is going to meet the

team under Abu Dhabi ownership in

2012. Henrikh Mkhitaryan is 34 and

disappointed at both Manchester Unit-

ed and Arsenal. Matteo Darmian, 33,

the Spanish club by his son.

There's also the sentimental pull

for the 35-year-old Messi.

LONDON, June 7, (AP): The soccer world is waiting for Lionel Messi's decision.

The Argentina great, fresh off winning the World Cup in December, is essentially a free agent after bidding adieu to Paris Saint-Germain. The big question now surrounds where he will go next.

Things are still up in the air, however, sparking frenzied rumors about the next destination of one of the greatest soccer players in history.

There's the possibility of moving to Saudi Arabia, where attempts to bring in some of soccer's most high-profile - if aging - stars ratcheted up when the kingdom's sovereign wealth fund took a majority ownership stake of four of the country's top clubs. They include

or prolong their careers at the club.

Edin Dzeko, for instance, is 37 years old and left City eight years ago, having been part of its first title-winning



In this Tuesday, March 7, 2023 file photo, Chelsea's Wesley Fofana (left), challenges Dortmund's Jude Bellingham during the Champions League round of 16 second leg soccer match between Chelsea FC and Borussia Dortmund at Stamford Bridge, London. Real Madrid and Borussia Dortmund have reached an agreement for the transfer of Jude Bellingham for a fee that could reach more than 130 million euros (\$139 million), the German club said. (AP)

Spanish league's strict financial fair play rules.

How about Messi moving, as some rumors suggest, to Inter Miami, the MLS team co-owned by David Beckham which has occasionally been linked with the seven-time world player of the year and now has an Argentine interim coach in Javier Morales?

It would be a major boost for American soccer, which has attracted superstars like Pele, Beckham and Thierry Henry over the years, but signing Messi might require something creative from both the league and the Miami team.

The most recent post on Messi's Instagram account was on May 28 and shows him playing for PSG.

also failed to make a major impact at United.

Romelu Lukaku was generally considered to have flopped after big money transfers for United and Chelsea, but is one of Inter's players with genuine star appeal. Likewise Lautaro Martinez, who won the World Cup with Argentina in December.

Manchester City defender Kyle Walker is confident he will be fit for Saturday's Champions League final despite struggling with a back problem in recent days.

The England international did not take part in City's open training session on Tuesday in preparation for the game against Inter Milan in Istanbul.

Walker looked in discomfort as he left the field late on in his team's FA Cup final win against Manchester United on Saturday.

But the 33-year-old full back said he expected to be available to help City in its bid to be crowned champions of Europe for the first time in its history.

"I'm completely fine, it's just an extra day of recovery," he told Sky Sports News on Tuesday. "I've played a lot of minutes over the last number of weeks so the manager said, 'Just stay inside and come Saturday you will be raring to go.'

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