



SAUDIS AFFIRM NEED TO PREVENT POSSIBLE I.S. RETURN

Blinken assures GCC on security



Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah heading the Kuwaiti delegation at the ministerial meeting of the international coalition to defeat IS, in the Saudi capital Riyadh.

KUNA photo

Opinion

This is what the election has borne

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

KUWAITI society has proven its ability to deal with events in a pragmatic manner, and with ease at the same time, irrespective of the matter.

What the ballot boxes failed to say, the social media managed to say. Therefore, everyone knows what the election managed to produce in terms of the new faces, but the discourse remains the same. In fact, the candidates - both the ones who won and the ones who didn't - sometimes used strong language.

The just-concluded election brought back some familiar and recurring faces but the rest are new. Even though some of them campaigned for bringing reforms, their fall has been attributed to tribal or rather partisan motives, or bribery. The available laws did not positively help in this regard.

This is due to the fact that the basis for this is the effect left by the candidates. That is why there was a lot of idle talk and gossip during the campaign programs, which were unbelievable to the opponents more than the allies and supporters. Due to the absence of a strong and capable government and the absence of a firm will, the situation will not be better than what it is.

Therefore, it is not expected to change the prevailing situation for years. During recent years, the weakness of the executive authority was revealed along with its lack of approach to the popular variables first, and then the political variables. For this reason, it is anticipated that we will witness a crisis in the next stage, along with a tense relationship between the elected National Assembly and the future government.

The aforementioned anticipation will definitely come to pass unless there is a serious vision about what the country needs. Everyone must work on cooperation, without entrenching themselves behind conflicts of interest, either personal or inspired by influential people, and ensure that every statement and every word would not be a source of crisis.

However, based on the outcome of past experience, especially in the last ten years during which the parliament was annulled and dissolved several times and several elections were held, tensions and lack of cooperation between the executive authority and the nation representatives will be present, either through the usual grillings, or by seeking to freeze the parliament because of lack of "mood" of some.

Signs of conflict over the speakership of the National Assembly have begun to resurface between two personalities. The supporters of one of them see him as a stabilizing factor, and believe he has the ability to conclude deals that remove tension from the Abdullah Al-Salem Hall. The other is claimed to have great dreams, and he believes that he is entitled to that position due to many considerations. He also believes that he represents the current generation.

Therefore in this test, Kuwait will be absent from the minds of many, irrespective of whether they are nation representatives or ministers who are members of the National Assembly by virtue of their positions. Deals will be attended to, and the rope around Kuwait's neck will be further tightened.

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Sheikh Salem Abdullah leads Kuwait delegation

RIYADH, June 8, (Agencies): US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Wednesday assured his country's commitment to continue helping facilitate the security and stability of the GCC.

During his meeting with the GCC ministerial council, Blinken said the region is of grave importance to Washington, pointing to his nation's continued efforts to strengthen relations as part of its

diplomatic policies agenda.

He also mentioned that the GCC is enthralled with deep-rooted relations with the US and are able to overcome all hindrances, while also stressing the need to coordinate and cooperate on issues like food security, renewable energy, and climate change.

The Iranian agenda is being pragmatically examined, added Blinken, as the nuclear program continues to be closely monitored.

The crisis in Yemen and Syria needs to be addressed with a political solution to end the conflicts in order to pave way for peace and security in the region, he added.

On the Palestinian issue, he also mentioned his nation is working on a consensual solution that could end the ongoing Palestinian - Israeli conflict.

Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah represented his country at the ministerial meeting of the GCC-US Strategic Partnership, held at the GCC Secretariat in Riyadh on Wednesday.

The meeting, which also gathered US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman, reviewed various aspects of cooperation with emphasis on the political and security relations.

Both sides discussed the outcomes of the joint ad hoc committees and the efforts to deepen the exemplary relations.

They explored ways to tap into the promising opportunity in different areas of cooperation to realize the joint aspirations and serve the common interest.

On regional issues, both sides mulled over ways to stabilize Syria, Yemen and Sudan as well as the latest developments of the situation in Iran.

They stressed the need to double efforts for reaching a durable solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, which could contribute to peace, stability and prosperity in the Middle East.

Blinken, stressed Thursday, that his country will continue to work to defeat the so-called Islamic State/Daesh, and will provide funding to address weaknesses exploited by the extremist organization.

In a speech during the conference of the Global Coalition against Islamic State/Daesh held in Riyadh, the US Secretary affirmed the need for countries to take back their citizens from IS militants, saying foreign militants remaining in the camps threatens the return of the organization.

Afghanistan and some African regions witnessed a rise in IS attacks, calling for coordination and efforts to get rid of this extremist organization, he added.

Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan affirmed the need to keep pursuing the Islamic State (IS) to prevent any possible return of the terrorist group.

The remarks came during a speech at the conference of the Global Coalition against Islamic State/Daesh, held in Saudi Arabia on Thursday.

He underlined Saudi's continuous efforts to tackle any threat of terrorism and extremism, noting the growing threat of (IS) in Khorasan, Afghanistan and in Africa.

The minister also affirmed Saudi's efforts to terminate all sources of funding terrorism and cooperate with the international community to protect regional and international security.

The coalition was established in 2014 to fight IS through military operations in Iraq and Syria.

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia is to lead the Africa Focus Group to confront dangers of the so-called Islamic State (IS) in Africa, said Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan Thursday.

This came in remarks at the conference of the Global Coalition against Islamic State/Daesh, held in Saudi Arabia on Thursday.

The Saudi Minister noted that the Kingdom will join the Focus Group, which includes the US, Morocco, Italy and Niger.

He also welcomed the establishment of a focus group concerned with combating IS in Khorasan Province in Afghanistan, saying that it would help in limiting presence and spread of the terrorist organization in those areas.

Blinken said Thursday that the U.S. would provide nearly \$150 million in aid for areas in Syria and Iraq that were liberated from the Islamic State extremist group.

He spoke at a ministerial conference hosted by Saudi Arabia on combating the group, which no longer controls any territory - but whose affiliates still carry out attacks across Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

Kuwait set for six-day Eid off

KUWAIT CITY, June 8: The Civil Service Commission said Kuwait will have a six-day holiday for Eid Al Adha. In a recent Cabinet meeting, officials confirmed the dates for the Islamic holiday, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The daily added, state offices will remain closed from Arafat Day on Tuesday, June 27, until Sunday, July 2, according to a report published by Kuwait's state news agency

The circular added, work will resume on Monday, July 3.

Index ranks Gulf

Kuwait cheapest for expats

KUWAIT CITY, June 8: For the second year in a row, Kuwait City ranked 131st globally and 10th in the Arab world out of 227 cities in five continents around the world on the 2023 Mercer's Cost-of-Living Index for expatriates. It means Kuwait City is the cheapest city in the Gulf region for expatriates to live, reports Al-Anba daily.

Mercer's Cost of Living city ranking is considered one of the most comprehensive studies of its kind in the world. New York City is the main US city referred to when classifying the ranking of cities. The

currency movement is measured against the US dollar. The survey covers more than 400 cities.

This year's ranking covers 227 cities from all five continents. The index measures the comparative cost of more than 200 factors affecting each location, including housing, transportation, food, clothing, household goods and entertainment.

At the Arab level, Dubai rose by 13 ranks in the Mercer index, to reach the 18th rank in the world and the first in the Gulf Arab region.

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U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken attends a meeting with Saudi Arabia's Women Leaders at Fena Alawwal Arts and Cultural Center in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Wednesday, June 7, 2023. (AP)

Al-Saadoun confirms run for Speakership

Two file court challenge over poll

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh

Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 8: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah has accepted the resignation of the government as per Article 57 of the Constitution.

This article states: "At the commencement of every legislative session of the National Assembly, the formation of the government shall be reconstituted in the manner specified in the preceding Article."

HH the Crown Prince announced that the current ministers remain in office as caretaker government.

Also, the Council of Ministers submitted a decree to HH the Crown Prince stating that the inauguration of the newly elected National Assembly will be on June 20, 2023.

Meanwhile, the Constitutional Court received two petitions against the recently concluded parliamentary election. Former MP Saadoun Hamad submitted one of these petitions; claiming that he should be in 30th place in his constituency with 1,715 votes according to the votes counted by his representatives in the polling stations.

Attorney Hani Husain filed the other petition, requesting for declaration of the unconstitutionality of the election, because it is based on decree number 5/2022 - vote according to the address in the civil identification card. He said this decree is unconstitutional, so the election must be declared unconstitutional as well.

On the other hand, former MP Obaid

Al-Wasmi said he has no intention to file a petition against the election results even if official documents proved that he won. He explained the parliamentary position is not the ultimate goal, because it is a way to achieve goals and provide services.

MP-elect Ahmad Al-Saadoun has confirmed that he will vie for the Speakership; while MPs-elect Muhammad Al-Mutairi and Marzouq Al-Hebeini will run for deputy speaker.

It is expected that Al-Saadoun and MP-elect Marzouq Al Ghanim will be the main contenders for the Speaker seat.

MP-elect Osama Al-Shaheen said he will run for the National Assembly secretary post, relying on the support of the pro-reform majority in the legislature.

MP-elect Dawoud Marafi disclosed that he will not join any parliamentary bloc, stressing the total number of MPs is 50 and they are supposed to be members of one bloc.

In addition m, he has no intention to accept any ministerial position; as he prefers to work as a representative of the people.

He is planning to be part of the Education, Financial and Economic Affairs committees; affirming his specialization matches the work of these two committees.

Moreover, MP-elect Muhammad Hayef Al-Mutairi invited his colleagues to a meeting in his house in Ardiya on Sunday to specify priorities and coordinate their positions on the formation of parliamentary committees.

NewsWatch

VIENNA: Kuwait on Wednesday heaped praise on the UN nuclear watchdog for its commitment towards the global nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, particularly dealing with Iran's implementation of its obligations under the deal.

A recent report by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) left some unanswered questions pertaining to Tehran's commitment to the global nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, the permanent Kuwaiti delegation to the UN's First Secretary Ali Al-Wazani told talks involving the UN nuclear watchdog's board of governors.

He called on the Islamic Republic to maintain a steady level of cooperation with the IAEA, subsequently enabling the UN nuclear watchdog to provide "assurances" on the nature of Iran's nuclear program. (KUNA)

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WASHINGTON: The US expressed comfort on Wednesday regarding a recent agreement between the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and Iran on increasing the number of inspection visit by the agency.

US State Department Spokesman Vedant Patel said in a briefing they are "glad to see that the IAEA and Iran were able to come to an agreement to increase the frequency and intensity of inspections at Iran's enrichment facilities." (KUNA)

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BEIRUT: Kuwait on Wednesday obtained the presidency of the 14th UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) conference in Beirut.

Assistant undersecretary at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor Hamad Al-Khaldi obtained the presidency of the commission after Qatar in the last edition. (KUNA)

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ROME: Pope Francis was in "good general condition" Thursday, alert and breathing on his own, following a three-hour operation to remove intestinal scar tissue and repair a hernia in his abdominal wall, the Vatican said.

The 86-year-old Francis rested "extensively" during a peaceful night at Rome's Gemelli hospital and was spending his first full day after the surgery observing the "necessary post-operative rest," the Vatican said in a statement. (AP)



SPECIAL REPORT



Above and below the iconic Museum of the Future in Dubai.

The future belongs to those
who can imagine it,
design it and execute it.
It isn't something you await,
but rather create.

— HH Sheikh Al Maktoum

Landmark
Museum of the Future sheds velvet
for a share
of the future

By Andrea Lauria

Prof. Andrea Lauria (right) is an Italian museologist graduated from Rome's Academy of fine arts. He also holds a History of Art degree from University di Roma Tre in Rome. Andrea Lauria lectures a Masters course in museology at Rome's Universities Tor Vergata and American Temple University (Rome Campus). In 2020 he has become a published author of the book: "From the Renaissance studiolo to the contemporary museum" which is also his course manual. Lauria's field of research is the phenomenon of hyper-museums with special attention to the Arabian countries in comparison with the western world.



In my previous articles I have already mentioned the United Arab Emirates, when I wrote about the Louvre Abu Dhabi, a splendid architectural work and hyper-museum designed by the Archi star Jean Nouvel.

If the Emirate of Abu Dhabi is giving life to an extraordinary project by creating a one-of-a-kind museum district on the Saadiyat Island in Abu Dhabi, the Emirate of Dubai is certainly not wasting time either.

Today I will describe you the Museum of the Future (MOTF), one of Dubai's most famous landmarks, takes pride of place along the city's super-highway, Sheikh Zayed Road, in the Financial District of Dubai. Founded by the Dubai Future Foundation, was established in 2016 by Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE, and Ruler of Dubai to institutionalize future-shaping.

The Dubai's Museum of the Future opened officially on 22 February 2022. The choice of the date was officially made because 22 February 2022 is a palindrome date.

The building was designed by the Killa Design studio an architecture studio based in Dubai, one of the leading architectural design firms in the region now, after this extraordinary project, mainly known for the Museum of the Future design.

The Museum of the Future is certainly an extraordinary example of a hyper museum. The museum is a strong landmark, a leading building within the urban context, with its spectacular and imposing volumes and formal and

aesthetic choices that resembles a sculpture more than a building. Its aim is to amaze the viewer and as a typical hyper-museum here we can assist to the competition between the container and the content with a strong prevarication of architecture on the collection.

The designer's priority here is to turn the museum building into a spectacular building over the effectiveness of the display of the works of art preserved as, I have explained many times, typical feature of the hyper-museums.

However, I have to say though that in case of Museum of the Future it goes beyond, this architecture that triggers new questions about the museum's concept and identity.

The Museum of the Future is composed of three main elements: green hill, building, and void. Its shape, or its three elements are symbolic. The circular huge building represents humanity, the green mound it sits atop represents the Earth, the void represents the unknown future.

The main building is designed as an asymmetric torus clad in steel and glass. This torus-shaped shell sits on top of the building and comprises 1,024 fire-retardant composite panels clad in stainless steel, and each of which has a unique 3D shape to create the Arabic script. The Museum of the Future has been recognized by National Geographic as one of 14 most beautiful museums in the world.



The museum's striking exterior also stands out thanks to its artistic use of Arabic calligraphy, which functions as glass windows too. Designed by Emirati artist Mattar bin Lahej, they reflect lines of inspirational poetry by HH Sheikh Al Maktoum. Of the three quotes enveloping the facade, one translates to: "The future belongs to those who can imagine it, design it and execute it. It isn't something you await, but rather create."

The Museum of the Future is an incredible land mark, the building is an architectural and engineering wonder, the museum's shape is groundbreaking: it opens a new path away from the high rise skyscrapers that dominate perspectives everywhere. Its shape is so extraordinary it is so innovative, the building seems to have landed in the middle of the skyscrapers, which are anyway very modern, from space, from a world that we have only seen in the cinema.

As perfect hyper-museum this museum is not a simply building but it is a beautiful object, a contemporary sculpture that creates a bridge between the past and the future, mixing advanced technology with traditional art practices. Seeing this museum, one cannot fail to be impressed by its advanced design which impresses especially at night when it is light up.

If the Museum of the Future's external shape is advanced with no precedents, even the internal layout of the museum has nothing to do with the museums of the past, with what the museological tradition is to which we are familiar.

Entering into the museum there are seven floors dedicated to several exhibitions. Three floors are dedicated on outer space resource development, ecosystems and bioengineering, and health and wellbeing. The other floors showcase near-future technologies that address challenges in areas including health, water, food, transportation, and energy, while the last floor is dedicated to children.

This hyper-museum is no ordinary museum, with ancient relics behind velvet ropes, it wants to be a gateway to a future era, made by dreamer designers, artists and filmmakers. The Museum's set up combines elements of exhibition, immersive theatre and themed attraction. This content has been crafted by a team of the world's leading product, media, exhibition and experience designers. The visitor is always going to be surprised during the visit, each floor is like a movie set from a future that you can explore and interact with.

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editor's choice



Prayer Timings			
Fajr	03:13	Asr	15:21
Sunrise ..	04:48	Maghrib ..	18:46
Zohr	11:47	Isha	20:18

Local

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

20 inspectors detect violations in day-long trip

PAFN conducts tour of Qurain Markets to ensure public health

KUWAIT CITY, June 8: The Inspection Department of the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN) conducted an inspection tour of the Qurain Markets area in Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorate, reports Al-Anba daily.

In a press statement, the Director of the Mubarak Al-Kabeer Inspection Department Dr. Saud Al-Hamidi Al-Jalal, who supervised the inspection tour, explained that 20 male and female inspectors participated in the tour, which included the inspection of food establishments, markets and central kitchens on continuous rounds throughout the day to ensure the extent to which public health requirements are met in order to preserve the safety of consumers. The Sabah Al-Salem Center and Al-Qosour Center conduct monitoring rounds 24/7 through the various shifts.

Dr. Al-Jalal revealed that the coming period will witness an intensification of inspection tours, especially of food delivery companies, adding that focus will be given to workers who deliver food orders to ensure they have a health certificate proving that they are free of any infectious diseases.

Head of the inspection team in Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorate Muhammad Saad Al-Dosari said, "Our role in the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition in Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorate is to supervise food establishments. For this purpose, we conducted a tour around a number of food establishments to ensure the safety of the food items. This is our main role that we are working on.

We will also monitor the level of commitment of establishments in meeting the health requirements, ensuring the health of workers and general hygiene, and following up and verifying the validity of the offered products.

In terms of the oversight role, intensive inspection tours are carried out on a daily basis of food factories, groceries and food markets."

During the tour, the fish stalls in one of the central markets were inspected.

In this regard, the food inspector Muhammad Faisal Al-Azmi explained that the inspection of fish is done by looking and touching, and noting the consistency of the fish's body, eyes, gills, color, whether it is flowery or dark, as well as its smell.

Regarding the crustacean types such as shrimp, he said, "The most important part is the head. Shrimp is a food item that needs great attention due to its perishability. Because of this, we tested a sample quantity of shrimp. We discovered that a large quantity of the shrimp had completely decapitated heads, as well as some grains where the shell was separated from the body, which means that it is damaged. The spoiled quantity is collected and weighed, and a report of destruction and violation is drawn up according to the quantity present.

The basis for inspecting fish is from the head. Therefore, displaying pre-cut fish for sale is considered a violation because they

are without a head and its quality cannot be determined. In such cases, we insist on seeing the license. We need to see the head of the fish to monitor whether it is fresh or not. This is not possible with filets.

There are companies that specialize in providing this type of food. What is displayed carries a production date and an expiry date. The pieces offered are just pieces without any data or parts indicating validity, while the actual source of information about fish is the head."

Meanwhile, an inspector from the Mubarak Al-Kabeer branch of the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition Mutlaq Al-Rashidi said, "We are located in one of the central markets in Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorate where we check various food items, including fish, meat and canned food. We also inspect the health requirements inside the facilities, and check the health cards of workers, and check to what extent the general hygiene requirements are met."

He explained that the fish displayed in a market was inspected, pointing out that the most important manifestations of damage to the fish appear in the eye color of the fish, the color of the blood, which turns dark, and the softness and texture of the fish. If these signs are present, measures are taken regarding them, and a destruction report is made along with a violation report. The fish is then seized and eventually destroyed.

The fish that is dissected and displayed must be based on a license to present it in this manner. It also depends on the type and condition of the fish, whether it is chilled, frozen or fresh. Each activity is specific to work with and has its specialization.

Al-Rashidi said, "Whoever specializes in chilled, frozen or fresh fish must adhere to his specialization. Cutting fresh or chilled fish must be done in front of the consumers and on demand."

In addition, a food inspector Zainab Bou Abbas said, "I inspected a restaurant, and noticed poor storage of some food. We also made some observations about the level of cleanliness. I settled with submitting notes and issuing warnings to amend these matters. If the matter is repeated, citations will be issued."

Meanwhile, Director of the Inspection Department of Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorate Dr. Saud Al-Hamidi Al-Jalal revealed that the tour, in which the daily participated, witnessed the seizure of a factory specialized in food supplies, as it did not have a health license from the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition, and did not meet the necessary health requirements, as well as for the presence of cracks on the floors.

Accordingly, a record of opening and managing a facility was drawn up before obtaining a health license, along with a record of no health and technical requirements. The facility will also be closed as a precaution for the safety of consumers until the samples are sent to the laboratory to ensure their validity.



Fish and prawns checked for freshness at a stall.

Landmark

Continued from Page 2

The museum explores how society could evolve in the coming decades using science and technology. The museum's exhibition is definitely immersive, but also expansive: everything is designed to multiply what the audience thinks or dreams could be possible - for the future world.

The Dubai Future Foundation was born out of a key belief: leading in the present isn't sufficient. It is the future that we must imagine, design and execute. The Museum builds on the visionary culture that has transformed the UAE into one of the world's most advanced nations in less than 50 years. We are a showcase for the spirit of courage, optimism and innovation that propels Dubai forward. The Museum is a home for inspiration, open to all.

If we think about the traditional museums and about centuries of museography and museology traditions, we won't find anything like it here. But this would be a wrong attitude. The Museum of the Future is an exhibition space for advanced ideologies with the ambition to promote technological development and innovation. When we visit this museum we must be projected towards the future and think on the inspirations and ideas that this museum offers us.

In the future the museum will host innovation labs dedicated to several sectors, including health, education, smart cities, energy and transport. It will also support and test new inventions in partnership with research institutes and universities.

This museum is original both in its architecture and in its set up conception and must make people think about the future of museums even for those who work in the museums field like me.

Study on Kuwait roads

What caused damage?

KUWAIT CITY, June 8: The Ministry of Works based on a study recently prepared by a specialized team to find out the reasons for the damage caused to a big number of roads has prepared - within a legal framework - a study as to how to fix these roads, reports Al-Anba daily.

The sources indicated that the results of this study resulted in the following:

- 65 contracts for the maintenance of roads in Kuwait were signed 12 years ago, their prices varied despite their similarity, whether in their terms or clauses, which indicates the existence of a defect in these contracts.

- That the Ministry's tenders are awarded to the lowest bidders, regardless of the issue of quality, and that this is not always in the interest of the state.

- Infrastructure reform is an important matter before starting the implementation of performance contracts, especially since the infrastructure has cost the state large sums of money.

- The contractor must be responsible for the quality of the works he has implemented in addition to safety.

The sources pointed out that the beginning of the implementation of this proposal kicked off when the Minister of Public Works, Dr Amani Bouqammaz, met with a number of ambassadors of countries to Kuwait to nominate international firms that have their stature and have global experiences in road works.

The sources stated that this specialized team that prepared this study included a number of specialists from the quality control department of the Ministry, whether current or retired with experience, in order to find out the defects and the reasons that resulted in the wear and tear of Kuwait's streets.

Expected weather for the next 24 hours:

By Day: Hot with light to moderate freshening at times northwesterly wind to light variable wind with speeds of 10-45 km/h with a chance for rising dust over open areas and

Weather

some scattered clouds will appear.
By Night: Rather hot with light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind with speeds of 08-30 km/h.

Station **Max Exp** **Min Rec**
Kuwait City 44 33

Kuwait Airport	46	30
Abdaly	46	30
Jahra	47	32
Salmiyah	41	30
Ahmadi	40	33
Nuwaisib	44	30
Wafra	46	30

'No to foreign ideologies'

'Kuwait keen to protect local, Arab identity'

KUWAIT CITY, June 8: Kuwait affirms its categorical rejection of any ideologies that are alien to societal values of the Gulf, Arab and Islamic identity, reports Al-Qabas daily.

This was highlighted in a letter sent by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Ministry of Education and other concerned parties, in implementation of the work of the 13th meeting among the heads of government agencies concerned with human rights held in the Saudi capital, Riyadh on January 10, 2023, and a discussion of the ministerial council's decision during its 153rd session in September 2022 concerning the protection of moral, religious and family values.

The letter affirmed the keenness of Kuwait to fight foreign ideologies that are alien to society related to the destruction of marriage and family values.

It stressed Kuwait's categorical rejection of any attempt to impose any ideas or behaviors that are not in line with local identity and values.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs drew all efforts that translate its participation in international and regional forums and the implementation of its decisions and recommendations in the field of human rights on the ground in a way that serves the general interest of Kuwaiti society.

The ministry stressed that the General Secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council decided to unify diplomatic positions in both regional and international forums, in partnership with Arab and Islamic organizations and institutions, to reject any irresponsible international decisions or directives that would promote extraneous ideas that are against authentic Islamic and social values.

It also stressed solidarity in the face of any pressures targeting Arab and Islamic societies in their identity, belief and constants. It affirmed respect for the sovereignty and privacy of states, and the principles of cultural diversity as well as protecting the values of marriage and family as guarantees for the stability of societies, the sustainability of development, and respect for human rights and dignity.

In a related context, the Ministry of Education informed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs about the efforts and proposals of the Department of Social and Psychological Services for protecting moral, religious and family values in Gulf societies. These were topped by conducting and implementing scientific and applied research and studies in the various fields of social and psychological counseling such as preventive, therapeutic, educational, vocational, ethical and family-related.

This is based on the objective of finding out the level of awareness among students regarding the importance of educational values in building a good citizen, such as adherence to the scientific method and approach in selecting topics of interest to students in schools at different educational stages, and collecting the educational framework with the use of standards tests, or preparing or codifying standards for studies and their application in the field, in order to reach recommendations that could be implemented in all possible and appropriate ways in the educational field.

In addition, an educational source affirmed the ministry's keenness to implement and activate the child rights protection program by providing educational programs to workers and parents in order to raise their awareness about children's rights, and ways to protect them from social and psychological problems by implementing approved preventive programs to raise awareness in various forms especially community awareness through co-operation between the Ministry of Education and other ministries and agencies.

Sanctions on 2 bedouns cut, Kuwaitis stay on list

KUWAIT CITY, June 8: As a result of the efforts of the Kuwaiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ombudsman of the Committee on Sanctions imposed on the "Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant" (ISIS) and the "Al-Qaeda" organization, Richard Malangom, announced the removal of the names of two bedoun persons from the list of sanctions imposed on persons by the UN Security Council, reports Al-Rai daily.

The reasons for placing the sanctions imposed by the Security Council on them, and the Ombudsman met with each person separately and listened to them individually, and submitted a report to lift the sanctions on the two "bedoun" but the sanctions remain on the three Kuwaitis.

Pursuant to paragraph 17 of Annex II of Security Council resolution 2610 (2021), the committee decided, on Monday, June 5, to approve the request of the Kuwaiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs to remove from the list the names of the two persons, and according to paragraph 16 of Annex II of Security Council resolution 2610 (2021), the requirement to apply the assets freeze, travel ban and arms embargo stipulated in paragraph 1 of the Security Council resolution is no longer valid, said the statement issued by Malangom, a copy of which has been obtained by the daily.

He indicated that although the committee concluded in its consideration of this case on June 5, 2023, the summary of the analysis contained in the comprehensive report, referred to in paragraph 17 of annex II to resolution 2610 (2021), has not yet been completed, and it is expected that the Office of The Ombudsman will share the summary of the analysis over the next month.

It is noteworthy that the Kuwaiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs has made unremitting efforts to lift the sanctions against those included in the list by holding rehabilitation programs for them.



KUNA photo
Kuwait's Foreign Minister holds talks with the UK's Minister of State for Middle East Affairs Lord Tariq Ahmad.

Kuwait FM meets counterparts

Kuwait's Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah met on Thursday Lord Tariq Ahmad, the UK Minister of State for Middle East Affairs, on sidelines of the ministerial conference of Global Coalition against Islamic State/Daesh.

The two sides examined the historic and distinctive relations bonding the State of Kuwait with the UK, means of cementing these ties in various sectors, forthcoming events in line with the strategic dialogue and promoting these relations to higher levels.

They also addressed regional and international issues, namely Iraq, Syria, Iran, conditions in the occupied Palestinian territories, in addition to boosting global efforts in the face of extremism and terrorism as well as backing world's peace.

Sheikh Salem also met Abshar Jamae, the Somali Minister of Foreign

Affairs and International Cooperation, on sidelines of the ministerial conference of Global Coalition against Islamic State/Daesh.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs met Belgium's counterpart Hadja Lahbib on margins of the ministerial conference of Global Coalition against Islamic State/Daesh.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah then met with his Cypriot counterpart Dr. Constantinos Kombos, and Kosovo's Minister of Foreign Affairs Donika Gervalla-Schwarz.

Both meetings were held separately in Riyadh on the sidelines of the ministerial conference of Global Coalition against Islamic State/Daesh.

During the meetings, the friendly sides discussed bilateral ties, ways of enhancing them, and latest regional and international developments. (KUNA)

KFAED funded 18 projects: envoy

'Kuwait-Vietnam trade is \$5.5b'

KUWAIT CITY, June 8: The Vietnamese ambassador to Kuwait, HE Ngo Tuan Thang, said Kuwaiti government investments in Vietnam is about 3 billion dollars and the investments of the Kuwaiti private sector is about 200 million.

Speaking on the sidelines of a luncheon he organized in downtown Kuwait City for the local media representatives to taste the Vietnamese food, ambassador Thang disclosed the total volume of trade exchange between the two countries is around \$5.5 billion, and that Vietnam imports \$5 billion worth of Kuwaiti oil, and Vietnam exports to Kuwait products worth about \$500 million.

He called, the Vietnamese-Kuwaiti relations excellent and historical, and the diplomatic relations between the two friendly countries which began in 1976 are characterized by strength and durability and continue to develop in various fields of cooperation.

He added, the high-level mutual visits between both countries have



Thang

contributed significantly to supporting and strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries, recalling the visit of the Vietnamese president to Kuwait. In 1995, the prime ministers of the two countries also exchanged visits in 2007 and 2009, and finally in 2016 the Kuwaiti prime minister visited Vietnam.

He added, during the visit many agreements and memorandums of understanding were signed, pointing out that the next round of political dialogue between the two countries will be held in Kuwait before the end of this year.

He stressed Kuwait enjoys distinguished, balanced and wise diplomacy, and it is one of the most important factors of stability in the region, while at the same time appreciating the pioneering humanitarian role that Kuwait plays in alleviating the pain of victims of man-made and natural calamities around the world.

He pointing out that the Kuwait Fund for Arab Development funded 18 projects in his country since 1979.

The Vietnamese envoy also revealed the embassy is in the process of organizing the Vietnamese lychee promotion event at the Avenues Mall next week, and said lychee fruit has many health benefits.



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Changes eyed to law on money diwaniya

laundering, terrorism financing

‘Amendments to regulations to enhance supervisory role’

KUWAIT CITY, June 8: The Ministry of Social Affairs is currently studying a proposal that calls for introducing some amendments to the executive regulations of Law No. 106/2013 regarding combating money laundering and terrorist financing, in preparation for submitting it to the Ministry of Finance, as it is the authority issuing the law, in order to start the amendment procedures, reports Aljarida daily.

According to sources from the Ministry of Social Affairs, this step of introducing the amendments is based on an initiative by the ministry to control the misuse of financial regulations related to public benefit utilities at the regional and international levels. It is also based on the ministry’s keenness to besiege money laundering trends and methods, confront harnessing its use through associations’ systems related to public benefit, and combat all the tools of the money laundering crime, which is a real challenge to all state agencies, especially the relevant ones.



A group photo during the inauguration.

British Airways inaugurates daily Kuwait-London flights

The British Airways inaugurated the Kuwait-London daily flights, with a ceremony organized by the British Embassy, in the presence of the Chief of Protocol at the Amiri Diwan, Sheikh Khaled Al-Abdullah, and the Director of the Middle East and Pakistan at British Airways, Panayotis Theodoto, reports Al-Anba daily.

He also talked about the new features of the aircraft adopted by the company in introducing many specifications for different classes -- first class, business or economy -- for more luxury. It also added doors for businessmen cabins for more privacy in addition to providing the cabins with comfortable beds except for providing more space for storage and internet

during the travel period. He pointed out that the company has updated its menu and services on the planes, and has also updated the costumes for the cabin crew, which will be ready during next September. He announced the company took into account in its updates the preservation of the environment and sustainability, in terms of reducing the use of plastic or fuel used to reduce emissions and other issues related to preserving the environment.

These amendments also complement the procedures of the concerned government agencies that regulate the flow of charitable donation funds, and ensure the safety and ease of transfer and delivery to the approved authorities, so that charitable projects can be implemented, without these funds falling into the clutches of terrorism and extremism or falling prey to the nets of the money laundering mafia or being exploited by some weak-minded people in a wrong way that reflects a calamity on Kuwait and distorts its charitable and humanitarian reputation.

‘Need to turn all promises, slogans into serious reality’

“SOME of you who read my article today are happy and elated at the victory of their candidate in the elections and are optimistic about this victory, and some of you are saddened by the fall of your candidate who expected his success and had strong hopes for his victory, but disappointment spoiled all his hopes,” columnist Iqbal Al-Ahmad wrote for Al-Qabas daily..

“‘Congratulations’ to all the winners, whom I personally wished to win and vice versa, and also ‘Congratulations’ to those I do not care about because for me they are outside the scope of coverage.

“Now, before the new deputies take the oath, we remind them that there are promises they made with the aim of tickling the feelings of their voters during the preparation for the elections and during their electoral campaigns promises they made either by following the method of threats and intimidation or insinuation and/or by accusations based on falsehood and slander, with the aim of igniting applause in the audience or who launched his program and promises through a sober, applicable offering.

“All these promises and slogans are required to be transformed into a serious reality that ultimately serves the interest of the country and nothing else.

“We say it frankly and loudly. This may be the last time in which someone who decided to boycott these elections will participate but he “thankfully” changed his mind at the last moments out of his sense of his patriotic duty, and in response to the broad campaigns calling for participation and choosing the best for the country.

“Indeed, this segment may grow and expand in the future if the expectations are disappointed and hopes are dashed.

“We will pray day and night that there will be no conflict, and that whoever won the membership of the Council will not feel that he has the right to exercise his powers and authorities without cooperation, but rather by missing opportunities for any obstacles and in any way through positions he finds he has the right to express in his own style and manner, within the framework and limits of his role as deputy.

“I pray to God that my apprehension of the possibility that we will live in an upcoming crisis will fail. I will not specify its level, style, or method; because this will depend on understanding the sensitivity and specificity of the next stage, which will certainly be more difficult than today.

“We, as citizens, have worked hard to change the convictions of many voters who decided to boycott the elections either out of desperation, frustration, or stubbornness, I hope with all my heart that these people will not blame us for changing their positions because of the repetition of the scene.

“I hope with all my heart that my fears will not come true, that my thoughts will not be disappointed, that the upcoming democratic experiment will escape the fears of many, and that the hopes of Kuwaitis for calm and achievement will be fulfilled.

“Personally, I still believe that democracy is give and take, and that our

democratic experience in Kuwait was neither fully born nor fully developed. Rather, it has been in labor since the first day of its implementation.

“We are still in the stage of reform and correction, and every “mistake” we must learn from, and every “right” we must strengthen and be proud of.

“What I wish with all my heart for the second, third and tenth time is that my apprehension will not be fulfilled, and that I declare my defeat and disappointment in my belief through good performance, work and cooperation between all the poles within the National Assembly and those who line up behind them.

“Each of them has its own tools and arms, knowing how to direct it, when, and with whom. This is what may undermine the chances of long-awaited cooperation.

“We hope that the executive authority will have a sincere desire not to wait for opportunities and seize them... and to announce its divorce from the legislative authority... irrevocably.

“Here I address the executive and legislative authorities. Saving the nation in Kuwait does not happen with one hand. The way to the future requires the sincerity, diligence and seriousness of both parties, because our constitution did not separate these two authorities in the responsibility of the nation, its reality and its future.

“The members of the executive authority are members of society, and the members of the legislative authority are also members of society, so please calm down, because deliberation, reasoning, and activating the requirements of the rising future of our Kuwait, can only be achieved with your cooperation and dedication to achieve this cooperation, otherwise the coming will be calamitous and more than you can believe.”

Also:

“The Kuwaiti parliamentary experience is a pioneering one in the region and a source of pride for us. It has lived through generations,” columnist Misha'al Al-Sadie wrote for Al-Anba daily.

“Nevertheless, it is not without flaws, especially in terms of what we saw recently — a lot of disagreements between the government and the Parliament, up to the extent that many people no longer pin hope on the Parliament, although it was designed for their benefit.

“As for the election results, the new Parliament must rectify the mistakes of its predecessors, bridge the gap between it and the government, resolve outstanding crises and achieve the political stability that we have long waited for.

“In order to move our ship toward safety, we must hasten to find satisfactory solutions for all the problems encountered by the previous parliaments and governments. To deal with the imbalance, we must know its causes.

“People are frustrated, especially since they have not seen anything tangible in their favor or an achievement that encourages them to change their opinion about the Parliament and the government. There is no significant change in the political scene.

“If there was a distinction or achievement in the recent election, it was the elimination of vote-buying and the racist by-elections. This is a great achievement attributed to the government. However, we have noticed that the parliamentary seat is no longer attractive as it was in the past, and the voter is no longer enthusiastic about the Parliament.”

— Compiled by Mai Elsoukary

June

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This is what

Continued from Page 1

In all of this, and for 30 years, the state and its projects are either frozen, or development is the source of profit for those who seek to employ everything for their own benefit, and not for the benefit of the country and the people. To cover that up, we will continue to live daily in conflict between points of view, either regarding the Bedoun issue, or the dual citizenship matter.

It is as if we are living in South Africa during the days of apartheid, or that the constitutional institutions are floundering over the issue of loans, while housing care remains the victim. The country’s rise and opening it to everyone is a major disaster because there is a deep state that controls all these files.

On the other hand, the plundering of the country and the people continues through suspicious deals in projects, which are implemented in other countries at the lowest costs, and whose quality is much higher than in Kuwait. All this is a political price to be paid either through parliamentary pressure on the already weak government, or by imposing it on the ministers through influentials.

Unfortunately, there is no one who can study what is right or wrong. In the absence of a firm decision and will, righteous ones get punished in order to set an example to others.

Therefore, what this election has borne means that we will face the same crises in the future. This is what raises the sadness in the soul. It is due to the absence of a state project that Kuwait deserves, which was once an icon of development and progress in the region, but is today in a deep pit.

Kuwait cheapest

Continued from Page 1

This means it is the most expensive city in the Gulf and Arab countries in terms of the cost of living for expatriates. It is followed by Djibouti, which ranked 27th in the world and the second in the Arab world, and then Abu Dhabi, which ranked 43rd in the

world and the third in the Arab world.

Riyadh ranked 85th globally and fourth in the Arab world, followed by Manama with 98th rank globally and fifth in the Arab world, then Jeddah with 101th rank globally and sixth in the Arab world, Oman with 110th rank globally and seventh in the Arab world, Doha with 126th rank globally and eighth in the Arab world, and then Muscat, which ranked 130th globally and ninth in the Arab world.

According to the report on the Mercer index, Dubai and Abu Dhabi are among the most expensive cities in the Middle East for expatriates. Their ranking in the index witnessed significant increases compared to last year. Also, Riyadh and Jeddah jumped in the global ranking by 18 and 10 ranks respectively. The cities of Rabat, Algeria and Tunisia globally ranked 174, 206 and 219 respectively.

New York City remains sixth in the global ranking, and is the most expensive city in North America, followed by Los Angeles with 11th rank and San Francisco with 14th rank.

All American cities have risen in the ranking since last year. The biggest changes were in Detroit which moved up by 27 places, Houston and Cleveland, which moved up by 24 places.

The most expensive cities in the world are Hong Kong, followed by Singapore, Zurich, Geneva, Basel, New York City, and then Bern.

The Mercer index report explained that the main factors that shaped the global economy in 2022 will continue to influence during 2023.

After more than a year of the escalation of the Russian-Ukrainian crisis and the emergence of more COVID-19 variants, many economies are still absorbing the shocks resulting from these events.

Due to the recent implementation of strong national monetary policies and the tightening of global financial conditions, many economies are likely to experience slower income growth this year, along with higher unemployment, while the debt levels in many countries remain high.

Core inflation has not yet peaked in many markets, and fluctuations in inflation and exchange rates directly affect the salaries and savings of internationally mobile employees, which had an impact when preparing the index.

The Conversation

Research shows habits have a loop: cue, routine, reward

Expert shares tips on how to make studying a daily habit

By Deborah Reed
University of Tennessee

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

Studying – you know you need to do it, but you just can’t seem to make it a habit. Maybe you forget, become distracted or just don’t want to do it. Understanding what a habit is, and how it forms, can help you figure out how to study on a daily basis.

Habit loop
A habit is a behavior you do regularly or routinely. As a professor who studies how to help students become better readers and writers, I can tell you that research shows habits have a loop: cue, routine, reward.

Let’s say you have a habit of eating a snack after school. When school is about to end, you start to feel hungry. Dismissal is the cue to get your snack.

Eating the snack is the routine. The reward is that it tastes good and your hunger goes away, which reinforces the habit – and makes you want to repeat the loop again the next day.

Here are the things you need to make a studying loop:

- A set time to study every day.
- A cue to start studying.
- An environment that helps you stick to your studying routine.
- A reward for studying.

Setting a time

When you do things at the same time every day, it is easier to remember to do them. To determine how much time you should set aside each day to study, multiply your grade level by 10 minutes.

That means if you’re in third grade, you would plan to spend about 30 minutes per day studying. This can include the time you spend practicing your reading. If you’re in eighth grade, you would spend 80 minutes per day – that is, one hour and 20 minutes – studying.

Research suggests that two hours is the maximum amount of daily studying time that is beneficial. Spending more time than that on a regular basis can cause stress, anxiety and possibly disturb healthy sleep habits.

So choose a single block of time during the afternoon or evening when you will have the right amount of time to study every day.

There may be days when your assignments do not fill the full block of time that you have set. On those days, you should spend time reviewing material that you’ve already studied; regularly going back over information helps you remember it and think about how to integrate it with the new things you’re learning.

You also can spend those extra minutes reading a book. Studies show a daily habit of reading for 20 minutes will improve your vocabulary, language skills and overall knowledge.

Cue

Studying at the same time every day is one cue, but you may need something more concrete when first forming your habit.

This can be a calendar reminder you set on your phone or laptop, or something as simple as a card with the word “study” printed on the front. You can leave the card where you hang up your coat or put down your bag when you get home from school – or on your television or computer screen.

On the back of the card, write the word “studying.” Then keep this side facing up and posted to the back of your computer, on your door, or above your desk while you work.

This will signal to others that they should not disturb you during this time. When you finish studying, return the card to its starting spot so that it’s ready to remind you to study the next day.

Study environment

To help yourself study, you need a place set up for work and not for doing other things. Do not study on your bed – that’s for sleeping – or in front of the television, or anywhere it’s difficult to hold and use the materials you need. Best option: a table or desk with good lighting.

Your study place should limit distractions. That includes other people’s conversa-

tions and all media: TV, video games, social media, texts or music. Research repeatedly has shown the human brain cannot multitask well; people make more mistakes if they try to do two things at the same time, especially when one of those things requires concentration. Bouncing back and forth between two things also means it takes longer to complete the task.

Although you should put away electronic devices when studying, that may not be an option if you need them for homework. If that’s the case, set the “do not disturb” notification on your phone, silence incoming notifications and close all social media and gaming apps.

Gaming, social media and video apps are programmed to make you want to keep checking or playing them. That means you have to replace the bad habit of constantly using them with the good habit of studying for a designated block of time.

Reward

That said, after you finish studying, you can give yourself a little gaming or social media time as your reward.

With time, the studying itself will become its own reward. Improving your knowledge and skills will give you a sense of achievement and make you more confident and happier at school. But while forming your study habit, a really fun reward will help you stick with it.

This is especially true if the subject you’re studying is difficult for you. No one likes to do something they think they’re not very good at. However, it’s impossible to get better if you do not practice, and studying is just like practicing a sport, instrument or hobby.

How long it takes

The amount of time it takes to make studying a daily habit can be anywhere from 21 days to a few months, depending upon the person.

To help you stay with it, find a study buddy to form the habit along with you. Ask your family not to interrupt you during study time. And consider using apps to set goals and track your study time so you can watch your habit form and celebrate your progress. The good news: Daily studying gets easier the more you do it. (AP)



A photo from the event.

UK school qualifications students’ hard work recognized

British Council celebrates success of high achievers

KUWAIT CITY, June 8: Fifteen students from British Council Partner Schools in Kuwait received prestigious awards from Pearson Edexcel and Cambridge Assessment International Education to acknowledge their outstanding performance in the May/June 2022 and Oct/Nov 2021 examination series.

The British Council hosted a ceremony to celebrate the success of these students, recognising their dedication, hard work and commitment that led to this incredible achievement. During this special occasion the benefits of UK qualifications were highlighted, and the event gave an opportunity for the schools and British Council explore new ways collaborating and further strengthening their relationship.

In attendance at the event from the Ministry of Private Education were Dr Salman Al Lafi, Ms Mariam Dashti, and Ms Zara Al Zankhawiy. The event also hosted guest speaker Naiel Fahad Al-Enazi from the UK Alumni Board.

Anthony Skinner, Country Director, British Council Kuwait congratulated the students for their achievement and thanked the Partner Schools Network (PSN) for the support they have been providing to teachers and students. He said, ‘Having success in UK qualifications is a significant achievement, being the highest score in Kuwait, or indeed in the world, is an exceptional achievement. The schools, the parents and of course the students themselves, should be very proud of what they have man-

Examination Board

Pearson	GCE Advanced Level Mathematics
Pearson	International Advanced Level Arabic
Pearson	International Advanced Level Chemistry
Pearson	International Advanced Level Mathematics
Pearson	International Advanced Level Biology
Pearson	International Advanced Level Arabic
Pearson	International GCSE Economics
Pearson	International GCSE Business
Cambridge	Cambridge IGCSE Travel & Tourism
Cambridge	Cambridge IGCSE Latin
Cambridge	Cambridge International AS Level English General Paper
Cambridge	Cambridge International A level Computer Science
Cambridge	Cambridge International A level Economics
Cambridge	Cambridge IGCSE Combined Science
Cambridge	Cambridge IGCSE First Language Arabic
Cambridge	Cambridge IGCSE Accounting

aged to do and we wish the students the very best with their future endeavours.’

Michael King, Director of Examinations, KSA, Kuwait & Bahrain, British Council, elaborated further, “I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to all the students for their exceptional achievements in UK school qualifications. It is a great privilege to witness their incredible accomplishments and to be a part of this celebration. Their exceptional performance not only reflects their personal abilities but also highlights the quality of education provided by our esteemed partner schools. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the teachers, mentors, and the entire staff of these schools for their unwavering support and guidance throughout the educa-

Subject

Ahmed Almayouf
Mohamad Youssef Amer
Mohamad Youssef Amer
Radi Wael Ahlat
Leena Ahmed Medhat Ismail Mohamed Amin
Andrew Nageh Saad Ebied
Anyubarzan Taheri
Mohannad Emad Abdel Kareem Ali
Laila Mohamed Sameh Hussein Saad Gabr
Jamie Hartley
Hajar Al Arsalani
Fares Ehab Adel Hassan
Mariam Wagheh Fekry Essa Awad
Arwa Maher Abdelghani Elsayed
Yahia Waleed Abdelmonem Mahmoud Wasly
Jana Ahmed Mamdouh Abas Ghoneim

tional journey.”

The British Council Partner Schools Network (PSN) is the community of schools that offer UK curriculum leading to exams such as IGCSE and A level, administered in collaboration with the British Council. It is aimed at offering high-quality products and services that support our leaders, teachers, learners and parents through Quality Assurance self-assessment tools and an excellent suite of in-service teacher-training workshops for both primary and secondary teachers, providing access to online educational support. In Kuwait, there are 22 schools teaching UK qualifications and the number is steadily rising over the years.

The British Council are continually

Student’s Name

Highest Mark in Kuwait
Highest Mark in the World
Highest Mark in Kuwait
Highest Mark in Kuwait
Highest Mark in the World
Highest Mark in the World
Highest Mark in Kuwait
Highest Mark in Kuwait
Top in Kuwait
High Achievement
High Achievement
High Achievement
High Achievement
Top in world
Top in Kuwait
Top in Kuwait

Award School

Private Candidate
Private Candidate
Private Candidate
Private Candidate
Pakistan School & College, Mangaf
Pakistan Academy School Ahmadi
International British School of Kuwait
International British School of Kuwait
Private Candidate
Private Candidate
Private Candidate
Private Candidate
Pakistan School and College – Mangaf
Pakistan School and College
Jabriya Indian School

engaging with schools in Kuwait and recently held the first partner school English Literature Week competition. The competition comprised three categories: Poem Recitation, Essay Writing, and Table Topics, with the latter category requiring participants to speak on a given topic on the spot. The Semi-Finals round took place in December 2022 and involved 12 participants from various schools. From there, five finalists were selected from each category, who then went on to compete in the finals round held in February 2023. The literary festival competition was a great opportunity for students to showcase their literary skills and compete against their peers from different schools.

This Saturday,

"Let the wild rumpus start . . ."

WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE

STORY AND PICTURES BY MAURICE SENDAK

Eyes will roll; teeth will gnash; claws will be bared; and roars will be roared at

Storytime at Amricani

Saturday, 10 June at 3:30

Amricani Cultural Centre

No registration is needed. Just come and have fun!

A photo from the event.

IDAK Int’l Scientific Symposium concludes with resounding success

KUWAIT CITY, June 8: Indian Dentists’ Alliance in Kuwait (IDAK), in association with Kuwait Dental Association (KDA), held its prestigious 4th International Scientific Symposium (ISS) at the AITaj Ball Room, Millennium Hotel and Convention Center, Salmiya on May 26, 2023. The event was accredited for 8 CME points with Kuwait Institute for Medical Specializations (KIMS). The symposium, under the theme of “Innovation and transformation in dentistry”, brought together over 300 practicing dentists in Kuwait.

Dr ET Roy, the Chairman of Scientific Committee, welcomed the speakers, dignitaries and participants to the event and officially inaugurated the event. The full day event featured four prominent speakers from India - Dr Rangarajan Vedantham, Dr Nikhilesh Vaid, Dr Tarun Kumar and Dr Jojo Kottoor. Dr Tarun Kumar, a renowned implantologist, started the event with his excellent presentation on the innovative technologies employed in the field of dental implantology. He showcased selected patient cases that were managed at his private practice using state of the art technol-

ogy. Dr Nikhilesh Vaid presented about the recent advancements made in the field of Orthodontics and also on the use of Aligners in dentistry. Dr Nikhilesh presented numerous scientific papers from his research work which highlighted the innovative approaches to manage malocclusion. Dr. Nikhilesh’s

research holds tremendous promise for patients, offering them a more comfortable and efficient orthodontic treatment experience. Dr Jojo Kottoor presented on “Treatment planning and Decision making in Endodontics”. Dr Jojo captivated the audience with his enchanting presentation skills. The keynote address

was delivered by Dr. Rangarajan, who spoke about the diagnosis and management of Temporomandibular Disorders. His lecture helped raise awareness about this relatively new speciality in dentistry and also highlighted simple but effective methods of managing patients suffering from oro-facial pain.

The chief guest for the Valedictory ceremony was Dr Abdulaziz AlJazzaf, Vice-President of Kuwait Dental Association. Dr Mai Khalaf, Vice-dean, College of Dentistry, Kuwait University, Dr Aishah AlSumait, Oral Health Superintendent, Dental Affairs, Ministry of Health, and Eng. Rajab, General Manager Al Sayafe

Co., were the ‘Guests of Honor’ for the event. Dr Thomas, President of IDAK, welcomed the dignitaries and the audience, and outlined IDAK’s achievements in the past symposiums. The Scientific Committee Chairman Dr. ET Roy introduced the speakers to the dignitaries and highlighted the importance of this symposium. Dr Abdulaziz appreciated IDAK and KDA for coming together and conducting these symposiums, which helps to disseminate knowledge to the busy dental practitioners in the Country. He also spoke about his close links with India and Indian colleagues in his address. Dr Mai addressed the gathering and congratulated IDAK for successfully organizing the symposium. She also expressed her happiness over the high standard of the symposium. Mementoes were distributed to all dignitaries, sponsors, and speakers. Dr Jagan Baskaradoss, General Secretary of IDAK, delivered the Vote of Thanks and thanked everyone who contributed to the success of the symposium. Dr Reebby Thomas and Dr Rupesh Harikrishnan were the MC’s for the Valedictory function.



A photo from the event.

oil up

Kuwait crude oil gained 72 cents during Wednesday's trading sessions to reach USD 76.75 per barrel compared with USD 76.03 pb the day before, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) said Thursday.

Brent futures also jumped 66 cents to USD 76.95 pb and West Texas Intermediate rose 79 cents to USD 72.53 pb. (KUNA)

Japan Q1 GDP revised up to 2.7 pct

Japan's economy in the January-March period grew faster than initially estimated, thanks to stronger corporate spending, the government said Thursday.

The world's number three economy's gross domestic product (GDP) expanded at an annual 2.7 percent pace in the first quarter, an upgrade from the preliminary figure of 1.6 percent growth released last month, according to the Cabinet Office.

As the GDP in October-December

of 2022 also upgraded to 0.1 percent growth, Thursday's data confirmed the second straight quarter of expansion.

On a quarterly basis, GDP rose 0.7 percent in the three months ended March 31 from the previous quarter, compared to an initial reading of 0.4 percent expansion.

Corporate capital spending, a key pillar of domestic demand, revised up 1.4 percent from 0.9 percent. GDP is the total value of goods and services produced domestically. (KUNA)

Boeing delays shipments of the 787 Dreamliner

Boeing said Tuesday that deliveries of its 787 Dreamliner have been delayed again by another manufacturing issue, the latest in a string of setbacks affecting the two-aisle jet.

The company said it is inspecting fittings on part of the tail called the horizontal stabilizer "for a nonconforming condition." The inspections and repairs will affect near-term deliveries but won't alter the com-

pany's forecast of deliveries for the full year. Boeing did not say how many planes are affected by the new defect.

Boeing said the flaw in the tail is not a safety issue and planes already in airline fleets can keep flying. The company said it notified the Federal Aviation Administration and airlines.

The 787 and the 737 Max have both been plagued by production defects that have

sporadically held up deliveries and left airlines without planes that they expected to have for the peak summer season.

In April, Boeing found a problem with fittings on Max jets were the fuselage meets the vertical section of the tail.

A month before that, deliveries of the 787 were stopped while federal regulators looked over documentation of work that was done on new planes. (AP)

Market Movements

08-06-2023

		Change	Closing pts			Change	Closing pts
UAE	- DFM	+0.26	3,687.63	JAPAN	- Nikkei	-0.85	31,641.27
SAUDI	- Tadawul	+0.21	11,397.14	PAKISTAN	- KSE 100	-1.07	41,668.07
EGYPT	- EGX 30	+1.00	17,521.36	PHILIPPINES	- PSEi	-0.39	6,539.36

Business

Bid to support prices amid softer demand

Saudi Arabia cuts output at OPEC+ meeting

By National Bank of Kuwait

At the recently concluded OPEC+ ministerial meeting, after two days of intense negotiations, Saudi Arabia surprised with its announcement of an (\$/bbl) additional, unilateral crude production cut of 1 mb/d next month. The move adds to an agreement by OPEC+ to extend existing production cuts of around

3.6 mb/d, including at least 1.2 mb/d of voluntary cuts, beyond 2023 to end 2024. Also notable is the UAE's securing of a 200 kb/d increase to its reference baseline for 2024 to reflect its increased production capacity. This was possible only after several OPEC+ members including Angola and Nigeria, acquiesced to an offsetting reduction in their baselines to reflect a decline in their own production capacities. Assuming no change to OPEC+ policy, therefore, as things stand, the only source of incremental supply in 2024 from OPEC+ will come from the UAE.

In the run up to the OPEC+ meeting, anticipation had been building that production cuts would be back on the table after prices dropped in May and after Saudi Prince Abdulaziz bemoaned the influence of short sellers on the market, warning them to "watch out". Markets took this as a thinly veiled signal about impending production cuts.

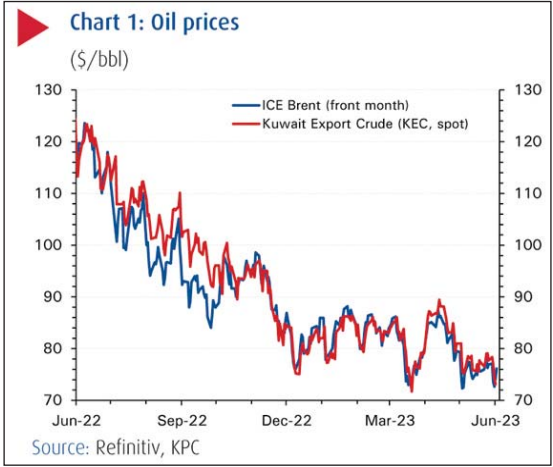
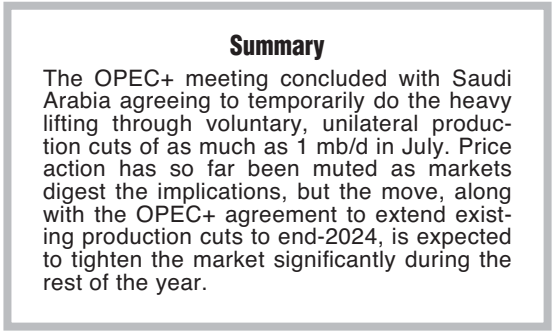
May's oil price drop was the fifth monthly fall in succession as fears of an economic slowdown in the US and EU, exacerbated in recent weeks by concerns over the US debt ceiling, combined with tighter global monetary policy and weaker-than expected Chinese economic data to leave the oil bears in the ascendency. Resilient Russian oil flows and oil stock-builds in the US fed into the narrative of an oil market that was still fairly well supplied. By May's close, international benchmark Brent crude had fallen 8.6% to \$72.7/bbl (-15.4% ytd), a shade above the year-low of \$72.4/bbl it had set earlier in the month. (Chart 1.) These are price levels last seen in December 2021. Local marker Kuwait Export Crude (KEC) fell by a similar amount in May to close the month at \$74.4 (-8.1% m/m; -9.3% ytd).

Reflecting expectations in the run-up to the OPEC+ meeting, money manager net length for Brent crude (the difference between the number of contracts betting on prices rising and those betting on falls) increased to its highest in a month (160k contracts), with three times as many 'longs' as 'shorts'. (Chart 2.) This is something of a minor turnaround after net length sank to a five-month low of 106k contracts in mid-May.

The global macroeconomic and oil demand landscape remains uncertain. Earlier optimistic expectations of a post-pandemic surge in China's economic activity, one that would help compensate for lackluster OECD consumption and lift the global economy, have had to be restrained amid a spate of weaker-than-expected economic indicators. OECD commercial oil inventories have also gained during 1Q23 to stand at 4.0 billion barrels by end-March, although the quarterly increase of 35 mb is slight. (Chart 3.)

Nevertheless, the International Energy Agency (IEA) and others continue to view China's potential this year as positive. Indeed, China's growth outlook (mb/d) remains central to the IEA's repeated, upward revisions to its 2023 oil demand growth estimates: from an annual average of 1.86 mb/d in January to 2.2 mb/d in the most recent, May forecast. The IEA sees the market tightening markedly in 2H23, with oil demand growth averaging 2.5 mb/d y/y and market balances slipping further into deficit (excess of demand over supply) of as much as 2 mb/d in 4Q23. (Chart 4.)

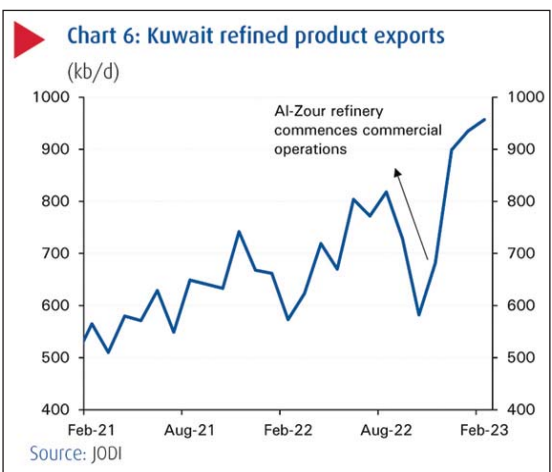
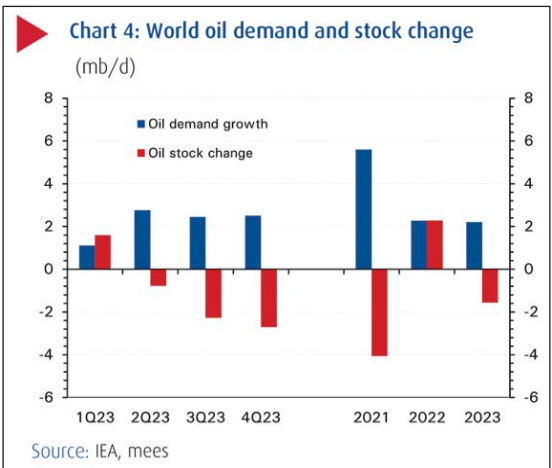
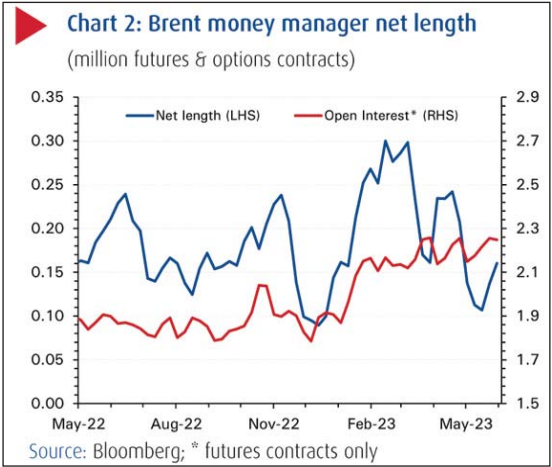
On the supply side, OPEC secondary source data



showed total OPEC production trending lower again in April (-188 kb/d m/m) to 28.6 mb/d. Continued disruptions to the Iraqi-Kurdish pipeline to Turkey's Ceyhan terminal and a workers' strike in Nigeria offset somewhat surprising output increases in Saudi Arabia (+95 kb/d) and Angola (+79 kb/d). (Chart 5.) Meanwhile, according to S&P Global, oil production in the 9-member OPEC+ group (excluding Mexico), led by Russia, declined marginally in April to 13.4 mb/d (-10 kb/d). Taken together, the figures show total OPEC+ output (excluding Libya, Iran, Venezuela, and Mexico) falling in April to 37.5 mb/d (-246 kb/d), exacerbating the supply shortfall (relative to OPEC+ targets) to 2.6 mb/d. When May's OPEC+ output data is published later in June, the group's aggregate production is expected to decline by a further 1.1 mb/d as Saudi, Kuwait and others implement their additional voluntary production cuts.

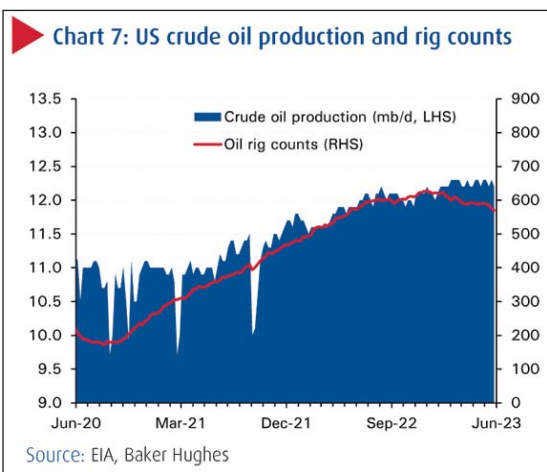
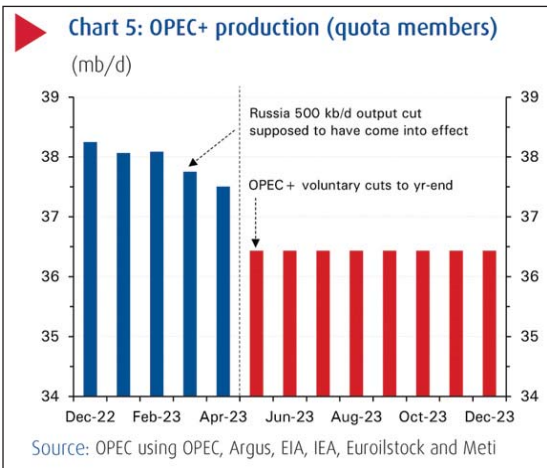
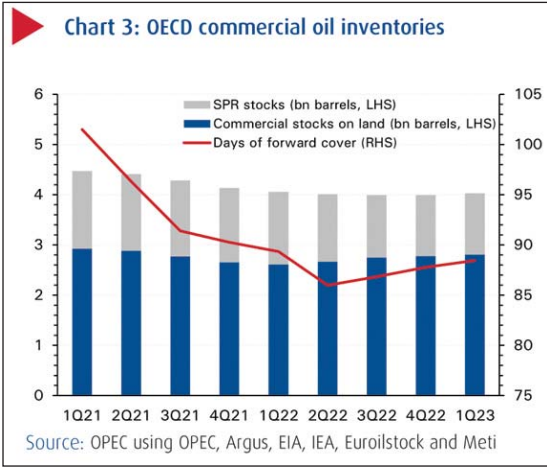
Russian output, meanwhile, was stable at 9.6 mb/d, with only about half of the voluntary production cut of 500 kb/d that the country said it would undertake from March having been implemented. Indeed, despite sanctions and price caps, Russian oil exports (crude and refined products) have increased to a post-invasion high (8.3 mb/d), the IEA noted, with Russia likely diverting supplies intended for domestic consumption to the overseas market instead in order to boost revenues. China and India especially have shown a voracious appetite for discounted Russian crude, pressuring the market share of traditional West African and even Middle Eastern crude oil suppliers.

Kuwait's crude production in April was steady at 2.68 mb/d, according to official sources. Voluntary output cuts of 128 kb/d took effect in May. With crude oil output lowered due to OPEC+ policy and the country's newly-commissioned 615 kb/d Al-Zour oil refinery hungry for additional crude supplies as it ramps up refinery through-



puts (the third and final crude distillation unit is due by late summer), state oil operator KPC may opt to reroute domestic crude destined for the export market. Kuwait's refined product exports, which will be increasingly composed of low Sulphur fuel oil and gasoil/diesel, were up at 957 kb/d in February, a fifth consecutive monthly increase. (Chart 6.) Kuwait's refining capacity will stand at 1.4 mb/d, the second largest in the region behind Saudi Arabia.

US crude production, meanwhile, has been range-bound this year, seemingly unable to increase beyond 12.3 mb/d (+200 kb/d), in US Energy Information



Administration (EIA) data. With shale well productivity gains limited, the persistent decline in US oil rig counts, down 10.6% to 555 so in 2023, would seem to suggest that US output growth may be less than anticipated.

It remains to be seen whether Saudi's unilateral production cut will see oil prices rising above \$80/bbl and holding at a new, higher level. Market fundamentals will almost certainly tighten further in 2H23 as a result, causing an acceleration in stock drawdowns. Barring a precipitous decline in oil demand due to recession for example, we expect prices to firm in 2H23.

W. Street drifts as investors await inflation data; GameStop tumbles

Asian shares slip following tech selloff on Wall St

NEW YORK , June 8, (AP): Stocks are drifting in mixed trading Thursday, continuing this week's lull as Wall Street waits for several big events next week.

The S&P 500 was 0.3% higher, and it hasn't moved by more than 0.4% in any day this week. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 89 points, or 0.3%, at 33,754, as of 11:25 a.m. Eastern time, while the Nasdaq composite was 0.8% higher.

The majority of stocks in the S&P 500 and across Wall Street were falling, though, after a report showed the highest number of workers applied for unemployment benefits since October 2021. Until now, the job market has remained remarkably solid and helped keep the economy out of a recession.

GameStop was one of the bigger movers, falling 19.4% after ousting its CEO who was brought in to turn around the struggling video game retailer. The company, whose stock became a sensation in 2021 during the meme-stock craze, also reported weaker revenue for the latest quarter than expected.

On the winning side was Carvana. It rose 24.9% after saying it expects to book a record amount of profit on each vehicle sold during the current quarter, among other improving trends.

Adobe rose 4.9% for one of the biggest gains in the S&P 500 after it announced a new artificial-intelligence offering for businesses. A frenzy around AI, bolstered by a monster sales forecast by chip maker Nvidia last month, has helped a select group of stocks to outsized gains this year. It's also raised worries about a possible bubble.

The overall market has been mostly calm after charging higher last week on data suggesting a long-

feared recession may not be so imminent. The S&P 500 has climbed close to the edge of a bull market, rising nearly 20% above where it was in mid-October.

But Wall Street's worries aren't over yet. The question is still whether a recession will hit before inflation falls enough to get the Federal Reserve to begin cutting interest rates. The Fed has already hiked short-term rates to their highest level since 2007 in hopes of driving down the worst inflation in generations.

High rates do that by slowing the entire economy and dragging on prices for stocks and other investments. The Fed's sharp hikes have already helped cause several high-profile U.S. bank failures, as well as months of contraction for the manufacturing industry.

Europe

France's CAC 40 gained 0.3% in early trading to 7,224.07, while Germany's DAX added 0.2% to 15,993.05. Britain's FTSE 100 slipped 0.2% to 7,612.19.

Asia

Asian shares fell Thursday after heavy selling of big-name tech stocks pushed benchmarks lower on Wall Street.

Stocks fell in Tokyo, Hong Kong, Seoul and Sydney but rose in Shanghai. U.S. futures were lower. Oil prices retreated.

The declines came despite a sharp upward revision in Japan's estimated economic growth rate for the January-March quarter, to 2.7%. That was above what analysts had expected.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 sank 0.9% to 31,641.27. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 shed 0.3% to 7,099.70. South Korea's Kospi slipped 0.2% to 2,610.85.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng edged less than 0.1%

lower to 19,242.26. The Shanghai Composite gained 0.4% to 3,211.44.

Taiwan's Taiex lost 1.1%, while India's Sensex gave up 0.2%.

On Wednesday, U.S. stocks drifted to a mixed close as declines for Microsoft and other tech stocks overshadowed gains for much of the rest of the market. It's a reversal from much of this year, as excitement about artificial intelligence and hopes for an end to interest rate hikes have buoyed the tech sector.

The Japanese economy has been recovering since restrictions related to the coronavirus pandemic were lifted. The nation has seen a return of tourists, as well as other economic activity.

The focus is now on when Japan's central bank may move away from the easy monetary policy it's stuck to for years. In the past year, the U.S. Federal Reserve and the world's other central banks have been raising interest rates. Japan's benchmark rate is minus 0.1%.

"While a higher growth reading may provide some room to consider a policy exit from the Bank of Japan, the central bank's stance could remain unmoved for now, with recent comments from the Governor Kazuo Ueda pointing to more wait-and-see," Yeap Jun Rong, a market analyst at IG said in a report.

Oil

In energy trading Thursday, benchmark U.S. crude fell 6 cents to \$72.47 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It gained 79 cents to \$72.53 on Wednesday. Brent crude, the international standard, shed 9 cents to \$76.86 a barrel.

Currencies

In currency trading, the U.S. dollar fell to 139.84 Japanese yen from 140.10 yen. The euro cost \$1.0716, up from \$1.0698.

Just nos for hurting households

Europe's economy shrank at end of 2022, start of '23

LONDON, June 8, (AP): The European economy contracted slightly at the end of last year and beginning of 2023, revised figures showed Thursday, underlining the impact of the loss of Russian natural gas and high inflation on consumer spending.

Economic output in the 20 countries that use the euro currency dropped 0.1% in both the final three months of 2022 and first three months of this year from the previous quarters, according to the European Union's statistics agency Eurostat.

That means the eurozone endured two consecutive quarters of decline, which is one definition of recession often used in political and economic discussions, dubbed a "technical" recession.

However, the economists on a panel that declares eurozone recessions use a broader set of data, including unemployment figures. And European labor markets have held up to recent economic shocks: Unemployment is at its lowest level since before the creation of the euro in 1999, hitting 6.5% in April.

The small shift in numbers doesn't change what households already are experiencing: rising prices at the grocery store, paying more interest on their mortgages and struggling for wages that keep up with the rising cost of living.

"Maybe before I used to buy more products I didn't need, like potato chips for example," Milo Taneron, a 26-year-old youth social worker, said while shopping in a Paris supermarket recently.

"Now, for certain products, I've

been forced to buy from low-cost brands, to drop down a level to be able to buy these products," Taneron said.

With inflation and high interest rates hitting households hard and forcing them to cut back on spending, some analysts say they expect the economy to contract further this year. But the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development said this week that it expects meager growth of 0.9% in the euro area this year.

Bert Colijn, senior eurozone economist for ING bank, said "it's hard to argue that this is a recessionary environment" because the decline was so small and job market is so strong.

"Overall, the eurozone economy is very much back to muddling through," he said in a note.

The last update from the euro area business cycle dating committee, which was released March 27 and only dealt with data through the end of last year, said there had been "no recession," with falling consumer spending statistically offset by a large reduction in imports.

The committee added that "the output growth pause contrasts with a continuing, robust expansion in employment."

The economic crunch came as an energy crisis engulfed Europe last year. Its support for war-torn Ukraine led Russia to cut off most of its natural gas, which the continent relied on to generate electricity, power factories and heat homes.

That fueled sharply higher energy bills for consumers and businesses, spiked inflation to record levels, and raised fears of rationing and blackouts.

US applications for jobless benefits highest since Oct 2021

The number of Americans applying for unemployment benefits last week rose to its highest level since October 2021, but the labor market remains one of the healthiest parts of the U.S. economy. The Labor Department reported Thursday that U.S. applications for jobless claims were 261,000 for the week ending June 3, an increase of 28,000 from the previous week's 233,000. Weekly jobless claims are considered representative of U.S. layoffs. The four-week moving average of

claims, which evens out some of the weekly variations, rose by 7,500 to 237,250. Despite last week's sharp increase in filings for unemployment aid, some analysts cautioned against concluding that layoffs are picking up across the economy. They noted that the weekly figures are prone to revision and that last week's numbers might have been distorted by the three-day Memorial Day weekend. "The latest reading reflects a holiday-shortened week (Memorial Day), which ought to raise suspicions that the big

move was more noise than signal," said Stephen Stanley, chief U.S. economist for Santander. "I am eager to see next week's reading before I draw any conclusions." The U.S. economy has added jobs at a furious rate since the pandemic purge of more than 20 million jobs in the spring of 2020. Americans have enjoyed unusual job security, despite the Federal Reserve's aggressive campaign to cool the economy and labor market in its bid to stifle persistent, decades-high inflation. (AP)



A hiring sign is displayed at a restaurant in Vernon Hills, Ill., Saturday, April 15, 2023. On Thursday, the Labor Department reported on the number of people who applied for unemployment benefits last week. (AP)

Donation to help MSF provide life-saving care to war victims

The IKEA Foundation pledges over 11m euro in emergency aid for Sudan

LEIDEN, Netherlands, June 8, (Business Wire): The IKEA Foundation has donated to Médecins Sans Frontières - Doctors Without Borders (MSF) to provide urgent medical care and supplies to people affected by the recent fighting in Sudan. It has also donated to Better Shelter to deploy 3,000 units to meet the immediate shelter needs of people displaced by the deadly conflict.

Intense fighting broke out in Khartoum, Sudan on 15 April and has since spread to other parts of the country. Local hospitals have been overwhelmed as people arrive with serious injuries caused by gunshots, explosions and airstrikes. The country's health system, which has been struggling for decades, is facing a huge increase in needs and a shortage of supplies.

Within Sudan, many of those forced to flee are arriving in overcrowded urban areas already hosting internally displaced people. Sudan is also hosting more than one million refugees who have fled violence in neighbouring countries. This is placing immense strain on overstretched resources and exposing vulnerable people to risks such as evictions, family separation and gender-based violence.

Per Heggernes, CEO of the IKEA Foundation, said: "The violence in Sudan is a devastating human tragedy. It is our responsibility to alleviate the suffering of those caught in the crossfire. We strongly urge other funders to join us in delivering life-saving humanitarian assistance to Sudan. Let's come together and make a tangible difference in the lives of those devastated by the conflict"

The IKEA Foundation's donation will help MSF provide life-saving care both

through medical interventions and by distributing supplies. It will also contribute to supporting MSF's activities across 10 states in Sudan. MSF teams have been treating war wounded, providing healthcare services and supplies, and water and sanitation.

Stephen Cornish - Director General - Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) - Geneva Operational Centre said: "As the conflict in Sudan spirals into its second month and humanitarian needs outstrip response capacity, IKEA Foundation's backing of our medical work across the country marks a collective resolution to take all possible measures to support those caught in the violence.

"The contribution is a testament to the determination and professionalism of our teams on the ground, who despite the many challenges and obstacles remain committed to extending life-saving healthcare. We are deeply thankful for the steadfast support of the IKEA Foundation. Today's donation of 5 million euro will go a long way in helping us to provide humanitarian and medical aid to those most affected by the ongoing crisis."

An estimated 1.4 million Sudanese people have been displaced by this conflict already. This includes people fleeing internally and those crossing borders into neighbouring countries, including Chad and Ethiopia. Food, shelter, and protection services are among people's urgent needs. To meet the immediate need for shelter as expressed by UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, Better Shelter will deploy immediately to neighbouring countries.

Johan Mast, Acting Manager Director, Better Shelter, said: "The current situation in Sudan is alarming. Millions of people are experiencing insecurity, food and water scarcity, and various challenges that require urgent attention. We are very grateful for the IKEA Foundation stepping in to assist and pleased to offer shelter to 15,000 individuals affected by the crisis. Shelter is a fundamental human need that provides physical protection and helps with emotional healing and recovery from the traumatic experiences they have endured."

The IKEA Foundation is a strategic philanthropy that focuses its grant making efforts on tackling the two biggest threats to children's futures: poverty and climate change. It currently grants more than 200 million euro per year to help improve family incomes and quality of life while protecting the planet from climate change. Since 2009, the IKEA Foundation has granted more than 1.8 billion euro to create a better future for children and their families.

In 2021 the Board of the IKEA Foundation decided to make an additional 1 billion euro available over the next five years to accelerate the reduction of Greenhouse Gas emissions.

When an emergency strikes, time is of the essence. To provide the most efficient response, the IKEA Foundation provides extraordinary emergency funding to a select few partner organisations, who work mainly in Africa, Asia and the Middle East. In 2023 we have provided more than 31 million euro in emergency funding.

Access to training compute power

Falcon 40B registering massive response to a call for proposals

ABU DHABI, June 8, (BUSINESS WIRE): Falcon 40B, the world's top-ranked open-source AI model on the Hugging Face leaderboard for large language models (LLMs), is registering an overwhelming response to a Call for Proposals from scientists, researchers, and SME entrepreneurs keen to deploy the model for innovative use cases.

The response follows back-to-back announcements from the AI model's creator, Abu Dhabi's Technology Innovation Institute (TII), offering the most exceptional project ideas access to training compute power as a form of investment.

Compute power enables developers to tackle more complex and resource-intensive use cases with increased efficiency, productivity, and performance. By being able to experiment with the capabilities of Falcon 40B, the best open-source LLM globally, developers can venture into uncharted territories, driving innovation and expanding the possibilities of AI solutions - at speed.

Submissions are being welcomed from all over the world, and across all industries and sectors to find the very best application concepts. Examples of industries include biotech, engineering, enterprise solutions, customer services, finance, and healthcare. In healthcare, for instance, LLM applications could help doctors by analyzing medical literature, patient records, and research findings to provide evidence-based recommendations. This could enable medical practitioners to make informed decisions and improve patient care based on the latest

knowledge and insights.

"We strongly encourage scientists, researchers, and aspiring entrepreneurs with bold ideas to submit their proposals for Falcon 40B deployment," said H.E. Faisal Al Bannai Secretary General of TII's parent entity, the Advanced Technology Research Council (ATRC). "We're excited to invest in the most impactful proposals with compute power through Venture-One, ATRC's commercialization arm, and to potentially partner with the most promising developers."

"Every proposal that comes our way is subjected to a thorough and meticulous assessment by TII's dedicated AI Cross-Center Unit (AIC-CU)," said Dr. Ebtesam Almazrouei, Acting Chief Researcher at AICCU. "Our team of over 40 exceptional AI scientists is poised to examine each proposal, seeking developers with exceptional intellect and ingenuity. Our paramount goal is to propel the frontiers of AI advancements, leveraging its full potential to bring about profound societal improvements."

Interested users should submit a proposal outlining their research objectives, methodology, expected outcomes, and the potential impact of their project. The proposal should highlight how Falcon 40B will be utilized and the specific domain it targets. In addition, applicants should include a timeline and a compute budget estimate, as well as any relevant expertise or previous work that supports their proposal.

If you are interested in entering the Call for Proposals, we invite you to visit FalconLLM.TII.ae.

For more information, visit www.tii.ae

AUB announces the lucky winner of KD 100,000 monthly ‘prize money’

Ahli United Bank (AUB) announced the result of the monthly prize in Al Hassad Islamic prize program and named Sawсан Abdulaziz Mohammad Al-Awadhi as the lucky winner of KD100, 000 during the draw held on Wednesday 07 June 2023 at the bank's head office in the presence of a representative of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

On this occasion, Mrs. Hanadi Khazal, Head of the retail Distribution Channels Department at AUB congratulated the winner, wishing her all the best. Khazal expressed her hope that all the Bank's customers will be lucky in the upcoming draws. Khazal also expressed her happiness with the valued trust of the customers in the Bank.

Khazal assured that AUB is keen since the beginning of launching Al-Hassad Islamic prizes program to offer a host of exclusive prizes to contribute to making the aspiration and dreams of its clients true, and to enhance the culture of savings, stressing that the Bank is committed to provide state-of-the-art banking solutions, which are in line with the client's different requirements.

In its current package, Al-Hassad Islamic Saving Account presents a broader variety of rewards. Customers could now participate in the draw to win a monthly KD 100,000 prize, in addition to 10 weekly prizes of KD 1,000 each. The grand quarterly prize of KD 250,000 in cash for the winner remains the most important

aspiration of customers. It is a real chance for them to realize their life dreams. In addition to this attractive package, there will be the annual expected profits on the basis of a Wakala contract that increases the attractiveness of the Al-Hassad Islamic Saving Account to customers.

Al-Hassad Account provides a suite of unique features, including the simplest and easiest savings program, and a unique account opening feature online with all ease with an instant deposit option.

To be eligible to participate in the draw, the customer should have a minimum balance of KD 100, whereby the customer has two chances to participate, with up to 30,000 chances per draw, in addition to rewarding annual profits. Every KD 50 invested entitles the customer to one chance in the draws, provided that to maintain his balance for at least fifteen days before the draw date. The longer the customer keeps his balance the bigger the chances of participation in the draw with every KD 50 in the account. Draws are held every Wednesday based on the draw scheme. On religious and national holidays, the draw is postponed to the next business day.

For more information on Ahli United Bank's products and services, customers are invited to visit any of the Bank's branches dial the customer services "Haya-kom" on 181 2000, or log on to the Bank's website at www.ahliunited.com.kw

LONDON, June 8, (PR Newswire): TMF Group, a leading provider of compliance and administrative services, has today launched its tenth edition of Global Business Complexity Index (GBCI).

The comprehensive report analyses 78 jurisdictions, which account for 92% of the world's total GDP and 95% of net global FDI flows. It evaluates nearly 300 annually tracked indicators, presenting data on critical aspects in conducting business involving legislations, compliance, accounting procedures, tax regimes, human resources (HR) and payroll processes.

France takes the top spot in this year's index, having placed second in the previous two years. It is followed by Greece (2nd place vs 6th in 2022), Turkey (6th vs 7th in 2022), and Italy (stays in 8th place).

Over the year, these EMEA countries experienced a significant change in their business complexity due to the legislative and economic challenges that are taking place. Foreign businesses in France are facing difficulties in terms of complex labour laws. Employers in Italy are investing more to retain their employees due to 'the great resignation'.

The least complex European jurisdictions for conducting business are Denmark, The Netherlands, United Kingdom, Jersey, and Malta. Ranked as the second least complex globally, Denmark is straightforward with its incorporation process for businesses, paired with its political, social, and economic stability. Malta, a new entry in the ten least complex jurisdictions worldwide, is generous with its corporate tax rate and refunding system.

Frank Welman, TMF Group Head of Europe, said: "Our Global Business Complexity Index indicates how conducting business across certain European countries can be challenging, especially with the impacts of the war which are apparent throughout EU. The geopolitical and economic impacts are also felt by the neighbouring countries which contribute to increased global inflation. Hence, some countries are rethinking their strategies by simplifying regulations to retain investors for the long term, while some are still adopting a more demanding approach which then influence their positions in rankings. We hope to see more countries investing in partners and advisors that can help them navigate the evolving rules and regulations, especially when doing business across borders."

The report identifies central themes that sculpt the global business landscape and regulatory environment.

Geopolitical and economic turbulence

The analysis highlights how geopolitical challenges are affecting the companies' expansion plans and how global economic factors such as inflation, employee attrition and the war in Ukraine are impacting the businesses.

Since the start of the war in Ukraine, 63% of jurisdictions have predicted disruptions in ongoing supply chain, paired with increased energy prices and barriers to international trade. For instance, the drop in imported goods in Germany has contributed to the inflation globally.

This widespread inflation is analysed to be one of the contributors of decline in confidence in future economic stability which was 82% in 2020 to 71% in 2023. On the same note, approximately 98% of EMEA



Participants in the event pose for a photo.t

KFH's Digital Financial Solutions meet youth's aspirations

As part of its ceaseless efforts in meeting youth's aspirations by offering the best innovative digital financial solutions, Kuwait Finance House (KFH), represented by its Digital Transformation and Innovation Department, organized a focus group session with Information Technology students from Kuwait University to learn about their views, perceptions, and suggestions about mobile banking services of KFH app.

The one-day discussion was held at the College of Business Administration at Kuwait University in cooperation with the Information System and Operation Management

(ISOM) Club. Students were divided into three groups, asking each group to present an idea and a business plan, thus offering them an opportunity to innovate and develop ideas according to KFH's strategy of introducing unique digital services based on the youth needs and aspirations.

KFH team assisted the participating students in developing research plans on current banking services in similar digital platforms around the world with the highest rates of downloading and usage, in order to match their innovative ideas with the latest banking technology in the world.

Security guards at London's Heathrow Airport to escalate strikes over pay into busy summer mths

LONDON, June 8, (AP): Security guards at London's Heathrow Airport, Europe's busiest, will escalate their strike action over pay into the busy summer months, the U.K.'s largest trade union said Wednesday.

The Unite union said more than 2,000 of its members will walk out for 31 days from June 24 through to Aug. 27, a move that could wreak havoc for the millions of people going through Heathrow during the summer travel season.

Security guards have already been striking in recent months, including during the Easter break and the coronation of King Charles III, walkouts that Heathrow says resulted in "no impact" on the smooth running of the airport.

"Unite is putting Heathrow on notice that strike action at the airport will continue until it makes a fair pay offer to its workers," Unite general-secretary Sharon Graham said. "Make no mistake, our members will receive the union's unflinching support in this

dispute."

Security officers at Terminal 3, which is the base for many international carriers, including American Airlines and Virgin Atlantic, will be joining their colleagues from Terminal 5, which is British Airways' main hub.

Last December, military personnel were drafted in to check passports at U.K. airports including Heathrow during strikes by Border Force staff.

Unite said security guards have rejected a 10.1% pay offer from Heathrow, which is below the level at which consumer price inflation has been running since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine began in February 2022. Unite also said that its in-house research shows that the average pay of workers at Heathrow has fallen 24% in real terms since 2017.

Unite also said there is also "widespread bitterness" among workers that Heathrow used the "cover of the pandemic" to enforce a "fire and rehire" strategy.

jurisdictions are seeing employees asking for better financial packages, pushing administrative complexity for the employers.

Global compliance challenges

The report shows how global compliance requirements such as ultimate beneficial owners (UBO), know your customer (KYC), and anti-money laundering (AML) have become more stringent and drive complexity for businesses.

KYC checks are becoming more detailed and rigorous as jurisdictions such as the UK and Hungary

introduced sanctions against Russian businesses and individuals, triggering complexity for Russian-owned organisations.

However, around 14% of jurisdictions have been found to observe reversed legislation. For example, in the UK, several pieces of legislation typically related to tax, were introduced, and then reversed. Despite being beneficial, this backtracking can create complexity for organisations as they struggle to keep up with conflicting directives from governments.

Environmental, social and gover-

nance (ESG) considerations

In majority of jurisdictions where environmental, social and governance criteria are becoming more prominent, companies are now required to adhere to at least one ESG requirement. They are higher among EMEA jurisdictions than those in North America.

While the needs for reporting and abiding by ESG legislation largely falls on public and listed companies, Switzerland has introduced new rules that require companies of public interest regulated by FINMA to issue public annual ESG reports.

‘Shell’s clean energy advertising campaign is misleading’

A marketing campaign by oil major Shell has been banned by the U.K.’s advertising watchdog Wednesday for implying a big proportion of its business was in low carbon energy even though fossil fuels make up the “vast majority” of its operations.

A television commercial, a YouTube video and a poster campaign in Bristol, England, variously described providing large numbers of British homes with 100% renewable energy, installing electric vehicle charging points and driving the energy transition.

In its written ruling the Advertising Stand-

ards Authority found consumers would interpret the marketing materials as making a “broader claim about Shell as a whole providing cleaner energy.”

Although Shell does have a clean energy business, the company estimates its operations released almost 1.4 billion tons of heat-trapping carbon dioxide in 2021.

In a statement, Shell spokesperson Tara Lemay said the company “strongly” disagrees with the ASA’s decision, “which could slow the U.K.’s drive toward renewable energy.”

Campaign group Adree Cities had filed a

complaint to the ASA about the commercials, arguing they left out significant information about Shell’s overall environmental impact. It also argued the claim that 78,000 homes in the southwest of England and 1.4 million homes across the U.K. use 100% clean energy from Shell was misleading.

The ASA’s ruling said the campaign gave the impression that “low-carbon energy products comprised a significant proportion of the energy products Shell invested in and sold in the UK in 2022, or were likely to do so in the near future.” (AP)



In this file photo, a Shell logo is displayed at a gas station in London, on March 8, 2022. (AP)



Top and above photos from the LuLu Hypermarket ‘LuLu Beauty Delights’ promotion.

Free sampling beauty kits were distributed by sponsors

LuLu Hypermarket launches ‘LuLu Beauty Delights’

KUWAIT CITY, June 8: LuLu Hypermarket, the retailer of choice among discerning shoppers in the region, launched the ‘LuLu Beauty Delights’ promotion that captivated the interest of beauty enthusiasts and shoppers alike.

LuLu Beauty Delights, which runs from 7–13 June across all outlets of the hypermarket, offers an array of value-packed promotions on cosmetics, perfumes, and wellness products. The event was inaugurated on 7 June at the hypermarket’s Al Rai outlet by popular beauty vloggers and fashion influencers, along with top management of LuLu Hypermarket in Kuwait.

The main sponsor of the event, Nivea, ensured that LuLu Beauty Delights provided an extraordinary experience for shoppers who had the opportunity to explore a vast range of high-quality Nivea beauty products. Moreover, co-sponsors such as PNG, Unilever, L’Oreal, Yardley, and Colgate added their own touch of excellence to the event, enhancing the overall beauty extravaganza.

One of the major highlights of the event was the live demonstrations conducted by famous beauty brands. Experts from these brands showcased their expertise, unveiling the latest trends and techniques in the world of beauty. In addition to the live demos, various sponsors and co-sponsors set up exhibition stalls, showcasing their finest beauty products and providing shoppers with the opportunity to examine an extensive range of beauty options and interact with knowledgeable representatives.

Adding to the excitement, free sampling beauty kits were distributed by the generous sponsors. Customers eagerly embraced the chance to try out new products and experience the quality and effectiveness of these items firsthand.

To further enhance the customers’ experience, the promotional event offered free live styling and make-up services. Professional stylists and make-up artists were on hand to provide personalized consultations and create stunning looks for customers.

The success of LuLu Beauty Delights event can be attributed to the perfect combination of impeccable planning, the support of top beauty brands, and the enthusiasm of the attendees. LuLu Hypermarket once again proved its commitment to delivering an exceptional shopping experience that goes beyond expectations, while providing shoppers with an extensive range of products, superb quality and exceptional customer service.

Secure enterprise generative AI platform

ValueLabs announces success of AiDE™

HYDERABAD, India, June 8, (AP): ValueLabs, a global technology services & solutions company, is proud to announce the remarkable success of its proprietary enterprise generative AI platform, AiDE™ - a transformative solution that revolutionizes the daily activities of all 7,000+ engineers, testers, designers, and others at ValueLabs. As a SOC 2 Type II certified company, committed to data protection and data principles, ValueLabs has garnered significant interest from its 300+ clients for AiDE™. Powered by ValueLabs’ proprietary AiDE™ Fabric, the platform integrates the collective potential of industry leading LLMs and custom LLMs, to ensure quality output and optimized performance for different use cases. With the option for on-premises deployment - AiDE™ has been specifically engineered to alleviate enterprise security concerns.

Highlighting the ethical considerations and responsible approach taken by ValueLabs, Veda Reddy, CEO of Imagine, ValueLabs’ innovation arm said, “The integration of AiDE™ into our entire software development life cycle has been transformative. With custom LLMs trained on industry-specific data sets, prompt engineering abstraction, and advanced conversational AI, AiDE™ builds upon ValueLabs’ responsible AI principles - promoting security, reliability, accountability, inclusivity, and community benefit.”

ValueLabs’ ground-breaking approach to generative AI empowers each user to securely leverage the AiDE™ platform adapted to the specific industry and service lines their clients are interested in. Designed to cater to a wide range of use cases, AiDE™ leverages state-of-the-art algorithms and advanced machine-learning techniques to guarantee efficiency across three dimensions - cost, speed, and quality. Compared to other commercially available models, AiDE™ offers relatively higher efficiency gains for enterprise use cases.

The success of AiDE™ can be seen in the time and cost savings it has delivered across a wide spectrum of ValueLabs’ clients. Some of the savings achieved across different service lines include:

AiDE™ has assisted ValueLabs’

NEW DELHI, June 8, (KUNA): By and large, India and GCC countries comprising Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar, Oman and Bahrain have historically enjoyed strong and friendly relations.

They have long-standing cultural and civilizational links, with economic and commercial ties having been cemented through cooperation in trade, investment, energy, tourism and education.

Immediately after Kuwait gained in-

dependence from the British in 1961, the leadership established diplomatic relations with India, as both sides have maintained close diplomatic, trade and investment relations and have cooperated on various international issues.

Energy is a key area of cooperation as Kuwait is a major oil-producing country, and India is one of the world’s largest importers of crude oil and both sides have massive investment in oil and gas sectors in each other.

Bilateral trade between India and Kuwait is strong as India is a major exporter of goods and services to Kuwait as bilateral trade in 2021-2022 stood around USD 12.2 billion with India’s imports from Kuwait reaching USD

11,001 billion and exports reaching USD 1.2 billion.

Healthcare, education, and culture are some of the other areas of cooperation. India accords substantial weight to Kuwait as a large Indian expatriate community is living and working in Kuwait. Kuwait has also shown considerable importance to India as the Indian community in Kuwait is one of the largest expatriate communities in the country.

Ties between India and Saudi Arabia are also historically grounded. Apart from sharing strong cultural and economic ties, both sides have a strong stake in each other in the energy, trade, and security sectors.

Saudi Arabia is a major exporter of oil to India which is heavily dependent on importing oil and gas for its huge economic growth. Saudi Arabia is India’s fourth-largest trading partner which is fortified by several agreements. Bilateral trade between India and Saudi Arabia was valued at USD 42.8 billion with India’s imports from Saudi Arabia touching USD 34.01 billion and exports to Saudi Arabia accounting for USD 8.76 billion in 2021-2022. Indian infrastructure and manufacturing sectors are witnessing unprecedented Saudi investment.

Security, defence, counterterrorism and tourism are some other areas both the countries are engaged in. Centuries of cultural and people-to-people ties are existing between India and Saudi Arabia.

For centuries, India and the UAE have had strong trade links and traditionally dates, pearls and fishes dominated the trade. However, after the UAE started exporting oil and gas, the nature and volume of trade underwent tremendous changes especially after Dubai became a trading hub and India started economic liberalization.

Increasing economic and commercial ties strengthened the relationship between the two countries and both are searching for new avenues of cooperation for mutual benefits. The UAE was the third largest trading partner of India after the US and China in 2021-22 as bilateral trade reached USD 73 billion.

In the same period, India’s export to the UAE crossed USD 28 billion to become the second largest export destination of India after the US. Last year, a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement was signed during the Virtual Summit between Prime Minister Modi and UAE President Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

India historically maintained cooperative ties with Qatar and both sides have strong energy, trade, defence and investment links. India is heavily dependent on Qatar for liquefied natural gas as the latter is among the largest producers of gas in the world and Qatar is keen to invest in India’s infrastructure, real estate, and hospitality sectors.

Defence, security, and counterterrorism are other major planks of cooperation between the two sides. As with other GCC countries, the Indian expatriate community in Qatar is among the largest. Bilateral trade of India with Qatar in 2021-22 was USD 15.03 billion with export accounting for USD 1.83 billion and India’s import from Qatar accounting for USD 13.19 billion. India was the fourth largest export destination for Qatar and the third largest source of imports in 2021.

Liquefied Natural Gas, Liquefied Petroleum Gas, chemicals and petrochemicals, plastics, fertilisers and aluminium were Qatars major exports to India. Cereals, copper articles, iron and steel articles, vegetables, fruits, spices, and processed food products, electrical and other machinery, plastic products, construction materials, textiles and garments, chemicals, precious stones and rubber were India’s major exports to Qatar.

Oman has also maintained a friendly and long-standing relationship with India and the bilateral cooperation spans energy, tourism, trade, and security among others. India is heavily dependent on energy from Oman as well while the latter is a major export destination for India as textiles, pharmaceuticals, and engineering products are some of the major Indian goods exported to Oman.



A flyer of the campaign.

ABK announces Abdin as winner of weekly draw prize of KD 10,000

KUWAIT CITY, June 8: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) announced Abdulhalim Basel Abdin as the winner of KD10,000 in the Alfouz weekly draw. The winner was announced on Monday, 5 June2023. The draw was held under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The Alfouz draw account offers ABK customers the chance to win life-changing rewards. With Alfouz, ABK customers will get a chance to win KD10,000 in the weekly draw and the ultimate grand prize of KD5,000 monthly additional income for 10 years. Both new and existing ABK cus-

tomers can benefit from this opportunity, with a minimum account balance of KD100 only.

ABK encourages everyone to open Alfouz draw account and/or increase their balances to have more chances in winning in the upcoming draw which will happen on Monday,12 June 2023. The higher the deposits are, the higher the chances to win.

For more information about ABK, please visit eahli.com or contact an ABK customer service agent via ‘Ahlan Ahli’ at 1899899. Alternatively, you can visit your nearest ABK branch.

Nigeria’s president ‘defends’ end to fuel subsidy as hardship bites harder

ABUJA, Nigeria, June 8, (AP): Nigerian President Bola Tinubu on Wednesday defended the West African nation’s decision last week to stop subsidizing fuel, a move that has pushed up prices for transportation and commodities.

Tinubu appealed for patience as millions of citizens face additional economic hardship. The money saved by ending the decades-old subsidy will help the government’s efforts to fight poverty and implement other initiatives, he told governors in a meeting in Nigeria’s capital city, Abuja.

“We can see the effects of poverty on the faces of our people. Poverty is not hereditary, it is from society. Our position is to eliminate poverty,” a statement from the Nigerian presidency quoted Tinubu as saying.

The governors supported the subsidy’s removal and promised to work together in implementing it, the presi-

dency’s statement said.

Though Nigeria is an oil-producing nation, it depends on imported refined petroleum products, and the government has subsidized the cost for decades.

But with oil revenues dwindling amid chronic theft and decreasing foreign investment, the government said the fuel subsidies are no longer economically sustainable. It budgeted 4.4 trillion naira (\$9.5 billion) for the subsidies in 2022, far more than for education, health care and infrastructure combined.

Analysts, however, faulted the government’s decision to withdraw the subsidy without incentives in place, especially at a time when many Nigerians already struggle to cope with record high unemployment and poverty.

Inflation is at an 18-year high. Unions have threatened strike in protest of the subsidy decision.



Photos from the event.

Brand-new Fastback elevates standard for driving experience

(AlShaya & AlSagar) KAICO launches extraordinary Peugeot 408

KUWAIT CITY, June 8: Peugeot, a renowned French automaker, is thrilled to announce the official debut of the Peugeot 408, among of its much-anticipated creations. With its innovative performance, architecture, and innovation, this brand-new Fastback elevates the standard for the driving experience.

The new Peugeot 408 is distinguished by a powerful 1.6-liter Turbo engine that generates an impressive 215 horsepower at 5500 rpm. It delivers a torque of 300 Newton meters at 2000 rpm, providing a smooth and responsive driving experience, coupled with an eight-speed automatic transmission, enhancing powerful performance at low speeds, as well as during start and stop situations.

The bold and sophisticated exterior design of the Peugeot 408 integrates with the spacious cabin to provide maximum comfort and luxury. It features a concise front fascia and distinctive lights adorning all corners of the vehicle. It is equipped with 18-inch diamond-cut alloy wheels in glossy black for a more elegant appearance, giving the vehicle a complete aesthetic image. For those seeking a more daring exterior look, there is also the option of 20-inch "Alloy" MONOLITH diamond-cut wheels in Matt Onyx Black. To enhance the distinctive appearance of the Peugeot 408.

With all these impressive technical specifications and advanced features, safety and security are among the top priorities of the Peugeot 408. It is equipped with a range of advanced safety features, including an Anti-lock Braking System (ABS): This system prevents the wheels from locking up during hard braking, allowing the driver to maintain steering control. Electronic Stability Control (ESC): ESC helps to maintain vehicle stability by detecting and reducing



loss of traction or skidding.

Kuwait Automotive Imports Company (AlShaya and AlSagar) proudly announces the successful launch event for the highly anticipated Extraordinary 408. This momentous occasion took place at the Peugeot showroom, attracting an array of au-

tomotive enthusiasts, Peugeot fans, industry professionals, and distinguished members of the local community.

Exceptional

The event garnered significant attention and excitement as attendees



eagerly awaited the unveiling of Peugeot's latest addition to its exceptional lineup of vehicles.

Adding to the significance of the launch event, esteemed visitors from Stellantis, Mr. Yury Duzhnikov, Head of French Brands, and Mr. Fredrick Leons Head of Sales

- French Brands were in attendance. Peugeot's representatives, including key executives, joined the occasion to witness the introduction of the 408 to the local market. This presence symbolizes the strong partnership between Peugeot and KAICO, emphasizing their shared dedication to

delivering exceptional vehicles and customer experiences.

During the event, attendees had the exclusive opportunity to interact with the 408 up close and experience its remarkable features firsthand. The 408's striking aesthetics, advanced safety features, and unparalleled driving dynamics left a lasting impression on all who attended.

"We are delighted to introduce the Extraordinary 408 to our valued customers and automotive enthusiasts in this grand manner," said Mr. Yousef Al-Shaya, CEO of KAICO. He further expressed his excitement, stating, "This event showcases our commitment to offering the finest vehicles in the market, and we are proud to present the 408, which embodies Peugeot's relentless pursuit of excellence."

Mr. Ashish Tandon, General Manager at KAICO, shared his joy, saying, "We are thrilled to have hosted this momentous occasion and introduced the Extraordinary 408 to our valued customers and Peugeot enthusiasts. This launch reflects our commitment to delivering unparalleled automotive experiences and services."

Peugeot's Business Manager, Mr. Stefan Craita, expressed his enthusiasm, stating, "The launch of the 408 in partnership with KAICO marks an exciting milestone for Peugeot. We are delighted to witness the enthusiasm and passion of the Kuwaiti audience for our brand."

Issa Abdallah, Marketing Manager at KAICO, stated: Our goal is to provide our customers with everything that is distinctive, and their satisfaction is the measure of our success.

For more information about the 408 or to schedule a test drive, please contact Peugeot Dealership (KAICO) at 2226 226.

Botanical Solution Inc. (BSI) CEO Gaston Salinas to speak at Harvard University seminar on Global Health, Biodiversity and Therapeutics. Salinas to present, 'Exploiting the plant Quillaja saponaria as a source of therapeutic compounds – discovery and industrial production'.



BSI CEO invited to speak at Harvard seminar

Harvard University has invited Botanical Solution Inc. (BSI) CEO Gaston Salinas, (BSI), to speak at its upcoming seminar on Global Health, Biodiversity and Therapeutics, to be held Friday, June 9, 2023. Mr. Salinas will present, "Exploiting the plant Quillaja saponaria as a source of therapeutic compounds – discovery and industrial production". This public seminar will address opportunities for developing new therapeutics from Latin America's biological ecology. Latin America holds enormous potential to provide therapeutic natural drug products. Scientists have shown that natural compounds from endemic plants, fungi and animals in both terrestrial and marine offer promising pathways for the discovery of new medicines, such as antivirals and antibiotics. BSI has developed the world's first scalable and truly sustainable production system for QS-21, a Gold Standard vaccine adjuvant and critical component of a blockbuster Shingles vaccine, a recent FDA approved RSV vaccine and the only Malaria vaccine approved by WHO to date. Deforestation regulations have restricted the cutting of Quillaja saponaria trees, which are the traditional raw material for extracting and purifying QS-21, creating supply barriers which have driven the cost up to approximately \$400,000 per gram. According to CEO Gaston Salinas, "I am really excited about this invitation to present our work on removing barriers to produce the gold standard vaccine adjuvant QS-21 from a truly sustainable source at Harvard. BSI is accelerating the development of GMP QS-21 at kilo scale, by partnering with market leaders. We see great potential for the power of natural, botanical-based products to advance sustainable human health for the future."

timsTOF Ultra can identify over 55K peptides

Bruker launches new generation of mass spectrometers

HOUSTON, June 8: At the 71st ASMS meeting, Bruker Corporation (Nasdaq: BRKR) has announced transformative sensitivity on the 4D-Proteomics timsTOF platform with the launch of the new timsTOF Ultra mass spectrometer. It incorporates a new Captive Spray Ionization (CSI) Ultra ion source with larger capillary and optimized vortex gas flow, a novel 4th-generation TIMS (trapped ion mobility separation) XR cell and 14bit digitizer. The timsTOF Ultra can identify over 55K peptides that map into 5000 protein groups at the single-cell level of 0.125 ng protein loading, at 1% FDR, and over 4800 protein groups quantified at CVs of 20%. This breakthrough sensitivity and quantitation performance below the 1 ng protein load level sets a new benchmark. Unparalleled sensitivity, with the proven robustness of the timsTOF platform, and with PASEF duty cycle now up to 300 Hz for MS/MS, offers significant further performance improvements for ultra-low sample amounts, including unbiased single-cell proteomics and single-cell lipidomics, unbiased spatial proteomics, immunopeptidomics, phosphoproteomics, PTM analysis, and protein-protein interaction (PPI) studies.

Dr. Fabian Coscia, Group Leader for Spatial Proteomics at the Max Delbrück Center, Berlin, Germany, said: "The single-cell sensitivity dia-PASEF workflow on the timsTOF Ultra has brought our low-input tissue proteomics research to a new level. Using a 20-min nano-flow LC gradient combined with Bruker's optimized dia-PASEF (3x8 window) method, we can now reproducibly quantify 1,500 – 2,000 proteins from laser micro-dissected mouse liver FFPE tissue of only 1,500 µm2, regions corresponding to approximately 1-2 hepatocytes."

These timsTOF Ultra advances have been achieved without compromising the excellent robustness for high-throughput proteomics, e.g., at 50 samples per day (SPD), or even up to 398 SPD, nor the highest identification confidence of 1% peptide and 1% protein FDRs (false discovery rates), avoiding the cross-reactivity seen with targeted immune-recognition methods.

Differentiate

Professor Dr. Karl Mechtler, Proteomics Head at the Innovation Hub of the Research Institute for Molecular Pathology (IMP), Gregor Mendel Institute (GMI), and the Institute of Molecular Biotechnology of the Austrian Academy of Sciences (IMBA), added: "To truly understand cellular mechanisms and diseases, it's crucial to differentiate between the various cell types. While single-cell analysis has been game-changing, we face obstacles in maximizing its potential for throughput and proteins groups that can be analyzed. It would make biological sense to detect 6000 or more proteins in a single-cell experiment. The timsTOF Ultra has overcome these barriers, allowing us to explore the proteome of individual cells at speed and unparalleled sensitivity. Thanks to the timsTOF Ultra, single-cell analysis has reached new heights, and I'm excited to see where this breakthrough will lead us next."

Bruker also introduces VistaScan software for synchronizing TIMS ramp with the quadrupole scan to further benefit from ion mobility information at scale. This sophisticated dynamic linked-ramp supports the novel media-PASEF mode, introduced by Stefan Tenzer (doi.org/10.1101/2023.01.30.526204).

Dr. Stefan Tenzer, Professor for Quantitative Proteomics and Head of MS Core Facility, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, commented: "Our laboratory focuses on methods for quantitative proteomics that require highest sensitivity and highest information extraction. Together with Bruker, we have developed the novel maximum information dia (media) PASEF scanning acquisition mode which offers sensitivity of data-independent acquisition (dia), while transforming data into data-dependent acquisition (dda)-like spectra. The media-PASEF potential for immunopeptidomics and phosphoproteomics is particularly exciting."

Capabilities

Bruker has exclusively licensed media-PASEF from Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz and plans to release media-PASEF as a product in 2023. The timsTOF Ultra is equipped with the required VistaScan acquisition capabilities.

In addition, the timsTOF Ultra features a further improved dda-PASEF acquisition mode, increasing the speed to 300 Hz for up to 18,000 collision cross-section (CCS)-enabled MS/MS spectra per minute to enable in-depth 4D-Proteomics and 4D-Lipidomics / 4D-Metabolomics with very short LC gradients of just minutes.

Bruker's CSI Ultra ion source, pivotal for highest nano-flow sensitivity, has been further optimized for the timsTOF Ultra by focussing the vortex gas at the nanospray tip to improve ion transmission. The vortex ensures ionization across gradients for flow rates of 50-5000 nL/min.

Dr. Christof Lenz, Head of the Core Facility Proteomics at Universitätsmedizin Göttingen, commented: "Installation of the new CSI source has become even simpler, and we can now literally exchange columns and emitters in a minute, at the same or better performance. In addition, the novel screw-on design provides emitter positioning and alignment without the need for manual adjustment. I like it, and importantly, the technicians in my lab do!"

Bruker's successful VIP-HESI ion source is now equipped with new microFlow emitter capabilities. This enables efficient ionization at microflow and analytical LC flow rates, taking advantage of the ultra-high sensitivity, robustness, and speed of the timsTOF platform.

Dr. Johanna Tüshaus from the Küster lab at Technical University Munich said: "Planning a large-scale brain proteomics project, we needed a fast, sensitive, and robust LC-MS/MS setup. Coupling our well-established micro-flow LC technology via the VIP-HESI source to the timsTOF HT turned out to be a powerful combination. It enables

Establish first boron neutron capture therapy center in US

Aviko, Neutron form partnership to advance BNCT to treat cancer

'Helping patients live a life free of pain'

Chicago Stem Cell Therapy reports success with 'eClinicalWorks EHR'

NEW YORK, June 8: Aviko Radiopharmaceuticals, a Deerfield Management-founded biotechnology company developing medicines to unlock the potential of boron neutron capture therapy (BNCT), and Neutron Therapeutics, the leading provider of accelerator-based neutron systems for targeted radiation therapy of solid tumors, have announced the formation of a strategic partnership to advance BNCT to treat cancer. The partnership aligns the companies' efforts to build the first BNCT treatment center in the United States and to establish additional BNCT facilities through collaborations with premier academic medical centers.

"To bring BNCT to patients in need, it's critical to foster collaboration among key stakeholders who are working to advance this precision medicine modality," said Dave Greenwald, Ph.D., chief executive officer of Aviko and vice president of business development at Deerfield. "This strategic partnership brings together Aviko's expertise in drug development and Neutron's industry-leading neutron delivery technology with the goal of improving outcomes for patients with a variety of cancers."

Expanded

BNCT involves a non-toxic boron medicine that is designed to accumulate in cancer cells. The boron medicine remains inert until it is irradiated by safe, low-energy neutrons at the site of the tumor, releasing alpha particles that destroy cancerous cells. Aviko has developed a pipeline of boron medicines that exhibit properties to enable effective BNCT, including high tumor selectivity. Neutron's nuBeam® system is a comprehensive BNCT treatment suite with an accelerator that produces the highest neutron flux available in the clinical setting, leading to potentially shorter treatment times and improved patient experience.

"BNCT has demonstrated the ability to eradicate tumors in as few as one or two treatments, while minimizing damage to healthy tissue," said Elizabeth Reczek, Ph.D., chief executive officer of Neutron Therapeutics. "We're thrilled to partner with Aviko in our efforts to expand BNCT as a treatment modality in the U.S. and globally."

WESTBOROUGH, Mass., June 8: eClinicalWorks®, the largest ambulatory cloud EHR, has announced that Chicago Stem Cell Therapy & Pain Management Institute transitioned to eClinicalWorks' unified, cloud-based solution for clinics and ambulatory surgery centers (ASCs). With eClinicalWorks solution for ASCs, the practice uses an integrated system, enabling clinical data exchange, pre-visit consultations, documentation, and post-operative reminders.

Established in October 2002, Chicago Stem Cell Therapy & Pain Management Institute set a goal to help patients live a life free of pain. The Institute specializes in chronic pain and injury treatment through traditional and innovative therapies. It also offers patient education, psychological resources, and screening and prevention of substance abuse.

"We wanted the best cloud EHR and IT solution partner to help enhance the delivery of healthcare services to our patients," said Vionette Velazquez, office manager of Chicago Stem Cell Therapy & Pain Management Institute. "Prior to implementing eClinicalWorks, we were on a paper ASC documentation system. The eClinicalWorks unified solution for ASCs enabled us to optimize our operational processes for both our clinic and ASC with features such as pre-op, intra-op and post-op documentation, inventory management tracking, and access to patient information."

Injury

The eClinicalWorks EHR is an integrated and customizable platform that enables Chicago Stem Cell Therapy & Pain Management Institute to deliver more efficient and effective patient care. With real-time access to patient data, their providers can make informed decisions and provide personalized care plans. The system also streamlines administrative tasks, such as appointment scheduling and reporting, allowing staff to focus on patient care.

Chicago Stem Cell Therapy & Pain Management Institute specializes in the treatment of pain and injury through both traditional treatments and innovative regenerative therapies. Dr. Zaki Anwar is committed to helping those suffering from acute or chronic pain resume a normal life, no matter the site or source. All outpatient procedures are performed in the Joint Commission Accredited surgical center with essentially no recovery or rehabilitation time needed.

eClinicalWorks was founded in 1999 to help digitize paper charts for ambulatory practices. Today, eClinicalWorks leads the nation in innovation with cloud-based solutions for Electronic Health Records and Practice Management. In addition, we help ambulatory practices, specialists, health centers, urgent care facilities, and hospital systems manage their revenue cycle, patient relationships, and Population Health initiatives. More than 150,000 providers and nearly 1 million medical professionals rely upon the power and scalability of the eCW Cloud for flexible clinical documentation, better front-office workflows, and more efficient billing driven by Robotic Process Automation. We combine innovation, leading-edge technology, and a commitment to patient safety to enable practices to grow and thrive amid the challenges of 21st-century healthcare.

Neutron has installed its nuBeam® system at Helsinki University Hospital in Helsinki, Finland, and at Shonan Kamakura General Hospital in Kamakura City, Kanagawa prefecture, Japan.

"Recent innovations related to neutron acceleration have expanded the opportunities for BNCT to be used in a wide range of medical centers," said Bill Buckley, co-founder of Neutron Therapeutics and founder of New Zealand-based Buckley Systems. "This partnership is an example of how two companies can collaborate to advance

to optimize, and the spray stability is superb. These improvements increase sample throughput, achieve 100% uptime, and stable, precise protein quantification."


Bruker introduces 4D-Proteomics ProteoScape software for GPU-powered real-time analysis with new capabilities for quality control (QC) using Biognosys iRT kit. The kit contains eleven non-naturally occurring synthetic peptides, designed for stability, sensitivity, retention time spacing, and CCS-enablement to ensure optimal system performance monitoring in real-time.

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People

LONDON, June 8, (AP): Prince Harry entered a London courtroom in a high-stakes bid to prove the publisher of the Daily Mirror tabloid had unlawfully snooped on his life.

He left the witness box Wednesday looking fatigued and with the outcome uncertain.

The Duke of Sussex said he was highly suspicious of how reporters obtained information about him for stories from 1996 to 2011 that had caused him anguish, but he had little to support his accusations. He said journalists used burner phones and destroyed records, relying on such evidence proven in other cases.

"I believe that phone hacking was at an industrial scale across at least three of the papers at the time," he asserted in his second day of testimony in the High Court. "That is beyond any doubt."

At the end of nearly eight hours of cross-examination over two days, defense lawyer Andrew Green asked if Harry was aware of any evidence that indicated he had his phone hacked over a period of 15 years.

"No," Harry said. "That's part of the reason why I'm here."

Harry is on a mission to reform the British media, and the phone hacking allegations are central to his legal battles against publishers.

The case against Mirror Group Newspapers, which has paid more than 100 million pounds (\$125 million) to settle hundreds of unlawful information-gathering claims is the first of his three hacking lawsuits to go to trial. He says tabloid publishers invaded his privacy by eavesdropping on voicemails and hiring private investigators to report on the smallest details of his life, causing him great emotional turmoil.

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

Princess Diana, and he said intrusions by journalists led him and his wife, Meghan, to flee to the U.S. in 2020 and leave royal life behind.

His lawyer said he wasn't on a vendetta against the media, but is seeking accountability, though Harry's 55-page witness statement suggested otherwise.

"How much more blood will stain their typing fingers before someone can put a stop to this madness?" he wrote.

But his composure in court betrayed none of that acrimony.

He spoke softly and didn't lose his patience as witnesses often do under cross-examination - even as he was repeatedly asked to explain how an article had caused him pain if he wasn't certain he had read it at the time it was published.

"Most of the articles I don't remember seeing," he said. "Most of them were equally distressing then and more distressing today going through this process."

Spectacle

The spectacle of the first senior member of the royal family to testify in court in more than 130 years drew dozens of reporters, photographers and curious onlookers lucky to get a seat.

Wearing a dark suit and white shirt both days, he smiled at times, joked and laughed at others.

He got laughs Tuesday from the roughly two dozen reporters when he dismissed a longtime royal family correspondent as someone he wouldn't call a "specialist." As he juggled various large binders that contained the articles about him, he quipped, "I feel like I'm doing a workout."

Someone in the gallery sneezed in the middle of testimony and he

offered a "bless you," without breaking stride.

Mirror Group attorney Andrew Green, who has a reputation for his brutal cross-examinations, took a respectful but direct approach as he tried to dismantle Harry's allegations.

Green asked Harry if he really thought that journalists would be foolish enough to risk getting caught phone hacking after a News of the World reporter and a private investigator went to prison for such activity in 2007.

"I believe the risk is worth the reward for them," Harry answered.

Green, who has said Harry's phone wasn't hacked, asked the witness if he would be relieved or upset if the judge reached the same conclusion.

"To have a decision against me ... given that Mirror Group have admitted hacking, yes, it would feel like an injustice," Harry responded.

"So you want to have been phone hacked?" Green said.

"Nobody wants to be phone hacked," Harry replied.

Justice Timothy Fancourt, who will deliver the verdict later in the year, asked how long Harry had noticed unusual activity on his phone that he only later attributed to hacking.

"From the moment I had a mobile phone. ... It never stopped," Harry said. "I remember a lot of missed calls that lasted one second, I remember a lot of people asking me, 'Did you get my voicemail?'"

Harry's skepticism of the press included suggestions that anonymous sources were fabricated and extended to people quoted by name.

More than once, he said that seeing something in print attributed to someone "doesn't mean that it's true" and said false information was added to stories "to put people like myself off the scent."

Variety



This image released by Searchlight Pictures shows Jesse Garcia in a scene from 'Flamin' Hot,' a tale of how a Mexican American janitor came up with the idea for Flamin' Hot Cheetos. (AP)

Film

Winning tale of perseverance, family love

Flamin' Hot Cheetos get loaded origin tale

By Mark Kennedy

Flamin' Hot Cheetos get an origin story worthy of any Marvel superhero with Hulu's totally engrossing "Flamin' Hot." It's the tale of how a struggling Mexican American janitor came up with the idea of adding spice to the cornmeal, forever saving after-school snacking.

Is it true? Probably not. Don't let that stop you. You'll wish "Flamin' Hot" was accurate because it's a winning tale of perseverance, family love, proud heritage and blue-collar success, told with a wink, some Cheetos dust and a ton of love by Eva Longoria, in her directorial debut.

Jesse Garcia stars as Richard Montañez, a one-time Frito-Lay floor-sweeper in southern California who convinced his bosses to make a snack that celebrates the flavors of Mexico despite a seven-layer dip of sceptics.

"New products take years to develop, cost millions to launch and they do not get created by blue-collar hoodlums, who probably can't spell hoodlum," our hero is told.

Nevertheless, Montañez persists, cracking the Latino market and repairing his relationship with his abusive father along the way. "I'm the guy who helped bring the world the most popular snack it's ever seen," he says in a voice-over.

It's an unlikely story, for sure. No, really. It's unlikely. The Los Angeles Times has published allegations that Montañez fabricated his role in the snack's creation and Frito-Lay says he "was not involved."

But Longoria and the screenplay by Lewis Colick and Linda Yvette Chávez - based on Montañez memoir - will have you cheering when the garbled red snacks finally zip along on an assembly line and you'll be ready to gleefully fist-bump Montañez, played understatedly but with deep soul by Garcia.

This is more than just a snack-version "Rocky" story, with the filmmakers exploring the insecurity of factory shift workers, the stress of integrating into white culture, how hard it is for corporations to innovate and the ability to silence the voices in your head that urge you to quit.

In one heartbreaking early scene, Montañez - so poor he waters down the milk for his kids and uses chewing gum to seal holes in their shoes - is wide-eyed at the Frito-Lay factory until he notices all the overcooked chips are tossed. "People are always trying to throw away the brown ones," he says.

The filmmakers enliven their story with wonderful flights of fancy, like when we see Montañez lose it and beat up a manager with a mop after being called Paco. "Nah, just kidding," he says in the voice over. "What you think? It was my first week on the job."

Portrayal

To show the passage of time during the Reagan administration, they've also cleverly got a man on the factory floor holding a box reading "1985," the extruder pumps out "1986" and forklifts carrying boxes that read "1987" and "1988."

There are a few references to Frito-Lay scientists in the Midwest also working on a spicy flavor, but this is strictly a fist-in-the-air portrayal of Montañez alone, set to a soundtrack of Latin artists like Santana, Los Lobos and Ozomatli.

His heroic arc is more than a little unbelievable, especially when he taps his former drug-dealing pals to start handing out free bags of chips like pushers, and for the many times he jumps up on a piece of factory equipment to deliver a "Dead Poets Society"-like speech.

Dennis Haysbert as a gruff engineer, Annie Gonzalez as Montañez's loving wife and Tony

Shalhoub as the CEO of Frito-Lay all add welcome flavor notes.

It's the montages that really shine, like the moment in a park when Montañez, eating elote and watching everyone put hot sauce on their food, gets a vision of a spicy snack. "I had been searching for an answer. Or a door to open. And there it was all around me. It had been there the entire time," he says.

There's also the sequence when he and his family try every chile combo - poblano, pasilla, serrano, guajillo and habanero included - until they find the right formula, often hovering around their youngest kid as he samples a chip and gives them the green light.

The final product is credited with opening the door to cool new convenience store flavors and for US corporations to finally respect the Latino market. That's a lot of stuff to put in a bag of chips, even if it's all made up. But it's so fun to watch. It burns so good.

"Flamin' Hot," a Searchlight Pictures release, is rated PG-13 for "strong language and brief drug material." Running time: 190 minutes. Two and half stars out of four.

Also:

LOS ANGELES: "Avatar: The Way of Water" finally washed onto streaming shores Wednesday. **James Cameron's** sci-fi sequel started streaming on Disney+ and HBO Max after becoming the third highest-grossing movie of all time in theaters. "The Way of Water" has made \$2.32 billion at the box office, trailing only the \$2.9 billion of the original "Avatar" and the \$2.79 billion of "Avengers: Endgame." In her review, AP Film Writer **Lindsey Bahr** called "The Way of Water," "a truly dazzling cinematic experience that will have you floating on a blockbuster high." (AP)

LOS ANGELES: Maria Sherman has been named The Associated Press' music writer, a key position responsible for delivering news on a beat of global significance for the news cooperative.

Sherman, whose first day was Monday, will lead music coverage for the AP's entertainment and lifestyles department, which boasts video, photo and text journalists on three continents. She will also work closely with colleagues in AP's US and international bureaus and across its global beat teams.

"Our readers and our customers will discover new music and be better informed and gain a better understanding of the rapidly evolving music landscape through Maria's coverage," **Anthony McCartney**, global entertainment and lifestyles editor, said.

Sherman, 31, is based in Los Angeles. An accomplished music and culture journalist, she previously worked as a culture writer at Netflix, senior writer at Jezebel, managing editor at Gizmodo Media Group, senior correspondent at Fuse TV and contributor at BuzzFeed Music.

Born in Texas and raised primarily in Germany with some other stops, she studied musical and cultural criticism, as well as creative writing, at New York University.

Her first book, "Larger Than Life: A History of Boy Bands from NKOTB to BTS," was published in 2020 and is being adapted into a documentary directed by **Gia Coppola**. (AP)

□ □ □

LOS ANGELES: Tupac Shakur received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on Wednesday, just several days before the hip-hop legend's birthday.

The late rapper's sister, Sekyiwa "Set" Shakur, accepted the star on behalf of their family. During her speech, she shed tears while describing her older brother's vision of being celebrated with a star in Hollywood.

"From the first time he stepped foot on this stage of the Apollo Theater at 13 years old, before anyone recognized his name, he knew he had the dream to have a star here on the Walk of Fame," said **Sekyiwa Shakur**, who often took deep breaths between sentences to collect herself.

The Walk of Fame said Shakur

was selected to receive a star in 2013, but the organization waited for his family and estate to select a date.

Shakur was given the 2,758th star on the Walk of Fame. His birthday is June 16.

"Now we gather here today to unveil Tupac's star not only paying tribute to his contributions to



Sekyiwa



Tupac

the music industry, but also speaks volumes to the lasting impact he's had on this world," she continued.

"Today, we're not just honoring a star in the ground. But we're honoring the work and the passion that he's put into making his dreams come true."

Shakur, one of the most prolific figures in hip-hop, died in 1996

from gunshot wounds at the age of 25. His professional music career only lasted five years, but he sold more than 75 million records worldwide, including the diamond-certified album "All Eyez on Me," which was packed with hits including "California Love (Remix)," "I Ain't Mad at Cha" and "How Do U Want It."

He was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 2017.

As an actor, Shakur starred in several popular films such as "Poetic Justice," "Gang Related," "Juice" and "Above the Rim."

"He defied the distinction between art and activism," said radio personality Big Boy, who emceed the ceremony. (AP)

People & Places

Television

Cuoco, Messina unite

CNN’s Licht out after a tumultuous tenure

NEW YORK, June 8, (AP): CNN ousted chief executive **Chris Licht** after a tumultuous year leading the struggling news network that culminated in a damning magazine profile and the growing realization that he’d lost the confidence of the network’s journalists.

The change was announced at CNN’s editorial meeting Wednesday morning and came just two days after Licht said he would “fight like hell” to earn the trust of those around him.

David Zaslav, CEO of CNN parent company Warner Bros. Discovery, appointed a four-person interim leadership team, and said at the editorial meeting that he would conduct a thorough search for Licht’s replacement.

Licht had a mandate to try and make CNN more palatable to both sides of the country’s political divide; Republicans had become increasingly suspicious of the network following repeated attacks by former President Donald Trump.

But some at the network saw Licht’s mandate for change as a repudiation of their past work, and a live town hall interview with Trump last month drew widespread criticism.

Earlier in the year, Licht revamped the network’s morning show, but that proved unsuccessful and led to the firing of longtime personality Don Lemon. Efforts to build a new prime-time lineup moved slowly, with Kaitlan Collins only recently appointed to fill at 9 p.m. hour without a permanent host since Chris Cuomo was fired in December 2021.

Licht oversaw layoffs last year following Zaslav’s decision to shutter the CNN+ streaming service only weeks after it had started.

Licht, who had produced MSNBC’s “Morning Joe,” CBS’ morning news show and Stephen Colbert’s late-night show, was appointed by Zaslav just over a year ago to replace an internally popular predecessor, Jeff Zucker. Zucker was fired for not revealing a consensual relationship with a fellow CNN executive.

Zaslav said in a memo to CNN staff members that the job “was never going to be easy, especially at a time of great disruption and transformation.

Journalism

“Chris poured his heart and soul into it,” he said. “He has a deep love for journalism and this business and that has been evident throughout his tenure. Unfortunately, things did not work out the way we had hoped - and ultimately that’s on me.”

Licht did not immediately return a message seeking comment.

A lengthy profile of Licht in Atlantic magazine that came out on Friday, titled “Inside the Meltdown at CNN,” proved embarrassing and likely sealed his fate. Some journalists were angered because of Licht’s criticism of some of CNN’s COVID coverage before he had arrived.

Some of CNN’s chief anchors - Jake Tapper, Anderson Cooper and Erin Burnett - had privately expressed their reservations about Licht’s leadership, according to a Wall Street Journal article that was posted Tuesday evening.

Meanwhile, viewers were disappearing. CNN’s prime-time viewership of 494,000 in May was down 16% from April and was less than half of its closest news rival, MSNBC.

Zaslav appointed four current CNN executives - Amy Entelis, Virginia Moseley, Eric Sherling and David Leavy - to run the network while a search for a replacement is conducted.

“We are in good hands, allowing us to take the time we need to run a thoughtful and thorough search for a new leader,” Zaslav said in the memo.



In the new Peacock series “Based on a True Story,” debuting Thursday, **Kaley Cuoco** plays Ava, a woman obsessed with true crime. She consumes these dark stories all day, analyzes the cases with her friends and murder-centric podcasts help lull her to sleep at night.

“Do we have to wake up to murder every morning?” her husband Nathan, played by **Chris Messina**, asks in a scene.

The series highlights an explosion of coverage of true crime in recent years. It is the subject of podcasts, documentary series, books, and social media posts where amateur sleuths breathlessly weigh in on the latest crime du jour.

In “Based on a True Story,” Ava hatches a plan to start a podcast - hosted by the couple - to interview a serial killer. She is confident that it will be lucrative and add excitement into their otherwise middle-aged monotony.

The choices made by Ava and Nathan in the series, argues Cuoco, are similar to the subjects of actual true crime stories whose fate is determined by one bad decision.

Crime

“It happens all the time,” said Cuoco. “That’s why this was very believable to me. They are in a desperate situation, make a really ridiculous choice out of desperation and end up in a very bad place. In my opinion, they’re as bad as the killer by the end of this,” she said.

Cuoco admits to being a fan of true crime herself and likens it to “looking at an accident” on the road. “We’re rubberneckers,” she said.

Co-star **Liana Liberato**, who plays Ava’s younger sister, has a list of true crime podcasts to recommend. “Some of my favorites are ‘S-Town’, ‘Root of Evil’, ‘To Live and Die in LA.’ I’m a little too obsessed. I relate very much to Kaley’s character,” Liberato said.

She’s not the only one. On the morning of the cast’s interviews, **Priscilla Quintana**, who plays Ava’s friend Ruby on the show, woke extra early and tuned into, what else but true crime.

“I woke up at 4:30 a.m., and I didn’t have to be here until like seven, so I cleaned my whole kitchen (and) listened to the newest episode of ‘Crime Junkie.’ Why is it the first thing I do when I wake up in the morning,” she wondered aloud.

In one episode, Cuoco and Messina’s characters attend CrimeCon in **Las Vegas** - which is similar to Comic-Con but for fans of true crime. It’s an actual event, by the way, that will be held later this year in Orlando.

“I see the addiction of it,” Messina said who doesn’t seek out the genre but can get caught up by an episode of say, “Dateline,” like the rest of us. He likes to use it as his own mental exercise to be prepared if things go south. “For me, it’s always a nice puzzle to figure out how people got into this situation and how can I not. And if I do, how can I be saved?”



This image released by Grapevine Public Relations shows Stark Sands (left), and Betsy Wolfe during a performance of ‘& Juliet’ in New York. (AP)

Stage

Tony Award-nominated Wolfe on ‘& Juliet’

‘This was the story I wanted to tell’

NEW YORK, June 8, (AP): One recent day, Broadway star Betsy Wolfe was up at 4 a.m. to perform on “Good Morning America.” Then there was a formal gala lunch and a few snuggle hours with her young daughter. Finally, as the sun set, her main job beckoned: A big new musical that needed her voice.

Such is the life of a Tony nominee, something Wolfe has earned this season for the first time. “The most grateful exhaustion is the best way I can possibly describe it,” she says with a laugh. “I am drinking way too much coffee this time in life.”

Wolfe stars in “& Juliet” a Tony-nominated musical which reimagines what would happen if “Romeo and Juliet” didn’t end so sadly and adds some of the biggest pop hits of the past few decades by the likes of Britney Spears and Katy Perry. Wait, a jukebox musical on top of Shakespeare?

“There’s a healthy amount of doubt that everyone has when you first hear about this piece. We’ve seen jukebox musicals before. I’ve been in them,” she says. “But there’s something about this one - it’s truly a unicorn.”

Wolfe plays Williams Shakespeare’s wife, Anne, who in playwright David West Read’s book challenges her husband to change Juliet’s story for future generations, and it changes her life, too.

“Women often shrink themselves - to not intimidate, to not threaten their partner. And so to be able to come out within the first five minutes of the show and not do any of that, but just be fearless, saying, ‘I think we can make this better.’”

Wolfe, whose Broadway credits include “Waitress” and “Bullets Over Broadway” and revivals of “Falsettos” and “The Mystery of Edwin Drood,” has often played a girl-

friend or a wife of a more successful artist but is one of the two heroines now. “Where most of my roles have seemingly ended in the first five pages, this one began.”

The musical’s crowning achievement is its ability to use massive pop hits by Max Martin, who had a hand in Backstreet Boys’ “Larger Than Life,” Kelly Clarkson’s “Since U Been Gone,” Celine Dion’s “That’s The Way It Is” and Justin Timberlake’s “Can’t Stop the Feeling.”

In one special move, Spears’ “I’m Not a Girl, Not Yet a Woman” is sung by Juliet’s nonbinary friend, May, played by genderqueer Justin David Sullivan. It’s a landmark moment for Broadway, allowing a non-binary main character to talk about being misgendered and what it’s like to date while trans.

Projects

It is the first project Wolfe has tackled since the pandemic and the birth of her child, 3-year-old Poppy, with husband Adam Krauthamer, a Broadway musician. She was six months pregnant when the pandemic began, and Poppy was 18 months old when Wolfe agreed to do the show, taking the family to Toronto during its first runs.

“I knew that the projects that I would choose from here on out would be shaped by the fact that it had to be worth the time and the sacrifice that it takes from all parties involved. And this story in particular just really spoke to me,” she says.

“I went in doubting how it could possibly work and honestly, by Page 3, maybe four, I was cracking up and I had this feeling in my gut that this was the next show that I wanted to do. This was the story I wanted to tell, and this was a show that I needed to see.”

Some audience members have walked out on her show, unhappy

timeless classics.”

Snyder was among those who helped transform the industry. When he joined Simon & Schuster as a sales assistant in the early 1960s, publishing houses were mostly privately owned, some still run by their founders. By the time he was forced out by Viacom in 1994, Simon & Schuster and such rivals as Random House and HarperCollins were under corporate ownership and had bought out numerous former competitors.



Jamie Floyd, (left), and Ty Herndon, (right), perform during The Concert For Love and Acceptance, Wednesday, June 7, in Nashville, Tenn. (AP)



Actor Piper Perabo attends the Tribeca Festival opening night premiere of ‘Kiss the Future’ at the OKX Theater at BMCC Tribeca Performing Arts Center on Wednesday, June 7, in New York. (AP)



Snyder



Winston

Variety

NEW YORK: George Winston, the Grammy-winning pianist who blended jazz, classical, folk and other stylings on such million-selling albums as “Autumn,” “Winter Into Spring” and “December,” has died at age 73.

According to an announcement on his website www.georgewinston.com, confirmed by a spokesman, Winston died Sunday after a 10-year battle with cancer.

“Throughout his cancer treatments, George continued to write and record new music, and he stayed true to his greatest passion: performing for live audiences while raising funds for Feeding America to help fight the national hunger crisis along with donating proceeds from each of his concerts to local food banks,” a statement on his website reads.

His most recent album, “Night,” came out last year.

Winston was a native of **Hart, Michigan**, who grew up in **Montana, Florida** and **Mississippi** and drew upon influences ranging from Fats Waller to the Doors. He released more than a dozen solo piano albums, along with soundtracks for the TV miniseries “This Is America, Charlie Brown” and “The Velveteen Rabbit,” which featured Meryl Streep’s narration of the children’s classic. His 1995 release “Forest” won a Grammy for best New Age recording, while his Doors tribute “Night Divides the Day” received a Grammy nomination in 2004 for best contemporary instrumental album.

“I came up with the melodic style that I play in 1971, and I have always called it ‘Folk Piano,’ (or more accurately ‘Rural Folk Piano’), since it is melodic and not complicated in its approach, like folk guitar picking and folk songs, and has a rural sensibility,” reads a quote from a “Q & A” section on his web site.

“I just play the songs the best I can, inspired by the seasons and the topographies and regions, and, occasionally, by sociological elements, and try to improve as a player over time.” (AP)



NEW YORK: Richard Snyder, a visionary and imperious executive at Simon & Schuster who in bold-faced style presided over the publisher’s exponential rise during the second half of the 20th century and helped define an era of consolidation and growing corporate power, has died. He was 90.

with the direction of a feminist “Romeo and Juliet” or the pro-transgender-rights theme.

“Occasionally, for some people it’s too much. And that’s OK. But the point is this: I think that we’re pushing the conversation forward in a thoughtful way,” she says.

Stark Sands, who plays William Shakespeare, calls Wolfe “the best scene partner I could ever ask for.” He says she’s playful, genuinely funny and surprising - constantly trying new ways to deliver.

“She knew that when she looked in the audience and saw moms and their daughters watching this, she knew what it could mean,” he says. “This is her opportunity to have an impact in a story about empowerment.”

On Sunday, Wolfe faces-off in the category of best performance by an actress in a featured role in a musical with Julia Lester from “Into the Woods,” Ruthie Ann Miles in “Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street,” Bonnie Milligan of “Kimberly Akimbo” and NaTasha Yvette Williams from “Some Like It Hot.”

But even if she doesn’t win, she’s gotten the approval of one person that means the world to her - her daughter. Poppy just saw the show for the first time, loves singing “Roar” and hanging out with Juliet, played by Lorna Courtney.

“I was thinking like, ‘Oh, this will be so enlightening.’ Like, ‘She’ll get to see this really cool rewrite.’ And what’s even sweeter for me is this just might be the world that she thinks is normal,” Wolfe says.

“This is not a rewrite for her. This is the world and how beautiful that this story becomes her normal. And if that’s the starting place for maybe a generation, that’s actually the coolest gift that I could give her.”

President of Simon & Schuster Inc. starting in 1975, and CEO from 1978 to 1994, Snyder built a modern company in ways at times too modern for the world of books. Simon & Schuster’s revenues multiplied from around \$40 million annually in the 1970s to more than \$2 billion by the mid-1990s, making it at the time the country’s largest publisher, a position now held by Penguin Random House.

Bestsellers during Snyder’s reign included **Mary Higgins Clark**’s crime thrillers and such Pulitzer Prize winners as **David McCullough**’s “Truman” and **Larry McMurtry**’s “Lonesome Dove.” Snyder also was an early advocate for electronic publishing and computerizing business operations, and he vastly expanded Simon & Schuster by purchasing such educational companies as Prentice Hall and Esquire Inc., spending more than \$1 billion overall on acquisitions.

“You cannot be a publisher any longer without also being a businessman,” Snyder told The New York Times in 1984. “The thought that you can publish just because you love books is a sure prescription for failure.”

Those who knew him could not help talking about him. The New Yorker labeled him a “warrior-king,” and former Simon & Schuster editor **Robert Gottlieb** recalled his “Ahab-like determination to see Simon & Schuster outgrow Random House.” Colleagues who departed the company shared stories about his profane, peak-volume tirades, although Gottlieb would note that “this famously difficult man could command loyalty, respect and even affection.” (AP)

Health

Platonic co-parenting

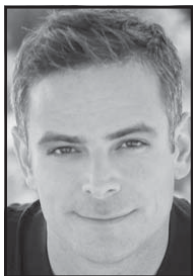
People find new way for ‘building a family’

NEW YORK, June 8, (AP): Nick Farrow wanted what a lot of people do: a child, and a parenting partner. At 45, after a long-term romance didn’t work out, he decided to take matters into his own hands, entering into a platonic open arrangement that has flourished for nine years, since daughter Milly was born.

Whether it’s with friends, known sperm dors or co-parenting connections made on so-called mating sites, more families are coming together platonically, without the pain of divorce or the added stress and expense of going it alone.

Choosing to parent together platonically while living separately or under the same roof is an idea that’s been around for years among LGBTQ+ people. It has gained ground more recently among heterosexuals, and interest skyrocketed during the pandemic.

Farrow and his parenting partner live about 15 miles apart, he in the English seaside town of Brighton. Their daughter, conceived through insemination, shuttles between the two. Not unlike divorced couples with kids, the two come together for Milly’s birthdays, and they sometimes alternate Christmases and other special occasions.



Explaining their arrangement to loved ones was a process.

“When the time came, we got everybody to meet everybody,” Farrow said of family and friends. “We invited them to ask all the difficult, awkward questions. There was the feeling that what we were doing was a bit odd, that it could be risky, that it could be dangerous. It really, really helped to get everybody on board.”

Farrow met his parenting partner on Modamily, one of a handful of sites and apps aimed at family building, as opposed to the hookup culture and endless swiping of dating services.

Since 2011, about 100,000 people from around the world have registered on Modamily. At least 1,000 babies have been born through partnerships created there, said founder and CEO **Ivan Fatovic**. About half involved known sperm donors from a database of nearly 10,000 that the site maintains, he said.

Different

“We’re seeing people look at all the different alternate ways of starting a family because they’ve been thinking about it for many years,” Fatovic said. “Whatever they’ve been doing up to this point wasn’t working so they start thinking outside the box.”

There’s no one scenario that defines elective co-parenting. Most, but definitely not all, platonic co-parents live separately. Some who seek out Modamily or similar services are in search of sperm donors they can meet personally, with or without the potential to share their lives once a baby is born.

Other parenting partnerships come together out of need for financial and care support in raising children. Still others involve two friends who want children without romance. And there are those like Farrow, unlucky in love with a burning desire to parent, but not alone.

Last year, TV commentator Van Jones welcomed a baby girl with a longtime female friend. He was already the father of two boys with his ex-wife, Jana Carter. Jones declined an interview request through a spokesman.

And there’s Jones’s CNN colleague, Anderson Cooper. He’s the father of two boys born via surrogacy after he and boyfriend Benjamin Maisani downshifted to close friends. Cooper and Maisani are now parenting together.

The idea of co-parenting is, of course, nothing new among divorced couples, but more divorced women are leaning on each other to make it through.

About six years ago, 39-year-old Ashley Simpo and her son moved in with a friend and her two kids to share expenses and parenting duties in Brooklyn, New York. High rents and low salaries were crushing them both.

“I think that the alternative for both of us would have been homelessness or moving back in with parents and re-locating. For parents, that means ripping your kids out of their schools,” she said.

Their “mommune” of five lasted about six months, until their finances stabilized and they amicably ended the arrangement.

“It really opened my eyes in terms of how mothers support each other. I had never really tapped into a mother ship or an intentional community network,” said Simpo, who had been divorced about two years at the time. “It was really healing for me.”

Platonic co-parenting arrangements require thoughtful structure. That can get difficult when multiple parents are involved - after divorce, for instance, or when friendships change.

Many sign parenting agreements with the help of lawyers or family coaches to crystallize rules and lay out what is non-negotiable. There’s religion, but also what happens if either co-parent begins dating or gets married? And there’s the day-to day, like how finances are handled and what disciplinary approach will be taken.

Relationship

“In platonic co-parenting relationships, I think people forget to plan for all of those little nuances,” said Alysha Price, who owns a firm offering parenting coaches. “It’s not always going to be stars and rainbows and happy days.”

In London, Patrick Harrison co-founded PollenTree.com in 2012 as a resource for people interested in platonic co-parenting. It grew quickly and now serves the U.S. as well. Users are split between people looking to meet and choose sperm donors without the option of co-parenting, and those “really focused on creating their own kind of alternative family,” Harrison said.

“People are looking at family life and thinking, ‘I want some of that, too.’ People have this kind of misconception that it’s all very alternative, but it’s deeply not. A lot of our members are really conventional. They want kids. They just want kids,” Harrison said.

The pandemic sent Pollen Tree’s numbers soaring. Just before lockdowns began, Harrison said, the site had about 40 signups a day. The number shot up to 100 on some days in 2020 and 2021. Things have stabilized for now among its 100,000 members. Costs are in the \$30 range monthly.

Tracy Smith, 43, is an immigration attorney in Tulsa, Oklahoma. She found Modamily in 2020 and has been trying to find a platonic arrangement with a stranger.

“I’ve always wanted to become a mother. I’ve always wanted my own biological child,” she said. “But I’ve really not had great luck in relationships. I’d been on the dating apps for 13 years.”

Smith has spoken to male friends about platonically parenting together.

“I haven’t found anybody who’s willing to take that leap. I mean, it’s a big commitment. The No. 1 choice is a romantic relationship that leads to a baby. But I mean, I’m 43 and dating is tough. It’s exhausting.”



In this photo provided by Duke Health, surgeons Dr. Jacob Schroder, (left), and Dr. Zachary Fitch perform a heart transplant at Duke University Hospital in Durham, N.C., in October 2022. Most transplanted hearts are from donors who are brain dead, but research published by Duke Health on Wednesday, June 7, 2023, shows a different approach can be just as successful and boost the number of available organs. It’s called donation after circulatory death, a method long used to recover kidneys and other organs but not more fragile hearts. (AP)

Health

More patients can get a chance at lifesaving surgery

New transplant boosts heart donor pool

WASHINGTON, June 8, (Agencies): Most transplanted hearts are from donors who are brain dead, but new research shows a different approach can be just as successful and boost the number of available organs.

It’s called donation after circulatory death, a method long used to recover kidneys and other organs but not more fragile hearts. Duke Health researchers said Wednesday that using those long-shunned hearts could allow possibly thousands more patients a chance at a lifesaving transplant - expanding the number of donor hearts by 30%.

“Honestly if we could snap our fingers and just get people to use this, I think it probably would go up even more than that,” said transplant surgeon Dr. Jacob Schroder of Duke University School of Medicine, who led the research. “This really should be standard of care.”

The usual method of organ donation occurs when doctors, through careful testing, determine someone has no brain function after a catastrophic injury - meaning they’re brain-dead. The body is left on a ventilator that keeps the heart beating and organs oxygenated until they’re recovered and put on ice.

In contrast, donation after circulatory death occurs when someone has a nonsurvivable brain injury but, because all brain function hasn’t yet ceased, the family decides to withdraw life support and the heart stops. That means organs go without oxygen for a while before they can be recovered - and surgeons, worried the heart would be damaged, left it behind.

What’s changed: Now doctors can remove those hearts and put them in a machine that “reanimates” them, pumping through blood and nutrients as they’re transported - and demonstrating if they work OK before the planned transplant.

Wednesday’s study, conducted at multiple hospitals around the country, involved 180 transplant recipients, half who received DCD hearts and half given hearts from brain-dead donors that were transported on ice.

Survival six months later was about the same - 94% for the recipients of cardiac-death donations and 90% for those who got the usual hearts, the researchers reported in the New England Journal of Medicine.

The findings are exciting and show

“the potential to increase fairness and equity in heart transplantation, allowing more persons with heart failure to have access to this lifesaving therapy,” transplant cardiologist Dr. Nancy Sweitzer of Washington University in St. Louis, who wasn’t involved with the study, wrote in an accompanying editorial.

Last year, 4,111 heart transplants were performed in the US, a record number but not nearly enough to meet the need. Hundreds of thousands of people suffer from advanced heart failure but many never are offered a transplant and still others die waiting for one.

Researchers in Australia and the UK first began trying DCD heart transplants about seven years ago. Duke pioneered the US experiments in late 2019, one of about 20 U.S. hospitals now offering this method. Last year, there were 345 such heart transplants in the US, and 227 so far this year, according to the United Network for Organ Sharing.

Method

In the Duke-led study, nearly 90% of the DCD hearts recovered wound up being transplanted, signaling that it’s worthwhile for more hospitals to start using the newer method.

Sweitzer noted that many would-be donors have severe brain injuries but don’t meet the criteria for brain death, meaning a lot of potentially usable hearts never get donated. But she also cautioned that there’s still more to learn, noting that the very sickest patients on the waiting list were less likely to receive DCD hearts in the study.

Schroder said most who received DCD hearts already had implanted heart pumps that made the transplant more difficult to perform, even if they weren’t ranked as high on the waiting list.

The study was funded by TransMedics, which makes the heart storage system.

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Federal appeals court judges are seeking compromise on whether government requirements that health insurance include coverage for HIV prevention, cancer screenings and some other types of preventive care can be maintained while a legal battle over the mandates plays out.

The 5th US Circuit Court of Appeals

panel on Wednesday told attorneys on both sides of the issue to report by Friday on the possibility of a temporary compromise in the case.

At issue is a March ruling by a federal judge in Texas who said some of the preventive care requirements under former President **Barack Obama**’s 13-year-old health care law are unconstitutional. The decision jeopardized cost-free coverage of HIV-preventing drugs, cancer screenings and various other types of preventive care for millions of Americans.

The New Orleans-based 5th US Circuit blocked immediate enforcement of the ruling in May. On Tuesday, three 5th Circuit judges heard arguments on whether they should continue to stay enforcement of the ruling during what could be a lengthy appeals process.

An attorney for plaintiffs in the case - including a conservative activist and a Christian dentist who oppose coverage for contraception and HIV prevention on religious grounds - said in court Tuesday that a stay is unnecessary. Insurers and employers who provide employee health insurance would be unlikely to drop preventive coverage before the case is finally resolved, attorney **Jonathan Mitchell** said.

Also:

BRUSSELS: Mental health problems affect one in six people in the EU and mental health is **Europe**’s silent epidemic, **Margaritis Schinas**, Vice-President of the European Commission told a press conference in Brussels Wednesday.

Presenting an EU initiative to deal with mental health problems in Europe, he said: “Loneliness affects around one-quarter of the population (22 to 26 percent) across the EU.”

“And suicide is the second leading cause of death in young people (after road accidents). Behind these statistics lie millions of personal stories. With this initiative, we want to bring mental health to the spotlight,” stressed the EU official.

With this initiative, we want to bring mental health to the spotlight; stop mental health problems from being considered taboo.

The initiative will rest on three guiding principles that should apply to every EU citizen: prevention, treatment, and reintegration, he added.



The toes of a baby are seen DHR Health, July 29, 2020, in McAllen, Texas. The idea of co-parenting is nothing new among divorced couples, but more divorced women are leaning on each other to make it through. (AP)



Del Campo



Sánchez

Discovery

Kilauea begins erupting: Kilauea, the second largest volcano in Hawaii, began erupting on Wednesday after a three-month pause, US Geological Survey officials said.

The survey’s Hawaiian Volcano Observatory said in a statement that a glow was detected in webcam images from Kilauea’s summit early in the morning, indicating that an eruption was occurring within the Halema’uma’u crater in the summit caldera.

The images show fissures at the base of the crater generating lava flows on the crater floor’s surface, the observatory said.

Before issuing the eruption notice, the observatory said increased earthquake activity and changes in the patterns of ground deformation at the summit started Tuesday night, indicating the movement of magma in the subsurface.

All activity is within a closed area of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, on Hawaii’s Big Island. (AP)

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Algeria discovers coins: The Ministry of Culture and the Arts announced Tuesday the discovery of a coin collection of 1,140 pieces dating back to the first centuries AD, at an archaeological site in East of Algeria.

This came in a statement by the ministry saying that these coins date back to the fourth century AD and the Byzantine period (sixth century AD).

“This collection was discovered in Mador Archeological site located in East of Algeria during a supervised digging by the ministry and several specialized archeologists,” it added. (KUNA)

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Activists deflate tires: A group of climate activists claimed responsibility on Wednesday for deflating the tires of sport utility vehicles in Denmark’s capital. More than 100 vehicles were vandalized, police said.

The Tyre Extinguishers said on its website that “we are defending ourselves against climate change, air pollution and unsafe drivers.” The group has been active in other countries.

Copenhagen police appealed for witnesses to come forward, saying “we are investigating the vandalism and would like to hear from citizens who have seen something” late Tuesday or early Wednesday.

Police spokesman Martin Kajberg told the Ekstra Bladet newspaper that it was difficult to say exactly how many vehicles had been affected until everyone had reported their tires being flat. A note had been placed on the affected cars, he added. It wasn’t immediately known what it said.

The affected vehicles were both gasoline-powered and electric SUVs, local

Copenhagen television news channel Komsnopol reported.

Tyre Extinguishers’ Twitter bio says “We will make it impossible to own an SUV in the world’s urban areas.” The group claims it has carried out similar ac-

tions before by deflating SUV tires in the United States and Europe. (AP)

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Spain registers hottest spring: Spain registered its hottest spring on re-



In this photo courtesy of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, a vaquita marina swims in the Biosphere Reserve of the Upper Gulf of California and Colorado River Delta, in the Sea of Cortez, Mexico, May 20, 2023. Experts on the expedition estimate they saw between 10 and 13 of the porpoises during nearly two weeks of sailing in May 2023 in the Gulf of California. (AP)

cord this year, and its second driest ever, the state meteorological agency said Wednesday.

Rubén Del Campo, spokesman for the Aemet weather agency, said the latest data showed a continuation of the extremely high temperatures the country suffered in 2022, which was the hottest year ever recorded in Spain.

The spring heat was accompanied by a scarcity of rain that will exacerbate Spain’s long-term drought, despite some rainfall over the last month. Spain’s Ecological Transition Ministry reported Tuesday that the country’s reservoirs are at 47.4% of their capacity, consolidating a downward trend. Spain’s prime minister is **Pedro Sánchez**.

Del Campo noted knock-on effects for the Mediterranean country’s ecosystem. “Surface water temperatures recorded in 2022 were the highest since at least 1940,” he told a press conference, warning that the phenomenon endangered marine life and its ability to reproduce.

The situation inland was also made much more precarious. “These high temperatures have repercussions on both human health and ecosystems in terms of increased likelihood of forest fires,” the spokesman added.

Del Campo also issued predictions for the summer ahead, which he said would likely be “extremely hot,” though with a probability of some rainstorms. (AP)



Vancouver Whitecaps’ Russell Teibert, center left, and Ryan Gauld (center right), hoist the Voyageurs Cup after Vancouver defeated CF Montreal 2-1 during the Canadian soccer championship final in Vancouver, British Columbia. (AP)



St. Louis Cardinals center fielder Tommy Edman (19) catches the fly-out hit by Texas Rangers’ Jonah Heim during the eighth inning of a baseball game in Arlington, Texas. (AP)

Thomas returns for voluntary practices

Atlanta ‘loses’ Williams to season-ending knee injury

FLOWERY BRANCH, Ga., June 8, (AP): Atlanta Falcons running back and return specialist Avery Williams is expected to miss the 2023 season after suffering a knee injury in a non-contact drill.

Falcons coach Arthur Smith said Wednesday that Williams is expected to have season-ending surgery on Thursday to repair a torn anterior cruciate ligament. Williams suffered the injury during the team’s offseason organized team activities practice on Friday at Mercedes-Benz Stadium.

Though primarily a reserve player on offense, Williams was the Falcons’ primary punt returner in 2022. He had 18 returns for 292 yards, a strong average of 16.2 yards per return.

“We love Avery,” Smith said. “He’s got the mindset and I fully expect him to come back.”

Williams, from Boise State, was preparing for his third season. He was a fifth-round draft pick in 2021 who used his versatility, including as a cornerback, to secure a roster spot.

Williams had 22 carries for 109 yards and a touchdown and 13 catches for 61 yards last season.

New Orleans Saints receiver Michael Thomas hardly stopped smiling as he fielded questions about his first chance this week to run routes for Derek Carr - the quarterback he helped recruit.

“Just to come out here and be around the guys and the camaraderie, that’s what I miss the most,” Thomas said, adding that he sensed an opportunity “to build something special and chase something special and win a lot of games.”

Thomas, who missed all but the first three games of last season with a foot injury, and who has played in just 10 games the past three regular seasons combined, participated in a voluntary practice Tuesday for the first time this offseason.

While he did not take part in team drills, he wore a helmet and his white No. 13 practice jersey, ran routes off to the side for Saints quarterbacks and played catch with an assistant coach.

Thomas predicted that by training camp, he’ll be “full speed, just like the old days and what everyone’s used to.”

Thomas hasn’t made it through even half of a regular season since 2019, when he set an NFL record with 149 receptions and was named All-Pro for a second straight year.



Williams

FOOTBALL

Ankle problems caused him to miss nine games in 2020 and all of 2021. He began last season healthy and caught three touchdown passes before his latest injury.

Thomas could have chosen to remain off the field at least until mandatory minicamp next week. So, his eagerness to join the team this week was gratifying to coaches and teammates.

“Everybody feels that energy when he’s here,” coach Dennis Allen said. “So, I think it’s important for him to be here and he wants to be here and he’s excited about what we can potentially do this season.”

Carr said it was “just cool to have him” around.

Carr spent his first nine NFL seasons with the Raiders before entering free agency last winter and joining New Orleans. Carr recalled how Thomas influenced his decision to sign with the Saints.

And it sounds like the feeling is mutual.

“Can’t wait to play with him and just be out there and execute and create something special with him,” Thomas said. “He wants to win just like I want to win. He’s just very disciplined. He’s on top of his stuff. He came here for a reason.”

Carr said he first started throwing to Thomas at Saints headquarters Monday, the day before this week’s set of voluntary practices began.

Carr said he’s been learning what Thomas liked about playing with Saints all-time passer Drew Brees, who retired after the 2020 season.

Embassy of India
Kuwait

TENDER No.- KUJW/AM/872/04/2019

DATED- JUNE 9, 2023

TENDER NOTICE FOR MAINTENANCE OF HVAC, PLUMBING & FIREFIGHTING SYSTEM

Embassy of India, Kuwait invites bids from interested companies for operation and maintenance of HVAC, Plumbing, Firefighting system and cleaning of 29 Air Handling Units, 9 Fan Control Units and its connected ducts.

Prospective / Interested companies are advised to inspect the area and present their offers in a sealed cover marked "Offer for Maintenance of HVAC, Plumbing & Firefighting system- 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 June 28, 2023.

The detailed tender document along with its annexure may be downloaded from Central Procurement Portal <https://eprocure.gov.in/cpppt/> and also the official website of the Embassy of India, Kuwait from <https://indembkuwt.gov.in/tender-kuwait-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.

Arraez ‘raises’ MLB-leading batting average to .403, Marlins rout Royals

Reds hand Dodgers season-high fourth straight loss

MIAMI, June 8, (AP): Luis Arraez singled twice to raise his major league-leading batting average to .403 and help the Miami Marlins beat the Kansas City Royals 6-1 on Wednesday night.

Jesús Sánchez homered, singled twice and had four RBI for the Marlins, who won their sixth straight. The consecutive three-game series sweeps over the Royals and Oakland Athletics are the first by the Marlins at home since winning six straight against Washington and Houston in 2008.

Marlins starter Edward Cabrera’s one-run outing ended after throwing his warm-up pitches to begin the sixth. Manager Skip Schumaker and a Marlins trainer approached the mound and spoke with the right-hander, who was then removed.

Cabrera (5-4) gave up two hits, walked two, struck out four and hit a batter. Left-handers Steven Okert, Tanner Scott, Andrew Nardi and A.J. Puk relieved Cabrera and threw an inning each to complete the three-hitter.

Reds 8, Dodgers 6

In Cincinnati, Elly De La Cruz hit a 458-foot drive for his first major league homer, Will Benson hit a game-ending home run in the ninth and Cincinnati handed Los Angeles its season-high fourth straight loss.

De La Cruz hit an 0-1 fastball from Noah Syndergaard in the first inning that left the bat at 114.8 mph and landed into the last rows of the right-field stands at Great American Ball Park. The two-run shot tied it a 2.

A day after making his big league debut, the 21-year-old switch-hitter tripled on a curveball in the third as part of a 2-for-4 night, a drive that went to the wall in right-center on four hops. He reached third in 10.83 seconds, the fastest time in the major leagues this season, according to Statcast.

Cincinnati overcame a 6-2 deficit in a four-run third on Jonathan India’s sacrifice fly, Spencer Steer’s RBI single and Tyler Stephenson’s two-run homer.

Cardinals 1, Rangers 0

In Arlington, Alec Burleson pulled a first-pitch homer to right field in the eighth inning and St. Louis beat Texas, ending Rangers infielder Marcus Semien’s hitting streak at 25 games.

Semien was 0 for 4 to stop the longest streak in the major leagues this season and the longest of his career. The streak tied for the second longest in club history, behind Gabe Kapler’s 28-gamer in 2000.

St. Louis also snapped a five-game losing streak and ended the surging Rangers’ five-game winning streak.

Rays 2, Twins 1

In St. Petersburg, Randy Arozarena homered leading off ninth inning to lift major league-best Tampa Bay past AL Central-leading Minnesota.

After Minnesota tied it in the top of the inning, Arozarena sent an 0-1 pitch from Joao Duran (1-2) to the opposite field into the stands in right-center field.

Jason Adam (1-2) blew his fourth save opportunity in 13 chances when the Twins rallied in the ninth.

Adam hit Donovan Solano with one out and walked Max Kepler after pinch-runner Michael A. Taylor stole second. Taylor then swiped third before Royce Lewis tied it with an RBI single.

Minnesota loaded the bases when Will Castro was hit by a pinch, but third baseman Isaac Paredes started a nifty double play with a tumbling throw to second on Ryan Jeffers’ grounder.

Diamondbacks 6, Nationals 2

In Washington, Zach Davies earned his first victory in more than a year, Corbin Carroll homered and NL West-leading Arizona beat Washington.

The surprising Diamondbacks have won eight of 10, lead the National League with 37 victories and hold a two-game advantage over the Los Angeles Dodgers in the division.

Davies (1-1) had not won since May 13, 2022, going 24 starts without one. But the

Declan Rice set to leave West Ham

LONDON, June 8, (AP): England midfielder Declan Rice looks to have played his final match for West Ham.

Rice, who captained West Ham in its victory over Fiorentina in the Europa Conference League final on Wednesday, has been promised he can leave the club and wants to go, chairman David Sullivan said.

“You can’t keep a player who doesn’t want to be there,” Sullivan told British radio station Talksport on Thursday.

Rice has been linked with some of Europe’s top teams, including Arsenal and Bayern Munich.

“It’s not something we want to happen,” Sullivan said. “We offered him 200,000 pounds (\$250,000) a week 18 months ago. He turned it down.”

The 24-year-old Rice has played for West Ham since 2017. He said after Wednesday’s final that “it’s not a goodbye yet.”

“Obviously there’s loads of speculation but nothing’s happened,” Rice said. “I’m a West Ham player, I’ve got two years left on my contract. I love every minute of it.” Sullivan said West Ham has yet to receive an offer.



Argentina midfielder Alexis Mac Allister signed for Liverpool for a reported initial fee of 35 million pounds (\$43.6 million) on Thursday to mark the start of an expected rebuild by the club.

Mac Allister, part of Argentina’s World Cup-winning team last year, completed a

move from Brighton on what Liverpool described as a “long-term deal.”

“Since I won the World Cup, I said that I want to win more trophies and I think that this club will help me to do that,” the 24-year-old Mac Allister said. “That’s the aim and when you are in a big club like this one you have to win trophies. So, that’s what I want.”

Mac Allister helped Brighton secure its highest-ever Premier League finish of sixth place, which was one spot below Liverpool Brighton also qualified for the Europa League.

Mac Allister’s reputation has soared over the past year after playing a key role in Argentina’s World Cup triumph alongside Lionel Messi.

SOCCER

“It’s a dream come true - it’s amazing to be here and I can’t wait to get started,” Mac Allister said.

“I wanted to be in (from) the first day of preseason, so it’s good that everything is done. I’m looking forward to meeting my teammates.” Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp needs to strengthen in midfield after the club confirmed James Milner, Naby Keita and Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain are departing this offseason.

Klopp’s team had a disappointing season, failing to qualify for the Champions League for the first time in seven years and not winning a trophy.

Braves 7, Mets 5

In Atlanta, Michael Harris II hit a two-run, tiebreaking homer off Adam Ottavino in the eighth inning and Atlanta rallied to beat New York for its fourth straight victory.

The third-place Mets wasted a three-run lead for the second straight night. They have lost five straight for the first time since 2021 and, at 30-32, dropped 7 1/2 games behind Atlanta in the NL East.

New York slugger Pete Alonso was hit on the left wrist by a 96 mph fastball from Charlie Morton in the first inning. The Mets said Alonso, who leads the major leagues with 22 homers, has a bruise and will get a CT scan on Thursday.

Mets co-ace Max Scherzer gave up five runs and 11 hits, one shy of his career high, in 5 2/3 innings.

Padres 10, Mariners 3

In San Diego, Juan Soto had a career-high five hits with four RBIs, Gary Sánchez hit his fourth home in nine games since joining San Diego to help the Padres rout Seattle.

Soto had four singles and a double, raising his average to .265 with 10 homers and 31 RBIs as the Padres tied their season high with 17 hits. Soto had an RBI single in the fourth, a two-run single in the three-run fifth



Los Angeles Angels designated hitter Shohei Ohtani (17) slides in to second on a double during the first inning of a baseball game against the Chicago Cubs in Anaheim, Calif. (AP)

and an RBI double that boosted the lead to 10-0 in the seventh. Every San Diego starter except Trint Grisham had a hit.

Matt Carpenter put San Diego ahead with a run-scoring single in the second, giving him 26 RBIs, and Sánchez hit a three-run homer in the third off George Kirby (5-5).

Brewers 10, Orioles 2

In Milwaukee, Joey Wiemer homered twice, Willy Adames also went deep in his return from the concussion list and Corbin Burnes pitched eight shutout innings in Milwaukee’s victory over Baltimore.

Wiemer went 4 for 4 with a pair of two-run shots, a double and a career-high five RBIs. During an eight-game hitting streak, Wiemer has gone 13 of 27 to improve his batting average from .195 to .231.

Adames played his first game since May 26, when he got hit in the head by a line drive from teammate Brian Anderson while standing behind the railing on the dugout steps.

Burnes (5-4) struck out nine while allowing two hits and no walks. Dean Kremer (6-3) was the loser.

Angels 6, Cubs 2

In Anaheim, Mike Trout homered, Mickey Moniak had a three-run double and Luis Rengifo hit a tying homer and a tiebreaking RBI single in Los Angeles’ victory over Chicago.

Trout and Moniak also made stellar defensive plays for the Halos, who are on their first three-game winning streak in two weeks after taking the first two games from the Cubs to open their homestand.

Hard-throwing reliever Ben Joyce (1-0) earned his first major league victory for the Angels with an eventful sixth inning. The 6-foot-5 right-hander threw 20 of his 27 pitches faster than 100 mph, but walked the bases loaded before escaping on Trey Mancini’s groundout.

Guardians 5, Red Sox 3

In Cleveland, Amed Rosario and Josh Naylor each had three hits and an RBI. Josh Bell drove in a run for the sixth consecutive game and Cleveland beat Boston.

Rosario singled twice against Kutter Crawford (1-3), then had an RBI double off Justin Garza as the Guardians scored two runs in both the fourth and fifth innings to erase a 2-1 deficit.

Bell drove in a pair to give him eight RBIs during the streak that began May 28. Naylor had two singles and a double for Cleveland, which has split the first two games of the series.

BASEBALL

Rookie Tanner Bibee (2-1) pitched five innings, allowing one earned, for his first victory at Progressive Field. Emmanuel Clase worked a hitless ninth for his MLB-best 20th save.

Giants 5, Rockies 4

In Denver, Austin Slater had a pinch-hit RBI single in a three-run seventh inning and drove in another run in a two-run eighth to help San Francisco beat Colorado after being held hitless into the sixth inning.

Taylor Rogers (2-2) picked up the win with a scoreless inning of relief, and Camilo Doval got three outs for his 15th save.

Nolan Jones hit a solo homer for the Rockies, who build a four-run lead through six innings and yet still lost their 10th straight to the Giants.

Colorado rookie Connor Seabold didn’t allow a hit until LaMonte Wade Jr. singled cleanly to left field with one out in the sixth. The 27-year-old right-hander struck out four and walked two, but didn’t figure in the decision.

Blue Jays 3, Astros 2

In Toronto, Pinch-hitter Alejandro Kirk singled in the go-ahead run in the seventh inning. Bo Bichette and Brandon Belt hit solo home runs and Toronto beat Houston.

Chris Bassitt (7-4) gave up two runs and four hits with five strikeouts and no walks over eight innings in winning consecutive starts. Jordan Romano closed for his 16th save in 19 chances for the Blue Jays. They have won nine of 12.

The game was played under a closed roof at Rogers Centre due to air quality concerns due to wildfires.

Argentine joins Inter Miami in MLS

No homecoming for Messi as Barca again fail to lure him back

MADRID, June 8, (AP): Once again, Barcelona couldn't do enough to entice Lionel Messi.

Nearly two years after the club was forced to let Messi go against his will because of its financial struggles, Barcelona again missed out on a chance to bring the World Cup winner back.

The 35-year-old Messi announced Wednesday he would not return to Spain and instead said he was going to join Inter Miami in Major League Soccer.

There had been hopes of a reunion between the Argentina great and the Spanish club where he thrived for nearly two decades before leaving to join Paris Saint-Germain, but in the end there was only more disappointment for both sides.

Again, Barcelona's finances kept the club from luring Messi back.

The Argentine apparently wanted to return but didn't want to go through the ordeal of not knowing whether the Catalan club would be able to sign him. He said he was told the club would have to either sell other players or lower salaries, and he didn't want that to happen.

"I really wanted to come back. I was very excited to be able to return,"



In this file photo, PSG's Lionel Messi celebrates after scoring his side's fourth goal during the French League One soccer match between Paris Saint-Germain and Lille at the Parc des Princes stadium, in Paris, France, Sunday, Feb. 19, 2023. (AP)

Messi told Spanish media. "But after having experienced what I experienced and the exit I had, I did not want to be in the same situation again, waiting to see what was going to happen."

Barcelona was mired in debt when Messi left in 2021. The club couldn't make the numbers work back then as Messi was forced to wait in hopes of having his contract renewed. This

time, Messi said he wasn't going to wait on others.

It wasn't all about the money for Messi, who chose Inter Miami despite reportedly having a much more lucrative offer from Saudi Arabia. He said he wanted to "get out of the spotlight a bit" and focus more on his family after a "difficult time" with PSG, but made it clear that he would have returned to Barcelona if the numbers had worked.

"We were hopeful because we talked a lot and he said he wanted to come," Barcelona coach Xavi Hernandez told Spanish media on Thursday. "I noticed a change in the last few days. It can't be easy to be Leo Messi. You have to be a '10' on everything. He saw that he wasn't having a good time and he didn't want that kind of pressure, it's normal."

The club deflected blame, saying that Messi decided to go to the United States because he preferred a less-demanding league so he could prioritize time with his family.

"President (Joan) Laporta understood and respected Messi's decision to want to compete in a league with fewer demands, further away from the spotlight and the pressure he has been

subject to in recent years," the club said in a statement after Messi's announcement.

But Laporta again couldn't offer much to Messi even after restructuring the team's finances. He had used some of the team's future assets to revamp the current squad with players such as Robert Lewandowski, Raphinha and Jules Koundé, leaving little salary cap space to fit Messi. There wasn't going

SOCCER

to be much room left even after the departures of former Messi teammates Sergio Busquets and Jordi Alba.

Laporta had said he would do everything possible to bring Messi back even though he acknowledged it wasn't going to be easy. There was still hope on Monday when Messi's father, Jorge, who is also his agent, was in Barcelona and said his son had the team as his first choice. On that same day, though, the club was informed that Messi was going to join Inter Miami.

Barcelona won the league title this season for the first time since 2019,

but it still struggled in the Champions League and the Europa League. The team's first title since Messi's departure had been the Spanish Super Cup in January, when it defeated rival Real Madrid in the final in Saudi Arabia.

Barcelona wished Messi "the best of luck in his new professional phase" and said it will work "to promote a proper tribute from Barça fans to honor a footballer who has been, is, and always will be beloved by Barça."

Messi arrived at Barcelona's youth squads at the age of 13 and played in 17 successful seasons with the main team, helping the Catalan club win 35 titles, including four Champions Leagues, 10 Spanish leagues and seven Copa del Reys. He won a record six Ballon d'Or awards with Barcelona as the world's top player, and remains the team's all-time leading scorer with 672 goals in 778 appearances.

Messi pledged to one day come back to Barcelona, just like he did in his tearful farewell speech two years ago.

Next time, though, it probably won't be on the field with the famed No. 10 jersey on his back.

Ali comes out of retirement

Sri Lanka win ODI series after Chameera heroics

HAMBANTOTA, Sri Lanka, June 8, (AP): Sri Lanka bowled out Afghanistan for 116 and reached the target in only 16 overs to win their one-day international series 2-1 at Suriyawewa.

Sri Lanka made 120-1 to win by nine wickets.

Fast bowler Dushmantha Chameera, sidelined for eight months by an ankle injury, took a leading 4-63 to be named player of the third match, and six wickets in two matches to be named player of the series in his comeback. He missed the first ODI.

Fellow quick Lahiru Kumara, recovered from a hamstring strain, dismissed both openers and Chameera took out four of the top six batters. Legspinner Wanindu Hasaranga finished with three wickets after Afghanistan chose to bat first.

Afghanistan was all out in 22.2 overs. It was a poor effort on a good batting surface. Only three batters managed 20-plus runs amid too many soft dismissals.

Afghanistan lost opening batter Rahmanullah Gurbaz early again, trying to hook Kumara in the second over and top-edging to fine leg on 8.

Chameera got Rahmat Shah and

when Sri Lanka secured the win with 34 overs to spare.

It was a good comeback from Sri Lanka after losing the first game by six wickets. The host won the second game by 132 runs and sealed the series with a nine-wicket win. It was their first come-from-behind series victory since 2014.

After successive half-centuries in his first ODI series in more than two years, Karunaratne appears to have secured a spot for the World Cup qualifiers that begin in Zimbabwe next week.

Afghanistan was already through to the Cricket World Cup in India in October.

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Moeen Ali came out of retirement Wednesday and took the place of injured spinner **Jack Leach** in England's squad for the Ashes series against Australia starting next week.

The 35-year-old Ali retired from test cricket in 2021 but reversed his decision following discussions with England captain **Ben Stokes** and head coach **Brendon McCullum**.

Ali has been added to the squad for the first two Ashes tests after Leach was withdrawn from the original 16-player group on Sunday after sustaining a lower back stress fracture. That ruled Leach out for the entire series.

Ali has played 64 tests, scoring 2,914 runs and taking 195 wickets. He has remained active in the shorter cricket formats.

"We reached out to Mo early this week about returning to test cricket," England Cricket managing director **Rob Key** said. "Having had a couple of days to reflect, Mo is excited to join the squad and play test cricket again. His vast experience, along with his all-round ability, will benefit our Ashes campaign."

The Ashes series begins at Ali's home ground of Edgbaston on June 16, with Warwickshire's spinning allrounder turning 36 on Day 3 of the first test.

With **Jonny Bairstow** slotting back into the England team at No. 7 following his return from a broken leg, Ali is likely to bat at No. 8 and give the hosts a deep batting lineup.

Ali was preferred to England's other spin options like 18-year-old **Rehan Ahmed**, who became England's youngest test cricketer when he played in Karachi in December, and **Will Jacks**.

McCullum tried to tempt Ali back into test cricket for the tour of Pakistan but after initially declaring himself open to the idea, Ali ultimately decided to stick to limited-overs cricket.

"I want to enjoy my cricket and it wouldn't be fair to reverse my decision and then struggle to give it my all," Ali said at the time. "It's time to close the door on that side of my career. To play 64 tests for England has been a privilege and a dream fulfilled."

Ali might have warmed to the idea of playing test cricket for England again because of the way Stokes and McCullum have overhauled the way their team plays the game, prioritizing an attacking, proactive style that fits Ali's own approach.

CRICKET

Hashmatullah Shahidi out in the same fifth over, both to nicks, and Afghanistan was reduced to 77-6 with little resistance from the tail against the spinners.

Mohammad Nabi top-scored with 23.

Sri Lanka wasted no time in chasing down the target. Openers Pathum Nissanka and Dimuth Karunaratne shared an 84-run stand.

Nissanka raced to his seventh half-century in just 32 balls with eight fours and two sixes. He was trapped on 51.

Karunaratne required 43 balls for his eighth half-century that included seven fours. Karunaratne was unbeaten on 56



Australia's Steven Smith celebrates after scoring 100 runs not out on the second day of the ICC World Test Championship Final between India and Australia at The Oval cricket ground in London. (AP)

Defaulted in doubles, Kato strikes back with mixed doubles title at French Open



Japan's Miyu Kato (left), and Germany's Tim Puetz hold the trophy after winning the mixed doubles final match of the French Open tennis tournament against Canada's Bianca Andreescu and New Zealand's Michael Venus in two sets, 4-6, 6-4, 1-0 (10-6), at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris. (AP)

PARIS, June 8, (AP): Miyu Kato left behind the disappointment of her controversial disqualification in doubles by claiming the mixed doubles title at the French Open on Thursday.

Playing with Tim Puetz of Germany, the pair defeated 2019 U.S. Open singles champion Bianca Andreescu of Canada and Michael Venus of New Zealand 4-6, 6-4, 10-6.

Kato, a 28-year-old player from Japan, and her women's doubles partner were defaulted during their third-round match last week after Kato accidentally hit a ball girl in the neck after a point.

Kato also forfeited all of her 21,500 euros (about \$23,000) in prize money and rankings points from women's doubles but was allowed to keep participating in mixed doubles.

"It has been really challenging for me for the past few days," Kato said. "I want to thank all the players, coaches, everyone for their heartfelt mes-

sages of support."

Kato and Puetz played for the first time together at Roland Garros.

"Miyu, it is unbelievable what has happened in the past 10 days," Puetz said. "I hope this helps you. I am very, very happy to win."

The win marked the first mixed doubles title for both Puetz and Kato, who had not conceded a set before the final.

Unseeded Karolina Muchova reached her first Grand Slam final at the last place she expected, saving a match point and using a stirring comeback to grab the last five games despite dealing with leg problems for a 7-6 (5), 6-7 (5), 7-5 victory over No. 2 Aryna Sabalenka at the French Open on Thursday.

Sabalenka, who won the Australian Open in January, was a point from winning the topsy-turvy semifinal at 5-2 in the third set but then collapsed, dropping 20 of 24 points down the stretch.

Muchova, a 26-year-old from the Czech Republic, has always found that her game worked best in faster conditions: Her best previous showing at a major was a semifinal run at the 2021 Australian Open on hard courts, her lone WTA title came on a hard court, and she never made it past the third round on the red clay at Roland Garros until now.

"It's not my favorite surface," Muchova said earlier in the tournament, "but I think I can play good on it."

Sure did in the 80-degree warmth of

Court Philippe Chatrier against Sabalenka, who had been 12-0 in Slam action in 2023.

Muchova's variety and all-court style provided the right mix against one of the game's biggest hitters.

As intriguing as Carlos Alcaraz vs. Novak Djokovic is - and it's plenty intriguing - there are storylines worth following in the other French Open men's semifinal, too.

No, frankly, Casper Ruud vs. Alexander Zverev, which will be played second on Friday, does not deserve the same billing. It's missing the cache and the resumes that the other two guys remaining in the field at Roland Garros will carry into Court Philippe Chatrier.

TENNIS

Still, even without Djokovic's 22 Grand Slam titles - with a chance to break a tie with Rafael Nadal for the most earned by a man in tennis history - or even Alcaraz's lone such trophy, and even without Alcaraz's current No. 1 ranking or Djokovic's current No. 3 with a shot at moving back up (along with the career record for most weeks atop the ATP), No. 4 Ruud and No. 22 Zverev bring terrific games and past close-and-yet-so-far history at major tournaments.

Let's examine Ruud first.

He is a 24-year-old from Norway who is coached by his father, a former professional player, and got as far as

the fourth round only once in his first 13 Slam appearances and now is into his third semifinal in the past five. That includes runner-up showings at Roland Garros (losing to Nadal in the final) and at the U.S. Open (losing to Alcaraz in the final) in 2022.

And Zverev?

He is a 26-year-old from Germany of whom greatness was predicted long ago, one of the members of the generation that was supposed to succeed the Big Three of Djokovic, Nadal and Roger Federer but has never quite lived up to that.

Zverev is, however, into the semifinals in Paris for the third year in a row, and his sixth major semi overall. His best performance was making it to the final at the 2020 U.S. Open, taking the first two sets against Dominic Thiem before losing that lead and the match.

Zverev's ranking is not necessarily a fair reflection of his talent or success, because he was out of action entirely for seven months after tearing three ligaments in his right ankle late in the second set of his semifinal against Nadal at last year's French Open.

"It was definitely a tournament that I marked on my calendar this year," Zverev said. "I'm at a stage now where I'm not thinking about the injury so much anymore. I'm not thinking about what happened. I'm just happy to be back where I was last year, and I have another chance. Hopefully I can take it."

He didn't compete until January, and said he wasn't pain-free until a few months after that.

"I was not able to practice normally. I was not able to do the things that I wanted. So regarding that, I think it was just getting through the process. I mean, after that, it also takes time to feel the confidence again in your leg to be sliding around the court, being able to move the way you were," said Zverev, who has diabetes and has been allowed to inject himself with insulin during changeovers, a policy he said is not sure will be in place at Wimbledon.

"But I'm talking about the injury more than I'm thinking about it," Zverev said. "It's in the past now."

Neither he nor Ruud arrived at Roland Garros a couple of weeks ago with success this season that would have portended these sorts of runs.

Zverev was just 16-14 with zero titles in 2023; Ruud was 16-11 with one title.



Karolina Muchova of the Czech Republic plays a shot against Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus during their semifinal match of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris. (AP)

IOC recommends terminating boxing body's Oly status

IOC gives resounding thumbs-up to Paris' Olympic plans

PARIS, June 8, (AP): An IOC inspection team gave a resounding thumbs-up Wednesday to Paris' preparations for the 2024 Olympic Games, declaring "a very, very high level of confidence" despite unresolved questions about financing and security.

"Paris is where it should be with 415 days to go," said Pierre-Olivier Beckers-Vieujant, who heads the IOC commission overseeing Paris' plans.

While new Olympic venues are on track, French auditors have flagged to parliament that they're still unable to say how much the games will cost in total and what their final impact will be on public finances, once security and other expenses are factored in. Some 8.8 billion euros (\$9.4 billion) are budgeted for Olympic construction and the Paris organizing committee, with more than a third of that from public coffers.

Despite their repeated reassurances, doubts also persist about whether Paris organizers will be able to recruit private security guards in sufficient numbers

so that military personnel don't need to be mobilized to help secure venues.

Still, the messaging from the IOC and Paris organizers was unrelentingly upbeat at the end of a three-day visit to France's capital by Beckers-Vieujant and his team.

"I can tell you that we are leaving Paris with a very, very high level of confidence about the fact that Paris will be ready to host the Games," Beckers-Vieujant said.

OLYMPICS

The head of the Paris organizing committee, Tony Estanguet, described himself as reassured.

The IOC "recognizes that we are on time," he said.

To boost revenues, Paris organizers confirmed that they are working to bring French luxury giant LVMH on board as another major sponsor.

But there was no final word on when that might happen.

"Talks are underway with the LVMH group," Estanguet said. "We have to stay prudent because this deal isn't signed."

qqq

The IOC finally ran out of patience with the International Boxing Federation on Wednesday and set a date to terminate its Olympic status this month.

While boxing will still be on the program at the 2024 Paris Games, the International Olympic Committee said its executive board has asked the full membership to withdraw its recognition of the IBA at a special meeting on June 22.

IOC members rarely vote against recommendations from their 15-member board and the IBA's ouster is likely a formality.

The IOC had already suspended the IBA's recognition in 2019 over long-standing financial, sports integrity and governance issues. The Olympic body oversaw the boxing competitions itself at the Tokyo Olympics held in 2021 and will do so again for Paris.



Atlanta Braves' Michael Harris II (23) dives into second base on an RBI double in the sixth inning of a baseball game against the New York Mets in Atlanta. Braves won 7-5. (AP) — See Page 14

Sports

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West Ham end 58-yr wait for European title



West Ham players celebrate with the trophy after winning the Europa Conference League final soccer match against Fiorentina and West Ham at the Eden Arena in Prague. (AP)

Bowen hits late winner against Fiorentina

PRAGUE, June 8, (AP): West Ham ended a 58-year wait for a European trophy after Jarrod Bowen scored in the 90th minute to secure a 2-1 win over Fiorentina on Wednesday in the Europa Conference League final.

Bowen ran onto a through ball by Lucas Paqueta before beating goalkeeper Pietro Terracciano with a left-foot shot to complete a quick attack at Eden Arena.

Fiorentina couldn't answer despite nearly eight minutes of injury time being played, setting off wild celebrations among the West Ham players as they danced in front of their fans after winning the London club's second ever European title and first since the old European Cup Winners' Cup in 1965.

SOCCER

"It's what you always say, you want to score in the last minute a winner. And to do it in front of these fans, I thought I was going to cry," Bowen told British broadcaster BT Sport. "We've had a dream. We haven't had the best season, myself included. But to do what we've done tonight for these fans ... to give them this moment, I'm over the moon." West Ham only finished 14th in the Premier League but went unbeaten through its European campaign, coming through qualifying before winning 12 out of 13 games in the tournament. The win also means it earns a berth in the Europa League next season.

"I've had a long career in football and you don't get many moments like," said West Ham coach David Moyes, whose job was under threat earlier in the season as the team was struggling near the relegation zone in the league.

It is Moyes' first major trophy after a 25-year managerial career that has spanned more than 1,000 games and also included stints at Everton and Manchester United. Moyes became the first Scottish coach to win a UEFA competition since 2008 when Alex Ferguson claimed his second Champions League title with Man United.

Said Benrahma had given West Ham the lead from the penalty spot in the 62nd, sending goalkeeper Pietro Terracciano the wrong way in the 62nd minute.

The penalty was awarded after a video review confirmed that Fiorentina captain Cristiano Biraghi handled the ball in the area after Bowen controlled the ball on his chest.

Fiorentina equalized five minutes later through Giacomo Bonaventura's strike from inside the area. Bonaventura collected a header from Nicolás González and beat the goalkeeper with a right foot-shot that squeezed between two West Ham players.

Biraghi was hit on the back of the head by objects thrown from the stands by West Ham during the first half, leaving him bleeding from a gash in his scalp.

The game was briefly held up after Biraghi was struck by empty beer cups and other objects as he was about to



Fiorentina's Dodo (right), fights for the ball with West Ham's Michail Antonio during the Europa Conference League final soccer match between Fiorentina and West Ham at the Eden Arena in Prague. (AP)

take a corner. He needed to have his head bandaged to stop the bleeding, while a stadium announcer urged supporters to stop throwing objects.

Some West Ham players also went over to urge their fans to stop, before play resumed.

Rolando Mandragora had a chance to give Fiorentina the lead just minutes after the team's equalizer, but shot just wide from inside the area.

West Ham midfielder Tomáš Souček had a header saved 10 minutes from time.

Fiorentina dominated possession in the first half and nearly took the lead just before the break when Christian Kouamé's header bounced off the post. Luka Jović headed home the rebound but the goal was disallowed for offside.

Nuggets hold off Heat for 2-1 lead in NBA Finals

MIAMI, June 8, (AP): Never had two players from the same team had 30-point triple-doubles in the same game. Never in the regular season. Never in the playoffs. Certainly never in the NBA Finals.

Until now. Nikola Jokic and Jamal Murray made history Wednesday night - and have the Denver Nuggets two wins away from making some real history as well.

Jokic and Murray became the first teammates in NBA Finals history to both record triple-doubles, and the Nuggets reclaimed the lead in the series by beating the Miami Heat 109-94 in Game 3.

"By far, their greatest performance as a duo in their seven years together," Nuggets coach Michael Malone said, after his team moved two wins away from Denver's first title.

Jokic finished with 32 points, 21 rebounds and 10 assists - the first such game in NBA Finals history, or at least the first since assists were tracked. Murray had 34 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists, getting the rebound he needed with 9 seconds remaining.

The Nuggets outrebounded the Heat 58-33, and took a 2-1 lead. Game 4 is Friday in Miami.

"I'm just glad that we won the game," Jokic said. "It was a big one for us because they won in our arena. We just didn't want to go down 2-1."

Jimmy Butler scored 28 points for Miami, and Bam Adebayo finished with 22 points and 17 rebounds. Caleb Martin added 10 points.

"We've got to come out with more energy and effort and that's correctable," Butler said. "That's on us as a group."

Jokic and Murray combined for 24 field goals; Miami had 34. Jokic and

Murray combined for 31 rebounds; Miami had 33. Jokic and Murray combined for 20 assists; Miami had exactly that many.

Somehow, some way, the Heat know they need to find an answer before Friday.

"It's not an easy task to do," Butler said. "But if we want to win, we're going to have to figure it out."

Miami has been the comeback kings of these playoffs - seven rallies in games after trailing by at least 12 points. The Heat were down by 14 going into the fourth, and Malone reminded his club of Miami's penchant for comebacks.

BASKETBALL

"First two games, they won the fourth quarter," Malone said. "Tonight, we win the fourth quarter, we win the game."

His team listened.

The lead eventually reached 21, the outcome never seriously in doubt, and Jokic looking very much like he's back in cruise control. The Heat got within nine on a 3-pointer by Duncan Robinson with 1:22 left, but there was no epic finish for Miami. Murray and Jokic had the Nuggets too far ahead to get caught.

"You have to expect there to be elite talent in the finals," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "And both those guys are elite-level talent."

Officially, Jokic is now the seventh player to have two triple-doubles in the same finals. Magic Johnson and LeBron James each did it in three different finals. Draymond Green, Wilt Chamberlain, Larry Bird and Butler all had one title series with two triple-doubles.



Denver Nuggets forward Aaron Gordon (50) shoots the ball against Miami Heat forwards Jimmy Butler (22) and Caleb Martin (16) during the first half of Game 3 of the NBA Finals basketball game in Miami. (AP)

Jokic and Murray both have triple-doubles

City owners have been spent wisely

City, Inter meet in CL final of contrasting club history

ISTANBUL, June 8, (AP): Manchester City will enter the Champions League final on Saturday as a modern soccer and financial heavyweight compared to Inter Milan.

That is a new twist in the European history of two clubs who have rarely operated at the same level and whose respective status, on and off the field, flipped about 12 years ago.

Inter had the aristocratic, storied tradition and trophies while City was an English third-tier team when cross-town rival Manchester United lifted the iconic European Cup trophy in 1999.

"One is a kind of old nobility," European soccer consultant Olivier Jarosz told The Associated Press about Inter, "and one comes from a working-class family that has made a nice marriage with money." Yet both City and Inter were teammates on the failed Super League project in 2021, albeit for different reasons. Loss-making Inter was seeking to avoid being left behind by English Premier League dominance; financial juggernaut City, backed by Abu Dhabi sovereign wealth, didn't want to be left out.

City owners have been spent wisely so debt-free City goes to Istanbul for its second Champions League final in three years and fresh from sealing a seventh Premier League title in 12 seasons.

In the same era, Inter went through three owners, racked up record losses, won Serie A just once and did not advance through any Champions League knockout round until this season. Inter failed even to qualify for six straight years.

SOCCER

City's sustained success now sees it with the highest overall and sponsorship revenue of any club in world soccer last year, and the most expensive squad costing about \$1.3 billion in total.

Inter earned less than half of City's income of about 730 million euros (\$784 million) in 2022 and ran up a loss of 140 million euros, according to UEFA's latest industry analysis.

The entire Inter lineup that started the second leg of its semifinal game against AC Milan cost less in total transfer fees than just one City player - 117.5 million euros (\$126 million) record signing Jack Grealish - in the team that dismantled Real Madrid one night later.

"(Inter) are in the Champions League final despite the ownership, and Manchester City are in the final



Champions League trophy is shown at Besiktas' Vodafone park stadium in Istanbul, Turkey. Manchester City will play Inter Milan in the final of the Champions League on Saturday June 10 in Istanbul. (AP)

because of the ownership," Kieran Maguire, author of "The Price of Football," told The AP on Thursday.

It was very different for most of the 68-year history of what started as the European Cup and became the Champions League.

When Inter last won in 2010, the Nerazzurri had been European champion more often than City had played total games in the competition: three titles for Inter, two games for City.

Inter won back-to-back titles in 1964 and 1965 and reached two more finals in 1967 and 1972. Three UEFA Cup titles also were won in the 1990s when Serie A was still the best, richest and most fashionable league in Europe.

Owned for most of this era by the Moratti family, billionaires in the oil industry, Inter also broke the world record transfer fee four times, including when it signed Brazilian striker Ronaldo from Barcelona.

City's only European Cup adventure lasted two weeks and ended in Istanbul in October 1968, eliminated by Fenerbahce in the first round. The European Cup Winners' Cup title was won the next season, but the club had no serious European status for decades.

A sliding doors season was 2011-12 - a first Champions League campaign in Manchester came three years after the takeover by Abu Dhabi, and was the last in the blue half of Milan for six years.

By 2018, when both were again in the Champions League groups, much had changed. City had just regained the Premier League title, a first coached by Pep Guardiola who was reunited with former executives from Barcelona and built a dominant team in the world's richest domestic league.