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# UAE's Al-Jaber promises climate activists he'll listen



Sultan Al-Jaber, who will preside over the next UN global climate summit in Dubai, right, leaves a meeting at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Bonn, Germany, on June 8, 2023. (AP)

## Transition should leave no one behind

BONN, Germany, June 10, (AP): The United Arab Emirates official tapped to head the next global climate summit has pledged to listen to young people demanding a place at the table when negotiators gather in the Gulf nation this fall, but offered no response to criticism of his links with fossil fuel interests.

In his first appearance at a United Nations climate meeting this year, the UAE's Minister of Industry Sultan Al-Jaber said he wants the COP28 summit in Dubai to be "inclusive" and deliver a "game-changing outcome" for international efforts to tackle climate change.

"I'm determined to make your participation successful," he said in a brief speech to delegates from youth activist groups that have been clamoring for leaders to take drastic action against global warming.

The comments by Al-Jaber in Bonn, Germany, drew a wary response from his audience.

"Many people, including children and youth all over the world, are rightly concerned about your ties and links to the fossil fuel industry and thereby the integrity of the (U.N. talks)," Clara von Glasow of the Youth Climate Movement, an international network of more than 1000 campaign groups, told Al-Jaber. "This is your time to prove them wrong and show that indeed you are serious."

"You have the unique opportunity, a huge chance to demonstrate leadership," she said. "You can become the champion of change and make sure we phase out fossil fuels immediately."

Al-Jaber, who is also chief executive of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company, has resisted calls for an end to fossil fuels.

Speaking later Thursday at a diplomatic reception, Al-Jaber called for "a just and balanced energy transition that leaves no one behind."

"The phasedown of fossil fuels is inevitable," he said, going further than countries agreed in Glasgow two years ago when the focus was coal, but still stopping short of advocating a complete ban.

The goal should be a global energy system "free of unabated fossil fuels," he said. The term abated refers to measures taken to reduce or capture greenhouse gas emissions from the burning of fossil fuels, an idea that experts say is technically challenging and very expensive.

"There is no such thing as an emissions-free fossil fuel," said Hanna Fekete of the NewClimate think tank. "It is always more efficient to produce renewable energy and to use that directly." Fekete published a report Thursday

with the group Climate Action Tracker showing that many major producers of oil and gas, including the UAE and the United States, are currently increasing production.

"The sector is acting like there's a gold rush, not a climate crisis," the authors warned.

That runs counter to countries' pledge at a 2015 summit in Paris to try to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit) compared with pre-industrial times. Scientists say that in order to achieve that goal, carbon emissions need to be halved by 2030 and reach 'net zero' by mid-century.

Much of the task of coralling countries into making painful but necessary cuts to their emissions will fall to Al-Jaber during the Nov. 30-Dec. 12 talks, when negotiators are due to approve the first global assessment of what's been done since Paris and which gaps still need to be closed. Preliminary talks attended by Al-Jaber in Bonn, Germany, have so far failed even to agree on a formal agenda.

Outside the venue, bus stops were plastered with posters highlighting al-Jaber's ties to the oil industry. Inside, activists dropped a huge banner that read "End Fossil Fuels."

Alden Meyer, a long-time observer of climate negotiations now with the Brussels-based group E3G, said past summit chairs have succeeded best when they've set aside their own national interests to find agreements acceptable to all the nearly 200 countries taking part in the talks.

"There's a real question whether Dr. Al-Jaber wants to do that, is able to do that and is being given permission from the UAE leadership to do that," said Meyer. "He needs to disassociate himself from the UAE as a major oil and gas producer that wants to expand production if he wants to have a successful COP."

Still, Al-Jaber's acknowledgement of the need to "phase down" fossil fuels was a useful first step, Meyer said, adding that a discussion about this needs to happen in Dubai.

His comments were echoed by Mohamed Adow, who runs the Nairobi-based group Power Shift Africa.

"Al-Jaber is right to acknowledge that a phasedown of fossil fuels is inevitable," he said.

"Doing this in a managed way would be good news for the UAE," he said, noting the Gulf nation has ample sun and wind for renewable energy.

"The clean energy wave is coming," Adow said. "Countries can either surf the wave or get washed away by it."

**BEIRUT, June 10, (AP): A little white pill has given Syrian President Bashar Assad powerful leverage with his Arab neighbors, who have been willing to bring him out of pariah status in hopes he will stop the flow of highly addictive Captagon amphetamines out of Syria.**

Western governments have been frustrated by the red-carpet treatment



In this photo released by the Syrian official news agency SANA, Syrian authorities display Captagon pills, in rural Damascus, Syria, on Nov. 30, 2021. (AP)

## Moody's rates Kuwait 'A1' stable

—Details Page 2 —

### DC forced to recalibrate

## Saudi Arabia seeks US N-aid

### Iranian 'drone' plant in Russia

WASHINGTON, June 10, (AP): Iran is providing Russia with materials to build a drone manufacturing plant east of Moscow as the Kremlin looks to lock in a steady supply of weaponry for its ongoing invasion of Ukraine, according to a U.S. intelligence finding released by the White House on Friday.

National Security Council spokesman John Kirby said U.S. intelligence officials believe a plant in Russia's Alabuga special economic zone could be operational early next year. The White House also released satellite imagery taken in April of the industrial location, several hundred miles east of Moscow, where it believes the plant "will probably be built."

President Joe Biden's administration publicly stated in December that it believed Tehran and Moscow were considering standing up a drone assembly line in Russia for the Ukraine war. The new intelligence suggests that the project, in the Yelabuga region of Tatarstan, has moved beyond conception.

Iran has said it provided drones to Russia before the start of the war but not since.

Kirby said that U.S. officials also have determined that Iran continues to supply the Russian military with one-way attack drones made in Iran: The drones are shipped via the Caspian Sea, from Amirabad in Iran to Makhachkala, Russia, and then are used by Russian forces against Ukraine.

As of May, Russia had received hundreds of one-way attack drones, as well as drone production-related equipment, from Iran, according to the White House.

DUBAI, June 10, (AP): Saudi Arabia's foreign minister said after meeting with the visiting U.S. secretary of state on Thursday that while the kingdom would welcome U.S. aid in building its civilian nuclear program, "there are others that are bidding."

Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan was responding to a question about recent news reports that Saudi Arabia is asking for U.S. aid in building its own nuclear program in exchange for establishing diplomatic relations with Israel.

"It's no secret that we are developing our domestic civilian nuclear program and we would very much prefer to be able to have the U.S. as one of the bidders," he said. "Obviously we would like to build our program with the best technology in the world."

Prince Faisal went on to say that normalization with Israel would have "limited benefits" without "finding a pathway to peace for the Palestinian people." He did not say whether the nuclear issue is linked to normalization.

The exchange came at the end of a two-day visit to the kingdom in which U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken met with senior Saudi officials, including the country's de facto leader, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, and co-hosted a meeting of the global coalition fighting the Islamic State group.

The United States has been forced to recalibrate its decades-long alliance with Saudi Arabia as the oil-rich kingdom seeks to transform itself into a global player untethered from Washington.

Blinken, appearing at the press conference alongside the foreign minister, said expanding Israel's normalization with Arab countries - a process known as the Abraham Accords - remains an American "priority." He did not comment on the nuclear issue.

Saudi Arabia, which has taken the first steps toward a rudimentary nuclear program, has long viewed the far more advanced program of its archrival Iran with suspicion. The crown prince said in 2018 that if Iran ever builds a nuclear weapon, the kingdom will do so as well, adding to fears of a potential nuclear arms race in the volatile Middle East.

Under the crown prince, the oil-rich kingdom has embarked on a massive economic and social transformation aimed at reducing its dependence on oil and attracting commerce, investment and tourism. In recent years the kingdom has lifted a ban on women driving, sidelined its once-feared

religious police and begun hosting concerts, raves and visiting celebrities - all of which was unthinkable a decade ago, when it was best known internationally for its ultra-conservative Islamic rule.

The Saudis have meanwhile launched wide-ranging diplomatic efforts to wind down their war in Yemen, resolve a crisis with Qatar, restore relations with archrival Iran and welcome Syria's President Bashar Assad back into the Arab League after a 12-year boycott.

The flurry of diplomacy has included outreach to U.S. foes like Russia's President Vladimir Putin, who spoke with the crown prince by phone late Wednesday, and Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro, who visited Saudi Arabia and met with the crown prince shortly before Blinken's arrival.

The Saudis have also resisted U.S. pressure to bring down oil prices as they seek revenues to fund what they refer to as "gigaprojects," including a \$500 billion futuristic city under construction on the Red Sea.

The kingdom is also hard at work transforming itself into a global power in the world of sports, attracting soccer superstars like Cristiano Ronaldo and Karim Benzema to its local clubs with lavish contracts and entering into a commercial merger with the PGA tour.

The Saudis say they are pursuing their own national interests in a world increasingly defined by great power competition. In addition to improving relations with Washington's foes, the Saudis have also resolved a spat with Canada and invited Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, a close Western ally, to address an Arab League summit last month.

But they appear hesitant to proceed with normalizing relations with Israel at a time when it is led by the most right-wing government in its history, and when tensions have soared with the Palestinians. The Saudis have repeatedly called for the creation of a Palestinian state in the West Bank, east Jerusalem and Gaza, territories Israel seized in the 1967 war - something that is inconceivable under Israel's current leadership.

Earlier in the day, Blinken co-hosted a meeting of foreign ministers from the global coalition battling the Islamic State group during which he announced nearly \$150 million in new U.S. funding for stabilization efforts in Syria and Iraq. The extremist group no longer controls any territory, but its affiliates still carry out attacks across Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

Arab countries have given Assad, fearing that their reconciliation will undermine the push for an end to Syria's long-running civil war.

But for Arab states, halting the Captagon trade is a high priority. Hundreds of millions of pills have been smuggled over the years into Jordan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and other Gulf Arab countries, where the drug is used recreationally and by people with physically demanding jobs to keep them alert.

Saudi Arabia has intercepted large shipments of pills hidden in crates of fake

plastic oranges and in hollowed out pomegranates - even pills crushed and molded to look like traditional clay bowls.

Analysts say Assad likely hopes that by making even limited gestures against the drug he can gain reconstruction money, further integration in the region and even pressure for an end to Western sanctions.

The vast majority of the world's Captagon is produced in Syria, with smaller production in neighboring Lebanon. Western governments estimate the illegal trade in the pills generates billions of dollars.

The United States, Britain and European Union accuse Assad, his family and allies, including Lebanon's militant Hezbollah group, of facilitating and profiting from the trade. That has given Assad's rule a massive financial lifeline at a time when the Syrian economy is crumbling, they say. The Syrian government and Hezbollah deny the accusations.

Syria's neighbors have been the biggest and most lucrative market for the drug. As the industry flourished, experts say Damascus in recent years saw Captagon as more than just a cash cow.

"The Assad regime realized that this is something they can weaponize for political gain ... and that's when production started being on a large scale," said Karam Shaar, a senior fellow at Washington-based New Lines Institute.

Stopping the trade has been a top demand of Arab countries in their talks with Syria on ending its political isolation. Syria was readmitted last month from the Arab League, from which it was suspended in 2011 because of Assad's brutal crackdown on protesters. On May 20, Assad received a warm welcome at the Arab League summit in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

A possible sign of the behind-the-scenes trade-offs came on May 8, when airstrikes in southern Syria reduced the home of a well-known drug kingpin to rubble. Merhi al-Ramthan, his wife and six children were killed. Another strike destroyed a suspected Captagon factory outside the city of Daraa, near the Jordanian border.

Jordan was likely behind the strike, with Assad's consent, say activists and experts. The strike came one day after the Arab League formally re-admitted Syria, a step Jordan helped broker.

"Assad gave assurances that he would stop the regime from supporting and protecting smuggling networks," a former brigadier general of Jordan's intelligence service, Saud Al-Sharafat, told The Associated Press. "For example, he facilitated the disposal of al-Ramthan."

Jordan, he said, sees the Captagon trade as "a threat to both security and communal peace."

In public comments, Jordan's foreign minister, Ayman Safadi, refused to confirm or deny whether his country was behind the airstrikes but said it was willing to take military action to curb drug smuggling.

Arab states, many of which had backed the rebels trying to oust Assad, say they share the goal of pushing him to make peace. Ahead of the Jeddah summit, Jordan hosted a meeting of top diplomats from Syria, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Egypt, and the long agenda included setting a roadmap for peace talks and the return of millions of Syrian refugees.

But it was on Captagon where the gathering made the most progress. Syria pledged to clamp down on smuggling, and a regional security coordination committee was agreed on. Days later, Syrian state media reported that police quashed a Captagon smuggling operation in the city of Aleppo, discovering 1 million pills hiding in a pickup truck.

### Newswatch

**NEW DELHI:** India and Saudi Arabia on Thursday held talks on bilateral, regional and global issues.

Indian Prime Minister's Office said in a statement that Premier **Narendra Modi** held telephone conversation with Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia **Mohammed Bin Salman Al-Saud**.

"The leaders reviewed a number of issues of bilateral cooperation and exchanged views on various multilateral and global issues of mutual interest," the statement said. Modi thanked Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman for his country's support during evacuation of Indian nationals from Sudan via Jeddah in April. He also expressed best wishes for the upcoming Haj season. (KUNA)

**WASHINGTON:** The US Departments of Justice, Commerce, State and Treasury Friday issued an advisory to alert the international community, private sector, and public to the threat posed by **Iran's** procurement, development and proliferation of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs).

The advisory informs private industry of key components Iran seeks to develop its UAV program and entities involved in the procurement, production, and proliferation of Iranian UAVs, the Department of Justice said in a statement. (KUNA)

**NEW DELHI:** Indian, French and UAE forces participated in the first edition of Maritime Partnership Exercise in the Gulf of Oman, Indian defense sources said on Thursday.

Indian Defense Ministry said in a statement that Indian Naval Ship Tarkash and French Ship Surcouf are participating in the exercise that commenced on Wednesday with integral helicopters, French Rafale aircraft and UAE Navy Maritime Patrol Aircraft. (KUNA)

**BRUSSELS:** Vice-President of the European Commission in charge of Interinstitutional relations, **Maros Sefcovic**, Friday announced that he would meet international



Prayer Timings			
Fajr .....	03:13	Asr .....	15:21
Sunrise ..	04:48	Maghrib ..	18:47
Zohr .....	11:47	Isha .....	20:19

# Local

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

## ‘Financial reserves large, exceptional’

# Moody’s credit rating agency places Kuwait at ‘A1’ level

KUWAIT CITY, June 10: Moody’s credit rating agency gave Kuwait’s sovereign credit rating the “A1” level with a stable outlook, saying the country’s credit profile is supported by exceptionally large financial reserves, massive oil wealth with low production costs, and extremely high levels of income, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Moody’s said Kuwait is expected to maintain a strong budget in the foreseeable future, even if oil prices fell to between 55 and 75 dollars a barrel, saying the abundant financial resources in the General Reserve Fund will limit liquidity risks in the near future.

### Financial

The agency expected Kuwait’s GDP growth to reach 0.7% in 2023 and 3.4% in 2024, and the the account balance ratio of GDP to reach 31.7% in 2023 and 31.9% in 2024, while it expected that the government’s financial balance ratio of GDP would reach a deficit. It will be 1.6% in 2023 and 0.2% in 2024.

Moody’s said that the stable outlook for Kuwait’s credit rating reflects balanced risks, as the effective application of measures to reduce Kuwait’s exposure to oil and its revenues and to diversify the economy (which we do not include in our basic borrowings for at least the next two years) will positively affect the flexibility of Kuwait’s credit file and fluctuations in oil prices.

On the contrary, the global energy transition, which will reduce the demand for oil and drop its prices, in the absence of financial and economic reforms, will negatively affect Kuwait’s credit file in the long run.

The agency confirmed that raising Kuwait’s credit rating depends on a significant improvement in the prospects for financial and economic diversification in Kuwait, which in turn leads to raising our assessment of Kuwait’s sovereign flexibility in facing the risks of the post-oil phase in the long term.

Moody’s explained that the availability of a more productive relationship between the government and the National Assembly then would enhance greater effectiveness of economic policies, increase the government’s ability to respond to economic shocks, and contribute to raising the credit rating.

On the other hand, Moody’s indicated that Kuwait’s credit rating may be downgraded in the event of a significant weakening of the government’s financial strength in the medium term, and in the event that the government is unable to implement reforms and reaches a large fiscal deficit in the event of a drop in oil prices, which may accompany this due to a significant increase in debt and the failure to pass the debt law, or in the event of a decrease in Kuwait’s sovereign reserves.

The agency said that the risks of renewed government liquidity, especially in the event of a large withdrawal of liquidity from the General Reserve Fund due to the large and continuous fiscal deficit, would also negatively affect Kuwait’s sovereign rating, although we do not expect this to happen in the near term.

Moody’s said that it had set the degree of economic strength of Kuwait at “A2” due to the very large oil wealth in Kuwait and its reflection on the per capita share of the country.

However, given Kuwait’s great dependence on oil and its revenues, accelerating the momentum of the global transition beyond oil will exert negative pressure on the economy and on financial indicators.

The agency pointed out that despite Kuwait’s possession of the largest proven oil reserves relative to production within the Gulf and its production costs in Kuwait among the lowest in the world, the small size of Kuwait’s economy compared to other Gulf oil-exporting countries and its dependence on oil leads to economic growth and achieving a more volatile GDP than other Gulf countries.

Moody’s said compared to many of its oil and gas producing peers around the world, including the Gulf states, Kuwait lags significantly in its progress in financial and economic reforms.

Although the reason for this backwardness is largely driven by sovereign tensions in the country, the continuous delay in Kuwait’s implementation of reforms (such as maximizing non-oil revenues) and economic diversification projects increases Kuwait’s exposure to the long-term risks of post-oil transition.

The agency added that the management of monetary policy in Kuwait enjoys credibility and effectiveness, as evidenced by the low levels of inflation and the relative stability of the dinar since it was linked to an undeclared basket of currencies.

The regulations of the Central Bank of Kuwait are generally strong and prudent, and this is reflected positively in the financial stability of the Kuwaiti banking system during periods of macroeconomic volatility.

Kuwaiti banks have high capital and liquidity, and strong coverage of non-performing loan provisions.

Moody’s confirmed that Kuwait’s strong public budget is mainly the result of huge financial surpluses that it maintained in the past when oil prices and production were higher than current levels, estimating that government financial assets, which are controlled by the Kuwait Investment Authority in the Generations Fund, reach about 290% of GDP total until the end of 2022.

Moody’s rated the risks of Kuwait’s external financial position at AA, confirming that Kuwait possesses huge reserves of foreign currencies held by the Central Bank, in addition to the huge reserves of foreign assets held by the Kuwait Investment Authority, which greatly reduces the risks of the country’s external financial position.

It is expected that Kuwait will achieve large financial surpluses in the current account in the foreseeable future, according to the agency’s current assumptions for oil prices.

The agency said, “After Kuwait achieved strong growth in GDP in 2022 by 8.1%, the decline in the country’s oil production this year, in line with (OPEC +) decisions to reduce production, will drop Kuwait’s GDP growth sharply to 0.7%. In 2023. It expected the GDP of Kuwait’s oil sector to contract by between 3% to 3.5% in 2023, likely to be matched by strong growth of the country’s non-oil economy by between 4% and 5% in the current year.

Moody’s stated that Kuwait’s draft general budget would result in a modest financial surplus, based on the assumption of an average oil price of \$85 per barrel in 2023 and \$83 per barrel in 2024, estimating that government oil revenues will decrease by 16% in 2023 due to lower oil prices and production.

### Revenues

Moody’s stated that our assessment of Kuwait’s financial strength at “AAA” takes into account the very low government debt burden, and the very large financial reserves that help fend off high fluctuations in revenues, knowing that 80% of Kuwaiti government revenues are derived from oil.

However, the agency said, the very low government debt burden in Kuwait is partly due to its inability to issue new debt securities since the public debt law expired in 2017.

In the event that the government obtains the approval of the National Assembly on a new debt law, the government debt burden will gradually increase with the return of fiscal deficit in the medium term in the absence of economic diversification reforms when oil prices drop to a range between 55 and 75 dollars per barrel in the medium term.

Nevertheless, Moody’s expects Kuwait to maintain a strong public budget for the foreseeable future.



His Royal Highness Prince Saud bin Naif bin Abdulaziz, the Governor of the Eastern Province and other officials from the GCC during the inauguration ceremony.

## ‘Catalyst for a new era’

# Iraq joins GCC power grid

AL-KHOBAR, Saudi Arabia, June 10: His Royal Highness Prince Saud bin Naif bin Abdulaziz, the Governor of the Eastern Province, inaugurated the commencement of the electrical interconnection project between the GCC Interconnection Authority and the Republic of Iraq. This momentous event witnessed the presence of esteemed dignitaries including His Royal Highness Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, the Saudi Minister of Energy, Engineer Ziyad Ali Fadel, the Iraqi Minister of Electricity, a number of Gulf Arab ministers of electricity, Gulf ambassadors to the Kingdom, as well as several officials from both the Gulf and Iraq.

### Achievement

His Royal Highness Prince Saud bin Naif bin Abdulaziz, the Governor of the Eastern Province, conveyed his immense joy and satisfaction in commemorating the remarkable achievement accomplished by the GCCIA. He viewed this momentous occasion as a blessed result of the collective endeavors within the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), underscoring their unwavering dedication to fruitful cooperation.

By inaugurating the electrical interconnection project with the esteemed nation of Iraq, he emphasized the extensive advantages and abundant prosperity it would bring to the entire region. Additionally, he highlighted that this project serves as a catalyst for a new era, ushering in broader horizons and expanding market opportunities.

His Royal Highness Prince Saud bin Naif bin Abdulaziz, the Governor of the Eastern Province, emphasized, “The electrical interconnection project stands as a testament to the unwavering support and guidance of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, His Royal Highness the Crown Prince, and the esteemed leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries. Since its establishment in 2009, when the Kingdom embraced it, the project has consistently demonstrated its impact year after year, generating numerous economic advantages for the GCC countries. Notably, it has substantially reduced both the capital and operational expenses associated with the Gulf electricity network.”

Moreover, His Royal Highness Prince Saud bin Naif bin Abdulaziz highlighted, “According to the studies conducted, the project has furnished approximately half of the overall required energy reserves in the countries prior to the finalization of the electrical interconnection. Furthermore, it has established dependable, sustainable, and competitive electricity transmission services, yielding a positive influence in supporting and streamlining all developmental endeavours in the region.”

His Royal Highness Prince Saud bin Naif bin Abdulaziz added: “With the inauguration of the interconnection project with our esteemed sisterly nation, Iraq, the electrical interconnection endeavour expands its horizons, entering a broader realm. Through this collaboration, we achieve a multitude of objectives, elevating the stature of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries in bolstering and enhancing the value of the regional electricity market. The project fulfils the aspirations of the people in the region for electricity trade and exchange, while also serving as an integral component of the comprehensive Arab electrical interconnection project, which aims to connect Arab nations with each other. Moreover, it lays the foundation for potential future expansion to even more distant locations, as inspired by the will of the Almighty.”

During the ceremony, His Royal Highness Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, the Minister of Energy, stated, “The start of the implementation of the electrical interconnection project between the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) electrical grid and the southern grid of the Republic of Iraq, which was signed on the sidelines of the ‘Jeddah Summit for Security and Development’ in July last year, represents one of the projects aimed at enhancing cooperation between the GCC countries and the esteemed Republic of Iraq in the economic and social fields.”

His Royal Highness conveyed his utmost gratitude and deep appreciation to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques,

Weather			
Expected weather for the next 24 hours:			
By Day: Very hot with light to moderate northwesterly wind with speeds of 12-38 km/h.			
By Night: Rather hot with light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind with speeds of 08-28 km/h.			
Station	Max Exp	Min Rec	
Kuwait City	46	34	
Kuwait Airport	47	29	

Abdaly	47	28
Jahra	48	31
Salmiyah	43	33
Ahmadi	41	35
Nuwaisib	44	29
Wafra	47	27

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh  
Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, June 10: The decision of Minister of Education and Higher Education Hamad Al-Adwani to suspend the scholarship for Kuwaitis studying Medicine, Pharmacology and Dentistry in Egypt and Jordan has drawn mixed parliamentary reactions.**

A total of 12 newly elected MPs voiced objection to the decision, stressing the need for further studies in the interest of the students. These MPs include Falah Al-Hajri, Meteb Raathan Al-Zaidi, Muhammad Al-Mahan, Khalid Al-Tamar, Abdulhadi Al-Ajmi, Muhammad Al-Regaib, Mubarak Al-Tasha, Majed Al-Mutairi, Abdullah Fehad, Muhammad Hayef, Badr Sayyar Al-Shemari and Badr Al-Anzi.

Hayef said the decision damages the educational strategies and violates the regulations of the Accreditation Directorate at Kuwait University. He argued that correcting the errors should not bring about bigger problems.

Fehad stated that the decision kills the ambition of excellent students, considering it does not specify alternative universities for the students.

Al-Mutairi thinks the decision has not been studied well and there has been suspicion of giving special benefits to certain parties at the expense of public interest. He highlighted the fact that Kuwait lacks physicians and other medical professionals. He then recommended specifying the qualified universities in Egypt and Jordan, instead of suspending the scholarship.

MP Hamadan Al-Azmi urged the Ministry of Higher Education to organize a press conference in order to explain the rationale behind the decision. He added the government must change the previous attitude and reveal facts to the citizens.

On the other hand, MP Jenan Bu Shehri supports the decision; indicating her opinion is based on the vision of academic experts who upheld the decision. She was quick to clarify though that she fully understands the opinion of the other party.

MP Hamad Al-Elyan also supports the decision, disclosing that he carefully studied the decision. He concluded that the decision is in the interest of the students and development of the quality of education.

In another development, MP Muhammad Hayef said he will reopen talks on issues included in the agenda of the Negative Phenomena Committee; such as cheating in exams, bribery, corruption, drugs and national and Islamic identity.

MP Soud Al-Asfour called on HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to consider the results of the parliamentary election in forming the new government. He pointed out that the structure of the government will define the level of cooperation between the executive and legislative authorities. He stressed the need for a government that matches the electoral outcome to work towards the desired achievements.

He added that amnesty and the release of those imprisoned for involvement in opinion crimes are on top of his priorities in the coming parliamentary term.

# ‘Kuwait to experience hot summer this year’

KUWAIT CITY, June 10: According to weather forecasts, Kuwait is expected to witness a hot summer with temperatures rising above 50 degrees Celsius. There is a possibility of registering record temperature rises due to climate and environmental changes in the world in general, reports Al-Rai daily.

Meteorologist Issa Ramadan explained that the hot, dusty days come due to the Indian seasonal depression. The winds are dry due to the sun, which is almost vertical on the surface of the earth. Also, the length of the day contributes to higher temperatures on the ground, making the months of June, July and August the hottest months of the year.

Temperatures are expected to rise this summer to more than 50 degrees Celsius. There have been more frequent cases of high temperatures and the impact of unprecedented heat waves in the last ten years compared to the 1960s, due to climatic, social and environmental changes in the world in general.

Meanwhile, Head of the Kuwait Astronomical Society Adel Al-Saadoun said, “The summer square period starts on June 7 every year, extends for a period of 39 days, and continues until July 15. During this period, the sun is fixed in the sky for several days, which is called summer solstice, when the sun is perpendicular to the Tropic of Cancer on June 21. After the summer solstice, the heat begins to increase, which is called the heat of departure, on June 25. This is followed by the winds called “the poison winds”, which are dry and hot winds. Their date is around July 5.

This period is overcome by rapid northwestern winds, which reach speeds of more than 50 kilometers sometimes, and are laden with dust. They are hot, dry winds, as they come from the dry northwestern desert lands called the Arabian Desert, which is located between Iraq, Syria and northern Saudi Arabia. There may be days interspersed with calm days. At the same time, the southeast winds laden with moisture sometimes blow due to its crossing over the water surface of the Arabian Gulf.”



Meteorologist Issa Ramadan

## Study underway on two options

# Call to implement major projects

KUWAIT CITY, June 10: As a matter of urgency, the Council of Ministers instructed the concerned authorities to take the necessary measures to start establishing and preparing the infrastructure for the implementation of the Entertainment City and Failaka Island Resort projects, in preparation for offering them to investors and implementing them as quickly as possible, reports Al-Qabas daily.

According to the study carried out by the Tourism Enterprises Company, the cost of the infrastructure for the two projects is estimated at 155 million dinars, about 80 million dinars for the completion of the infrastructure for the Entertainment City, and about 75 million dinars for the Failaka Resort project, in addition to the cost of implementing the two projects at a cost of an estimate 250 million dinars.

Sources told the daily that the Council of Ministers has assigned this file to the Minister of Finance and the Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment. He will be working in tandem with a number of other government agencies, including the Ministry of Public Works, the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy, the Kuwait Municipality and other relevant authorities.

### Measures

The Council of Ministers has also instructed the Ministry of Finance to take all necessary measures to amend the legislation and legal texts to ensure that the Tourism Enterprises Company and other government agencies and companies have sufficient flexibility in implementing their respective development projects.

The study presented by the TEC necessitates legislative amendment to Law No. 105 of state real estate, so that the period of offering to exploit the sites of the two projects is between 30 to 50 years or more, so that it is attractive to investors in the private sector, ensuring that investors wishing to implement the two projects achieve real estate benefits and a feasible return, especially since the law in its current form has set a maximum limit for exploitation for 3 years, which is not attractive to investors.

According to the vision of the Tourism Enterprises Company, the entertainment city project will be built on 2.6 sq kms area, including an amusement park on 200,000 square meters, in addition to a number of supportive and complementary facilities, including the Sheikh Zayed Reserve, retail area, restaurants and services, sports fields, an electronic games hall, and a place for learning and entertainment.

The number of visitors is expected to reach about 900,000 annually, contributing about 85 million dinars to the gross domestic product and provide more than 4,000 jobs by 2035.

As for the Failaka Resort project, which will be built on 1.8 sq km area; is planned to be a leisure and tourist destination and will have a family resort, a luxury resort, chalets, entertainment and shopping centers, restaurants and cafés.

According to preliminary studies, the expected internal return from the project will be about 13%, assuming that the lease term is 30 years, and will contribute about 80 million dinars to the gross domestic product in 2035 and provides more than 3,000 new job opportunities.



diwaniya

ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

## ‘Nothing wrong in paying attention to visions of young people’

“THE curtain fell on a new democratic scene in Kuwaiti political life, during which fifty deputies were able to reach parliament, with the confidence and votes of the voters, to form the legislative authority in its new chapter,” columnist **Asrar Hayat** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

“Our wishes are with the winners (new representatives) in their oversight journey and we would like to draw the attention of the legislative and executive authorities to an issue that, despite its importance, is forgotten by many with the announcement of the election results.

“The Parliamentary elections are not just a democratic practice of casting ballots and deputies winning seats, but can be considered a factory for creating innovation and creativity in visions, programs and plans in various fields of political, economic, social and other areas.

“Every election is full of a good number of candidates, who carry enlightened thoughts and creative energies in presenting programs and visions, each in his own field, and presenting them as electoral programs to voters, but they may not be lucky to succeed and deliver these programs to the legislative kitchen in Abdullah Al-Salem Hall.

“These elections, which we lived through during the past few days, were no exception, as many male and female candidates, especially the young ones, put forward very important, applicable, and useful opinions in Kuwait’s renaissance and development, but unfortunately most of them were not lucky, and they were unable to reserve a seat for themselves in the Parliament.

“Here I call on both the government and the parliament to adopt these ideas, visions and program. What is wrong, for example, for deputies to cooperate with former candidates in proposing some laws? What is the problem if the government is able to listen to the voice of these young people and pay attention to their visions that they expressed during their seminars, meetings and electoral activities, and adopt what it deems appropriate? Isn’t the aim Kuwait’s renaissance and prosperity?

“Only in this way can we widen the circle of our benefit from democratic life, and prove that the space of freedom that the constitution guaranteed to us, and that allowed our candidates to put forward programs and ideas, is beneficial to the country’s development.

“Also, I call on public benefit associations, or even young volunteers, to



Asrar Hayat

create a database that includes these programs that were presented during election campaigning, and even the previous ones, to serve as a reference for those who want to adopt them from among the representatives or the government, so that we cooperate for the advancement of Kuwait.”

**Also:**

“This article was written a few moments before the closing of voting for the seventeenth National Assembly elections, which were held on Tuesday 6/6/2023,” columnist **Dr Muhammad Al-Maqati** wrote for **Al-Jarida** daily.

“These elections witnessed a good democratic atmosphere, despite the negative manifestations in the campaigns of some candidates, and the accusations or allegations made by some fake accounts, behind which influential people, candidates, owners of money, corrupt and infiltrated people, and perhaps malicious foreign hands, hide behind them, which necessitates that the state takes action against their owners on all sites that are permitted in Kuwait, so that each person bears responsibility for what is published on his account, as developed countries have done so, and to prevent slander, insult, defamation, and bad-mouthing done by fake accounts.

“Perhaps it is important to acknowledge here that as much as we rejoice in the democratic practice represented in the elections, and in the atmosphere of freedom that accompanies them, especially the freedoms of assembly, expression and publishing, and as much as we welcome the diversity that characterizes the Kuwaiti elections in terms of proposals and visions and in the formation of candidates and competing or supportive groups, and as much as we accept participation by the voters and creating the appropriate atmosphere for their participation and the multiplicity and convergence of polling stations and the supervision of their judiciary, and the involvement of civil society groups and associations, the press and the media with oversight and follow-up, and an atmosphere of transparency and openness in the competition in general.

“We say as much as we welcome all of this, our joy, welcome and acceptance are incomplete or diminished because of the number among the essential matters absent from the elections, which are multiple impurities such as the corruption of the electoral system, which is based on granting the voter a single vote to elect 10 MPs from his constituency.

“It is corruption because the formation of constituencies is based on geographical and demographic division, which led to the emergence of factional polarization regionally, and from the tribal, sectarian and family point of view.

“The ongoing corruption of the electoral system is phenomena that offend it, such as tampering with the civil card records and records and their inaccuracy, which is reflected in the electoral records that are ill with all these defects, which requires a real and complete treatment to cleanse the elections from the impurities of the restrictions, as well as the flow of political money, which is what has been shown is the arrest of limited cases that were seized by buying off voters, and the existence of broader cases of buying votes by direct, indirect, and innovative methods far from the seriousness of the fight, and the actual cleansing that is still absent, which requires monitoring the accounts and many of the necessary measures to eradicate that corruption.

“It is a corrupt electoral system due to the presence of dual nationals of other countries who participated in the election, candidates in certain circumstances, and in large numbers as voters, which makes the will of the nation distorted and false with the presence of these huge numbers.

“It is a corrupt electoral system for not purging voter records from nationality forgers, whether those against whom final or preliminary judgments have been issued, or those against whom this has been proven through the investigations conducted with them, or as it is known and documented in the documents and papers of the nationality concerned authorities.

“Also, the absence of the Supreme National Authority for Elections with all its internationally recognized competencies and complete independence is one of the grave defects of the electoral process in all its stages, which we hope will be quickly resolved in the next council.

“Among its individual flaws is the “personalization” of the electoral competition system, with the absence of national theses and specific issues to address the issues of the state and the people, which is the case for most candidates, with the exception of a few whose number does not exceed the fingers of one hand.

“Finally, democratic experiments need continuity to mature, and we are unfortunately moving against the wheel of progress, due to the faltering, improvised and immediate performance of the representatives, and their keenness on personal gains and parliamentary seats more than their keenness for the prosperity of the homeland, its strength, resistance, issues and cohesion on the one hand, and because of the repetition of dissolution or annulment, which leads to it entails restoring the authority to decide on the electoral process of the National Assembly, pursuant to the principle established in Article 95 of the Constitution.

— Compiled by Mai Elsoukary

## 7 suspects held in possession of 5,250 kg of drugs: minister

964 ‘absconding’ workers nabbed in 5 months



Asian expats who left their sponsors found working in a ceramics shop.

### Consumer safety eyed

## ‘Ban selling chicken near homes’

KUWAIT CITY, June 10: The Chairwoman of the Board of Directors has officially addressed the Director General of the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN) Dr. Reem Al-Fulaij and the Acting Director General of Kuwait Municipality Eng. Saud Al-Dabbous regarding the need to cancel the activity of selling live poultry in shops in residential areas, and instead allow only licensed exhibitions for the sale of chilled chicken in order to preserve public health and consumer safety, reports **Al-Qabas** daily.

According to the letter sent by PAFN to the Kuwait Municipality, repeated requests were sent to the Ministry of Social Affairs for canceling the activity of selling live poultry in shops, and instead settling with licensing exhibitions to sell chilled chicken.

The Ministry of Social Affairs reported that “identifying all the investment activities in the cooperative societies in the central markets and their affiliated branches in the residential plots are within the competence of the Kuwait Municipality, as per a decision issued by the Municipal Council.



Dr. Al-Fulaij

**Stressed**

In the letter, PAFN stressed that the recommendation is based on the testimony of the Director of the Slaughterhouses Department and the Deputy Director General for Inspection and Control Affairs, and pursuant to the legal opinion issued by the Legal Affairs Department, in addition to a letter from the official of the Ahmadi slaughterhouse, in which a detailed explanation was given of the risks posed by presence of shops that sell, slaughter and process live poultry in residential areas.

It stated that, “Based on the foregoing, and in the interest of the public and for ensuring the safety of consumers, please instruct the concerned authorities to quickly take the necessary measures in this regard.”

In a related context, informed sources explained that this decision, if approved, will be applied to shops affiliated to coop-

### One hurt in fire

## Trucker dies in mishap

KUWAIT CITY, June 10: A fuel tank driver died on the spot when his empty fuel tanker ran out of control and crashed into the trees on Sixth Ring Road, reports **Al-Rai** daily.

The Public Relations and Media Department of the General Fire Force stated after a report was received by the Central Operations Department about an accident, fire engines from the Jahra Al-Harfi Fire Station and Technical Rescue Centers rushed to the site of the accident handed over the remains of the driver to Forensics.

Meanwhile, one person was injured when a fire partially destroyed an Arab house in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, reports **Al-Rai** daily.

The Public Relations and Media Department of the General Fire Force stated after a report was received from the Central Operations Department of a house fire in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh firemen from Al-Sumoud and Al-Ardiya firefighting centers rushed to the site, and put out fire on one of the rooms on the first floor. One person was injured and he was taken to the emergency medical facility.

erative societies and their branches in private housing areas that sell live chicken. As for investment housing areas, the matter will be discussed and a meeting will be held between the concerned authorities to take the required action after the study.

The implementation of the decision to cancel the activity of selling live poultry in private housing areas and limiting it to licensing exhibitions for the sale of chilled chicken only will not be applied without the approval of the Kuwait Municipality on this approach. There will be further meetings and discussions between the officials of PAFN and Kuwait Municipality. An appropriate mechanism will be discussed to ensure the achievement of the goals of the decision, topped by the need to preserve the health of consumers.

## KUWAIT CITY, June 10, (Agencies): The Ministry of the Interior on Friday announced the arrest of seven suspects of different nationalities in possession of about 5,250 kilograms of various types of narcotics and 2,600 tablets of psychotropic substances.

First Deputy Prime Minister, Interior Minister and Acting Defense Minister Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah affirmed that security men in all sectors of the ministry continue to arrest dealers, said the General Directorate of Security Relations and Media in a statement.

The Criminal Security Department at the ministry managed to arrest seven accused as a continuation of the follow-up of Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled to implement the law, intensify the security presence and arrest the outlaws, added the statement.

However, the ministry called on everyone to cooperate with the security forces and report any suspicious activities to the emergency phone (112) and the hotline of the General Administration for Drug Control (1884141).

### Statistic

Meanwhile, according to a recent statistic issued by the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM), the quartet joint committee, headed by PAM, and with members from the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and the Kuwait Municipality, conducted 125 inspection rounds covering all parts of the country from the beginning of 2023 until end of May. During these inspection rounds, they seized 964 violating workers, reports **AlJarida** daily.

The statistics revealed that these violating workers are distributed in the following manner:-

- 1) 512 are in the private sector and hold article 18 residency
- 2) 351 domestic workers who hold article 20, representing 36 percent of the total violators.
- 3) 61 workers who are under article 22
- 4) 31 workers who hold other residencies.

Informed sources explained that there is a significant increase in the number of domestic workers who flee from the homes of their sponsors, and work illegally in the private sector. This matter has become a phenomenon that requires urgent solutions and drastic action to prevent the leakage of this labor force into the private labor market.

The authority’s inspection tour revealed dozens of domestic workers who fled from their employers and work daily in the field of architecture, dyeing, ceramic installation and decoration works. A number of marginal workers who do not carry civil cards and work in make-shift stalls to sell worn-out clothes and used electrical appliances, especially in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh and Khaitan areas were arrested.

It also seized hundreds of absconding domestic workers who work in the labor market in violation of the law. PAM is working in coordination with the Ministry of Interior to develop a mechanism with specific perceptions through which it is possible to prevent the leakage of these workers into the private sector.

With regard to the seized labor of the private sector, the file of the employer on which this labor is registered is suspended, and is marked with the code “73” until it is confirmed that it has deported them out of the country. It is then re-inspected to ensure that it is committed to employing labor with it.

The sources affirmed the continuation of sudden inspection campaigns by the committee in various parts of the country to control marginal workers and those who do not work for the employers under whom their residences. Legal measures will be taken against employers in order to confront dealers of residences and fake companies that flooded the market with marginal labor.

### Other Voices

## Al Khamees & shape of Earth

By Ahmad alsarraf

In his response to a question about how to reply to those claiming that the Earth is flat and not round, scholar Othman Al Khamees said smilingly, that he does not agree with those who say the Earth is flat and he also doesn’t agree with those who believe it is spherical.

Al Khamees added that both parties do not have evidences to support their claims which mean both can be right or wrong. He said the issue does not deserve getting into a dispute and whoever adopts any of the two opinions does not have to defame the others or hurt them.



alsarraf

Over the centuries, tens of thousands have been humiliated in addition to those who have been murdered, tortured and accused of atheism from the different cultures, in our region and in Europe because they said the Earth is round. Eventually, Al Khamees said the issue does not deserve to be disputed and he is neither with , nor against the two opinions.

He ignored the religious texts from one side and the scientific facts from the other side. Does he believe that the Earth is pentagonal, hexagonal or what? Strangely, he did not consider the opinion of space scientists who proved that the Earth is round.

I had a personal experience more than sixty years ago when I was sitting next to my father’s car, waiting for him to leave to visit a patient in the Amiri Hospital.

The weather was wonderful that day, and the sea water was as clear as oil spilled in a huge vessel, and I do not know what prompted me

at that moment to think about what I had read or heard, days before in school, about the round shape of the earth, and how it could be so, and the difficulty of imagining that the waters of the seas and rivers did not spill on the side bottom of the earth, for example? Or the way people walk in Australia, hanging, their heads down and their feet stuck to the ground above them?

I saw on the distant horizon, while I was walking in my thoughts, what looked like a stick sticking out on the surface of the water, so I kept watching it as it approached the coast as it grew larger and increased in length, as if it were a column emerging from the sea, then it turned into something like a pen planted in the middle of a large body that floated, and not long before I found out, what I was seeing was only a huge ship heading for land, and the shaft was nothing but her high mast.

I wondered to myself, as if I were Isaac Newton of his time, why did I see the mast of the ship on the horizon, or the pole that carries its sails, before seeing the body of the ship, which is larger and more massive than the mast...by degrees? My questions continued before I came to the conclusion that the reason is due to the sphericity of the Earth. If it were flat, it would have been logical to see the ship, as a whole, as it was coming towards me, before seeing the upper end of its mast, then the entire mast and then the entire hull of the ship, and the reason was because it was coming from a slope or a curvature that represents or proves the Earth’s curvature!

I was pleased with my “scientific results” and decided to tell my father about it when he returned. When he heard my theory, he replied curtly: “Don’t eat hay and weed”... that is, a lot.

□ □ □

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His Highness congratulates Portugal on National Day

HH Amir congratulates Jordan King on coronation anniversary

KUWAIT CITY, June 10, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Friday a cable of congratulations to the King of Jordan Abdullah II on the occasion of the 24th anniversary of his coronation.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir lauded firm and distinguished fraternal relations between the State of Kuwait and Jordan, wishing the king good health and Jordan and its people further progress and prosperity under his wise leadership.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations to the King of Jordan Abdullah II on the occasion of the 24th anniversary of his coronation.

In the cable, His Highness the Crown Prince wished the king good health and Jordan and its people further progress and prosperity under his wise leadership.

Also, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations to King Abdullah II on the occasion of the 24th anniversary of his coronation.

His Highness the Amir **Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah** sent on Saturday a cable to the President of Portugal, **Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa**, congratulating him on Portugal's National Day.

The Amir wished the president good health and the people of Portugal further progress and prosperity.

Also, His Highness the Crown Prince **Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah** sent a congratulatory cable to President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, on the occasion of his country's National Day, and wished the president good health.

His Highness the Prime Minister **Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah** also sent Saturday a congratulatory cable to President Rebelo de Sousa on the occasion of his country's National Day.

KU to open registration for expat students for academic 2023/2024

‘Japanese professors to provide guidance for Kuwaiti students’

KUWAIT CITY, June 10: Kuwait University will soon open the registration for expatriate students for academic year 2023/2024, reports Al-Qabas daily quoting sources.

Sources said this is the second year that the university will accept expatriate students in a bid to improve its rank in international academic indices. Sources clarified the number of seats for expatriate students has not been specified; indicating these students will enroll after the

Kuwaitis and the children of Kuwaiti women married to non-Kuwaitis.

Sources added the admission policy, number of seats in the faculties and admission of expatriate students will be presented in the next meeting of the Public Universities Council for approval.

Meanwhile, Japanese Ambassador to Kuwait Morino Yasunari has confirmed that Japanese professors will visit the country soon to provide guidance for Kuwaiti students, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Speaking to the press on the sidelines of the Italian Embassy's National Day celebration recently, Yasunari asserted: "It is good for Kuwaitis to get acquainted with Japanese culture."

FM hosts diplomats

Kuwait urges Europe to facilitate Schengen visas

KUWAIT CITY, June 10, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait on Saturday urged European states to facilitate the granting of Schengen visas for Kuwaiti citizens.

The call was made by Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah who received at a luncheon, held upon instructions by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, European ambassadors, heads of diplomatic missions and charge d'affaires serving in Kuwait.

The minister, during the luncheon held at the ceremonies diwan at the Foreign Ministry headquarters, called upon the diplomats to act for easing off difficulties facing the Kuwaiti nationals seeking the Schengen visa, facilitate procedures to apply for the



Sheikh Salem

visa, set more dates and speed up paper work.

Sheikh Salem requested that the Schengen visa for the Kuwaiti citizens be valid for several years, lauding the missions' efforts for tackling the visa applications during the travel season and facilitating procedures for Kuwaitis traveling to the resorts in the European countries.

He expressed utter respect for these states' procedures and sovereignty with respect of issuing the visas.

He also affirmed that his country welcomes Kuwaitis who want to study in its universities, especially since "the university curriculum in our country is distinguished and very useful, specifically in the fields of Science and technology."

**Excellent bonus:** Minister of Justice, Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Dr Amer Al-Ratam has approved the list of employees eligible for the excellent job performance bonus, reports Al-Jarida daily.

On its official Twitter account, the ministry disclosed that the bonus will be deposited in the bank accounts of beneficiaries within two or three working days.

Embassy of Japan press release

On June 8, H.E. Mr. **Morino Yasunari**, Ambassador of Japan to the State of Kuwait attended the Kuwait Hydrogen Symposium, which was co-hosted by Japan Cooperation Center for Petroleum and Sustainable Energy (JCCP) and Kuwait Petroleum Company (KPC).

Representatives from Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry of Japan as well as from various Japanese private companies attended the symposium.

His Excellency Yasunari delivered the opening remarks in this important symposium for the two friendly countries that was aimed to contribute to the carbon neutral goals.

**Sheikh Nawaf Al Sabah**, CEO of Kuwait Petroleum Company, Mr. **Tsuyoshi Nakai**, CEO of Japan Cooperation Center for Petroleum and Sustainable Energy, Distinguished attendees.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Sheikh Nawaf and his team of KPC for hosting the 3rd symposium on hydrogen in cooperation with JCCP. The fact that the face-to-face event is finally taking place, surviving the pandemic, demonstrates the exceptional, trusted partnership between the two Japanese and Kuwaiti organizations, JCCP and KPC. It is my great pleasure to welcome the Japanese delegation who have come over to Kuwait to share their sophisticated knowledge and expertise and I highly appreciate JCCP for its coordinating role. My profound tributes also go to the Kuwaiti speakers from different organizations, such as KPC, KISR and

Kuwait University.

As Japan and Kuwait are both committed to carbon neutrality, and given the long lasting partnership between the two countries, which have long time contributed to the stability of the oil market, the focus on energy transition and hydrogen as its key element is appropriate as well as timely. Only two days ago did the Government of Japan launch a new strategy of hydrogen aiming to expand the use of hydrogen from both sides of supply and demand. The strategy identifies areas of priority, such as water electrolysis, fuel cell, transportation, etc. and envisions significant increase in government and private investments.

CCS and CCUS technologies are an important part of the de-carbonization solutions when renewables come to the main seat. I look forward to concrete discussion on CCS and CCUS based on the outcome of the ongoing projects.

The goal of carbon neutrality and the energy transition can only be achieved through global efforts to realize a more sustainable, environment-friendly and inclusive development of the world. At the recent summit in Hiroshima, Japan, the G7 countries declared the willingness to work through dialogue, cooperation and coordination for the global clean energy transition. I am confident that the exceptional partnership between Japan and Kuwait will make significant contributions to the welfare of the world and of the future human society.

I would like to reiterate my appreciation to JCCP and KPC for co-organizing this symposium and thank you all for joining.

Kuwait elected to senior post for WTO regional commission

JORDAN, June 10, (KUNA): The Regional Commission for the Middle East of the UN World Trade Organization on Wednesday elected the State of Kuwait Second Deputy of the commission chair.

Kuwait also won membership in the "designation documents commission" at the organization for the first time since founding the WTO in 1975.

This came during the 49th meeting of the commission and the Medical and Wellness Tourism Conference, held with participation of a Kuwaiti delegation headed by the assistant undersecretary for tourism at the Ministry of Information Saud Al-Khaldi, representatives of 13 Arab states, international and Arab organizations.

In remarks to KUNA, Al-Khaldi said electing Kuwait to serve in this ranking post signaled its high-esteem status within the WTO, noting that Kuwait's development strategy new Kuwait 2035 aims at boosting it status regionally and internationally in diverse sectors including tourism.

He indicated the national approach in the sector to promote Kuwait as a shopping and nutrition hub, noting that tourism is an axis in the government manifesto (2022-2026).

The 49th meeting of the WTO regional commission was held, with attendance of the organization's secretary general, Zurab Pololikashvili, Jordan's Minister Tourism



KUNA photo

Saud Al-Khaldi

Makram Al-Qaisi and Arab peers.

Pololikashvili said the meeting was held to ponder plans for facing challenges in the tourism sector in the region.

Meanwhile, Ahmad Issa, the head of the regional commission and Egypt's Tourism Minister, said the meeting bears special significance as it is being held following dire ramifications of the coronavirus crisis.

‘General Administration of Customs revenues for 2022/’23 see increase’

KUWAIT CITY, June 10: The Director General of the General Administration of Customs Sulaiman Abdulaziz Al-Fahad said the revenues for the 2022/2023 fiscal year amounted to KD 405 million, a difference exceeding KD 79 million compared to the previous fiscal year, which recorded KD 326,395,330. This increase of about 24 percent was the result of the efforts exerted by GAC and its decisions that were enforced, reports Al-Anba daily.

In a press statement, he also praised the Department of Financial Affairs and the Customs Documentation Departments, as well as the employees of the General Administration of Customs.

Al-Fahad affirmed the commitment of GAC to implement the directives of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah to move at an accelerated pace towards digital transformation, which contributed to the acceleration of customs procedures.

He stressed that the electronic customs system is an essential pillar of the work system.

Affirming that the system enables all business partners and customs sectors at the ports to complete their work smoothly, Al-Fahad elaborated that the customs electronic portal has many services that enable business partners to inquire and document track the movement of goods and clearance.

He highlighted the keenness of the General Administration of Customs to implement the vision of the First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and Acting Minister of Defense Sheikh Talal Al-Khalid to deal with narcotics with firmness and vigilance. This was reflected in the increase in the seizures of narcotic substances that smugglers tried to bring into the country by land, sea, air, or via air freight. The customs seizures at the airport increased to 186, and the number of air cargo seizures in 2022 reached 108. In 2021, the number of seizures was 64. The number of seizures at the Nuwaiseeb Port increased by more than four times, from nine in the year 2021 to 40 last

year. The same applies to the Southern Ports Customs Administration.

Al-Fahad revealed that the customs outlets were able to thwart the smuggling of more than 10 million narcotic pills as well as more than 1.25 tonnes of powder that is used for the manufacture of those toxic psychotropic substances, "that is, tens of millions of additional narcotic pills."

He went on to reveal that the amount of liquor bottles seized at the Customs outlets last year was more than 55,000 bottles of alcohol, and in 2021, it was about 1,210 bottles with a total of 7,000 liters of liquor.

Other narcotics seized last year included more than 235 kilograms of Lyrica powder, 44 kilograms of cannabis, and 45 kilograms of synthetic drugs. It was equivalent to double the seizures in 2021, during which 40 kilograms of marijuana and other quantities were seized such as heroin, cocaine, crystal meth (shabu), opium and other narcotic substances.

Regarding other drug seizures, Al-Fahad said some of them have increased, such as cannabis oil, as about 580 ampoules were seized last year compared to only 20 ampoules in 2021, and the same applies to many other seizures.

He affirmed the readiness and dedication of the officers of the General Administration of Customs to perform their duty in protecting the country and preserving the safety of citizens and residents.

He also highlighted the continuous achievements of all customs administrations in confronting the scourge of drugs by various ways and means, armed with the latest devices and other effective equipment.

Al-Fahad appreciated the role and efforts played by the customs officers in confronting smugglers and drug dealers, as "they are the first line of defense for Kuwait".

He indicated that the seizures were not limited to narcotic substances, but also included money and funds that exceeded the prescribed limit and were not disclosed by their possessor.

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Japanese companies ready to cooperate with Kuwait in clean energy realm

# Kuwait Petroleum Corp maps out clean energy strategy

KUWAIT CITY, June 10, (KUNA): Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC),



KUNA photos  
The KPC Chief Executive Officer Sheikh Nawaf Saud Al-Sabah addressing the attendees of the seminar.

umbrella entity of the national oil companies, has mapped out a strategy and roadmap for low-emission energy transformation, the KPC Chief Executive Officer announced on Thursday. Sheikh Nawaf Saud Al-Sabah said that in line with the 2040 KPC strategy and Kuwait's international obligations to attain hydrocarbon neutrality by 2050, the corporation had worked out the strategy and the roadmap for processing the limited emission energy. Sheikh Nawaf was addressing a seminar organized by the KPC research and technology division, themed, "Kuwait third for hydrogen". For his part, CEO of the participating Japan Cooperation Center for Petroleum and Sustainable Energy Center (JCCP) Tsuyoshi Nakai said Japanese companies were ready to cooperate with Kuwait in the clean energy realm. The seminar that involved energy strategy makers from local, regional and international institutions shed light on the hydrogen industry.



Attendees of the seminar themed, 'Kuwait third for hydrogen'.

## Reviving entertainment, tourist destination

Failaka Resort project will cost about KD 205mn to ensure implementation

KUWAIT CITY, June 10: According to informed sources, the latest developments in the Failaka Resort project and the proposed steps to ensure its implementation would cost about KD 205 million, of which KD 130 million is the volume of capital expenditures. About KD 75 million will be borne by the government for infrastructure purposes. It is expected that the number of its visitors will reach about 300,000 annually, reports Al-Qabas daily. According to a recent study by the Touristic Enterprises Company that was reviewed by the Council of Ministers, it is impossible to achieve economic feasibility for any project the size of Failaka Resort within three years, as it requires legislative amendment so that the period of offering to use the Failaka Resort is 30 years or more. An internal revenue return can then be achieved at a rate ranging between 11 and 13 percent for it to be attractive to private sector investors.

### Study

The study expected that the project would contribute about KD 80 million to the gross domestic product by 2035, and would provide about 3,000 job opportunities, assuming that the lease contracts are for a period of 30 years. This would enable the concerned authorities to attract specialized foreign companies to invest and contribute to its development and operation. In addition, with the aim of filling the shortage of recreational products in the country, the executive authorities are accelerating their preparatory steps aimed at rebuilding the Failaka Resort affiliated to the

Touristic Enterprises Company, and reviving it as an entertainment and tourist destination in the southwest part of the island. According to relevant sources, the government's vision, which was recently presented by the Touristic Enterprises Company to the Council of Ministers, includes the establishment of luxury and family resorts along the west coast of Failaka Island, along with a group of chalets on the beach, and a central area designated for retail stores and the public square. The Touristic Enterprises Company's study identified the most important requirements of the project and its economic feasibility. Its cost amounts to about KD 205 million, of which KD 130 million is the volume of capital expenditures, in addition to approximately KD 75 million for infrastructure. It is expected that the number of visitors will reach about 300 thousand annually. The project would contribute about KD 80 million to the gross domestic product by 2035, with an internal revenue return of up to 13 percent, assuming that the lease contracts are for a period of 30 years, and provided that the government provides financing for infrastructure at a value of KD 75 million. It is expected that the project will provide about 3,000 job opportunities by 2035. The study took into account the fact that the resort should be established in a way that achieves a meaningful economic return for the state, and in a way that enables the concerned authorities to attract specialized foreign companies to invest and contribute to its operation and the transfer of the necessary expertise.



Aerial view of Failaka Resort

## World Food Programme commends Kuwait's 'humanitarian' endeavors

KUWAIT CITY, June 10, (KUNA): The United Nations' World Food Programme (WFP) on Thursday heaped praise on Kuwait for the country's contributions towards global humanitarian endeavors, hailing it as among the UN's most indispensable partners. Kuwait never failed to provide "urgent and prompt" aid to some of the impoverished corners of the globe, WFP's deputy director for Gulf Arab states Katrina Gallouzi told KUNA after talks with the country's Red Cres-

cent Society chief Dr. Hilal Al-Sayer. On her visit to Kuwait, the WFP official said it aims to ratchet up cooperation as part of efforts to keep food distribution flowing to countries with severe shortages. Acknowledging the WFP's contributions towards humanitarian aid across the world, the Kuwaiti charities chief agreed that the WFP official's visit would be instrumental in bolstering ties, underlining the Kuwaiti Red Crescent's unwavering commitment to serve humanity.



KUNA photo  
Kuwait Red Crescent Society Chairman Dr. Hilal AlSayer meeting UN World Food Programme Deputy Director for Gulf States Katrina Gallouzi.



Veteran journalist Talal Al-Kandari amid the attendees of 'news writing' program.

## KUNA media development center concludes training program on news writing

KUNA Center for the Development of Media Skills concluded on Thursday a training program entitled "news writing". The program, presented by the veteran journalist Talal Al-Kandari, at KUNA from 4-8 June, focused on introducing the standards of news writing, different types of news items, sources and editing. Eighteen KUNA employees participated in the five-day program, as

well as participants from Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, Public Authority for Anti-Corruption, Kuwaiti Zakat House and State Audit Bureau. This center, established in 1995, is concerned with increasing skills of professional journalistic work, improving media content, and bringing theory and practice closer in the field of writing media materials. (KUNA)

# Kuwait embarks on world's biggest environmental and greening project

Bid to re-vegetate 42 square kilometers of land

## Rehabilitating marine biodiversity on Qaruh Island

EPA cultivates corals on concrete models



Environment Public Authority releases turtles into marine waters.



Aerial view of Qaruh Island.

KUWAIT CITY, June 10, (KUNA): Deputy Director General for Technical Affairs at the Environment Public Authority (EPA) Dr. Abdullah Al-Zaidan said Thursday cultivation of corals on environmentally friendly concrete models (Mayafer) on Qaruh Island is part of rehabilitating marine biodiversity in Kuwait.

In statement to KUNA, Al-Zaidan said that this national project came in cooperation with various state agencies with aim of implementing goals of the development plan and of the UN sustainable development program as well as international agreements ratified by Kuwait. He added that the authority is working on three environmental initiatives on the island, cultivating coral, releasing turtles marked for extinction and tracking them, and finally cleaning the seabed from waste with a specialized environmental team.

The authority placed Al-Mayafer on Qaruh Island to study its quality and use in agriculture, explained Al-Zaidan, as they coordinated with the Scientific Center to plant corals and put it on the Mayafer.

He pointed out that wrong human practices in the Kuwaiti islands, such as passing boats harm the coral, which poses a threat to living organisms, stressing that this step came to reduce the resulting negative effects and preserve biodiversity.

Al-Zaidan noted that two turtles have been released in a similar previous project that was launched last summer and that the sea turtle tracking project comes in cooperation with the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), the Scientific Center, Kuwait University and the Coast Guard, where a tracking device is placed on turtles to build a database for migratory and endangered turtles.

Regarding the initiative to collect waste from the bottom of the island, Al-Zaidan said that with the arrival of summer and the increased visiting to islands, the wrong practices will increase including dumping waste on the beaches and at the sea, which prompted the team to clean the island of waste. in hopes of reducing waste dumping and protecting marine environment.



Dr Al-Zaidan



Palestinian products festival showcasing handicraft items.



Traditional woven textiles



Palestine olives and olive oil globally famous for its health components.



Thyme is famous food in Palestine and the region.

## WCSS hosts Palestinian products festival

KUWAIT CITY, June 10, (KUNA): Kuwait Women's Cultural and Social Society (WCSS) has hosted the Palestinian products festival in coordination with the Palestinian embassy in Kuwait. The festival is marked with an

exhibition showcasing products famous in Palestine and the region, namely olives and olive oil, now globally favored for its health components. Other products on display are traditional Palestinian woven textiles and handicraft items.



Barra to discuss EV charging

General Motors CEO Mary Barra and Tesla CEO Elon Musk are scheduled to discuss the future of electric vehicle charging on Twitter Spaces on Thursday afternoon.

It wasn't clear exactly what Barra and Musk plan to announce. But their discussion comes days after Ford CEO Jim Farley joined Musk to announce that Ford's electric vehicles would gain access to much of Tesla's EV-charging network, the largest in the nation.

Farley also said Ford would switch to Tesla's charging network connector rather than to a different one that is used by the rest of the industry.

American Airlines, JetBlue seek to keep some ties

American Airlines and JetBlue said Friday they should be allowed to keep selling tickets on each other's flights in the Northeast and link their frequent-flyer programs despite losing an anti-trust trial over their partnership.

The Justice Department said if the airlines get their wish, travelers would miss out on the benefits of restoring competition between the carriers.

In separate filings, the airlines and the government told a federal judge in Boston how he should carry out his

ruling last month to break up the partnership. American's CEO has said his airline will appeal the verdict.

The Justice Department proposed a final judgment that would order American and JetBlue to end most parts of the deal immediately. The government said the airlines should honor existing tickets to avoid hurting travelers, but then quickly wind down their sharing of airport gates and take-off and landing slots at key airports.

The airlines want to keep sell-

ing tickets on each other's flights - called code-sharing - and offering reciprocal frequent-flyer benefits because those practices "are common in the airline industry." American and JetBlue also objected to the Justice Department's request that they be barred from any deals involving revenue-sharing or coordinating routes with each other for 10 years, and with any other U.S. airline for two years.

The airlines call their partnership

in New York and Boston the Northeast Alliance, or NEA.

The Justice Department said that by asking to keep elements of the deal, the airlines are trying "to craft a new 'NEA Lite' on the fly."

The airlines launched their partnership after getting approval from the outgoing Trump administration in January 2021. They argued it helped them compete against Delta Air Lines and United Airlines in the Northeast. (AP)

Market Movements 10-06-2023

		Change	Closing pts			Change	Closing pts
UAE	- DFM	+0.30	3,698.69	PHILIPPINES	- PSEI	-0.49	6,507.15
JAPAN	- Nikkei	+1.97	32,265.17				
PAKISTAN	- KSE 100	+0.57	41,904.86				
SAUDI	- Tadawul	+0.21	11,397.14				
EGYPT	- EGX 30	+1.00	17,521.36				

Business

What happened to our 50% policy?

Does Kuwait have enough crude oil for export?

By Kamel Al-Harami  
Independent Oil Analyst  
Email: [naftikuwaiti@yahoo.com](mailto:naftikuwaiti@yahoo.com)

WITH the recent OPEC+ production including the volunteer reductions in crude oil production, one question comes into mind - do we in Kuwait have enough volume of neat crude oil for sale?

With our current production quota of 2.5 million barrels per day, it seems we will be limited with our crude oil selling volume, as our total refining capacity is 2.1 million barrels per day from our six refineries owned by Kuwait or through Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC), divided between our three refineries in Kuwait - one in Mina Abdullah, another in Mina Al-Ahmedi with refining capacity of 800,000 barrels, and then our latest refinery Al-Zour with capacity of 615,000 barrels per day. Thus, Kuwait ends up with 1.4 million barrels of domestic capacity. It also has three joint venture refineries - one in Al



Al-Harami

Doqum in Oman, another in Vietnam and the third in Milazzo in Italy with a total capacity of 600,000 barrels. This results in 2 million barrels of petroleum products, leaving us with only 500,000 barrels per day for pure crude oil export. This is a total of 2 million barrels per day or 80 percent of Kuwait's current crude oil production. So, what happened to our 50 percent split between crude oil and petroleum products sale? Has it gone with the wind or evaporated?

The question is - Does anybody follow Kuwait oil strategy from starting our refining business that called for a 50/50 split between crude oil production(sale) and petroleum production? This has been the Kuwait oil sector's goal. So what is happening now, and who foresees Kuwait's energy policy?

What is the KPC Marketing doing through the lesser amount of crude oil available for sale? How do they deal with our established traditional customers all over the world, especially in the East of Suez market. If we go back to our established production number of 2.8 million barrels per day, Kuwait will still be short to meet its established 50 percent policy, as we will remain with 70 percent for petroleum products.

How did we not know? Are we not embarrassed in front of traditional

crude oil cuts? Have we not raised such a vital issue in front of the board of KPC or the Supreme Petroleum Council?! What is happening to our oil industry? How did we lose basic crude oil contracts at such a fast rate?

What happened to our dreamed numbers of three million production rate, and then 3.5 million and then 4 million barrels, especially when our crude oil production has been on a decline since 2016.

Is KPC simply dreaming or typing and publishing figures without reliability or verification? Is it just publishing numbers and figures, assuming nobody reads or checks, or balances.

Why does our oil industry always come with fictitious figures that are believed by our various boards which simply approve such figures, especially considering the huge expenditures, which result at nothing, on manpower, training, and developments. In fact, it resulted in more decline in our crude oil production.

Any comments, any reply and action?! This is our only source of income for now and for our new generations to come. Witnessing its decline is a crime without any action.

At least we are raising it here with our readers.  
Email: [naftikuwaiti@yahoo.com](mailto:naftikuwaiti@yahoo.com)

ABK closes a 37-month USD 600m Asian syndicated term loan facility

Facility designed to support group's liquidity

KUWAIT CITY, June 10: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait K.S.C.P (ABK), acting through its ABK DIFC branch which is regulated by Dubai Financial Services Authority, announced that it has successfully closed a 37-month USD 600 million Asian syndicated term loan facility. This inaugural transaction will register ABK with the largest facility, by volume, from a Kuwaiti borrower targeting the Asian market to date.

The facility has been designed to support ABK's group liquidity requirements and further fuel growth plans noting the 37-month tenor with a 12-month extension option and will be used for general corporate purposes.

ABK conducted a well-attended Asian Roadshow to showcase the facility, including Bank meetings in Hong Kong, Tokyo and Taipei. The deal was well received in the Asian markets and, on the back of excessive demand, was upsized to USD 600 million from the initial launch target of USD 500 million. The landmark financing closed with a total of 11 Asian lenders.

Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Limited, (DIFC), Dubai Branch, Mizuho Bank, Ltd. and Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation, DIFC branch acted as Joint Coordinators, Initial Mandated Lead Arrangers and Bookrunners for the transaction.

The Korea Development Bank, State Bank of India, ICBC Branch and Agricultural Bank of China (DIFC Branch) joined as Mandated Lead Arrangers, Bank of Baroda, Dubai Branch as Arranger and The Gunma Bank, Ltd., Hua Nan Commercial Bank, Ltd., Offshore Banking Branch, Land Bank of Taiwan Co., Ltd. (Incorporated in Taiwan), Hong Kong Branch, and Industrial Bank of Korea, Hong Kong Branch joined as Arrangers.

"This successful transaction is a testament to ABK's strong leadership, its robust fundamentals, and its vision of expanding its footprint beyond Kuwait. This facility will help us achieve our funding goals while facilitating growth in our core operations. We are pleased to have been able to execute this mandate with the utmost efficiency and professionalism, working in close collaboration with our Joint Coordinators, Initial Mandated Lead Arrangers, and Bookrunners," said Abdulla Al Sumait, Acting Group CEO at ABK.

"This transaction marks an important milestone for ABK. We are proud of this achievement, which confirms our commitment to diversifying our sources of funding and strengthening our presence in the Asian market," said Noura Alduweesh, GM of Treasury and Investment at ABK.

"ABK DIFC is proud to further solidify its position as the key international funding hub for the wider Group. This successful outcome is a true testament to ABK's solid foundations and underpins the continued confidence ABK enjoys across all markets," said Rami El Rufai, General



Abdulla Al Sumait



Noura Alduweesh



Rami El Rufai



A motorist drives near the pumps at a Chevron gas station in Oakland, Calif. Tuesday, April 25, 2017. California jury has returned a \$63 million verdict against Chevron after finding the oil giant covered up a toxic chemical pit and then sold the land to a man who built a house on it and was later diagnosed with a blood cancer. (AP)

Jury returns \$63m verdict

‘Chevron covered up toxic pit on Calif. land’

SANTA BARBARA, Calif., June 10, (AP): A California jury has returned a \$63 million verdict against Chevron after finding the oil giant covered up a toxic chemical pit on land purchased by a man who built a house on it and was later diagnosed with a blood cancer.

Kevin Wright, who has multiple myeloma, unknowingly built his home directly over the chemical pit near Santa Barbara in 1985, according to his lawsuit.

Starting in 1974, Chevron subsidiary Union Oil Company of California had operated a sump pit for oil and

gas production, a process that left the carcinogenic chemical benzene on the property, court papers said.

Wright bought the land and built the house in 1985. Nearly three decades later, he was diagnosed with the cancer that attacks plasma cells in the blood and can be caused by benzene exposure, court documents said.

The jurors in Santa Barbara on Wednesday returned the \$63 million verdict, said Jakob Norman, an attorney for Wright. Norman called the case a "blatant example of environmental pollution and corporate malfeasance."

Chevron said Union Oil Company

would appeal the judgment.

"We strongly disagree with the jury's decisions to award compensatory and punitive damages," Chevron said in a statement Thursday.

Wright's cancer is in remission, his attorneys said, but he regularly undergoes chemotherapy treatments to hold the illness at bay.

"They cut corners, and my life was turned upside down as a result," Wright said in a statement provided by his attorneys. "Chevron's continued denial of the harm they caused is a shameful reminder that this company values only profits, not people."

Manager & Senior Executive Officer at ABK DIFC.

**Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait Overview**

Since its foundation in 1967, ABK has progressed to be one of the leading Kuwaiti banks in the region, providing a wide range of financial and banking services and products across all its markets in Kuwait, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates. In its home market of Kuwait, ABK has 29 centrally located branches, 44 branches in Egypt, and two full-service branches located in Abu Dhabi and Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

In addition to its retail operations, the Bank also has a highly successful commercial side. Its Corporate Banking Division focuses on financing for the construction, real estate and trade sectors, providing loans, letters of credit and guarantees, and financing services, while the Treasury and Investments Division provides effective foreign exchange and interest rate services and advice for the Kuwait, Gulf and international markets.

Through its subsidiary, ABK Capital,

the Bank provides a wide range of financial services, such as asset management, portfolio management, wealth management, investment banking, custody and consultative services. ABK Capital manages high performance funds including Al Ahli Kuwaiti Fund and Al Ahli Gulf Fund. These two funds have achieved high yields through securities investment in Kuwait and GCC countries.

The Bank continues to enjoy strong credit agency ratings of A2 from Moody's and A from Fitch.

Markets not yet convinced

Why Turkey's lira is crashing after Erdogan got re-elected?

ANKARA, Turkey, June 10, (AP): Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan won reelection last month despite a battered economy and a cost-of-living crisis that experts say are exacerbated by his unconventional economic policies.

The longtime leader appointed an internationally respected former banker as finance and treasury minister and on Friday named a former co-CEO of a U.S.-based bank as head of the central bank.

But lingering uncertainty over Erdogan's economic direction and an apparent move to loosen government controls of foreign currency exchanges have led Turkey's currency to plunge to record lows against the U.S. dollar this week.

The Turkish lira has now weakened by around 20% against the dollar since the start of the year. It has raised fears of even higher prices for people already struggling to afford basics like housing and food amid high inflation.

"I am anxious. I am unhappy. Soon my income won't pay the rent," said Sureyya Usta, a 63-year-old who lives in Ankara.

Here's a look at the falling value of the lira, what lies ahead for the economy and how people have been affected:

**Erdogan's economic policies**

Turkey has been plagued by a currency crisis and skyrocketing inflation since 2021, which economists say are the result of Erdogan's unorthodox belief that raising interest rates will increase inflation.

Conventional economic thinking - and the approach being taken by central banks around the world - calls for the opposite: rate hikes to control price spikes.

Erdogan has exerted pressure on Turkey's central bank to lower borrowing costs.

The bank has cut its key policy rate from around 19% in 2021 to 8.5% now, even as inflation hit a staggering 85% last year. Inflation eased to 39.5% last month, according to official figures, but an independent group says the true number is more than double that.

In other policy considered to be unorthodox, economists say the government aggressively intervened in the markets to prop up the lira ahead of the elections, depleting Turkey's foreign currency reserves to keep the exchange rate under control.

"Pressure over the lira had been high for some time, but excessive interventions by the central bank was preventing" the currency from skyrocketing in recent weeks or months, said Ozlem Dericci Sengul, an economist at the Istanbul Spinn Consultancy.

**A return to 'rational ground'?**

Hours after being sworn in, Erdogan announced that Mehmet Simsek, a former Merrill Lynch banker who had previously served as his finance minister and deputy prime minister, would return to the Cabinet after a five-year break from politics.

Simsek said Turkey had no other option but to return to "rational ground." In a sign that Erdogan's new administration might pursue more conventional economic policies, Simsek also said there were no "shortcuts or quick fixes" but vowed to oversee Turkey's financial

stances with "transparency, consistency, accountability and predictability."

In another sign, Erdogan on Friday appointed Hafize Gaye Erkan to lead the central bank, taking over from the current chief who has championed rate cuts since 2021. Erkan, a former co-CEO of a U.S.-based bank, is crashing Turkey's first woman central bank governor.

Economists say, however, that it's not clear to what extent Erdogan, who has ruled the country with a tight grip, will give Erkan and Simsek free rein.

"The markets are not convinced yet" of Erdogan's return to traditional policies, Sengul said. There are uncertainties over whether Erdogan will "allow unlimited independence to the central bank and other institutions - or have another strategy," she said.

**Why is Turkey's currency falling?**

The Turkish lira tumbled to record lows against the dollar this week, first falling 7% on Wednesday and then 1.6% on Friday.

Economists say the sharp slide earlier in the week resulted from the government loosening its controls over the currency following Simsek's appointment. However, the plunge may have been steeper than what it had anticipated.

The lira weakened by a limited 0.5% on Thursday amid reports that state banks were asked to resume selling foreign currency to prop up the currency. On Friday, the lira depreciated to another all-time low of 23.54 to the dollar.

"Loose interventions, combined with central uncertainty, created an excessive depreciation in the lira in one day," Sengul said about the Wednesday drop. "The banks are currently intervening in the exchange market, that's why we will not have another 7% depreciation."

**How are people affected?**

High inflation is pinching households and businesses with costlier groceries, utility bills and more. A weaker currency means Turkey, which is dependent on imported raw materials, will have to pay more for everything from energy to grain that are priced in dollars.

Usta, the 63-year-old from Ankara, works at a firm that sells cash registry machines to boost her retirement pension but still struggles to pay her living expenses amid high inflation.

She is worried that this week's sharp decline in the lira will lead to further price increases and even more financial uncertainty for her.

"I keep cutting back and cutting back so that I can afford to live, so I can pay for gas and electricity. But how much more can I cut back?" Usta said. "I've forgotten about going to the theater and the cinema - or going out to meet friends."

Usta says her rent doubled earlier this year, but the owner wants to increase it again. Moving out isn't an option because rents have skyrocketed even in her low-income neighborhood, she says.

Sengul, the economist, says the one-day currency shock is unlikely to have a huge impact.

If, however, the depreciation is not contained, she warns, "market pricing behavior will dramatically deteriorate."



Activate welcomes a record 46 new Activate Fellows whose innovations can decarbonize industries

Activate, a nonprofit that helps scientists and engineers bring their innovations to market, is proud to introduce Cohort 2023 of Activate Fellows. These 46 science entrepreneurs are turning their breakthroughs into businesses that could help industries including manufacturing, energy, chemicals, computing, and agriculture-meet decarbonization and resiliency goals.

This press release features multimedia. View the full release here: <https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20230608005171/en/>

Activate Fellows, Cohort 2023 (Photo: Business Wire)

Activate welcomes the largest cohort in its almost ten-year history after receiving a record number of applications: 832 individuals across 674 science fellowships.

"The Activate Fellows in Cohort 2023 represent our largest cohort so far," says Activate's interim CEO, Todd Johnson. "When we look at the breadth and scope of these brilliant scientific minds, engaging to find solutions in energy, sustainability, chemistry, computing, and more, we can't help but be encouraged and optimistic about the future. And our announcement to launch Activate Houston this year continues our momentum toward helping scientists commercialize their people-positive and planet-positive science while increasing our capacity to support top science innovators in the energy transition capital of the United States."

Founded in 2015, the two-year Activate Fellowship clears the path for promising entrepreneurial scientists to move their breakthrough technologies from ideas to scalable solutions. Activate places equal importance on the development of minds as it does on the development of products, with the goal of cultivating the high-impact scientist entrepreneurs America urgently needs and allowing them to think about global challenges in new and innovative ways. Activate provides a living stipend to fellows to enable them to participate.

"I'm proud of the breadth, depth, and diversity represented in this new cohort, which includes 37 percent women and 43 percent founders of color," says Almee Rose, Activate's executive managing director. "In welcoming our largest cohort ever, I continue to be amazed at the number and quality of talented, accomplished scientists with world-changing technologies that Activate attracts. With these emerging leaders heading the charge, I am filled with optimism for the future of the climate and our country."

Cohort 2023 joins a community of Activate Fellows who have raised nearly \$1.3B in follow-on funding from leading public and private sources-a nearly 25X leverage for every dollar spent supporting a fellow.



Some photos from the event

ABK Capital recognizes its Partners in the Rebranding Journey

ABK Capital, the investment arm of Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK), honored its partners in recognition of their efforts in the successful re-branding journey during a ceremony held at its new offices located on the 16th floor of Baitak Tower. In attendance were the representatives of the local newspapers, media agencies, and advertising companies that contributed to the success of the media campaign, and worked closely with ABK Capital's marketing and corporate communications department.

On this occasion, Dr. Husayn Shahrrur, CEO of ABK Capital, commented: "Our partners have played a key role in promoting the company's position as one of the leading investment companies in Kuwait, by launching the Company's new identity, which is an essential part of an integrated and sustainable transformation process at the ABK Group."

He added: "We thank all our partners from local newspapers, agencies and advertising companies for their efforts, along with the ABK Capital team, to achieve this success."

At the end of the ceremony, Dr. Shahrrur presented trophies to newspapers and companies, namely: Al-Qabas newspaper, Al-Rai newspaper, Al-Jarida newspaper, Al-Anbaa newspaper, Al-Seyassah newspaper, Arab Times newspaper, Bedirian Interior Architecture, Wunderman Thompson, Universal Media, and Brandit.

ABK Capital is a leading regional investment firm, providing asset management solutions and investment advisory services. Established in 2006, it is a Kuwaiti Shareholding Closed Company (K.S.C.C.) regulated by the Capital Markets Authority (CMA) in Kuwait. As a subsidiary of Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK), ABK Capital is part of its growing regional footprint spanning across Kuwait, Egypt, and the United Arab Emirates. ABK Capital prides itself on extending the same level of transparency, proficiency, and dedication to all its clients, and delivers a broad range of local, regional, and global investment solutions and services.

With a team of highly experienced investment professionals, we seek to strengthen our position as one of the leading investment companies in Kuwait. We deliver a rich range of products, services, and investment solutions, which are tailored to meet our clients' specific goals. Our offerings cover both traditional and alternative asset classes, and provide access to local, regional, and global markets with ease and convenience.



Mishaal Al-Obeid receiving the award in the presence of Khaled Al-Shamlan, KFH officials and METCO officials

Kuwait Finance Hse wins Customer Experience Transformation Award

KUWAIT CITY, June 10: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has won the 2023 Customer Experience Transformation award for its Call Center from the American technology company (Avaya) in partnership with the Middle East Telecommunications Company (METCO).

The award was based on several criteria including: providing a state-of-the-art digital Contact Center implementing the latest technology modules in the field that are based on novel self-services and digital applications, such as Dynamic Interactive Voice Response (IVR), Automated Number Identification (ANI), VIP Services, First Call Resolution (FCR), Automated Outbound Campaigner consisting of both Progressive & Preview, handling Blending Agents who are skilled to take both Inbound and Outbound Voice Communication, in addition to Automated Call Back to minimize and eliminate abandon and calls in queue, therefore ensuring an increased customer experience.

Meshal Alobaied, Executive Manager Direct Channels at KFH, said: "As part of its pioneering role in executing its digital transformation strategy, KFH has made, within a short time, big strides in digitizing its services and launching exclusive innovative banking solutions."

Alobaied added, during a ceremony held at KFH Auto building for receiving the 2023 Customer Experience Transformation Award in the presence of KFH Group Chief Retail and Private Banking Officer, Khaled Alshamlan, and members of the executive management, that the results of the digital transformation exceeded expectations which is evident in the high volume of customers' interaction with the Bank and the high growth rate in the number of users of KFH's digital services compared to previous years.

Alobaied highlighted that the digital transformation of services provided by the Bank through its Contact Center, KFHonline, as well as KFH Go branches represent the significance of modern technology in achieving KFH's sustainability, financial inclusion goals, as well as meeting the aspirations of youth by keeping pace with technology, expanding customer base, attracting new customers, increasing market share, improving the quality of services and making them readily available whether through branches or electronic means, in order to remain closer to its current and potential customers.

He went on to say that KFH's efforts in digitization covered many areas, such as e-payment services, online account opening, issuing cards with unique features, and developing the performance of KFH devices which included instant printing of cards, buying and selling gold, and conducting many transactions without the need to visit the branch.

Alobaied added that consolidating the banking experience for customers and ensuring meeting their latest requirements and needs are one of the pillars on which the digital strategy of KFH is based. Thus, this award reflects KFH's success in meeting its objectives by developing employees' performance, establishing, operating and managing a Contact Center in a professional manner, raising up services quality level, as well as improving customer experience and the process of responding to their queries according to the highest standards of speed, security and quality.

Wall St drifts higher, marking 4th winning week for S&P 500

European shares slip, Asian shares higher

NEW YORK, June 10, (AP): Stocks inched higher Friday to close out a listless week for Wall Street, as investors wait for next week's slate of potentially market-moving updates.

The S&P 500 rose 4.93, or 0.1%, to 4,298.86 to cap its fourth straight winning week. The Dow Jones Industrial Average added 43.17, or 0.1%, to 33,876.78, and the Nasdaq composite gained 20.62, or 0.2%, to 13,259.14.

Tesla was at the front of the market, rallying 4.1% after announcing General Motors electric vehicles will be able to use much of its extensive charging network beginning early next year. GM rose 1.1%.

Energy stocks fell along with the price of crude oil. Exxon Mobil slipped 0.7% and was one of the heavier weights on the market. Ski resort operator Vail Resorts dropped 7.1% after reporting weaker results for the latest quarter than analysts expected.

This week has been relatively quiet for markets, even with the benchmark S&P 500 index gaining enough Thursday to close 20% above its October low, entering a new bull market. More fireworks could arrive next week when the U.S. government releases the latest monthly updates on inflation at the consumer and wholesale levels. The Federal Reserve will also announce its latest move on interest rates.

So far, the economy has been able to avoid a recession even though the Fed has jacked rates up at a furious pace for more than a year in hopes of driving down inflation. The highest rates since 2007 have helped inflation come down some, but it's still above everyone's comfort level.

That means the big question on Wall Street is whether inflation will come down quickly enough for the Fed to take it easier on interest rates before high rates force the economy into a recession. A stronger-than-



This Oct. 18, 2008 file photo shows the Charging Bull sculpture in New York City's Financial District. The S&P 500 is now in what Wall Street refers to as a bull market, meaning the index has risen 20% or more from its most recent low. (AP)

expected report on hiring last week raised hopes that the economy can slide through its troubles without a recession, but many other areas have already begun to crack.

Besides helping to cause three-high profile U.S. banking failures since March, high interest rates have also pushed the manufacturing industry to shrink for months. The banking industry's turmoil has also caused banks to make it tougher for customers to get loans, which adds more stress to the economy.

"I can't tell you precisely when this recession will come to roost, but it feels like it's coming," said Amanda Agati, chief investment officer of PNC Asset Management Group. "And the market is not priced for it. I don't want to be dramatic and say a day of reckoning is coming, but there will be a wakeup call."

She's expecting only a modest recession, not a deeply painful one like the downturns following the 2007-08 financial crisis and the 2020 onset of the COVID pandemic. But she is concerned by how high the stock market has climbed, driven in particular by just a small handful of stocks.

"This is the market thinking we're

going to muddle along and then the Fed is going to get out of the driver's seat: The Fed is going to cut rates, and we're going to power into 2024," Agati said. "And I think that's awfully delusional."

She says rates could climb higher than Wall Street expects and stay high for longer than investors are forecasting because inflation has remained too stubbornly high.

The wide expectations among traders is that the Fed will hold interest rates steady at its meeting next week. If it does, that will be the first meeting where the Fed hasn't hiked rates in more than a year. After that, the widespread bet is that the Fed may hike one more time in July before going on hold or even cutting rates by the end of the year.

Elsewhere on Wall Street, Adobe rose another 3.4% to add to its 5% leap from the day before following its announcement of a new artificial-intelligence offering for businesses. It joined a frenzy around AI that has sent a select group of stocks soaring, such as a 165% surge for chipmaker Nvidia so far this year.

Proponents say AI will be the next revolution to remake the economy,

while critics say it's inflating the next bubble.

In the bond market, the yield on the 10-year Treasury rose to 3.74% from 3.72% late Thursday. It helps set rates for mortgages and other important loans.

The two-year yield, which moves more on expectations for the Fed, rose to 4.62% from 4.52%.

Europe

European shares declined Friday after a day of gains in Asia following Wall Street's return to bull market status.

France's CAC 40 lost 0.4% to 7,198.50 while Germany's DAX slipped 0.3% to 16,886.40. Britain's FTSE 100 shed 0.4% to 7,572.16.

Asia

Asian benchmarks rose Friday, tracking Wall Street's gains. Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 surged 2.0% to finish at 32,265.17. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 gained 0.3% to 7,122.50. South Korea's Kospi added 1.2% to 2,641.16. Hong Kong's Hang Seng advanced 0.5% to 19,389.95. The Shanghai Composite rose 0.6% to 3,231.41.

Still, Stephen Innes, managing partner at SPI Asset Management, said worries persist over the weakness of China's recovery from pandemic restrictions

"China's post-reopening recovery has slowed incredibly in the second quarter," Innes said in a commentary. "Now people are wondering if we are near rock bottom or not."

Oil

In energy trading, benchmark U.S. crude added 2 cents to \$71.31 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It shed \$1.24 to \$871.29 a barrel on Thursday. Brent crude, the international standard, picked up 4 cents to \$76.00 a barrel.

Currencies

In currency trading, the U.S. dollar edged up to 139.62 Japanese yen from 138.90 yen. The euro fell to \$1.0760 from \$1.0783.

Capital Intelligence affirms Gulf Bank's Long-Term Foreign Currency Rating at 'A+'

Capital Intelligence Ratings ("CI Ratings") has affirmed the Long-term Foreign Currency and the Short-term Foreign Currency of Gulf Bank ratings at "A+" and "A1", respectively. At the same time, CI Ratings has also affirmed the Bank's Standalone Rating of "a-", with a "Stable" Outlook.

On the other hand, CI Ratings has also affirmed the rating of Gulf Bank's KWD50 million Basel III-compliant Tier 2 Subordinated Bonds at "BBB+", The Outlook for the Bond is "Stable".

Gulf Bank's Stand Alone and Core Financial Strength ("CFS") are both supported by the Bank's well established business franchise, especially in retail banking, good loan asset quality metrics, solid capital position and sound liquidity metrics. The CFS also reflects the Bank's size as the fifth largest bank in Kuwait in terms of total assets as on first quarter of 2023, with one of the largest distribution networks in the country and a sound market share of both loans and deposits, as mentioned by



Dalal Al-Dousari

CI Rating Announcement.

On Gulf Bank's asset quality, CI Ratings stated in their report that : "Gulf Bank is considered a well-man-

aged institution and conservative lender. Loan asset quality metrics are good as indicated by a fairly well diversified loan book by customer segment and economic sector. CI Rating therefore, anticipates that the Bank will maintain its good and better than sector average loan asset quality metrics."

Commenting on Capital Intelligence Ratings Bank and Bond credit rating announcement, Ms. Dalal Al-Dousari, Gulf Bank's Deputy General Manager of Investor Relations said: "We are very pleased to

receive the affirmation of our Bank's Long-term Foreign Currency rating at "A+" and our KDW50 million Tier II subordinated Bond rating at "BBB+" by Capital Intelligence Ratings. This is an international acknowledgement of Gulf Bank's positive market position and highly experienced management that contributed to its excellent loan asset quality metrics, well established business franchise and market position which will continue to enable the Bank to generate sustainable earnings."

Gulf Bank continues to be well recognized in terms of its credit worthiness and financial strength internationally as it is rated 'A' by three major credit rating agencies.

In addition to Capital Intelligence recent affirmation of its Long-Term Foreign Currency Rating at 'A+' with a 'Stable' Outlook, Gulf Bank has a Long-Term Issuer Default Rating of 'A' with a 'Stable' Outlook by Fitch Ratings and a Long-Term Deposits rating of 'A3' with a 'Stable' Outlook by Moody's Investor Services.



Dubai International Chamber boosts bilateral trade

Dubai International Chamber, one of the three chambers operating under Dubai Chambers, has launched a new international representative office in Singapore. Hussein Al Ansari, Senior Manager - International Operations, Dubai Chambers; Hassan Al Hashemi, Vice President - International Relations, Dubai Chambers; H.E. Ahmed Ali Al Sayegh, UAE Minister of State; H.E. Jamal Abdulla AlSuwaidi, UAE Ambassador to Singapore; and Abdulla Baqer, Regional Director - Middle East & CIS, Dubai Chamber, during the inauguration of Dubai International Chamber's new representative office in Singapore. The office was officially inaugurated yesterday at a special ceremony with the participation of H.E. Ahmed Ali Al Sayegh, Minister of State to the UAE Cabinet; H.E. Jamal Abdulla AlSuwaidi, UAE Am-

lawmakers propose to weaken Obama rule

Lawmakers are considering rolling back an Obama-era rule that requires airlines to show the total price of a ticket upfront in advertising, while also tweaking training requirements for airline pilots and making other changes in a massive bill covering the Federal Aviation Administration. On Friday, Republicans and Democrats on the House Transportation Committee released a 773-page proposal to reauthor-

ize FAA programs for the next five years. Rep. Rick Larsen, D-Wash., described the proposal as a compromise and said many issues could still be fought out when congressional committees begin considering changes in the legislation next week. The FAA is under fire for a shortage of air traffic controllers, aging technology and close calls between planes. The agency has a new acting administrator with no aviation experience. It has lacked a Senate-confirmed leader for more than a year, since the last one resigned halfway through his term. One provision of the House bill would let airlines advertise the "base airfare" - excluding taxes and fees - as long as they include a link to the all-in price or disclose it some other way. (AP)

Many Democrats are wary

Speaker McCarthy eyes new commission to tackle nation's debt

WASHINGTON, June 10, (AP): House Speaker Kevin McCarthy is studying the history books and considering the appointment of a mix of lawmakers and business leaders as he lays the groundwork for a new commission to tackle the nation's growing debt. McCarthy is fresh off his biggest political victory since becoming speaker in January. He got the White House to negotiate on a bill that suspends the debt ceiling into January 2025 while also producing a projected \$1.5 trillion in deficit savings over the coming decade. But the legislation only focused on a sliver of the federal spending that occurs each year and excluded programs such as Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid that account for the majority of government spending and are the biggest drivers of the debt. McCarthy has embraced the idea of establishing a new fiscal commission to find additional deficit reduction. While similar commissions have notched success in the past, the most recent ones failed to muster enough support for Congress to take up their recommendations. The speaker has asked Rep. Garret Graves, R-La., to work with him on the issue, which follows Graves' work as one of the lead debt ceiling negotiators in talks with the White House. "I'm studying different angles to see what would best work, some with members. And should I bring in some people from the outside so you have some modern people in the business world that have taken companies and looked at them in a way to streamline and modernize for efficiencies?" McCarthy said. "I think that combination would work well, but right now I'm spending a lot of time on how to put that together." Many analysts say it will take a combination of spending cuts and tax hikes to meaningfully change the country's financial trajectory. But therein lies the problem: Many Republicans won't entertain tax increases of any kind, and many Democrats won't consider benefit cuts. McCarthy refused to accept any tax increases as part of the debt ceiling talks. And when asked if he had any such red lines for the debt commission, McCarthy said he currently is focused on getting the structure of the commission right, but added that the revenue coming into government coffers, about 19.2% of gross domestic product last year, is at the high end of the 50-year average. Democrats are treading warily. "I'm not sure what he envisions, but I look forward to having that discussion," said Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, D-N.Y. "I have no idea what the contours of the commission would even look like, so it's hard for me to comment up or down at this point." The landmines confronting the commission are legion. Even if McCarthy can get something through the House, the commission's clout would be diminished without Senate participation and White House buy-in. And any findings from the effort could come during a presidential election year - an unfavorable political climate for a proposal that is likely to ask for some sacrifice from the voting public.

Biden and Sunak hold talks on daunting challenges to Ukraine & world economy

'Our economies seeing biggest transformation since Industrial Revolution'

WASHINGTON, June 10, (AP): US President Joe Biden and British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak launched wide-ranging talks at the White House on Thursday by vowing that they would work in lockstep as the globe tries to adapt to a period of rapid economic, political and technological change. The leaders' Oval Office talks were expected to cover the war in Ukraine, China, economic security, international cooperation on regulating the growing field of artificial intelligence, and more. Biden and Sunak have already had four face-to-face meetings since Sunak became prime minister in October, but the talks in Washington will offer the two leaders a chance for their most sustained interaction to date. "We will put our values front and center," Biden said. Sunak reflected on the significant conversations that their respective predecessors have had over the years in the Oval Office and acknowledged that both he and Biden were facing their own daunting moment. The visit to Washington is Sunak's first since becoming Britain's prime minister in October. "Our economies are seeing perhaps the biggest transformation since the Industrial Revolution as new technologies provide incredible opportunities, but also give our adversaries more tools," Sunak said. The 15-month-old Russian invasion of Ukraine was expected to be high on the agenda." The U.S. and U.K. are the



President Joe Biden listens as British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak speaks during a news conference in the East Room of the White House in Washington. (AP)

Judge rejects media challenge

DOVER, Del., June 10, (AP): The names of individual customers of collapsed cryptocurrency exchange FTX Trading can be permanently shielded from public disclosure, a Delaware bankruptcy judge ruled Friday. Following a two-day hearing, Judge John Dorsey rejected arguments from lawyers for several media outlets and for the U.S. bankruptcy trustee, which serves as a government watchdog in Chapter 11 reorganization cases, challenging FTX's request to keep the names of customers and creditors secret. Dorsey ruled that customer identities constitute a trade secret. He also said FTX customers need to be protected from bad actors who might target them by scouring the internet and the "dark web" for their personal information. "It's the customers that are the most important issue here," he said. "I want to make sure that they are protected and they don't fall victim to any types of scams that might be happening out there."

Service carries out to reduce wildfire risks. Supporters argue that NEPA reviews have avoided many bad decisions. In our view, the NEPA process is an important feature of the country's stewardship of its natural resources. But we also share the growing concern that it can be used to delay building renewable energy infrastructure that the U.S. urgently needs to mitigate climate change. Many of the changes are little more than tweaks. Others codify long-standing practices based on how the Council on Environmental Quality, agencies and courts implement the law. One notable change is requiring a single lead agency and a single environmental impact statement for projects, even when those projects require multiple agency approvals. There also are some new time and page limits. For example, environmental impact statements will be required to be completed within two years and be no more than 150 pages long for most projects, and 300 pages for the most complex projects. There also are some changes to definitions, such as what constitutes a "major federal action," that narrow NEPA's scope to some degree, although it will take time to sort out their meaning. Overall, we do not see these changes as a major overhaul of NEPA. Maybe, but not nearly as much as needed. First, NEPA applies to projects that need federal funding or approval, such as under the Endangered Species Act. Getting that money or agency green light can also involve delays and litigation independent of the NEPA review. (AP)

The Conversation

Two legal scholars explain what the NEPA does and doesn't do

Will faster federal reviews speed up the clean energy shift?

By J.B. Ruhl, Vanderbilt University and James Salzman, University of California, Los Angeles

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

over the past 50 years. The simple requirement is for agencies to create a detailed statement on the impacts of any major federal action that significantly affects the environment. A whole body of law and policy creates filters that sort projects into different NEPA buckets. First, only projects that will be carried out, funded or authorized by a federal agency are subject to NEPA. That's a pretty big universe, but it also excludes a lot. For example, a wind farm built on private land by a private utility might not require any federal funding or approval. That means it wouldn't be subject to NEPA. If a project is subject to NEPA, the federal agency that has primary oversight assesses its impacts to decide how much analysis is needed. Many agencies use a classification known as categorical exclusions to winnow out minor actions that they know have no significant impacts, either individually or cumulatively. For example, the Interior Department categorically excludes planned burns to clear brush on areas smaller than 4,500 acres. If the expected impacts are more extensive, but it's not clear by how much, the agency can prepare an environmental assessment. If that assessment finds the impacts to the human environment will not be significant, that's the end of the NEPA process. If the impacts are significant, the agency will prepare a full-blown environmental impact statement, or EIS, which is a far more intensive process. CEQ guidelines establish an elaborate template of topics agencies must evaluate, and the public has opportunities to comment on a draft version. A CEQ review of EISs prepared by all federal agencies from 2010 through 2018 found that, on average, it took about four and a half years to issue an EIS, not including added time if someone sued. The lengths of these reviews ranged widely but averaged 575 pages. If an agency conducts lots of the same actions under a particular program, such as timber leasing on federal land, it might conduct a high-level programmatic EIS to cover the large-scale issues and then follow up with individual NEPA analyses for specific projects. Decisions not to issue an EIS can be challenged in court. So can the EIS itself if critics believe that it's inadequate. Critiques of NEPA come from many different interests. The law mainly affects land development, industry and resource extraction activities such as logging, mining and drilling for oil and gas, particularly on federal public lands. NEPA requires an impact assessment, but it doesn't prescribe any particular outcome. Still, it unquestionably can add substantial time and cost to any significant project. If a project is controversial, interested parties can submit public comments that get their views on the record. If opponents aren't happy with the final EIS, they can sue the agency responsible for the decision in federal court. Between agency review and litigation, NEPA can add many years to a project's development timeline before it is "shovel ready." For example, it takes roughly four to seven years to complete environmental reviews for prescribed burns that the U.S. Forest Service carries out to reduce wildfire risks. Supporters argue that NEPA reviews have avoided many bad decisions. In our view, the NEPA process is an important feature of the country's stewardship of its natural resources. But we also share the growing concern that it can be used to delay building renewable energy infrastructure that the U.S. urgently needs to mitigate climate change. Many of the changes are little more than tweaks. Others codify long-standing practices based on how the Council on Environmental Quality, agencies and courts implement the law. One notable change is requiring a single lead agency and a single environmental impact statement for projects, even when those projects require multiple agency approvals. There also are some new time and page limits. For example, environmental impact statements will be required to be completed within two years and be no more than 150 pages long for most projects, and 300 pages for the most complex projects. There also are some changes to definitions, such as what constitutes a "major federal action," that narrow NEPA's scope to some degree, although it will take time to sort out their meaning. Overall, we do not see these changes as a major overhaul of NEPA. Maybe, but not nearly as much as needed. First, NEPA applies to projects that need federal funding or approval, such as under the Endangered Species Act. Getting that money or agency green light can also involve delays and litigation independent of the NEPA review. (AP)

Opportunities on the horizon

'Citi Global Wealth Investments' issues Mid-Yr Wealth Outlook '23

NEW YORK, June 10, (AP): Citi Global Wealth Investments today released its Mid-Year Wealth Outlook 2023 report - This biannual report sets out Citi Global Wealth's outlook on how investors should approach developments in the global economy, markets and geopolitics. Though 2023 has been full of extraordinary events, Citi Global Wealth sees the remainder of the year as an opportunity. We are in a "rolling recession" where parts of the US economy are growing even as others contract. As inflation slowly eases following a period of rapid Fed rate hikes, the group believes that keeping portfolios invested is imperative. While the current asset allocation strategy remains defensive, Citi Global Wealth sees numerous opportunities to adjust their portfolios over time, as the Fed shifts from interest rate hikes to cuts. We believe that current markets will lead into a meaningful potential recovery in 2024. "Though the broader bear market is not yet over, we are seeing significant valuation improvements in certain sectors that provide our clients with the potential to invest in higher income-generating assets and long-term growth opportunities," said David Bailin, Chief Investment Officer at Citi Global Wealth. "Our wealth outlook for the remainder of 2023 and heading into 2024 suggests that clients may benefit most from a return to what we call 'core investing' - full invested portfolios that move from defense to offense, from more bonds to more equities, from US-focused to global. We favor investing in select non-U.S. equities, identifying value within U.S. markets, broadening tech and growth equity exposures and emphasizing alternative investing and private credit for suitable investors with a longer time horizon." Citi Global Wealth believes that it is time for action in the fixed income space. Investors holding short term investments can seek to extend their income by extending duration. There are also many potential opportunities to diversify bond portfolios, add to duration, diversity risk and earn potentially higher yields. And private credit can add significant yield as banks retrench. Best of all, bonds will now provide the diversification benefits they lost temporarily in 2022. The U.S. dollar (USD) rose for a decade through 2022 and saw a boost from excessive Fed tightening and energy shocks related to the war in Ukraine. The rise in the USD sharply inflated US home-biased portfolios verses portfolios holding other currencies. US equities rose to 63% of the global market cap in 2022. As the ECB and other central banks hold rates steady in 2024 while the Fed eases, there can be opportunities for clients to diversify into non-USD assets, seeking to improve investor returns in the decade ahead. "The strong U.S. dollar means we can buy non-U.S. assets at deeply deflated prices," said Steven Wieting, Chief Economist and Chief Investment Strategist at Citi Global Wealth. "While we expect periodic US dollar rallies, we ultimately will see a weakening dollar, making currency exposure more critical. In addition to currency exposure, we are favoring quality, such as long-duration bonds to offset a potential credit spread widening and defensive equities with an emphasis on dividend growers and companies with strong balance sheets. As we prepare portfolios for the Fed pivot at the end of 2023, we look for industry-leading growth shares to bottom before cyclical."



AU marks inauguration of AUB bank simulation branch

As part of the longstanding agreement and collaboration between the Australian University (AU) and the Ahli United Bank (AUB), AUB initiated a simulation branch at the AU campus to give College of Business students the opportunity to get hands-on experience in all banking-related operations.

In February 2022, a memorandum of understanding was signed between AU & AUB, which included the inauguration of the AUB simulation branch including needed hardware, software, and furniture to form a fully functional simulation branch. Selected AU faculty were trained on the use of the customer service and ticketing systems, where they will utilize the branch to train students on service management and customer relationship management. Other software related to banking, finance and HR will be supplied by AUB upon the commencement of the new majors at AU.

The addition of the simulation branch and banking software to the AU campus will enhance the practical learning experience of AU students in the prospective new majors of Banking and Finance, Accounting and MIS.

Commenting on this new addition to the campus, Dr. Farid Abdallah, Acting Dean of the College of Business, said: "The AUB simulation branch is an excellent tool for our students to have a practical feel of the work environment and the use of software in an industry-based setting, thus enhancing their confidence, skills, and technical abilities. It is an innovative approach to student learning, reflecting both AU's vision of utilizing effective and advanced learning methods, and the benefits of cooperating with industry for the benefit of all stakeholders."



A photo from the event.

Safe and healthy driving experience

As summer strikes, talabat unveils rest areas for Kuwait's riders

KUWAIT CITY, June 10: talabat, the region's leading tech company, has unveiled an innovative initiative aimed at enhancing the well-being of delivery drivers across Kuwait. With the onset of summer, delivery riders need cool and comfortable shelters for respite from their demanding schedules. talabat has launched air-conditioned rest areas, strategically positioned at multiple T-Mart locations throughout the country, where riders have access to refreshing cold water. These thoughtfully designed rest areas allow riders to take a well-deserved break and unwind between orders.

In line with Talabat's commitment to prioritize the welfare of its riders, the company expanded the initiative to include all delivery riders in Kuwait, not just the riders dealing with talabat in order to ensure the well-being and comfort of all delivery riders and contribute to a positive and satisfying work experience and a happier society.

A tech company at its core, talabat bridges the gap between restaurant owners and customers to provide a seamless purchase experience.



talabat has launched air-conditioned rest areas, strategically positioned at multiple T-Mart locations throughout the country.

Though the riders are employed by third parties, talabat shows support by providing insurance coverage and

safety gear, as well as training sessions and social activities throughout the year to promote riders' well-being.

Bader Al-Ghanim, Managing Director, talabat Kuwait, commented

on the initiative: "We are committed to making our riders feel safe and supported, while being a positive

force in the community. We strive to provide the best support and benefits to our delivery riders, ensuring their well-being and success. talabat is dedicated to making a meaningful impact in the communities we serve, and our initiatives, such as the 'rest areas' program, exemplify our iron-clad commitment to our people and the wider community."

The rest areas initiative, launched by talabat for the third consecutive year in a row, is one of the initiatives taken by talabat to ensure the drivers safety on Kuwait's roads. Earlier this year, talabat organized their fourth road safety seminars to encourage safe driving practices among delivery riders. The launch of the bus stop initiative, along with the implementation of additional safety measures, demonstrate talabat's unwavering dedication to creating a secure and supportive environment for delivery riders in Kuwait, so they can perform their jobs with peace of mind and confidence. Through these initiatives, talabat continues to set a positive example and reinforce its position as a leader in fostering a thriving community of delivery riders.

Tickets on sale at SnowAbuDhabi.com

Reem Mall opens Majid Al Futtaim Entertainment's Snow Abu Dhabi

KUWAIT CITY, June 10: United Projects for Aviation Services Company (UPAC) and National Real Estate Company (NREC) celebrated the opening of Majid Al Futtaim Entertainment's Snow Abu Dhabi, the capital's first indoor snow park, at Reem Mall.

The Snow Abu Dhabi inauguration ceremony took place on 7 June. It featured a ribbon cutting with the presence of His Excellency Saleh Mohamed Al Geziry, Director General of Tourism, Department of Culture and Tourism, Abu Dhabi; Ignace Lahoud, Chief Executive Officer, Majid Al Futtaim Entertainment; and Mohammad El Etri, Vice President, Global Snow, Majid Al Futtaim Entertainment, along with Faisal Jamil Sultan Al-Essa, Vice Chairman and CEO of NREC, and Nadia Akil, Vice Chairperson and CEO of UPAC.

Akil said: "We are exceptionally pleased with the launch of Snow Abu Dhabi because it will have a tremendous positive impact on tourism in the capital. Abu Dhabi is swiftly establishing itself as a worldwide hub for family entertainment and leisure, and we are thrilled to introduce a unique experience that surpasses visitors' expectations. We remain committed to bringing new and captivating experiences to Reem Mall, ensuring its reputation as a dynamic and unparalleled destination as it grows."

Sultan said: "The launch of Snow Abu Dhabi solidifies our dedication to providing inventive and captivating experiences for families throughout the MENA region. The power of entertainment lies in its ability to bring people together and elevate their way of life. The synergistic effect of Snow Abu Dhabi and the mall's offerings will undoubtedly create a vibrant and thriving atmosphere, attracting even more visitors and bolstering the overall tourism industry in Abu Dhabi."

Latest

The snow park is located in the heart of Reem Mall, Abu Dhabi's latest signature retail, leisure, dining and entertainment destination. Snow Abu Dhabi covers a sprawling 9,732 SQM. Storytelling is integrated into the design through an Enchanted Forest that creates a playful frost-covered world. The highly anticipated destination features 20 rides and attractions such as the Crystal Carousel, Polar Express Train, Flight of the Snowy Owl, Snowflake Garden and Enchanted Tree. Guests can look forward to a whole host of snowy adventures such as sledding, carousels, zorbing and zip-lining throughout the year. Complementing the experience, Snow Abu Dhabi has three F&B outlets where guests can enjoy delicious snacks and dishes, as they dine surrounded by real snow.



A photo from the event

Strengthens WRC lead

Toyota Gazoo Racing secures podium finish at 'Rally Italia'

KUWAIT CITY, June 10: The TOYOTA GAZOO Racing (TGR) World Rally Team (WRT) has recently secured a podium finish at the 2023 FIA World Rally Championship's (WRC) Rally Italia Sardegna. Kalle Rovannerä and co-driver Jonne Halttunen's performance in the No. 69 GR YARIS Rally1 Hybrid Electric Vehicle across the rally's narrow gravel tracks and turbulent weather conditions allowed them to claim a hard-fought, third-place win. This, along with their outstanding driving in the rally-ending Power Stage, has increased the team's WRC lead to 25 points.

Faced with sweeping loose gravel roads at the beginning of the rally, Rovannerä's characteristically strong performance in the rain won him the 50-kilometre Monte Lerno stage. He would then go on to attain and maintain a strong third-place position throughout more wet weather conditions and a limited number of softer compound tyres made available on what is normally a hot and abrasive rally. Finally, in the rain-soaked, rally-ending Power Stage, Rovannerä unleashed his signature aggressive driving style and recorded the best time by 4.7s. The maximum five bonus points he received helped further solidify his third-place position and a strong FIA WRC lead.

Akio Toyoda, TGR-WRT Chairman, commented: "I would like to send my appreciation for the hard work of all TGR-WRT members. Special thanks go to Kalle and Jari-Matti who traveled back and forth between Europe and Japan in a short period of time. I'm thankful to them for achieving the podium again despite such a busy schedule. Safari Rally Kenya is

in three weeks. Like Sardinia, it will be another challenging rally. However, I'm sure that our team and crew will amaze the people in Africa again this year."

Over the years, Toyota has been participating in many different forms of motorsports, including Formula One, the World Endurance Championship (WEC), and the Nürburgring 24 Hours endurance race. Toyota's participation in these events was overseen by separate entities within the company until April 2015, when Toyota established TGR, to consolidate all of its motorsports activities under one in-house brand. Representing Toyota's belief that 'the roads build the people, and the people build the cars,' TGR highlights the role of motorsports as a fundamental pillar of Toyota's commitment to making 'ever-better' cars. Harnessing years of experience gained under the extreme conditions of various motorsports events, TGR aims to forge new technologies and solutions that bring the freedom, adventure, and joy of driving to everyone.

The seventh round of the 2023 FIA WRC is the legendary Safari Rally Kenya, which will take place from 22-25 June.



2023 FIA World Rally Championship, Round 06, Rally Italia Sardegna 2023, 1-4th, June 2023.

Abu Dhabi. For more information, or to book tickets, visit SnowAbuDhabi.com.

Reem Mall was developed by Al Farwaniya Property Developments, a partnership between three Kuwait-based companies: Agility, Agility affiliate United Projects for Aviation Services Company (UPAC), and National Real Estate Company (NREC). Together, the three companies bring a sound financial base, extensive experience in asset management and commercial real estate development, and a successful track record of mall operations.



Burgan Bank's new batch of IBS graduates.

Bank dedicated to advance Kuwait's talents

Burgan Bank marks graduation of 18 employees from IBS programs

Highest monthly expected returns

KIB reveals the Al Dirwaza account 5th draw winners

KUWAIT CITY, June 10: Burgan Bank recently celebrated 18 of its talented employees for completing the Kuwait Institute of Banking Studies' (KIBS) certification programs. The graduation ceremony, which took place on Wednesday, May 17 at Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel, was attended by a number of the Bank's Human Resources managers in support of the outstanding employees.

The 18 KIBS graduates completed eight different certification programs, including Certified Credit Management (CCM), Advanced Certificate in Credit Management (ACCM), Certified Bank Branch Manager (CBBM), Certified Assistant Bank Branch Manager (CABBM), Risk Management Certificate (RMC), Certified Bank Branch Operations Manager (CB-BOM), Certified Bank Relationship Manager for High Net Worth Customers (CBRM), and Certified Bank Wealth Manager (CBWM).

In light of the graduation ceremony, Mr. Bashar Al-Qattan, Talent Empowerment Senior Manager at Burgan Bank, commented: "On behalf of all Burgan management and peers, I would like to congratulate our latest group of Burgan KIBS graduates on their recent success, which marks a win for the graduate individuals and the institution at large. Seeing how our human capital is regarded as our most valuable resource, their constant growth and development is, without a doubt, a cornerstone of the Bank's success and ability to continue leading the market toward new horizons of banking and financial excellence. By continuously enabling our exceptional talents, we guarantee that our customers will always receive the best possible service, in turn reinforcing our relationship with them as their trusted financial partner."

Partnership

Al-Qattan further noted that Burgan's strategic partnership with KIBS comes as an extension of the Bank's unwavering efforts to serve its community by elevating the national caliber and its ability to contribute to the growth of the national economy.

Adding Al-Qattan's comment, Mrs. Fatma Ahmad, Learning Manager at Burgan Bank, said: "We firmly believe that learning is essential to personal growth and career progression, that's why we spare no effort to provide our staff with different learning opportunities that support and empower them on the journeys of personal and professional growth."

It serves to note that, owing to its commitment to developing its staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 10: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced the names of the winners in the fifth Al Dirwaza account monthly draw, based on customers' May deposits. The draw was held in the presence of representatives from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, as well as representatives from the Bank. In this draw, Khaled Waleed Ahmed Abdulrahman Almajed won KD 10,000, whilst the KD 1,000 prize was awarded to 10 winners in total: Musallam Aqeel Abdulrahman Almutawa, Ali Jawad Jassim Alabdullah, Talal Abdullah Nayef Sorour Alotaibi, Makeyah Ali Sulaiman Almajadi, Falah Kamel Suwailem Aldhafeeri, Hessah Reyadh Abdulrahman Alabdullateef Aldeei, Abdulaziz Samir Abdulrahman Alhamar, Ali Abbas Mohammad Redha, Muhsen Mohammad Alshamri, and Yousef Abdulaziz Hamad Almuhanha.

In this regard, Ali AlSane, Manager - Product Development, Digital Transformation & Innovation at KIB, said: "We are pleased to congratulate our esteemed customers who were the lucky winners in the fifth Al Dirwaza Account draw. We also wish the rest of Al Dirwaza account holders the best of luck in the upcoming monthly draws." He added: "KIB remains committed to rewarding customers while ensuring their satisfaction and loyalty towards our products and services. As part of our efforts, KIB has been striving to continue offering a premium banking experience, the best banking solutions



AlSane

for all customer segments, and the latest features catering to their modern lifestyles to help customers meet their banking needs and aspirations."

AlSane further noted that KIB continues to develop the advantages of its campaign designed to enable customers to open an Al Dirwaza account digitally through the bank's digital platforms, whether via KIB Online or KIB Mobile.

Principle

It serves to note that Al Dirwaza account is a savings account for individual customers, based on the Wakala investment principle, launched by KIB as one of its banking products for individuals. The account is currently the best of its kind in the sector, with annual expected profits up to 2% disbursed on monthly basis where the customer gets an expected profit of 2% for the first 3 months from the account opening date and up to 1% expected rate onward. The expected profits are automatically deposited into the customer's account within the first day of the beginning of each month.

Al Dirwaza is a draw account as well, whereby 11 winners will be announced every month, receiving prizes of KD 20,000, along with a grand prize at the end of the year of KD 100,000. Al Dirwaza account holders are eligible to enter the monthly and mega draws on the condition of maintaining at least KD 100 in their accounts. For the monthly draws, each KD 1 that has completed a full month's cycle in the account will count for one chance, and chances are calculated based on the lowest monthly balance preceding the draw. As for the mega draw, chances are calculated for each KD 1 that completes two months cycle in the account – based on the lowest two monthly balances prior to the draw.

across all job levels, Burgan Bank has been certified as a Great Place to Work®, as the first bank in Kuwait to achieve this designation and, ranking it 14th on the Best Workplaces in Kuwait™ 2023 list. The KIBS partnership comes as part of the

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ASLEEP's AI sleep monitoring technology to delivering world-class accuracy and an application-based service 'Sleep Routine.'

ASLEEP to showcase AI-based sleep monitoring tech

ASLEEP, a sleep technology company, has announced on 9 that it will participate in Viva Technology 2023 in Paris, France from June 14 to showcase an application program interface (API) based on the AI sleep monitoring technology delivering world-class accuracy and an application-based service 'Sleep Routine'.

ASLEEP offers an API that can be combined with various improvement services by using AI technology that monitoring sleep stages through breathing sounds during sleep. ASLEEP's sleep monitoring technology is characterized by its ability to measure sleep stages in any environment only with microphone-equipped devices such as smartphones, smart TVs, or speakers.

ASLEEP's sleep monitoring technology provides the highest accuracy even without using a wearable device such as a smartwatch. Especially when it comes to measuring REM sleep, non-REM sleep, and wake, ASLEEP's technology shows 15% higher accuracy on average than those of comparable smartwatches within the industry.

Going beyond simple sleep stage monitoring, ASLEEP has published in various academic journals the world's first technology for detecting sleep-related respiratory problems in real-time, regardless of age, gender, race, or environment including home environment which is recognized as an optimal solution for a real environment.

After unveiling a smart bedroom system that incorporates its sleep AI technology with home appliances from LG Electronics at CES 2023 in January 2023, ASLEEP has received attention from various global IT and beauty companies at home and abroad, expanding its business relationships.

The Conversation

Art programs has many therapeutic benefits

Drawing and writing poetry can support healing in hospitals

By Marlaïne Figueroa Gray  
University of Washington

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

The COVID-19 pandemic shined a light on the deep need that people feel for human touch and connection in hospital settings. Having relatives peering through windows at their loved ones or unable to enter hospitals altogether exacerbated the lack of human intimacy that is all too common in health care settings.

Opportunities for creative expression through arts in medicine programs are increasing in U.S. hospitals, and it may be because art-making offers something that medicine can't. Evidence shows that taking part in art programs has many therapeutic benefits, such as reducing anxiety and stress, supporting mental health and well-being and connecting people to one another.

Research has also shown that these programs can bring relief from the stresses and burnout that health care workers regularly experience.

As a medical anthropologist studying how to support people who are facing serious illness, as well as those who care for them, one of my research interests is the intersection of arts and medicine.

Participating in creative activities helps with expressing emotions. This can improve optimism, boost the body's immune response and improve healing times.

Arts in medicine programs are also correlated with improved blood pressure and less pain and depression for some patients. Some music activities can help stroke victims recover balance and rhythm.

These types of clinical benefits are certainly valued. But what people I spoke with shared that was the most transformative for them were the ways art-making allowed them to feel more fully human.

One example is at the MD Anderson Cancer Centers in Houston. Ian Cion founded the hospital's arts in medicine program in 2010. In 2014, he worked closely with more than 1,300 MD Anderson patients, their family members and staff to create a life-size paper dragon sculpture - one scale at a time.

Cion built the dragon's frame in his home out of popsicle sticks, wire and cardboard and then placed the 9-foot frame inside a high-traffic area in the hospital. Young cancer patients, their families and the entire hospital community were invited to create scales, which they filled with their hopes, prayers and favorite images. A row of scales could be finished and placed on the dragon in 45 minutes or less, but it still took months for the project to be completed.

Cion's goal with such collaborative projects was to pull people out of the

isolation of illness and into community, and to celebrate and embrace the unknown.

For my 2022 book, "Creating Care," I conducted a multi-site ethnographic study of creative expressive activities in U.S. hospitals. I interviewed more than 70 people, including those who facilitate, participate in and support art-making in hospitals. Some were licensed mental health professionals who were professionally prepared for such work, such as art therapists, music therapists and poetry therapists. Others were artists who simply chose to work in hospitals.

I wanted to understand why art-making is happening more frequently in hospitals, what benefits it provides and how these programs function alongside traditional medical care.

Medical care in the US can be dehumanizing for both the people giving and receiving care. Medical students have historically been trained to practice detached concern and to prioritize efficiency and quantity of care.

Studies show that this has harmful effects for providers. It affects both how they cope with their own emotions and how they practice medicine. As a result, some health care providers believe that the current medical standard does not result in the best care for patients.

People experiencing hospitalization have shared with me that they often don't feel seen for who they are when they enter the hospital setting. One gentleman stated that he felt literally stripped of his social identity when he was asked to don the anonymous hospital gown.

But when artists enter the hospital room, they recognize patients as whole people, apart from their diagnosis. Artists and therapists who facilitate creative expressive activities in hospitals have shared with me that one of their major goals is to acknowledge people's humanity and agency.

For example, when they approach a patient's room, they ask permission before coming in - and they are often the only person in a hospital that patients can say no to. They structure arts activities to provide multiple opportunities for practical and creative choices - such as when to start, what colors or materials to use and how to hold the tools.

Art-making activities in hospitals have many documented functions including supporting biomedical care, reaching specific clinical goals and helping patients pass the time. But my research shows that art-making also provides an important opportunity to engage with the unknown.

In medicine, the focus is typically on imaging and other testing to reach a diagnosis and a course of treatment. But many patients find themselves somewhere in between - awaiting a hoped-for outcome or grappling with how long they might be in the hospital

Acumen HPI software helps reduce time & severity of intraoperative hypotension

NYON, Switzerland, June 10: Edwards Lifesciences has announced the results of the EU-Hypotect registry which indicates that using Acumen HPI software may help reduce the duration and severity of intraoperative hypotension in patients having non-cardiac surgery.

EU-Hypotect is a European multicenter prospective observational registry which included in its final analysis 702 patients scheduled for elective major non-cardiac surgery in 12 medical centers in 5 countries (France, Germany, Italy, Spain, UK). It is the first multicenter registry involving a predictive monitoring technology, establishing a large, prospectively collected data base on hypotension management in patients having non-cardiac surgery. All patients had intraarterial blood pressure monitoring with an arterial catheter and intraoperative Acumen HPI software.

Both the duration and severity of intraoperative hypotension are associated with postoperative complications. The primary endpoint of this registry, therefore, was intraoperative hypotension quantified using the time-weighted average mean arterial pressure (MAP) 65 mmHg. Secondary endpoints included the proportion of patients with at least one  $\geq 1$ -min-episode of a MAP 65 mmHg, and the number of  $\geq 1$ -min-episodes of a MAP 65 mmHg.

In addition, although the study was not powered for this outcome, the incidence of acute kidney injury was at the lower end of what is reported in patients having major non-cardiac surgery.

In Europe, of the 2.5 million patients undergoing high-risk surgery annually, one in four develops serious postoperative complications. Throughout the hospital patient journey, anaesthetists and intensivists need to analyse large amounts of data to make life-critical decisions for patients. One example is critical drops in blood pressure known as hypotension. Intraoperative hypotension is common in patients having non-cardiac surgery under general anaesthesia. Intraoperative hypotension is associated with increased mortality and major postoperative complications (myocardial injury, acute kidney injury).

These postoperative complications or living with their illness.

It takes courage to complete cancer treatment as well as to confront the ultimate unknown - death and what

'Improving patient safety & outcomes'

Partnership aims to bring complex care to Mideast

Burjeel and US-based Northwell Health to launch Neuroscience Institute in UAE

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates, June 10: As part of its ongoing efforts to bring complex care and to increase the flow of international patients to the UAE, Burjeel Holdings ("Burjeel" or "the Group"), one of the largest healthcare services providers in the MENA, has joined hands with Northwell Health, the largest healthcare provider in New York State, to launch a highly advanced Neuroscience Institute in Abu Dhabi. The Neuroscience Institute will be located at Burjeel Medical City (BMC), the flagship facility of Burjeel Holdings, and will provide state-of-the-art care for adult and pediatric patients with neurological disorders, including autoimmune brain disorders, epilepsy, Parkinson's and movement disorders, pediatric neurology, and multiple sclerosis. The collaboration between Burjeel Holdings and Northwell Health will enable the transfer of knowledge and expertise between the two organizations to deliver the best possible patient care.

World-renowned neurologist Dr. Souhel Najjar, professor and chairperson of the Department of Neurology at the Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell, and executive director and senior vice president of the Northwell Health Neurology Service Line, will head the Institute in Abu Dhabi.

Dr. Souhel Najjar commented: "Northwell Health and Burjeel Holdings' decision to build a neuroscience institute in the UAE demonstrates their synergistic culture of innovation and commitment to bring advanced, innovative, and compassionate neurological care to the UAE and the entire

come with a significant cost burden for healthcare systems as they are linked with rehospitalisations and increased morbidity.

comes after. As Cion shared with me when I interviewed him in 2015, he thinks about the fact that confronting a blank page is also an exercise in build-



Northwell Health and Burjeel Holdings signed a Memorandum of Understanding to open the Dr. Najjar Neuroscience Institute in the UAE. From left are John Sunil, CEO of Burjeel Holdings; Souhel Najjar, MD, senior vice president and executive director of the neurology service line of Northwell Health; and Michael Dowling, president and CEO of Northwell Health. Photo credit: Northwell Health.

Middle East. On a personal level, I am proud of this relationship as it allows me to bring my Northwell Health family closer to the beloved UAE."

Burjeel Holdings and Northwell Health formalized the establishment of the Dr. Najjar Neuroscience Institute at a ceremony held in New York at the Northwell Health corporate headquarters in Manhattan. The ceremony was attended by Dr. Shamsheer Vayalil, founder and chairman of Burjeel Holdings; Mr. John Sunil, CEO, Burjeel Holdings; Dr. Mohan Chellappa, non-executive director, Burjeel Holdings; Michael Dowling, president and CEO, Northwell Health; Dr. Souhel Najjar, SVP and executive director of

the Neurology Service Line, Northwell Health; Dinelia Ortiz, vice president, Neurology Service Line, Northwell Health; Serena Najjar, senior project manager, Neurology Global Patient Services, Northwell Health; Kevin Beiner, SVP and regional executive director western region, Northwell Health.

Michael J. Dowling said: "This collaboration is an exciting opportunity to deliver world-class care to the communities of Abu Dhabi. Dr. Najjar has long been an example of clinical excellence for our health system and we are incredibly proud to see his team's services offered across the globe."

"Avoiding intraoperative hypotension is a complex task for anesthesiologists. Current hypotension treatment is mainly reactive, sometimes only being

initiated after the blood pressure has already dropped below safe levels", explains Prof. Bernd Saugel (Hamburg, Germany).

ing courage.

Many of the providers I spoke with are engaged in the creative arts themselves. Some, like physician-poet Rafael

Campo, share their creativity in meetings with patients. Campo is an internal medicine specialist who sees patients with complex chronic conditions. (AP)

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Television

LINCOLN, Neb., June 10, (AP): Mention televised legislative debates, and what may come to mind are stuffy, policy-wonk discussions broadcast by C-SPAN. This year's Nebraska Legislature was more like a reality TV show, with culture-war rhetoric, open hostility among lawmakers, name-calling, yelling and more.

Many Nebraskans couldn't get enough of it.

"It was addictive," said Jamie Bonkiewicz, 41, of Omaha. "If I wasn't there, I was streaming it every day, just to hear what would come out of those senators' mouths."

Watching on television, streaming on computers and phones, following along in their cars, Nebraskans seemed captivated by what was easily one of the body's most acrimonious sessions on record.

"Watching the Nebraska Legislature is like watching the worst train wreck that won't end and the hits just keep coming," Megan Moslander of Omaha tweeted when lawmakers triggered a constitutional challenge by combining restrictions on abortion and transgender health care into a single bill.

Many viewers tuned in as national media attention focused on a filibuster by Omaha Sen. Machaela Cavanaugh. They stayed for the surrounding turmoil.

Cavanaugh, 44, and a handful of other progressive lawmakers vowed to block every bill - even ones they supported - in an attempt to derail a proposed ban on gender-affirming care for minors. Conservative lawmakers dug in on other hot-button bills to restrict abortions, loosen gun laws and divert public money to private school scholarships.

So much for Nebraska nice: Again and again during the 90-day session, lawmakers called each other "trash" and "garbage," accused each

other of unethical behavior and angrily swore retribution for various offenses. Cavanaugh amplified the protesters' chants and accused fellow lawmakers of pursuing genocide against trans kids.

There were silly moments, too: To hold the floor, she offered a recipe for pesto and deliberated over her favorite Girl Scout cookies and Omaha's best doughnuts.

Art and Carolyn Wagner, retirees in Pleasant Dale, tuned in constantly. "When we heard about the filibuster, that's when we started watching it on TV," he said. "We had it on almost every day, probably for four to six hours a day. Some days, we watched it all day until the end - 10 hours or more."

**Debate**

As with most state legislatures, Nebraska's floor debate can be viewed live on public television or streamed online. But unlike most others, it doesn't make an archive available. A group following the Legislature began posting debates to its YouTube channel, but it hasn't been widely publicized and the footage can take more than a day to appear.

That wasn't soon enough for many who wanted to catch what would happen next.

Bonkiewicz had little interest in the legislative process until she discovered last year that a family member had founded the far-right Nebraskans for Founders' Values group. She vowed to become more involved in confronting what she sees as growing extremism and, when she wasn't protesting or meeting with lawmakers, she streamed the action live.

"It was chaos. It was like reality TV," she said. "I've watched 'Real Housewives' and other reality shows, and it's addictive like that, the

drama of it."

Nebraska Public Media, which televises and streams the debates, said technology privacy policies make gauging viewership difficult, but it appeared to be up based on how many people called seeking help to tune in.

Nebraska lawmakers took notice as citizens weighed in on both sides.

"I mean, you should see our emails," said Sen. Lou Ann Linehan, a conservative who authored the successful scholarship bill. "We've gotten thousands and thousands of people commenting on legislation and debate. And they say they're watching it all."

Cavanaugh said family members and friends in New York, Los Angeles, St. Louis and Nashville, Tennessee, told her their friends and family were watching after her filibuster made national news. She's been overwhelmed with the response.

"The number of people reaching out saying they've been watching is astounding," Cavanaugh said. "It's been thousands of people. I've been in the Legislature five years now, and stayed pretty anonymous for four of them. Now I have people stopping me at the grocery store. People stop me at Lowe's. They stop me at my kids' games."

For years on the chamber floor, lawmakers mostly ignored the stationary cameras. This year, many began looking directly into the lenses and appealing to "those watching live."

The Legislature has seen its share of drama in years past, but much of it came before livestreaming was available, said Ari Kohen, a professor of political theory and philosophy at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Variety



This image released by A24 shows Teo Yoo, (left), and Greta Lee in a scene from 'Past Lives.' (Jon Pack/A24 via AP)

Film

Song draws heavily from her own life for debut film

Soulful immigrant tale in 'Past Lives'

**MEMPHIS, Tenn:** A Tennessee man pleaded guilty Friday to helping two other men charged with fatally shooting rapper **Young Dolph** in a daytime ambush at a Memphis bakery.

**Jermarcus Johnson**, 26, pleaded guilty to three counts of accessory after the fact. Judge **Lee Coffee** approved a plea deal with prosecutors, allowing him to avoid trial.

Johnson acknowledged helping the two alleged shooters communicate after the killing while they were on the run from authorities and helped one of the alleged shooters communicate with his probation officer after the killing.

During questioning by prosecutor **Paul Hagerman**, Johnson acknowledged taking possession of a car from shooting suspect **Justin Johnson**, his half brother. Jermarcus Johnson also identified a photo in which Justin Johnson was wearing the same clothing as one of the two shooters accused of gunning down Young Dolph the day the rapper was killed. Hagerman said Johnson had no role in the actual killing of Young Dolph.

Johnson was one of four men charged in a conspiracy indictment stemming from the November 2021 killing of Young Dolph, whose real name was **Adolph Thornton Jr. Johnson** is the first person to plead guilty or be convicted in the shooting, which rattled Memphis and shook the entertainment world.

The 36-year-old rapper, label owner and producer was buying cookies at a bakery near his boyhood home in Memphis when he was gunned down by two men, authorities said.

Johnson was initially charged with the more serious offence of conspiracy to commit first-degree murder for helping Justin Johnson hide out and escape afterwards, the indictment said. Jermarcus Johnson helped Justin Johnson communicate with the other suspect, **Cornelius Smith**, while also facilitating payments to Smith for the killing, the indictment said.

Justin Johnson and Smith have pleaded not guilty to charges including first-degree murder. The fourth man accused in the indictment, **Hernandez Govan**, also has pleaded not guilty to first-degree murder. Govan is accused of arranging the killing. (AP)

NEW YORK, June 10, (AP): Celine Song was 12 when she moved from South Korean to Ontario. Her parents gave her the chance to pick a new first name. There are differing theories among her family about how she (then Ha Young) settled on Celine.

"My dad insists it's from a French film, 'C  line and Julie Go Boating,'" says Song, whose father is a filmmaker. "But I feel like there just happened to be a Celine Dion CD lying around."

The adjustment was difficult at first. Song, accustomed to being an accomplished student, had to learn English. It wouldn't be until years later - after Song had become an up-and-coming playwright, moved to New York and gotten married - that she fully grasped something different about her cultural bifurcation.

Song was sitting in an East Village bar with her white American husband and a childhood sweetheart from Korea, who had come to visit. Neither spoke the other language so Song was their only bridge, the only way they could communicate and the only reason this unlikely threesome had been brought together.

"I remember feeling this thing that I've always felt: a chip on my shoulder about being ESL or not having grown up with the English language," says Song. "But then I was sitting there thinking: No, I feel so, so powerful. I felt like a magician or a superhero type. These two worlds are collapsing - time and space is folding on itself - because of me. And I didn't have to do anything except exist. I just had to be me and that was enough."

Song begins her directorial film debut, "Past Lives," by dramatizing that moment. From there, her movie, drawing heavily from her own life, dives through flashbacks that led these characters together and the twists and turns that might have so easily taken them somewhere else.

"Past Lives," a breakout hit of the Sundance Film Festival and one of the year's most acclaimed films, is both an uncommonly thoughtful love story and an unusually soulful immigrant tale.

Greta Lee stars as Nora, a Korean-Canadian playwright loosely modeled on Song, who, as she grows up, sporadically reconnects with Hae Sung (Teo Yoo), a friend from her childhood in Seoul. When he comes

to New York 24 years later, Nora is happily married to Arthur (John Magaro). The visit doesn't erupt a melodramatic love triangle but spawns something gentler and more ineffable about love, destiny and identity.

"For me to explain who we are to each other can't be done in a sentence," Song said in a recent interview. "I can't just say identity, identity, identity. It's so much more about what it's like to exist as three people and what's it like for all of them to behold the other people in the trio."

**Connection**

For the trio of Song, Lee and Yoo, the making of "Past Lives" was also an experience of profound connection.

Lee, the 40-year-old "Russian Doll" actor, was born in Los Angeles to Korean immigrants. Yoo was born and raised in Germany but, after marrying a Korean woman, has for years lived in Seoul. Each knows plenty about living with two cultures and in the space between.

Destiny (cross head)

"When I read the script, I loved so much that it wasn't in service of any sort of gaze, like a white gaze or a male gaze," says Lee. "It was just telling a very universal story about destiny and what it is to fall in love that felt very freeing, like it cracked open the possibility of showing a kind of immigrant experience in a very quiet but also bold way that isn't performative or finger-pointing."

Lee has been especially praised for her subtle, restrained performance as a woman not pulled between two romantic interests but casting a glance toward her past before plunging forward into her future as an artist. Song considers the movie a series of goodbyes where the first attempts don't stick. She even sees it as a "CSI"-like "conformation-of-death movie where you lift the sheet up on the dead body."

Lee had never connected so much with a role - a gift but also a fearful proposition.

"It had to be completely naked in order to achieve this level of clarity and simple honesty," Lee says. "There's no mask."

Lee instead expresses the roiling emotions of Greta

underneath. As grounded as "Past Lives" is, conversations between Lee and Song turned cosmic in contemplating ways to capture something larger.

"The joke that started it was: How can we tell this story in a way that feels sci-fi, that suspends convention of genre, that feels like we're talking about something much bigger than a love triangle?" Lee says. "We talked about portals. Truly. Jumping through time and space."

Song, whose 2020 play "Endings" also featured an autobiographical playwright character, went to some extremes to lead her cast into organic, naturalistic performances. She had Yoo and Magaro meet for the first time on camera, to mimic the awkwardness of their characters encountering each other. And since Nora and Hae have an intense but unacted upon attraction, Yoo was also prohibited from physically touching Lee.

"I think Celine was kind of a sadist," says Yoo, laughing.

Yoo found himself in the ironic position of playing a traditional Korean man, the opposite of what he typically plays in Korea given his European upbringing. He grew up, he says, with a melancholy feeling of displacement that he couldn't pinpoint until he was 15 and saw Korean and Hong Kong films on TV.

"Even though it was dubbed in German, there was a cinematic grammar that I understood where I didn't feel lonely anymore," says Yoo. "That shaped the path of me wanting to become an actor."

In "Past Lives," Yoo is actually speaking his third language, Korean. To him, his life has grown richer in its multiplicity. Speaking German, English and Korean, he says, is like "colors that crossfade into each other."

"I had to relearn my identity. I had a kind of reverse culture shock," he says of moving to Korea. "But there's a beauty in learning out of the struggle. Your emotional color palette kind of widens."

Expressing that kind of complexity of identity was what Song hoped to do in "Past Lives." The story isn't a simple dichotomy of American verse Korean life. The language of identity, Song says - like the label of "Korean-Canadian" - can be limiting. Her life, like anyone's, is also filled with roads not taken and relationships not chosen.

**HONG KONG:** Two giant inflatable ducks made a splash in Hong Kong's Victoria Harbor on Friday, marking the return of a pop-art project that sparked a frenzy in the city a decade ago.

The two 18-meter-tall yellow ducks by Dutch artist **Florentijn Hofman** resemble the bath toys many played with in their childhood.



Hofman



Young Dolph

hood. Shortly after their launch, dozens of residents and tourists flocked to the promenade near the government headquarters in Admiralty to snap photos of the ducks.

Hofman said he hopes the art exhibition brings joy to the city and connects people as they make memories together.

"Double duck, double luck," he

said. "In a world where we suffered from a pandemic, wars and political situations, I think it is the right moment to bring back the double luck."

The inflatable ducks will stay in Hong Kong for about two weeks.

Many Hong Kongers at the promenade recalled the happiness his work brought to the shopping district of **Tsim Sha Tsui** in 2013.

Some were excited to see a pair of ducks on Friday instead of just one duck like the earlier exhibition.

Among the visitors was artist **Laurence Lai**, who brought paint brushes to make watercolors of the ducks. Lai said the city was full of negative vibes in recent years during the COVID-19 pandemic and that it's time for the city to move on. (AP)



People & Places

Television

Fake heiress ‘Delvey’

Sorokin starts podcast to rehab public image

NEW YORK, June 10, (AP): It’s a weekday morning and **Anna Sorokin** is on house arrest in a New York apartment building that has been condemned as imminently perilous to life. So she’s attempting to capture outside attention and relieving her boredom in the most quotidian way: starting a podcast.

“So many people became famous for bad things and were able to kind of segue it into something different,” she recently told The Associated Press in her East Village apartment.

“The main theme of my podcast is productive rule-breaking,” she said of “The Anna Delvey Show.”

For now, she wants to reimagine her public image to shake her reputation of being a con artist and a scammer.



Sorokin

“I’m on 24/7 house arrest. I’m only allowed to leave for my parole check-ins, my ICE check-ins and for medical emergencies,” she said. Behind her is a life-size cutout of her likeness - created by artist Kenny Schachter - which, like Sorokin herself, is wearing an ankle monitoring device.

Going by the name Anna Delvey, she posed as a German heiress and lied about having a \$67 million trust fund in order to apply for loans, run up debts and secure a historic building for a private arts club. She falsely claimed to be the daughter of a diplomat or an oil baron. Arrested in late 2017, she was convicted in 2019 on multiple counts of larceny and theft for bilking banks, hotels and wealthy New Yorkers out of \$275,000.

She was sentenced to four to 12 years in prison. After serving three years in prison though - about half of which was at Rikers Island jail complex - Sorokin, a German citizen, was detained by US Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Confinement

Later, she was released after posting a \$10,000 bond in the fall to home confinement, pending a deportation hearing.

Now she’s taking advantage of her time at home by launching a weekly podcast series that she hopes will tell her side of the story, featuring various expert and celebrity guests. Sorokin’s conversations with Emily Ratajkowski, Julia Fox, “Pharma Bro” Martin Shkreli and Otessa Moshfegh will be on upcoming episodes, according to Reunion Audio, the podcast company.

Sorokin’s fraud case became the basis for the Emmy-nominated Netflix series “Inventing Anna,” based on a New York magazine story. Sorokin, played by three-time Emmy winner Julia Garner, said she was a consultant on the show, but didn’t have “any control” over the final product.

“For me to say I’m rehabilitated would be to admit something was wrong with me to begin with. Like, I was just young, I made some mistakes,” she said. “I’m trying to learn from them. My case, my criminal case is on direct appeal.”

“Inventing Anna” was inspired by real-life events, but every episode included a disclaimer that the story was true except for the parts that were made up.

“I know some of the stuff like definitely did not happen,” Sorokin said. “But it’s not really up to me to sit here and go over the series piece-by-piece, because it’s literally a Shonda Rhimes interpretation.”

While Sorokin was jailed, her fanbase grew - even organizing a “Free Anna Delvey” art show that included some of her drawings, as well as works by other artists. Since then, she has attempted to sell pencil drawings for up to \$25,000.

The podcast gives her the opportunity to take back some control over the narrative, and it’s something she’s thought about doing for some time.

“I wanted to start recording in jail, actually over the jail phone because, you know, there are some rappers who record whole albums while being incarcerated. I was like, ‘Why not record a podcast?’” Sorokin said.

She was never able to do it, because it was “logistically difficult” to record episodes, according to the podcast company.

As far as her time behind bars, Sorokin called prison a “transformative experience,” saying that she’s no longer the person who was arrested in 2017.

“It’s been five years, a bit more than five years since I got arrested. So, I just like - I changed. I learned so much,” she said. Dressed in a white blouse, her signature black-ribbon tie and dark slacks, her ankle bracelet is clearly visible.

She lifts her pants leg to show it off and even explains how it works.

“Sometimes you see the banks all operate the biggest fraud on a huge scale, but like if you bounce, I don’t know, a \$500 check, then (it’s) fraud,” Sorokin said.

Discussion

This week, Sorokin’s guest on “The Anna Delvey Show” was model and rocker Julia Cumming of the New York City band, Sunflower Bean.

During a discussion about what makes a real New Yorker, Cumming says Sorokin’s impact in the city qualifies her.

“You are the first person I’ve ever hung out with under house arrest,” she said. “So that’s a huge accomplishment.”

Sorokin agreed that she didn’t know anyone under house arrest either.

Cumming responded: “It’s like you and Lindsay Lohan,” who was under house arrest in Los Angeles more than a decade ago.

Sorokin believes her notoriety makes it’s easy for her to bring guests on the show.

“I can get pretty much anybody up here,” she said with brash confidence.

But there’s one guest she won’t be able to get: Thera’s founder Elizabeth Holmes, who just began an 11-year prison sentence for overseeing a blood-testing hoax that became a parable about greed and hubris in Silicon Valley.

“I’d love to speak to Elizabeth. I definitely think she’s an interesting person,” Sorokin said. “I can relate a little bit more is because we’re both females and have been trying to build something.”

She would also consider having US Rep. George Santos on the podcast, but doesn’t feel she has much in common with him. The New York Republican who fabricated an identity as a rich, Wall Street dealmaker while running for Congress, and was recently charged in a 13-count indictment that included fraud, money laundering, and theft of public funds.

“I’m sure some of it is true, some of it - it’s not,” Sorokin said of things written about Santos.

She added: “I get so many requests to give George Santos advice, jail advice or something. I kind of stayed away from that.”



This image released by DKC/O&M shows Ashley D. Kelley, (left), and Grey Henson during a performance of ‘Shucked.’ (AP)

Stage

Strike leaves Broadway stars to rely on their ‘live’ muscles

A Tony Awards like no other, really

NEW YORK, June 10, (AP): There are a lot of questions surrounding this year’s Tony Awards - and not just about who might win.

The Hollywood writers’ strike has left much of Sunday’s telecast with unknowns. There will be performances from the nominated musicals, pre-recorded montages of the plays and acceptance speeches. Everything else seems up in the air.

Striking members of the Writers Guild of America have agreed not to picket but won’t allow its writers to work on the Tonys, leaving Broadway’s biggest night without an established script. Any banter will have to be impromptu.

But if any group of people are best equipped to handle the stress from a live event, it’s the Broadway community. Going on without a net just doesn’t scare them.

“I think the theatrical community is the one artistic community that is absolutely capable of pulling off a show like this and not having it feel like, ‘Oh, I’m so scared and nervous!’” says Wayne Brady, who has been on Broadway in “Kinky Boots” and “Chicago” and will be leading a new “The Wiz.” It’s like, ‘No, this is what we do. This is what we do.’ And I can’t wait to see it.”

Ariana DeBose’s second stint as host is likely to be far different from last year. The Academy Award winner and Tony Award nominee will be tasked with gluing it all together.

Awards

There’s plenty of time to eat up: A 2 1/2-hour pre-show on Pluto TV from 6:30-8 p.m. EDT hosted by Julianne Hough and Skylar Astin, and then the three-hour main event led by DeBose on CBS and Paramount+ starting at 8 p.m. EDT/5 p.m. PDT.

Performances are slated from the nominated casts of “Camelot,” “Into the Woods,” “& Juliet,” “Kimberly Akimbo,” “New York, New York,” “Parade,” “Shucked,” “Some Like It Hot” and “Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street.”

In addition, Joaquina Kalukango, the winner of last year’s Tony for best performance by a leading actress in a musical, will sing, as well as casts from “A Beautiful Noise” and “Funny Girl.” That means there’ll be plenty of star power, from Josh Groban to Lea Michele.

A total of 26 Tony Awards will be handed out for a season that had 40 new productions - 15 musicals, 24 plays and one special engagement. It was the first full season since Broadway returned from the COVID-19 shutdown.

“Some Like It Hot,” a musical adaptation of the cross-dressing movie comedy that starred Tony Curtis and Jack Lemmon, goes into the night with a leading 13 Tony Award nominations.

Broadway shows rely on the Tony Award telecast for exposure, and this year the need is even heightened, with a drop in tourism leaving many shows lighter at the box office than usual.

Stark Sands, who has twice been nominated and will attend this year as

ing sure that the beautiful mosaic of people you see -- if you see a production of ‘Hamilton’ or you see a production of ‘MJ (The Musical)’ or ‘Fat Ham’ on Broadway -- is also reflected backstage, that it’s not just the folks in front of the footlights,” Miranda said, “Because there are incredibly talented practitioners and carpenters and makeup designers and wardrobe folks who also deserve that shot.”

Wilson Chin, the New York-based set and production designer behind Broadway shows “Cost of Living” and “Pass Over,” said he hopes R.I.S.E. becomes widely used by those hiring in the theater.

“People keep saying, ‘We can’t find anyone,’ but we’re out there,” said Chin, who is currently working on several projects, including “Turanot” for the Washington National Opera and the new Hunter S. Thompson musical for La Jolla Playhouse. “We just have to be found. Having us all in one place is great for us to be seen.”

Miranda said he got the idea for R.I.S.E. Network from director Ava DuVernay’s ARRAY initiative, which features a database of women and people of color working in the film and television industries in offscreen jobs. He began working with his friend, composer Georgia Stitt, who developed Maestra, a directory for female composers, conductors, arrangers and other musical jobs.

The Miranda Family Fund provided the seed money to build R.I.S.E. Theater Network and will help support the directory, which is free for those looking to work and looking to hire.

According to a 2021 report from the Asian American Performers Action Coalition, which studied Broadway shows in the 2018-2019 season, 100% of general managers and 94% of the producers were white. White actors were cast in 80% of the lead roles in musicals and 90% of the lead roles in plays. Steps have been taken to improve diversity in the theater since then - most notably “A New Deal for Broadway” in 2021, negotiated between Black Theatre United and Broadway shows and their touring productions.

With R.I.S.E. Network, Miranda wants to make it easier for those hiring for offstage jobs to find diverse applicants.

“R.I.S.E. is really about mak-

part of the musical “& Juliet,” calls the telecast “an annual national commercial for Broadway.”

“We know how much it means in ticket sales even if you don’t win - just the performance on national television in front of that 3 or 4 million people that are watching,” he says.

Performances

“I’m bummed that it’s not going to be the Tonys that we know, but I’m grateful that they got it over the line and that we will have those very clickable moments of the performances.”

Even the location this year - the United Palace Theatre, in the Washington Heights neighborhood of Manhattan - is a new one for the ceremony, many miles from Times Square and the theater district. A morning telecast rehearsal - usually open to the public - has been nixed. The red carpet will be photos only and a list of presenters has not been released.

The strike has darkened late-night TV shows like “The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon,” “The Late



Actors Sam Heughan, (left), and Caitriona Balfe pose together at the premiere of ‘Outlander’ season 7 during the Tribeca Festival at the OXK Theater BMCC Tribeca Performing Arts Center on Friday, June 9, in New York. (AP)

Variety

**LOS ANGELES:** An actor known for his roles on the comedy television shows “Bob’s Burgers” and “Mr. Show with Bob and David” was arrested Wednesday on charges that he joined a mob of **Donald Trump** supporters in confronting police officers during the US Capitol riot, court records show.

**Jay Johnston**, 54, of Los Angeles, was arrested there on charges including civil disorder, a felony. A federal magistrate judge agreed to free Johnston on \$25,000 bond after his initial court appearance in **California**. A public defender who represented him at the hearing declined to comment.

Video footage captured Johnston pushing against police and helping rioters who attacked officers guarding an entrance to the Capitol in a tunnel on the Lower West Terrace, according to an FBI agent’s affidavit. Johnston held a stolen police shield over his head and passed it to other rioters during the attack on Jan. 6, 2021, the affidavit says.

Johnston “was close to the entrance to the tunnel, turned back and signaled for other rioters to come towards the entrance,” the agent wrote.

Johnston was the voice of the character **Jimmy Pesto** on Fox’s “Bob’s Burgers.” The Daily Beast reported in December 2021 that Johnston was “banned” from the animated show after the Jan. 6 attack.

Johnston appeared on “Mr. Show with Bob and David,” an HBO sketch comedy series that starred **Bob Odenkirk** and **David Cross**. His credits also include small parts on the television show “Arrested Development” and in the movie “Anchor-man,” starring **Will Ferrell**.

United Airlines records show Johnston booked a round-trip flight from Los Angeles to **Washington, D.C.**, departing on Jan. 4, 2021, and returning a day after the riot, according to the FBI. Thousands of people stormed the Capitol on Jan. 6 after attending then-President Donald Trump’s “Stop the Steal” rally.

While the mob attacked police in the tunnel with pepper spray and other weapons, Johnston helped other rioters near the tunnel pour water on their faces and then joined in pushing against the line of officers, the FBI says.

“The rioters coordinated the timing of the pushes by yelling ‘Heave! Ho!’” the affidavit says.

Three current or former associates of Johnston identified him as a riot suspect from photos that the FBI published online, according to the agent. The FBI said one of those associates provided investigators with a text message in which Johnston acknowledged being at the Capitol on Jan 6. (AP)

**NEW YORK:** Just as a trial was to begin, it was revealed that **Cuba Gooding Jr** has settled accusations that he raped a woman in a New York City hotel a decade ago, according to court records. The actor had insisted through lawyers that his encounter with the woman was consensual after the two met at a nearby restaurant.

The trial was to start with jury selection in New York federal court as the Oscar-

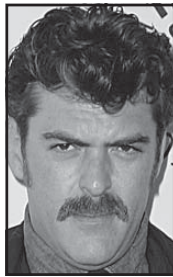
winning “Jerry Maguire” star faced allegations that he met the woman in **Manhattan**, persuaded her to join him at a hotel, and convinced her to stop at his room so he could change clothing.

Minutes after jurors were to begin assembling in a courtroom, a calendar entry in the official court record said: “TRIAL OFF.” It added: “Reason for cancellation (on consent): the parties have resolved the matter.”

The woman had proceeded anyo-



Gooding



Johnston

mously until last week, when Judge **Paul A. Crotty** ruled that she would have to reveal her name at trial. She said in her lawsuit that Gooding raped her in his room. His lawyers, though, insisted that it was consensual and that she bragged afterward to others.

The lawsuit sought \$6 million in damages. Attorney **Gloria Allred**, one of several representing the woman, declined comment. Other lawyers, including those representing Gooding, did not immediately respond to requests for comment. (AP)



Health

‘Lifesaving tool’

Fentanyl test strips still illegal in some states

COLUMBUS, Ohio, June 10, (AP): At Cleveland’s Urban Kutz Barbershop, customers can flip through magazines as they wait, or help themselves to drug screening tests left out in a box on a table with a somber message: “Your drugs could contain fentanyl. Please take free test strips.”

Owner Waverly Willis has given out strips for years at his barbershop, hoping to protect others from unwittingly being exposed to the highly potent synthetic opioid ravaging the US and often secretly laced into other illegal drugs.

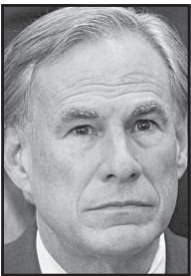
“When I put them out, they just fly out the door,” said Willis, who proudly hands out about 30 strips a week as part of The Urban Barber Association, a Cleveland organization that provides health education to the community via local barbershops.

Nearly 18 years into his own sobriety from drugs, Willis isn’t shy about making the strips available. He figures he’d be dead if fentanyl were so widely prevalent when he was using.

Fentanyl has driven overdose deaths in the US since 2016, and that isn’t changing as the cheaper and deadlier synthetic opioid continues to be cut into the drug supply. Approximately 75,000 of the nearly 110,000 overdose deaths of 2022 could be linked to fentanyl, according to data from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Legalizing test strips could bring those numbers down, advocates say, saving lives by helping more people understand just how deadly their drugs could be.

Until this spring, use of the strips was technically illegal in Ohio. It has joined at least 20 other states whose lawmakers formally decriminalized the strips since Rhode Island became the first in 2018. Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Kentucky and Mississippi also followed suit this year.

The CDC recommends fentanyl test strips as a low-cost means of helping prevent drug overdoses. They can detect fentanyl in cocaine, methamphetamine, heroin and many other drugs - whether in pills, powders or injectables.



Abbott

Drug

Yet these small paper strips are still considered illegal in some states, outlawed under drug paraphernalia laws dating to the 1970s era war on drugs - long before fentanyl began seeping into the nation’s drug supply. Every state but Alaska had an anti-paraphernalia law on the books by the mid-1980s, making materials used for testing and analyzing illicit substances illegal.

Increasingly, the strips are now being seen as potentially lifesaving.

Newark, Ohio, resident Rodney Olinger has used methamphetamines for eight years. The 45-year-old gets four to five fentanyl test strips weekly from the Newark Homeless Outreach, and calls them a “blessing.” He credits the strips with helping ensure he and his fiancée, who also uses, stay alive.

“It’s very scary,” Olinger said of fentanyl. “Just a little bit could kill you.”

While the strips may not prevent drug use overall, they allow testers to take a pause if a strip comes back positive, possibly encouraging them to reconsider drug use and seek help, said Sheila Vakharia with the national nonprofit Drug Policy Alliance, which seeks to shape U.S. drug policy.

“You never know if a fentanyl test strip can keep someone alive long enough so they can make that decision for themselves,” she said.

The CDC says any drug that dissolves in water can be tested. The strip is dipped in the solution for about 15 seconds, set out a few minutes, and is positive for fentanyl if a single pink line appears. Two pink lines is a negative result.

The strips can often be obtained from advocacy groups, local and state health departments, or purchased online.

Where strips are illegal, the push to change the law continues.

In Kansas, lawmakers debated until April whether to legalize the strips. But there was never any debate for Kansas mother Brandy Harris, who lost her 21-year-old son Sebastain Sheahan to a fentanyl overdose in April 2022. Addicted since age 13, he was first prescribed opioids after being hit by a truck.

Friends and family knew Sheahan as “big-hearted” and “goofy” with a soft spot for abused animals. He was open about his addiction issues and had been clean three years before he died after a relapse.

Harris believes her son would still be alive if he’d had test strips showing what he was ingesting. “I do believe that if these were available, that at least one person would be saved,” Harris said. “And that is the main goal -- at least one person.”

Kansas’ governor recently signed a bipartisan bill decriminalizing the strips starting July 1.

Montana and other states are considering similar legislation. Republican Gov. **Greg Abbott** of Texas recently dropped opposition to decriminalizing the strips, citing a “better understanding” of how they prevent opioid deaths.

And in Pennsylvania, Republican state Rep. Jim Struzzi lost his brother to a drug overdose in 2014 and lobbied colleagues for years to destigmatize the strips.

Legislation

“Fentanyl isn’t going to ask you if you’re a Democrat or a Republican before it kills you,” said Struzzi, who sponsored state legislation making test strips legal in January.

The shift in how political leaders view the strips has advocacy groups, health departments and outreach programs optimistic. Increased legalization opens doors for more funding, including for strips themselves and for public education campaigns.

The SOAR Initiative, a Columbus, Ohio-based nonprofit fighting overdose deaths, distributes about 5,000 strips each month, according to executive director Jessica Warner.

SOAR sends out the strips via mail to anonymous recipients, both individuals and larger distributors. Handing them out never brought legal consequences in Ohio even before.

In fact, prosecution for possessing the strips doesn’t appear to be occurring anywhere in the U.S., according to Jonathan Woodruff of the Legislative Analysis and Public Policy Association, which tracks drug laws nationwide. He said drug paraphernalia possession is a minor offense in most states and law enforcement may now be more attuned to the strips’ lifesaving benefits.

Northeast of Boston, police Lt. Sarko Gergerian of the Winthrop Police Department has boxes of them stacked in his office.

Legalized in Massachusetts in 2018, the strips go into “survival kits” that his department, as part of the Community and Law Enforcement Assisted Recovery Program, gives to those struggling with substance use - as well as to recovery coaches and social workers for distribution.

Gergerian calls it a “win” when a life is saved - not the arrest of someone struggling with addiction.

“Could you imagine if your kid was addicted to a substance and they weren’t ready to give it up?” Gergerian posed. “We need to keep them alive. Anything else is immoral.”



This Dec. 21, 2022, image provided by Eisai in January 2023 shows vials and packaging for their medication Leqembi. On Friday, June 9, health advisers backed the full approval of the closely watched Alzheimer’s drug, a key step toward opening insurance coverage to US seniors with early stages of the brain-robbing disease. (AP)

Health

Conditional nod sets stage for broader use of drug

Alzheimer’s drug gets FDA backing

WASHINGTON, June 10, (AP): Health advisers on Friday unanimously backed the full approval of a closely watched Alzheimer’s drug, a key step toward opening insurance coverage to US seniors with early stages of the brain-robbing disease.

The drug, Leqembi, received conditional approval from the Food and Drug Administration in January based on early results suggesting it could slow Alzheimer’s progression by several months. The FDA now is reviewing more definitive results to decide whether the drug should receive the agency’s full endorsement.

The decision carries extra significance because insurers have held off on paying for the infused treatment until it has full FDA approval.

The FDA panel of outside advisers voted 6-0 that a large company study confirmed the drug’s benefits for patients with mild or early Alzheimer’s. The nonbinding vote amounts to a recommendation for full approval, and the FDA is scheduled to issue a final decision on the matter by July 6.

The FDA’s initial OK for Leqembi came via the agency’s accelerated approval program, which allows early access to drugs based on laboratory or biological measures suggesting that they might help patients. The drug, marketed by Eisai and Biogen, helped clear a brain plaque that is a hallmark of Alzheimer’s.

The FDA panel reviewed more recent data from an 1,800-patient study in which people taking the drug showed a modestly slower rate of decline on measures of memory, judgment and other cognitive tests.

“For an illness like this where we don’t have very much, these are meaningful changes for patients with Alzheimer’s,” said Dr. Merit Cudkowicz of Harvard Medical School. “A couple more months in the highly functional state is really meaningful.”

Benefits

Drugs approved via the accelerated pathway can technically be withdrawn by the FDA if their benefits aren’t confirmed, though regulators rarely take that step. Gaining full approval allows medications to stay on the market indefinitely.

Normally the process of converting an accelerated approval attracts little attention, and FDA rarely convenes its advisers to weigh in on such decisions.

But concerns about the cost and effectiveness of new plaque-targeting drugs like Leqembi have attracted new scrutiny to the process from academics, members of Congress and health insurers.

Medicare, the federal health plan that covers 60 million seniors, has essentially blocked coverage of Leqembi and a similar drug, Aduhelm, pending full FDA approval. That policy, which has little precedent, was announced last year amid concerns that Aduhelm, priced at \$28,000-a-year, would drive up costs for Medicare recipients.

The federal program provides health insurance for the vast majority of people

with Alzheimer’s, and private insurers tend to follow its lead.

Leqembi is priced similarly at \$26,500 per year and the handful of patients who have received it to date have mainly had to pay out of pocket.

Facing pressure from Alzheimer’s advocates and patients, Medicare’s administrator, Chiquita Brooks-LaSure, has made clear the program will immediately begin covering the drug if it gets FDA’s full OK.

But last week she announced extra requirements even after Medicare coverage begins: All patients receiving the drug will need to be enrolled in a federal registry to track Leqembi’s safety and effectiveness. That approach is occasionally used for complex new medical devices, but rarely for drugs.

The move was criticized by advocacy groups, including the Alzheimer’s Association, which has lobbied the federal government for months to

casts showed winds continuing to push smoke-filled air south.

The smoke has moved over Greenland and Iceland since June 1, and was expected to reach Norway on Thursday, the Norwegian Climate and Environmental Research Institute said, but wasn’t expected to be a health concern.

In Washington, D.C., Mayor Muriel Bowser ordered schools to cancel outdoor recess, sports and field trips Thursday. In suburban Philadelphia, officials set up an emergency shelter so people living outside can take refuge from the haze.

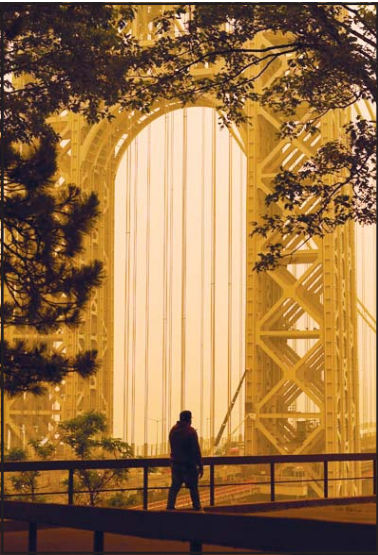
New York Gov. Kathy Hochul said the state was making a million N95 masks - the kind prevalent at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic - available at state facilities, including 400,000 in New York City. She also urged residents to stay put.

“You don’t need to go out and take a walk. You don’t need to push the baby in the stroller,” Hochul said Wednesday night. “This is not a safe time to do that.”

The message may be getting through. So far, officials said Wednesday, New York City has yet to see an uptick in 911 emergency calls related to respiratory issues and cardiac arrests.

More than 400 blazes burning across Canada have left 20,000 people displaced. The U.S. has sent more than 600 firefighters and equipment to Canada. Other countries are also helping.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau spoke to President Joe Biden by phone Wednesday. Trudeau’s office said he thanked Biden for his support and that both leaders “acknowledged the need to work together to address the devastating impacts of climate change.”



A man talks on his phone as he looks through the haze at the George Washington Bridge in Fort Lee, N.J., June 7. Thick, smoky air from Canadian wildfires made for days of misery in New York City and across the US Northeast this week. But for much of the rest of the world, breathing dangerously polluted air is an inescapable fact of life — and death. (AP)

Discovery

**Biologists win Asturias award:** US biologists Jeffrey Gordon, **Peter Greenberg** and **Bonnie Bassler** won Spain’s Princess of Asturias Award for Scientific and Technical Research for 2023.

The Princess of Asturias Award jury said the three were chosen for their contributions to research into the essential role of communities of microorganisms in life on earth.

The panel said Gordon had “spearheaded the discovery and understanding of the human microbiome,” the vast number and diversity of microorganisms that live in the body and which play essential roles in health.

Greenberg and Bassler have been acclaimed for their work in revealing mechanisms of communication between bacteria.

The jury said the work of all three was “enabling innovative therapeutic applications and the search for new effective treatments against antibiotic-resistant bacteria.”

Gordon is professor in the department of Medicine and Biological Chemistry at Washington University in Saint Louis, Mo.

Bassler is chair of Princeton University’s Department of Molecular Biology and Greenberg is professor of microbiology at the University of Washington in Seattle, Wa.

All three are members of the US National Academy of Sciences and have won numerous awards.

They were chosen from among 40 candidates of varying nationalities. (AP)

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**Anak Krakatau spews ash:** Indonesia’s Anak Krakatau volcano has erupted, spewing ash as high as 3 kilometers (2 miles) into the air, officials said Saturday.

The volcano island located in Indonesia’s Sunda Strait between the main Java and Sumatra islands has erupted at least seven times since late Friday, Indonesia’s Volcanology and Geological Hazard Mitigation Center said.

It was the longest eruption since the explosive collapse of the mountain caused a deadly tsunami in 2018 along the coasts of Java and Sumatra, the center said. There were no casualties reported in the latest eruption and no evacuation order was issued. The nearest settlement is 16 1/2 kilometers (10 1/2 miles) away.

The center’s closed-circuit camera showed lava flares and the volcano continuously erupting until Saturday morning.

The second-highest alert on a scale of four has remained in place since 2018. Authorities in May warned residents and tourists to stay 5 kilometers (3 miles) from the crater. Up till then, people used to trek to the top to observe the nature’s spectacle.

Scientists at the center said that since the 2018 eruption and collapse, Anak Krakatau island is now only about a quarter of its original size. (AP)

□ □ □

**‘Alarmed by activist detention’:** The German government has said that it is concerned by the recent detention of a prominent environmental campaigner in Vietnam,

warning that a recent multi-billion-dollar deal to help the country phase out coal use requires the involvement of civil society activists.

Hoang Thi Minh Hong was detained by police in Ho Chi Minh City last week and held on a temporary order charged with tax evasion, the United Nations Human Rights Office said, citing credible sources. It said Hoang is the fifth prominent environmental activist arrested in Vietnam for alleged tax



Greenberg



Bassler

evasion in the last two years.

Germany’s Foreign Ministry said the arrests of Hoang and others “are an alarming signal for civil society actors across the country, as well as for environmental and climate protection.”

“We also view the arrest critically with regard to the upcoming implementation of the Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP) agreed between Vietnam and the G7 countries, Denmark and Norway,” it said. (AP)



49ers to complete Leeds takeover

Al-Khelaifi distances himself from Utd bid

ISTANBUL, June 10, (AP): Paris Saint-Germain president Nasser Al-Khelaifi said Saturday that he is not part of a potential Qatari-based bid to buy Manchester United.

Speaking in Istanbul ahead of the Champions League final, Al-Khelaifi distanced himself from countryman Sheikh Jassim bin Hamad Al Thani’s proposed takeover of the storied Premier League club.

“Paris Saint-Germain is my club, my heart and nothing to do with Man United,” he said of his Qatari-backed French club.

On Friday it was reported Al-Khelaifi, who is also the chairman of the European Club Association, had played a “significant” role in talks over Sheikh Jassim’s attempt to buy out United owners, the Glazer family.

Al-Khelaifi said potential investors frequently seek his advice and that he would offer his opinion about United or any other club. He said he was approached at Formula One’s Miami Grand Prix by an investor considering bids for two unnamed English teams.

“I’m not working for anyone. I want the best for football,” he said. “When this guy asked me, I tell him my opinion. So if they ask me my opinion I will answer them for sure and that’s what they do. Anyone, not just Man United. I will give them my experience that I have. That’s it.”

SOCCER

UEFA has a rule designed to stop owners or businesses having “decisive influence” over more than one club which qualifies for its European competitions. The rule drafted 25 years ago aims to protect the integrity of games from owners with a conflict of interest on the filed.

Qatari banker Sheikh Jassim is competing with British billionaire Jim Ratcliffe for ownership of United, which was estimated to reach a sale price of as much as \$6 billion.

The Glazers announced in November that they were exploring “strategic alternatives” after owning the club since 2005. That included a possible full sale or minority investment.

PSG is owned by Qatar Sports Investments and has spent exorbitant amounts of money on some of soccer’s biggest players like Lionel Messi, Kylian Mbappe and Neymar.

Al-Khelaifi added that he would welcome further Qatari ownership of European teams.

“If within the regulation, why not? Everyone, not only Qatari, everyone,” he said.

The San Francisco 49ers ownership group has reached an agreement to take over English soccer club Leeds with NBA players Larry Nance Jr. and T.J. McConnell joining as minority investors.

The NFL team’s investment arm - 49ers Enterprises - originally bought a 15 percent stake from Leeds chairman Andrea Radizzani in 2018 and increased it to 44 percent in late 2021.

Leeds didn’t specify the sale price for the remaining 56 percent but British media reported it to be 170 million pounds (\$214 million).



In this Feb. 12, 2019 file photo, Paris Saint Germain owner Nasser bin Ghanim Al-Khelaifi waves to his team fans after the end of the Champions League round of 16 soccer match between Manchester United and Paris Saint Germain at Old Trafford stadium in Manchester, England. (AP)

Naby Keïta signs with Bremen

BREMEN, Germany, June 10, (AP): Midfielder Naby Keïta is leaving Liverpool on a free transfer to move to the Bundesliga with Werder Bremen, the German club said Friday.

Keïta leaves Liverpool after five years with a team which won every major prize in English soccer with the Premier League in 2020, the Champions League the year before and the FA Cup and League Cup once each.

German champion Bayern Munich signed midfielder Konrad Laimer on a free transfer as his contract with Leipzig expired.

The Austrian central midfielder leaves Leipzig after six years with the club, where he won the German Cup twice, including in his last game for the team. The 26-year-old Laimer signed a contract through 2027.

Laimer is the first Bayern signing since the club fired Oliver Kahn as chief executive and Hasan Salihamidžić as sporting director last month. However, arrangements to sign Laim-

er were widely reported to have been made long before Kahn and Salihamidžić left.

Real Madrid has reinforced its defense by bringing back Fran García from Rayo Vallecano, the Spanish clubs said Friday.

SOCCER

The 23-year-old García came up through Madrid’s youth teams before joining crosstown club Rayo in 2020.

The left back established himself as a starter in three seasons with Rayo, playing 72 games.

García will compete with Ferland Mendy for playing time on the left side of the defensive line. Last season, Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti also played midfielder Eduardo Camavinga at the position.

Neither club disclosed the financial details of the transfer.

Whitlock shuts down Yankees, Devers and Hernandez go deep in Red Sox win



Atlanta Braves’ Ozzie Albies slides into third base in the sixth inning of a baseball game against the Washington Nationals in Atlanta. (AP)

Orioles edge struggling Royals

NEW YORK, June 10, (AP): Garrett Whitlock got his second win since replacing Corey Kluber in the Red Sox rotation, Rafael Devers and Kiké Hernández homered, and the Boston Red Sox beat the New York Yankees 3-1 on Friday night in the first meeting this year of a rivalry cut to 13 games by the new balanced schedule.

Gerrit Cole (7-1) lost for the first time this season after going unbeaten in his first 13 starts.

Whitlock (3-2) allowed two runs - one earned - and seven hits in 6 1/3 innings with six strikeouts and one walk. The right-hander, who turns 27 on Sunday, was put in the rotation in late May after Kluber, a two-time Cy Young Award winner, started 2-6 with a 6.26 ERA in his first nine outings.

Phillies 5, Dodgers 4

In Philadelphia, Kyle Schwarber hit a tiebreaking home run with two outs in the ninth inning and Philadelphia got its season-high sixth straight win.

Nick Castellanos, Bryce Harper and Trea Turner also drove in runs for the defending NL champion Phillies, who pulled within a game of .500.

Schwarber drove an 87-mph cutter on a 1-1 pitch from Caleb Ferguson (3-2) into the seats in right field to end the game. It was his 17th home run of the season - fourth in eight games this month.

Orioles 3, Royals 2

In Baltimore, Austin Hays homered on the first pitch thrown by Kansas City starter Daniel Lynch, Tyler Wells took a three-hitter into the seventh inning and Baltimore beat the struggling Royals 3-2.

Gunnar Henderson had three hits, stole two bases and scored a run for the Orioles, who have won two straight for the first time since May 24-25. Coming off a victory at Milwaukee, Baltimore never relinquished the lead after Hays’ leadoff shot inside the left-field foul pole.

Wells (5-2) allowed two runs and five hits over 6 2/3 innings, striking out four and walking one. The 6-foot-8 righty was lifted with the bases loaded and two outs in the seventh with the score 3-1.

Mike Baumann threw a wild pitch to let in a run before striking out Nicky Lopez.

Twins 3, Blue Jays 2, 10 innings

In Toronto, Michael A. Taylor hit a two-run homer in the fifth inning and had a go-ahead sacrifice fly in the 10th as Minnesota snapped a season-high five game losing streak.

Taylor generated all the scoring for the Twins, who had totaled seven runs in their previous six games.

Royce Lewis hit an infield single off Adam Cimber (0-1) to begin the 10th, advancing automatic runner Ryan Jeffers to third. One out later, Taylor hit a flyball to left field and Jeffers slid home ahead of a bouncing throw from Whit Merrifield.

**Braves 3, Nationals 2**

In Atlanta, Orlando Arcia broke an eighth-inning tie with an infield single and Atlanta beat Washington in yet another comeback victory.

Trailing 2-1, the Braves rallied against Kyle Finnegan (3-3) for two runs for their sixth consecutive win. The victory came after the Braves overcame deficits of at least three runs in each game of a three-game sweep of the New York Mets.

Sean Murphy led off the eighth with a single that hit Finnegan’s leg. Pinch-runner Sam Hilliard moved to third on Eddie Rosario’s single, and Rosario moved to second on a fielding error by right fielder Lane Thomas. Marcell Ozuna drove in Hilliard

with a grounder to first base which Dominic Smith bobbled briefly as he looked to throw to the plate. Arcia’s grounder was bobbled by shortstop CJ Abrams and ruled a hit as Rosario scored the go-ahead run.

Guardians 10, Astros 9, 14 innings

In Cleveland, Will Brennan doubled home Tyler Freeman immediately after Freeman’s RBI double in the 14th inning, and Cleveland outlasted Houston.

The Guardians fell behind 4-0 in the second inning and never led until Brennan’s game-ending hit. Cleveland tied it at 5-5, 6-6, 7-7 and 8-8, but Houston pushed back ahead by one run each time.

The Astros made it 9-8 in the 14th when Kyle Tucker singled in automatic runner Jose Altuve for the second time in three innings. Josh Naylor also scored twice in extra innings after starting the frame on second base, including the tying run in the 14th.

White Sox 2, Marlins 1

In Chicago, Luis Robert Jr. hit an RBI single in the ninth inning to give Chicago a win over Miami.

Elvis Andrus singled leading against Dylan Floro (3-4) and took second on a wild pitch before Tim Anderson struck out. The Marlins intentionally walked Andrew Benintendi, and Robert drove the winning single past third baseman Jean Segura.

Dylan Cease threw six strong innings, and Liam Hendriks (2-0) worked a 1-2-3 ninth. Yasmani Grandal homered and had three hits, and the White Sox cooled off surging Miami with their sixth victory in seven games. The Marlins had won a season-high six in a row.

Padres 9, Rockies 6

In Denver, Yu Darvish pitched into the sixth inning to earn his 100th career win and was backed by five home runs as San Diego beat Colorado.

Manny Machado, Fernando Tatis Jr., Gary Sánchez, Trent Grisham and Brandon Dixon all went deep to help the Padres win consecutive games for the first time since May 25-26.

Darvish (5-4) earned the benchmark victory after allowing four earned runs and five hits while striking out six and walking four in 5 1/3 innings.

Jake Cronenworth had his second-consecutive three-hit game for San Diego after batting just .198 in his first 60 games of the season. Machado’s two-run homer, which spearheaded a three-run first inning for the Padres, was his first since May 9 and a 425-foot solo shot from Tatis was his team-leading 12th of the season. Sánchez’s two-run homer in the second inning was his fifth since joining San Diego on May 30 while Dixon’s was just his second of the season.

Josh Hader picked up his 14th save of the season.

Cardinals 7, Reds 4

In St. Louis, rookie Jordan Walker homered and had a career-best three hits, Jordan Montgomery pitched six scoreless innings and St. Louis beat Cincinnati.

Nolan Gorman and Nolan Arenado homered for St. Louis, which has won two straight after dropping five in a row.

Montgomery (3-7) allowed three hits and struck out six to win for the first time since April 8 at Milwaukee. The Cardinals had lost Montgomery’s previous 10 starts.

**Athletics 5, Brewers 2**

In Milwaukee, Ramón Laureano hit a two-run triple, Jonah Bride also drove in two runs and Oakland beat Milwaukee for its first three-game winning streak of the season.

The Athletics (15-50) entered the day having put together the worst 64-game start by any team since the 1982 Minnesota Twins also went 14-50, but they’ve won their last three games by a combined score of 25-9.

All three of those wins have come away from home. The Athletics - planning to

move to Las Vegas - had lost 15 straight road games before this streak.

Rays 8, Rangers 3

In St. Petersburg, Isaac Paredes homered twice and drove in a career-high six runs, Tyler Glasnow got his first win in two years, and Tampa Bay beat Texas.

Paredes had an RBI double with two outs in the first inning and made it 4-1 with a three-run homer in the third off Andrew Heaney (4-4). His second home run, a two-run shot off Spencer Howard, came in a four-run sixth that put Tampa Bay ahead 8-1.

Glasnow (1-0) gave up one run, one hit and struck out six over six innings in his third start this year. It was the 6-foot-8 right-hander’s first win since June 8, 2021. He missed most of last season after Tommy John surgery and started 2023 on the injured list with a left oblique strain.

Diamondbacks 11, Tigers 6

In Detroit, Arizona rookie Corbin Carroll hit his first grand slam in a seven-run seventh inning for his second homer of the night and Arizona handed Detroit its seventh straight loss.

BASEBALL

Carroll also doubled in the ninth. On Wednesday night in a 6-2 victory in Washington in NL West-leading Arizona’s previous game, the speedy outfielder was 4 for 5 with a homer and two RBIs. He’s hitting .307.

Merrill Kelly (8-3) improved to 7-0 in his last six starts, allowing three runs on seven hits and two walks in 6 1/3 innings. He struck out five.

Jake Rogers homered twice for Detroit, and Javier Báez homered in the ninth.

The game was tied a 2 after six innings, with Carroll’s grand slam capping the seven-run seventh.

Pirates 14, Mets 7

In Pittsburgh, Ke’ Bryan Hayes tied career highs with five hits and four RBIs and Pittsburgh routed mistake-prone New York.

The Pirates jumped on Tylor Megill (5-4) early to send the reeling Mets to their seventh straight loss.

Hayes had a two-run single in the third against Megill and followed with a two-run double in the fifth off reliever Zach Muckenhirn while extending his hitting streak to eight games. The Pittsburgh third baseman is hitting .558 (19 of 34) with 11 RBIs during the streak, which be-



Los Angeles Angels starting pitcher Shohei Ohtani throws to the plate during the first inning of a baseball game against the Seattle Mariners in Anaheim, Calif. (AP)

MLB Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, June 10, (AP): Results and standings from the MLB games on Friday.

Tampa Bay	8	Texas	3
Arizona	11	Detroit	6
Boston	3	NY Yankees	2
Baltimore	3	Kansas City	2
Minnesota	9	Toronto 10 inn	2
Chicago W. Sox	2	Miami	1
Oakland	5	Milwaukee	2
Cleveland	10	Houston 14 inn	9
LA Angels	5	Seattle	4
Pittsburgh	14	NY Mets	7
Philadelphia	5	LA Dodgers	4
Atlanta	3	Washington	2
St Louis	7	Cincinnati	4
San Diego	9	Colorado	6
Chicago Cubs	9	San Francisco	2

American League				
East Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Tampa Bay	47	19	.712	—
Baltimore	39	24	.619	6-1/2
New York	37	28	.569	9-1/2
Toronto	36	29	.554	10-1/2
Boston	32	32	.500	14

Central Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Minnesota	32	32	.500	—
Cleveland	30	33	.476	1-1/2
Chicago	29	36	.446	3-1/2
Detroit	26	35	.426	4-1/2
Kansas City	18	45	.286	13-1/2

West Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Texas	40	22	.645	—
Houston	36	28	.563	5
Los Angeles	35	30	.538	6-1/2
Seattle	30	32	.484	10
Oakland	15	50	.231	26-1/2

National League				
East Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Atlanta	39	24	.619	—
Miami	35	29	.547	4-1/2
Philadelphia	31	32	.492	8
New York	30	34	.469	9-1/2
Washington	25	37	.403	13-1/2

Central Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Pittsburgh	33	29	.532	—
Milwaukee	34	30	.531	—
Cincinnati	29	35	.453	5
Chicago	27	36	.429	6-1/2
St Louis	27	37	.422	7

West Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Arizona	38	25	.603	—
Los Angeles	36	28	.563	2-1/2
San Francisco	32	31	.508	6
San Diego	30	33	.476	8
Colorado	26	39	.400	13

gan when he was briefly dropped to seventh in the order with his batting average languishing at .221.

Jack Suwinski went 3 for 4 with his 12th home run of the season. Carlos Santana had two hits, including his fourth home run.

Rich Hill (6-5) worked seven innings for his second straight victory. The 43-year-old Hill gave up two runs on seven hits with two walks and six strikeouts in his longest outing of the season.

Francisco Lindor hit his 12th home run of the season for New York. Starling Marte singled twice against the team he spent the first eight years of his career. New York’s seven-game slide is its longest since it dropped seven straight in June 2019.

Angels 5, Mariners 4

In Anaheim, Shohei Ohtani homered and had three hits, Mickey Moniak hit a go-ahead, two-run homer, and Los Angeles won its fifth straight.

It was the seventh time, and second this season, the Japanese two-way superstar has homered in a game where he also pitched. Ohtani has also hit safely in the past six games and is 11 for 24 during that stretch. He allowed three runs in five innings, but did not factor in the decision.

Two of Moniak’s five homers this season have ended up being the game-winning hit. This one came on a fastball from Luis Castillo (4-4) with two out in the sixth inning. Anthony Rendon got aboard when he was hit by a pitch to lead off the inning.

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- Well conversant in Arabic and English language
- Valid Residence
- Valid Kuwaiti driving license
- Owns personal car

Candidates should send their resume along with the contact number to Email address: [Draieh.kwt@gmail.com](mailto:Draieh.kwt@gmail.com).

Shortlisted candidates will be called for interview after scrutiny of the CVs.



ACT beat Hurricanes in a see-sawing match

Chiefs, Crusaders, Brumbies advance to Super Rugby Pacific semis

WELLINGTON, New Zealand, June 10, (AP): The top-ranked Chiefs will play the ACT Brumbies and the defending champion Crusaders will play the Blues in the Super Rugby Pacific semifinals. All but the Blues won quarterfinals on Saturday against teams they lost to in the regular season.

The four winning teams also played at home which again stressed the immense value of home advantage in the playoffs.

The best quarterfinal was the last one in which the Brumbies beat the Hurricanes in a see-sawing match in Canberra. The Hurricanes beat the Brumbies in the 10th round of the regular season.

The Brumbies led 25-16 at halftime but the Hurricanes rallied to lead 33-25 at the three quarter mark with tries to captain Ardie Savea and Devan Flanders. Tries to Luke Reimer and Tom Wright gave the Brumbies the lead again at 37-33 with 10 minutes remaining.

The Hurricanes spent most of that time on attack, battering the Brumbies line past the fulltime siren. Savea crashed over for the Hurricanes in the 84th minute for what would have been the winning try but the referee ruled Reimer got his hand under the ball, preventing the score and sending the Brumbies into a semifinal in Hamilton.

“It came down to that last play and, as much as I disagree, that’s the way footy is,” Savea said. “Sometimes it goes your way, sometimes it doesn’t.”

The Chiefs needed a 76th-minute try to back-rower Pita Gus Sowakula to edge the Queensland Reds 29-20 in Hamilton and seal a place in the semifinals for the second year in a row.

The Reds were the only team to beat the Chiefs during the regular season and though they came into the playoffs with only five wins to the Chiefs’ 13, they came close to winning again.

Reds winger Suliasi Vunivalu’s second try gave the visitors a 20-19 lead on the hour. But Chiefs flyhalf Damian McKenzie, whose kicking was a decisive factor, landed his fifth penalty goal to give the Chiefs a 22-20 lead, and Sowakula finished a handling rush by forwards to clinch the win.

RUGBY

The Reds troubled the Chiefs throughout with their kicking game, winning three 50-20s. They added to that robust defense that pinned the Chiefs back and forced turnovers.

“That’s what we expected,” Chiefs captain Sam Cane said. “They defend-

ed very well, I thought their set-piece was very good and they put us under pressure. We had to grind it out but I was pleased with the way we stayed composed.”

The Crusaders scored two tries in the first five minutes and four in the first half on the way to a 49-8 win over the Fijian Drua, who beat them in Lautoka, Fiji, in round three.

Hooker Codie Taylor scored two first-half tries as the Crusaders unleashed their forward power against a Drua team playing in the quarterfinals for the first time.

The Crusaders stung the Drua with tries to prop Oli Jager and Taylor inside

the first five minutes. A second to Taylor and another to back-rower Sione Havili-Talitui came before the Drua brought their fans to their feet with an intercept try to winger Selestino Ravu-taumada. The 11-time champion Crusaders led 28-8 at halftime.

Lock Scott Barrett started the second half with a try but the Crusaders began to lose their shape when they drained their bench and the Drua opposed them more physically.

Having used up the full bench so early, the Crusaders were forced to finish the match with 14 players when back-rower Zach Gallagher limped from the field in the 64th.

Casper Ruud seeks 1st

Nole eyes history with 23rd GS title at the French Open

PARIS, June 10, (AP): Novak Djokovic pursued Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal for quite some time. They were the guys he measured himself against. The players who established the standards he sought to surpass.

Sure, when Djokovic looks across the net in Court Philippe Chatrier during the French Open final on Sunday, he will see Casper Ruud trying to prevent him from earning a men’s-record 23rd championship at a Grand Slam tournament.

Neither Federer (who announced his retirement last year) nor Nadal (who is out since January with a hip injury and recently had arthroscopic surgery) will be at Roland Garros, racket in hand and ready to present a challenge, of course.

Still, it’s important to remember that the milestone Djokovic is chasing now is in many ways defined by his two great rivals. Entering the 2011 season, Federer owned 16 major championships, Nadal nine and Djokovic one. Just five years ago, Federer was at 20, Nadal 17 and Djokovic at 12.

Since then? Djokovic has collected 10 of the last 19 Slam titles and made clear his intention to keep adding to his total.

Federer stopped at 20; entering Sunday, Djokovic and Nadal are tied at 22. The only players in tennis history to exceed that number are Serena Williams, whose 23 are the most in the Open era, and Margaret Court, whose 24 came in part during the amateur era.

“I put myself, again, in a position to fight for another Grand Slam trophy. I’ve been very fortunate that most of the matches in tournaments I’ve played in the last few years, there is history on the line. I like the feeling. It’s a privilege. It’s incredible privilege to be able to make history of the sport that I truly love, and it has given me so much,” Djokovic said after

TENNIS

eliminating No. 1 Carlos Alcaraz in the semifinals. “The motivation is very high, as you can imagine. There is one more to go, and hopefully (I’ll) get my hands on the trophy.”

Ruud will see what he can muster in an attempt to be the champion at a major for the first time.

“Is Novak the favorite? Yes, of course. There is no question about it,” said Alexander Zverev, who has lost in the semifinals in Paris each of the past three years, including against Ruud on Friday. “He knows how it’s done. He knows how to do it. But Casper is playing great tennis. If I would have to bet money, maybe I wouldn’t bet on Casper too much. Does he have chances? Yes, he does. He’s playing amazing tennis and I think he deserves to be in the final.”

While this is Djokovic’s 34th appearance in a major final - tied with Chris Evert for the most by a man or woman - it will be Ruud’s third.

Ruud is 0-2 so far, and both losses came in 2022: against Nadal at Roland Garros, and against Carlos Alcaraz at the U.S. Open.

Ruud mentioned repeatedly that he will aim to avoid feeling pressure on Sunday.

“It’s just a matter of not thinking, like, I ‘need’ to win this match. ... This is a word that I try to sort of avoid. Obviously in the beginning of the tournament, that’s sort of what you feel more and what you think about more, like: ‘This is important to try to get this win and get going in the tournament,’” said Ruud, a 24-year-old from Norway who is coached by his father, Christian, a former professional player.

“But now I’m in the final. It’s been a great two weeks, no matter what happens on Sunday, and I’m going to, of course, give it my all,” Ruud said, “but sometimes you play your best tennis when you don’t think too much.”

He will see if he can devise a better way to attack the problems presented by Djokovic, a 36-year-old from Serbia.

They have played four times previously, twice on hard courts and twice on clay, and not only is Djokovic 4-0, but he has won all eight sets.



Serbia’s Novak Djokovic plays a shot against Spain’s Carlos Alcaraz during their semifinal match of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris. (AP)



KUNA photos  
Kuwaiti gymnast Talia Bahbahani.

FIG President hails championship

Kuwait partake in int’l gymnastics tourney in Egypt

CAIRO, June 10, (KUNA): The Egyptian capital witnessed on Friday launch of the fourth edition of the Pharaohs International Gymnastics Championship with participation of 28 countries including Kuwait.

Inaugural ceremony at Cairo International Stadium was attended BY Fahad Al-Sola, the head of the Kuwaiti and Arab gymnastics federations, in addition to local, foreign and African sports leaders.

In remarks to KUNA, Al-Sola expressed hope that the Kuwaiti female athletes would make good scores in the competitions due to conclude Sunday.

He said that the Kuwaiti player Talia Bahbahani, aged under ten, had already come third in one of the held competitions.

Other participating Kuwaiti players are Maha Al-Sagr, competing in the general group, Nour Al-Rezaihan, in the juniors, Sara Al-Bannai, Raya Al-Gassar, Fozia Abdulkarim, Nabila



Head of the Kuwaiti and Arab gymnastics federations Fahad Al-Sola.

Al-Kharafi, Lamar Al-Fodari, Amina Al-Kandari, Talia Bahbahani and Lian Bahbahani in the adults’ category.

President of the International Gymnastics Federation Morinari Watanabe expressed Friday admiration of the level of teams, including the Kuwaiti team, participating in the Egypt-hosted 4th Pharaohs International Gymnas-

tics Championship.

In statements to KUNA on the sidelines of the opening ceremony, Watanabe wished success for all the participating athletes and the tournament organizers.

He noted that the Arab and African countries have made great stride in the gymnastic sport in the past years.

The fourth edition of the Pharaohs International Gymnastics

Championship kicked off earlier today with participation of 28 countries including Kuwait.

Kuwait is presented in the international event with ten female athletes.

The inaugural ceremony at Cairo International Stadium was attended by Fahad Al-Sola, the head of the Kuwaiti and Arab gymnastics federations, in addition to local, foreign and African sports leaders.

GYMNASTICS

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ARLINGTON, Texas, June 10, (AP): Arike Ogunbowale scored 35 points, Satou Sabally added a double-double and Dallas pulled away in the second half to beat Phoenix 90-77 on Friday night.

Ogunbowale sank 12 of 21 shots with five 3-pointers and five assists for the Wings (5-3), who improved to 4-0 at home this season. Sabally, the No. 2 overall pick in the 2020 draft, finished with 17 points and 16 rebounds for her fourth straight double-double and fifth of the season. Natasha Howard pitched in with 22 points and seven boards.

Brittney Griner had 18 points to pace the Mercury (1-5), who fell to 0-3 on the road. Sug Sutton scored 16 with nine assists. Diana Taurasi added 12 points and five assists.

Michaela Onyenwere and Griner combined to score 13 points and the Mercury led 21-17 after the first quarter. Ogunbowale scored seven in the opening period to keep Dallas close.

Dallas grabbed its first lead, 40-38, since early in the first quarter on a basket by Howard with 1:39 remaining before halftime. Griner had

a layup that tied the game at 42, but she was whistled for a technical foul. Sabally hit the free throw and Kalani Brown followed with a jumper to put the Wings up 45-42 at intermission.

Sabally scored eight straight on a three-point play, a basket and a 3-pointer to push the Dallas lead to nine early in the third quarter. Howard followed with back-to-back buckets, capping a 14-0 run that gave the Wings a 66-53 lead with 1:38 left in the third. Phoenix trailed by at least eight points the rest of the way.

Dallas also beat the visiting Mercury 84-79 on Wednesday.

**Fever 71, Lynx 69**

In Minneapolis, Kelsey Mitchell scored 22 points, Aliyah Boston and NaLyssa Smith had double-doubles, and the Indiana Fever rallied in the fourth quarter to edge the Minnesota Lynx.

Mitchell made 9 of 16 from the field and added three 3-pointers. Smith had 12 points and 12 rebounds, and Bos-

ton added 10 points and 11 rebounds. Erica Wheeler scored 10 points.

Back-to-back 3-pointers by Kayla McBride and Rachel Banham gave the Lynx a 52-46 lead with 1:38 left in the third quarter and Minnesota led 55-51 heading into the fourth quarter.

The score was tied five times in the fourth quarter before Indiana (2-5) took the lead for good on Mitchell’s three-point play with 1:54 left. A pair of free throws by Wheeler gave the Fever a 71-66 lead near the one-

BASKETBALL

minute mark. Napheesa Collier hit a three-pointer to get Minnesota within two points with 1:01 remaining but neither team scored again.

Collier had 28 points and 14 rebounds for Minnesota (1-7) and McBride added 11 points.

Tiffany Mitchell hit two short shots in the lane and turned one of them

into a three-point play, giving Minnesota a 25-21 lead midway through the second quarter. There would be four ties later in the quarter before Erica Wheeler hit a 19-foot pull-up jumper with 16 seconds left to give Indiana a 36-34 halftime lead.

**Mystics 73, Storm 66**

In Seattle, Brittney Sykes scored 18 points, Shakira Austin had a double-double and Washington beat Seattle.

Sykes hit 5 of 11 shots with two 3-pointers and 6 of 7 free throws for the Mystics (4-3). Austin scored 15 and grabbed 11 rebounds. Elena Delle Donne had 11 points, seven rebounds and five of Washington’s 14 turnovers.

Ezi Magbegor topped the Storm (1-5) with 24 points. Seattle played without leading scorer Jewell Loyd, who is out with a foot injury. Jordan Horston scored 10 off the bench, but she shot just 4 for 13.

Washington shot only 38.2% from the floor, including 6 of 22 from distance, but made 15 of 18 at the foul line. Seattle shot 41% overall, hit 6 of 21 from beyond the arc and made 10 of 14 free throws in its fourth straight loss.

The Mystics took control with a 27-point second quarter, turning a three-point first-quarter advantage into a 46-32 lead at halftime.

**Sparks 77, Sky 62**

In Los Angeles, Nneka Ogumike had 19 points and 14 rebounds to lead Los Angeles past Chicago.

Ogumike shot 8 for 16 with five assists for the Sparks (4-3), who improved to 3-1 at home. Dearica Hamby added 16 points, eight rebounds and five steals, and Jordin Canada scored 16 with five rebounds and five assists. Jasmine Thomas had five points in 12 minutes off the bench while played her first game since tearing an ACL last season.

Alanna Smith had 19 points, nine rebounds and blocked five shots to pace the Sky (5-4). Elizabeth Williams scored 14 with seven rebounds and four blocks. Kahleah Copper scored 10.

**Liberty 106, Dream 83**

In College Park, Sabrina Ionescu scored a career-high 37 points, including 20 in the second quarter, and New York Liberty beat Atlanta.

Ionescu made a franchise-record and career-high eight 3-pointers, the last putting the Liberty at the 100-point mark for the first time this season. She made 10 of 18 shots from the field, including 8 of 13 3-pointers and added 9-of-10 from the free-throw line.

Breanna Stewart had 25 points and nine rebounds, Jonquel Jones had 11 points and Courtney Vandersloot added 11 assists for New York (5-2).

Allisha Gray scored 17 points, Rhyné Howard 15 and Cheyenne Parker 12 for Atlanta (2-4).



Seattle Storm’s Arella Guirantes (11) reaches for a rebound against Washington Mystics’ Shatori Walker-Kimbrough (32) during the first half of a WNBA basketball game in Seattle. (AP)

Fever overcome Lynx



Minnesota Lynx forward Dorka Juhasz (left), passes the ball while defended by Indiana Fever forward Aliyah Boston during the second half of a WNBA basketball game in Minneapolis. (AP)





Karolina Muchova of the Czech Republic plays a shot against Poland's Iga Swiatek during the women's final match of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris. (AP)

# Sports

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## Swiatek holds off Muchova for 4th GS title

Japan's Oda makes men's history with wheelchair victory at French Open

**PARIS, June 10, (AP): Iga Swiatek suddenly seemed lost in the French Open final. Her strokes were awry. Her confidence was gone. Her big early lead vanished, too.**

She kept looking up into the stands, seeking guidance from her coach and her sports psychologist. So much was amiss right up until she was two games from defeat against unseeded Karolina Muchova on Saturday. And then, when she needed to most, Swiatek transformed back into, well, Swiatek. The No. 1 player in women's tennis for more than a year. The defending champion at Roland Garros. Aggressive. Decisive. Full of clarity. Swiatek overcame a second-set crisis and a third-set deficit to beat Muchova 6-2, 5-7, 6-4 and collect her third career championship at the French Open and fourth Grand Slam title.

### TENNIS

The No. 1-ranked Swiatek raced to a 3-0 lead after just 10 minutes in Court Philippe Chatrier - taking 12 of the initial 15 points - and then was ahead 3-0 in the second set, too, before Muchova made things more intriguing.

With Swiatek looking out of sorts, unable to find the answers, Muchova grabbed five of six games on the way to pulling even at a set apiece. Muchova carried that momentum into the deciding set, going ahead by a break twice.

That's when Swiatek returned to her usual brand of crisp, clean tennis, scurrying around the red clay with sublime defense and finding just the occasions to try for a winner. She claimed the last three games of the match.

When it ended on a double-fault by Muchova, Swiatek dropped her racket, hunched forward and covered her face as she cried.

The 22-year-old from Poland has won the French Open twice in a row now, along with her 2020 title there and her triumph at the U.S. Open last September. That makes Swiatek the youngest woman with four Grand Slam trophies since Serena Williams was 20 when she got to that number at the 2002 U.S. Open. Swiatek is also only the third woman in the professional era to start 4-0 in major finals, joining Monica Seles and Naomi Osaka.

Muchova, who is ranked 43rd, was participating in a championship match at a Slam for the first time.

And it was quite a debut, filled with sections where Swiatek - the dominant player in women's tennis for more than a year now - was better, and sections where Muchova was.

Every time one woman or the other seemed to be wrestling control, every time one or the other raised her level enough that the end appeared in sight, the road curved in a different direction.

As did Muchova's edges of 2-0 and 4-3 in the third set.

One point in particular captured the essence of Muchova's unwilling-



Poland's Iga Swiatek holds the trophy as she celebrates winning the women's final match of the French Open tennis tournament against Karolina Muchova of the Czech Republic in three sets, 6-2, 5-7, 6-4, at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris. (AP)



Japan's Tokito Oda holds the trophy as he celebrates after beating Britain's Alfie Hewett during the final match of the Men's Wheelchair Singles French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris. (AP)

ness to count herself out.

Serving for the second set at deuce while ahead 6-5, Muchova pushed to the net and ranged well to her right for a forehand volley. Swiatek then sent her scrambling to the left, and Muchova somehow slid and stretched for a backhand volley while losing her balance. Her racket

## Italy take on Uruguay in U20 World Cup final with both looking to secure 1st title

**BUENOS AIRES, June 10, (AP):** Italy and Uruguay will face off in the Under-20 World Cup final on Sunday with both countries seeking a first title in the tournament.

Uruguay is trying to reclaim the trophy for South America after four consecutive European wins, and is hoping to emulate host Argentina's victory at the World Cup in Qatar in December.

The match will take place at the Diego Maradona Stadium in La Plata, outside Buenos Aires, with Uruguay playing in the final for the third time while Italy has reached the title game for the first time. Uruguay lost the final in 1997 and 2013.

"It will be the first time we will play the final of this competition. It means a lot for me to play here, in Argentina," said 17-year-old Simone Pafundi, who came on as a substitute to score Italy's winner against South Korea in the semifinals. "Lionel Messi and Diego Maradona were born here, so for me it's beautiful to play in this country."

Neither team was among the favorites when the U20 World Cup kicked off on May 20, but unlike Brazil, Argentina and England they faced

less resistance from clubs about releasing players for the tournament.

It is not mandatory for clubs to allow their players to take part in international youth competitions.

Italy is relying on midfielder Cesare Casadei to make the difference after he emerged as the top goalscorer of the tournament. The Reading player, on loan from Chelsea, has netted seven goals so far, including one in the 2-1 win against South Korea in the semifinals.

### SOCCER

An Italian win would keep the trophy in Europe after wins by France (2013), Serbia (2015), England (2017) and Ukraine (2019). The tournament was not played in 2021 due to the pandemic. Brazil was the last winner from South America in 2011.

Uruguay relies on its steady defender Sebastián Boselli and teamwork, and will also have the crowd support of more than 30,000 of its fans who are expected to fill the stadium. The Celeste has so far conceded only two goals in six matches - both against England in the group stage.

**MIAMI, June 10, (AP):** The mission for the Denver Nuggets was clear: Come to Miami, get two wins and head back home with a chance to finally become NBA champions.

It's officially there for the taking. The 47-year wait for Denver might be over as soon as Monday, with Nikola Jokic and his Nuggets now just one win away from getting the title that he's wanted for so long. Aaron Gordon scored 27 points, Jokic added 23 and the Nuggets beat the Miami Heat 108-95 on Friday night to take a 3-1 lead in the NBA Finals.

"We haven't done a damn thing yet," Nuggets coach Michael Malone said. "We have to win another game to be world champions."

Bruce Brown scored 21 off the bench for the Nuggets, who won their fifth straight road game to grab complete command. They'll have three chances to win one game for a title,

fell, and so did she, placing her hands on the clay to brace herself.

The ball, somehow, landed in to take the point, and a moment later, when Swiatek's backhand return sailed long, Muchova raised her right fist and let out a yell.

Suddenly, it was a set apiece. Suddenly, the outcome was entirely in doubt.

Japanese teenager Tokito Oda won the French Open wheelchair final to become the youngest man to win a Grand Slam tournament in any discipline, while Diede De Groot won the women's final on Saturday for her 18th major singles title.

The 17-year-old Oda was seeded second and beat top-seeded Alfie Hewett of Britain 6-1, 6-4 on Court Philippe Chatrier for his first major title. The International Tennis Federation confirmed Oda's record, which excludes juniors, and listed his age as 17 years, 33 days.

Oda called it "the happiest day of my career" and he will also overtake Hewett at the top of the rankings on Monday.

Hewett missed out on this fourth French Open title, his eighth major in singles and his 24th Slam overall.

Earlier, the 26-year-old De Groot of the Netherlands defeated second-seeded Yui Kamiji of Japan 6-2, 6-0 for her fourth title at Roland Garros, her 18th major in singles and 34th Slam overall.

two of those in Denver, the first in what's sure to be a raucous atmosphere for Game 5.

Jamal Murray had 15 points and 12 assists - his fourth consecutive double-digit assist game - for Denver.

"Today was a team effort," Murray said. "I can't even name one person. Everybody locked in. We've got one more to go."

Jimmy Butler scored 25 points for Miami, which has now fallen into 3-1 holes in each of its last three finals appearances - this one joining 2014 and 2020. Bam Adebayo had 20 points and 11 rebounds for the Heat, while Kyle Lowry added 13 points.

The Heat walked off the floor in silence, fully aware of how much trouble they're in now.

"Now we're in a must-win situation, every single game - which we're capable of," Butler said. "It's not impossible."

The Nuggets were overwhelming favorites to start the series, for obvious reasons. Denver was the Western Conference's No. 1 seed; Miami was the Eastern Conference's No. 8 seed. The Nuggets had won nine of the last 10 regular-season meetings between the teams, and their run of success

over the Heat has continued through four games of the finals.

"Our guys are locked in, man," Malone said. "We're focused."

Denver led by 13 going into the fourth, and Miami came out for the final quarter with appropriate desperation. The Heat scored the first eight points, Jokic committed his fifth foul and had to go to the bench with 9:24 left - and it was down to 86-81 when Butler converted a three-point play with 8:42 remaining.

### BASKETBALL

But the Nuggets - who fell apart in the fourth quarter of Game 2 for their lone loss of the series - didn't fold, even with their two-time MVP still out. Murray made a 3-pointer to stop Miami's 8-0 spurt, and Jeff Green made a huge corner 3 from near the Heat bench for a 94-85 edge with 6:21 left.

"We have guys that can step up, night in and night out," Gordon said.

Jokic checked out with Denver up 10. He came back with the Nuggets up nine. Miami didn't take advantage of that chance, and now finds itself on the wrong end of history. A team that

had to scramble just to make the play-offs now needs to pull off the ultimate scramble to win a championship.

"This is what this year's been all about for this group, so definitely not going to hang our heads or quit," Heat guard Duncan Robinson said. "That's not an option. It's not going to happen. So we'll band together and get on this flight tomorrow and find a way to figure it out."

Teams that take a 3-1 lead in the NBA Finals have won 35 out of 36 previous times, and the Heat will have to buck that trend to keep Denver from winning its title.

"We have an incredibly competitive group," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "We've done everything the hard way and that's the way it's going to have to be done right now - again. And all we're going to focus on is getting this thing back to the 305. Get this thing back to Miami. And things can shift very quickly."

Jokic tweaked his right ankle when he landed on the back of Max Strus' foot midway through the opening quarter. He briefly retreated to the Denver locker room before the start of the second quarter and played the rest of the way with no evident issues.



Denver Nuggets forward Bruce Brown (11) drives to the basket Miami Heat center Cody Zeller (44) defends during the first half in Game 4 of the basketball NBA Finals in Miami. (AP)