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Saudis announce modern Silk Road

Riyadh touts strategic role for China

RIYADH, June 11, (KUNA): Saudi Investment Minister Eng. Khaled Al-Faleh on Sunday announced the launch of a new modern Silk Road connecting the Arab world and China.

Al-Faleh, while speaking at the Arab-China Business Conference held in Riyadh, stated that it is time for China to become an essential strategic partner to development in the region.

The Saudi Minister spoke of the growth in trade exchange with China saying it creates promising opportunities for investments.

On behalf of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan had inaugurated the 10th edition of the conference earlier today, held under the slogan "Cooperation for Prosperity".

In his inaugural speech, bin Farhan mentioned China's role as the region's largest economic partner with bilateral

trade exchange having reached USD 430 billion in the year 2022.

Saudi Minister of Foreign Affairs Prince Faisal bin Farhan said on Sunday that China is the Arab world's top trade partner with USD 430 billion.

The minister made the remark while addressing the 10th edition of the Arab-China Business Conference, which kicked off in Riyadh earlier in the day. He underlined the joint willingness of Arab countries and China to develop their partnership and cooperation, based on the outcomes of the forum since it was created.

The Saudi minister added that the gathering's theme: "Cooperation for Prosperity" reflected the paramount significance, great potential and joint visions regarding Arab-Sino investment and trade relations.

He commended the conference as an opportunity to promote shared consensus, share expertise and realize growth that could contribute to achieving the prosperity, development and welfare of the people of the region and the world.

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Houses are seen underwater in the flooded town of Oleshky, Ukraine, Saturday, June 10, 2023. The destruction of the Kakhovka Dam in southern Ukraine is swiftly evolving into long-term environmental catastrophe. It affects drinking water, food supplies and ecosystems reaching into the

Black Sea. Britain announced Saturday the disbursement of urgent aid worth 16 million pounds (20 million dollars) to support the Ukrainian authorities in dealing with the consequences of the explosion of the Kakhovka Dam. (AP)

'Baseless ... biased'

Taleban slam talk of split

ISLAMABAD, June 11, (AP): The Taliban condemned on Sunday a "baseless and biased" report from the U.N. Security Council highlighting rifts within the group's ranks.

The last seven months have seen a greater shift of power from the capital Kabul to the southern city of Kandahar, a Taliban heartland and the base of the group's supreme leader Hibatullah Akhundzada.

A report - issued earlier in June - by the U.N. Security Council's Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team said that the Taliban governance structures remain "highly exclusionary, Pashtun-centred and repressive" toward all forms of opposition.

It also said Kandahar's return as the seat of power - like it was during the Taliban's rule of Afghanistan in the 1990s - circumvents senior Taliban ministers in Kabul, the center of the

current government, because of the way decisions are made.

Key figures, such as the Taliban's main spokesman, have set up offices in the south of Kandahar. Monumental decrees such as those excluding women and girls from education and work were issued from the city instead of Kabul.

The report also said the group was battling internal conflict over key policies, the centralization of power and the control of financial and natural resources in Afghanistan. Ongoing power struggles are further destabilizing the situation, to the point where an outbreak of armed conflict between rival factions is a manifest risk, the report added.

The Taliban's main spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid rejected the report's "accusations" of strife, saying they were baseless and demonstrated "obvious hostility" to Afghans.

Opinion

Oh leadership: Read Haroun Al-Rashid's letter to Nicephorus

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

WHEN there is determination to make a decision, all obstacles will fade away if the leader is aware of the capabilities of his country and his people, and if he is able to accept risks - internal or external - and transform them into opportunities to impose the prestige of the state.

A testimony to this is the fifth Abbasid Caliph Haroun Al-Rashid, who faced the most powerful international powers in the ninth century AD at that time, which was the Roman Empire.

Al-Rashid turned its threats to the Muslim State into opportunities to defeat it, and prevent the repeated attacks and occupation of some areas adjacent to the borders, and its expansion to the shores of the Mediterranean that day.

In the year 782, a truce was concluded with the Roman Queen Irene for payment of an annual tribute to the Abbasids. She continued to pay the tribute until her death.

When Nicephorus succeeded her in the year 802, he sent a letter to Haroun Al-Rashid, asking him to return the tribute paid by the former queen. He wrote, "From Nicephorus I, the King of the Romans, to Haroun, the King of the Arabs.

The weak and faint-hearted Irene had submitted to pay you tribute. She ought to have made you pay tribute to her. Return to me all that she paid you, otherwise the matter would have to be settled by the sword."

When Haroun read the letter, he became furious. He then sent his famous message immortalized in history. Behind Nicephorus' letter, he wrote, "From Haroun Al-Rashid, the Commander of the Faithful, to Nicephorus, the Roman dog, I have read your letter. You shall not hear, but you shall SEE my reply."

In the year 803, Al-Rashid headed his army to Heraclea, a city on the shores of the Black Sea, where the battle of Krasos took place. In this battle, Nicephorus was defeated, and he was forced to pay tribute just as his predecessor did.

One year later, the Byzantine emperor once again thought of refraining from paying tribute to the Abbasid caliph. Al-Rashid returned and waged a new war with the Byzantines, in which 40,000 of their soldiers were killed. They were forced to pay 30,000 gold coins annually, and set free all of the Muslim prisoners who had fallen under the grip of Byzantines.

This would not have happened if Al-Rashid had followed the advice of the state advisors, especially since the internal situation in the Caliphate was not conducive to that confrontation, in their perception. However, the leader's faith in his people and the ability of his army prompted him to take such a decision.

In this regard, Al-Rashid's message was not only directed at the Romans, but indirectly at the Muslims as well. That level of firmness in confronting the enemies requires a unified effort, especially with the security and political unrest in

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President visits migrant camp

Tunisia push for 'aid' to cap migration flow

TUNIS, June 11, (AP): Tunisia's increasingly autocratic president hosted the leaders of Italy, the Netherlands and the European Union on Sunday for talks aimed at smoothing the way for an international bailout and restoring stability to a country that has become a major source of migration to Europe.

On the eve of the talks, Tunisian President Kais Saied made an unannounced visit to a migrant camp in the coastal city of Sfax, a central jumping-off point for boat journeys crossing the Mediterranean to Italy. Saied spoke with families living in the camp, and pleaded for international aid for Africans who converge on Tunisia as a transit point to reach Europe.

His caring words, and sympathetic images posted on the president's Facebook page, contrasted sharply with Saied's stance earlier this year, when he stoked racist abuse of Black African migrants in Tunisia with a speech railing against a perceived plot to erase his country's Arab identity.

Support from Tunisia's president is crucial to any European deal to curb migration. Tunisian Prime Minister Najla Bouden met Sunday with Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni, Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, according to images released by Meloni's office.

Stemming migration is a top priority for the far-right Meloni, who was making her second trip

in a week to Tunisia. Italy is the destination for most Europe-bound migrants leaving from the North African nation, whose economy is teetering toward collapse.

Saied has balked at conditions for \$1.9 billion in stalled International Monetary Fund support, which include cuts to subsidies on flour and fuel, cuts to the large public administration sector, and the privatization of loss-making public companies.

The president warns such moves would unleash social unrest, and bristles at what he calls "Western diktats." The population is already restive, and disillusioned with both Saied's leadership and the country's decade-long experiment with democracy.

That has pushed more and more Tunisians to risk dangerous boat journeys across the Mediterranean to seek a better life in Europe. Tunisia is also a major transit point for others seeking to migrate: sub-Saharan Africans make up the majority of those who leave from Tunisia's shores.

"Tunisia is a priority, because destabilization in Tunisia would have serious repercussions on the stability of all Northern Africa, and those repercussions inevitably arrive here," Meloni said Thursday.

The European leaders brought a packet of initiatives to improve security in Tunisia, easing the way for the International Monetary Fund's help, Meloni said

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This photo provided by the Tunisian Presidential Palace Sunday June 11, 2023 shows Tunisian President Kais Saied, (right), holding a baby and talking to a migrant during a surprise visit to Sfax, Saturday, June 10, 2023. Tunisia is hosting the leaders of Italy, the Netherlands and the European Union on Sunday for talks aimed at smoothing the way for an international bailout and restoring stability to a country that has become a major source of migration to Europe. (AP)

NewsWatch

BAGHDAD: The current Iraqi government, led by Prime Minister **Mohammad Al-Sudani**, has released USD 1.6 billion of Iran's frozen due money since last October, Premier media advisor Dia' Al-Nasri said Saturday.

The government is working on releasing another USD 1.08 billion, he added, writing on Twitter that the release of this money contributes to gradually improving electrical energy for citizens.

He indicated that Iran would enhance gas supplies to his country after receiving due money for previous gas purchases.

Iraq said earlier today that its Foreign Minister **Fuad Hussein** held a purposeful dialogue with his US counterpart Antony Blinken, during the anti-terror international conference in **Riyadh**.

He added that the dialogue led to some "fundamental arrangements" regarding the financial dues of Iran frozen in Iraq.

Iran has USD billions frozen in Iraq, which is unable to pay them back to Tehran due to the US sanctions. (KUNA)

CAIRO: Egyptian authorities said three British nationals were missing after a scuba diving boat they were cruising in caught fire off **Egypt's** Red Sea coastline on Sunday.

In a short statement, Egypt's Red Sea Governorate said 12 crew members and 12 British tourists were rescued when a medium-sized scuba diving boat, christened "Hurricane," went up in flames off the southern Red Sea resort town of **Marsa Alam**.

A search party was launched to find the remaining three British tourists whose identities were not revealed.

Following an initial examination of the vessel, Egyptian authorities said, "an electrical short circuit in the boat's engine room sparked the blaze."

Britain's Foreign Office said that it was in contact with the Egyptian authorities and is "supporting the British nationals involved."

Fatal boat accidents are uncommon in Egypt. In 2021 a boat capsized in a lake near **Egypt's** Mediterranean city of **Alexandria**, leaving at least five people dead, including three children. (AP)

RABAT: The port of **Tanger Med**, strategically located at the intersection of the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean on the strait of **Gibraltar**, has become a portal connecting the African continent to the whole world, as some 2.5 million containers pass through to reach the continent's nations.

Tanger Med, serving as a logistic, commercial, industrial and touristic port, is perhaps the largest economic Moroccan project, established with the highest of international standards and with contributions from the State of **Kuwait**. (KUNA)



In this April 3, 2018 file photo, prisoners play volleyball, in a Kurdish-run prison housing former members of the Islamic State group, in Qamishli, north Syria. (AP)

Militants kill 2 Iraqi soldiers

Kurds to try IS 'expats'

QAMISHLI, Syria, June 11, (AP): The Kurdish-led authority in northeast Syria announced Saturday that hundreds of fighters with the Islamic State group held in prisons around the region will be put on trial after their home countries refused to repatriate them.

The statement by the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria said it still calls for the creation of an international tribunal to put those fighters on trial. It called on the United Nations, international rights groups and local organizations to help facilitate the trials.

The U.S.-backed and Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces, or SDF, is holding over 10,000 captured IS fighters in around two dozen detention facilities - including 2,000 foreigners whose home countries have refused to repatriate them. The statement said the fighters from about 60 nationalities had entered Syria years ago and were captured in battles against the extremists.

"The terrorist organization carried out horrific crimes and mass massacres against people in the region," it said, adding that such acts are considered crimes against humanity and war crimes. It said the trials will be "fair and transparent in accordance with international and local laws related to terrorism."

The SDF and the local Kurdish police force known as Asayesh also oversee some 51,000 family members of IS fighters, mostly women and children in the al-Hol camp. Many of those family members remain die-hard IS supporters, and killings by militants have taken place in the camp over the years.

Saturday's announcement came two days after U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken co-hosted a meeting in Saudi Arabia of foreign ministers from the global coalition battling IS 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.

The Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS, as IS is also known, includes more than 80 countries to coordinate action against the extremists, who at their height controlled large parts of Syria and Iraq. Blinken said the U.S. pledge is part of new funding amounting to more than \$600 million.

Blinken did not specify, but U.S. aid to Syria is expected to flow through Kurdish allies, the United Nations or international aid groups, as the U.S. and other Western countries maintain sanctions on Syrian President Bashar Assad's government.

The Kurdish-led authority did not say where exactly the trials will be held or when they will start. They are believed to take place in areas controlled by the SDF in northeast and eastern Syria. The U.S. military has a presence in the region controlled by SDF fighters.

On any given day there are at least 900 U.S. forces in Syria, along with an undisclosed number of contractors.

U.S. forces advise and assist the SDF, including in securing the detention facilities, and they also conduct counterterrorism missions against IS.

Elsewhere, Islamic State group militants attacked an Iraqi army position in the northern governorate of Kirkuk, killing two military officers and wounding three soldiers, Iraq's security media office said in a statement Sunday.

The Iraqi Security Media Cell said militants belonging to the extremist group late Saturday targeted the military position in the district of Dibis with light and medium weapons but did not provide further details.

The statement said that Iraqi authorities held a meeting to investigate the attack.

IS, in a late Saturday statement, claimed responsibility for the attack on their website.

Prayer Timings

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

Local

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:

By Day: Very hot with light to moderate freshening at times north-westerly wind to light variable wind with speeds of 08-40 km/h.
By Night: Rather hot with light

Weather

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec	Abdaly	47	30
Kuwait City	46	34	Jahra	48	33
Kuwait Airport	47	31	Salmyyah	43	33
			Ahmadi	44	34
			Nuwaisib	46	29
			Wafra	46	27

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

Violence, rights given top priority: Al-Mutairi

'Kuwait keen to empower women socially, economically'

KUWAIT CITY, June 11: In a speech delivered during the second regular session of the Ministerial Council of the Women's Development Organization, which is being held in Cairo, Acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs Abdulaziz Al-Mutairi, who is heading the Kuwaiti delegation participating in the session, affirmed the keenness of the State of Kuwait to empower and develop women in all fields. He said this keenness comes from the belief in the importance of the role of women and their position in society, reports Al-Qabas daily.

He expressed his happiness to participate in the session, which aims to discuss efforts to advance the status of women in various fields.

Al-Mutairi highlighted the country's legislative endeavor to bridge the gender gap in line with article 29 of the Kuwaiti Constitution, and the fifth goal of the Sustainable Development Goals 2030, which guarantees Kuwaiti women an equal status with men.

He pointed out the modernization of legislation to combat violence and discrimination, and the development of family services and counseling.



Al-Mutairi

On Thursday last week, Acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs Abdulaziz Al-Mutairi affirmed Kuwait's keenness to empower and develop women in all fields, especially in the social and economic levels.

He said, "Kuwait has made all efforts to address violence and protect women's rights in accordance with law No. 63/2015 for combating information technology crimes, which protects both women and men from electronic blackmail.

In line with the state's policy, the Ministry of Social Affairs has implemented many measures that seek to enhance the status of women and empower them socially and economically."

In this context, Al-Mutairi reviewed the most prominent procedures, highlighting the ministry's role in alleviating the suffering of women who are going through financial conditions that cause them to experience below minimum standard of living and protecting them socially by disbursing financial aid in order to improve their financial situation and meet their basic needs.

He revealed that this income "is spent on a temporary basis to end the circumstances that caused the request for assistance."

Al-Mutairi said, "The ministry was not satisfied with just providing aid to women, but rather sought to support and train them to turn them into an effective and self-reliant element. This was done by enrolling them in training courses that were provided for free through a project known as "Earning with my hands", then incubating and supporting projects of this category through the "Boutique 33" business incubator to enable them economically and support their entry into the labor market.

The ministry has established many social shelters that serve and care for women who do not have a family, such as children of family custody, juveniles and the elderly, by providing psychological, social and health services."

Al-Mutairi affirmed the ministry's interest in establishing community development centers in various governorates of the country, through which social services and family counseling are provided to women of all categories, adding, "This contributed to the development and education of the female component."

He highlighted Kuwait's full readiness to extend a hand of cooperation in everything that contributes to the development and empowerment of women in every field.

66,854 driving licenses axed

Hope for family visit visas soon



Kuwaiti and Pakistani delegations during the agreement signing meeting. KUNA photo

Kuwait, Pakistan ink military deal

Kuwait Armed Forces and its Pakistani counterpart signed on Sunday an agreement to boost military cooperation between the two countries.

In a press release, Kuwait Ministry of

Defense said that this agreement aims to strengthen bilateral ties on all levels, especially on the military and defensive fields.

Several senior officials from both sides have attended the meeting. (KUNA)

KUWAIT CITY, June 11: The Ministry of the Interior announced the cancellation of 66,854 valid driving licenses for expatriates whose work permits have been permanently canceled, reports Al-Rai daily.

In the first decisions that come based on the recommendations of the committee which was formed to examine the authenticity of the driving licenses that had already been issued ensures that they comply with the ministerial decisions, indicating that other ministerial decisions will be issued later within the same framework.

The ministry stated that the committee is still continuing its work in examining the driving licenses that have already been issued and ensuring that they meet with the ministerial conditions, and added the ministerial decisions will be issued as soon as the committee issues its recommendations.

The First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and Acting Minister of Defense Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled has issued Ministerial Resolution No. 277/2023 regarding the formation of a committee to examine the issue of driving licenses and ensure their compliance with the conditions stipulated in Ministerial Resolution No. 270 of 2020 regarding amending some provisions of Ministerial Resolution No. 81/1976 regulations of the traffic law.

The initial recommendations of the committee that has been formed in this regard came after the committee concluded that there are 66,584 valid licenses for workers whose residency has been canceled as a result of death or they having left the country, and accordingly all those valid licenses have been canceled through the regulations.

When the expatriate returns to Kuwait again, he starts from scratch the procedures for obtaining a new license if he/she fulfills the conditions for entitlement to a driving license but they will not be allowed to renew the license based on the fact that they were issued the license earlier by the authorities.

Whistle-blowers protected: A legal assistant working in the Department of Corruption Examination and Money Recovery of the Public Authority for Anti-Corruption "Nazaha" Fatima Abdulaziz Blam revealed that the authority "currently protects 16 people in various corruption cases, pursuant to the provisions of Law No. 2 of 2016 regarding the establishment of the authority and the provisions for financial disclosure, reports Al-Rai daily.

In a statement to the daily, Blam stated that "the law establishing the authority and its executive regulations has put in place the rules and provisions for the protection of whistleblowers and witnesses to encourage their exercise of the national duty to report and combat corruption crimes, while ensuring that they are not subjected to personal, administrative or legal harassment."

She stressed, "The authority follows a specific procedural mechanism to protect the whistleblowers and witnesses, starting with personal protection by keeping the identity of the whistleblower secret including those in his jurisdiction and not revealing his whereabouts from the moment he provides information to the competent authorities."

She stressed, "The authority is keen to provide administrative and functional protection by preventing any administrative action from being taken against the whistleblower by his employer, ensuring salary and benefits remain untouched during the period specified by the authority when it is proven to be connected to his role in reporting and combating corruption."

She noted at the same time that "the authority provides legal protection to the whistleblower and those in his position by preventing criminal, civil or disciplinary recourse against him."

Hope for family visit visas: The First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and Acting Minister of Defense Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled issued a decision to add a new clause to article 4 of ministerial resolution No. 957/2019, which stipulated the introduction of a new type of entry visa to Kuwait, which is an entry visa to practice sports, cultural or social activities. Informed sources indicated that this signals a move to re-allow family entry visa applications after a hiatus that lasted several months, reports Al-Rai daily.

They explained that the move to open the door for family visas comes after completing a number of procedures related to the mechanism for issuing visas, and the conditions required for those who apply for them in terms of salary and job. It will be limited to first-degree relatives only.

Regarding the entry visa for sports, cultural or social activities, the sources explained that the visa will be issued by the Directorate General of Residence Affairs based on a request submitted by a one of the sports clubs or accredited cultural and social institutions, bodies and associations in the country, in accordance with the controls set by the Directorate General of Residence Affairs.

According to the decision, the visa allows its holder to temporarily reside in the country for a period of three months. It may be renewed for a period not exceeding one year from the date of entry, in accordance with the provision of article 11 of Amiri decree No. 17/1959.

The sources praised the move to grant visas for sports, cultural or social activities for a period of three months, and to allow their extension in accordance with regulations and procedures for a period not exceeding one year, affirming that this step will contribute to facilitating various related activities, as well as allowing the openness required to stimulate the economic and commercial movement in the country.

They said the Ministry of Interior is currently working on setting up a special mechanism to receive visa applications by taking online appointments to visit the residence affairs departments according to the procedures.

Parliament

Cut interest on deposits: Al-Mutairi

Cancel summer vacation, vital bills await ratification, says MP

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh

Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 11: MP-elect Hani Shams has recommended canceling the parliamentary summer vacation, as the citizens have waited so long for the ratification of important bills and they willingly went to the polling stations in spite of the hot weather.

He said the most important bills submitted to the 2022 Parliament are ready for voting, especially since most of the members of the nullified Parliament retained their seats; hence, the required majority is available. He added that ratifying the urgent bills will determine the extent of the government's cooperation with the legislature.

MP-elect Majed Al-Mutairi called on Minister of Finance and Minister of State for Economic and Investment Affairs Manaf Al-Hajri and the Central Bank of Kuwait governor to reduce the interest on deposits. He pointed out that his request is aimed at reducing the extra deposits in banks and encourage individuals to put their money in investments. He believes the interest reduction will help defaulters pay their loans.

MP-elect Muhammad Al-Mutairi disclosed that his top priority is to amend the Constitutional Court Law in order to foil attempts to nullify the Parliament.

MP-elect Fayed Al-Jomhour asked the Civil Service Commission (CSC) chairman to form a committee to investigate the exams of applicants to legal

jobs. He said rumor has it that the exams were made to match the laws of Jordan, not Kuwait.

MP-elect Muhammad Hayef Al-Mutairi invited his colleagues to a meeting in his diwaniya on Monday to discuss the priorities stated in the so-called 'Nation's Agenda Document'. These priorities include the political reform bills; such as the amendment of the National Assembly Law, Election Law and establishment of the Higher Commission for Elections. The priority economic bills include the establishment of the North Economic Zone, cancellation of exclusive local agencies, and reforming small and medium enterprises (SMEs). The freedom related bills include the amendment of the Remand Law, disqualification of candidates and amendment of the Publishing and Printing Law. Other priorities are amendment of the Civil Service Commission and Constitutional Court laws, restructuring the salary scale, amendment of the Private Sector Law, and allowing citizens to work in both the public and private sectors.

The document also stressed the need to address the housing issue by combating the monopoly of plots and establishment of a shareholding company for the construction of residential cities.



Hani Shams

Other Voices

Ice making machine and DDT

By Ahmad alsarraf

Life in Kuwait, at the beginning of the fifties, was simple, even for the well-to-do, there was no cold water, no air conditioners, no refrigerators, and few had ceiling fans, and there was a factory to make ice slabs, the only source of cooling.

The drinking water came to us from the Shatt al-Arab in wooden boats, and we got some of the other from the two hearts, or the wells.

The effects and blessings of oil revenues had not yet appeared, and its harbingers came with the start of the government buying homes and properties of citizens within the borders of the capital, and subsequently in other villages and suburbs, such as Jahra, Fahaaheel and others.

Seventy or eighty years ago, the government's interest in education and many other things was distinguished and modern, and much better than it is now, whether in terms of teachers, curricula, or administration.

As students, we felt that concern, and the desire of officials to change our overall conditions for the better, in terms of education, food and health, by taking care of the quality of food that was served to us, the quality and style of what we wore in school, our behavior and hygiene, and even the style and quality of our shoes.

As for now, attention is almost focused on prolonging holidays, stuffing the curricula with sick backward ideas, and recruiting an army of teachers, imbued with political and religious ideas, so that the teaching profession has become, among creative people, repulsive.

The summer months were harsh with all their heat. Then, we did not really miss air conditioners, and the reason was that we did not even

know they existed, and man by nature does not demand something that he does not know of, but as soon as it entered our lives, it became very difficult to live without it.

Ceiling or table fans were few, and yet they did a good job, and then they gradually disappeared from our lives completely, with the advent of the modern cooling system.

In order to reduce the temperature in the markets and neighborhoods, the government resorted to spraying it with water from the municipal tanks that roamed the markets and neighborhoods, and we saw the vapor of the sprayed water rising from the dusty ground, and we were having fun running behind those tanks while they were spraying their water, and we were very excited.

In order to get rid of the large amount of flies that were breeding strangely during the summer, the Ministry of Health, or perhaps the municipality, sprayed the markets with DDT to get rid of flies and mosquitoes, with the help of vehicles equipped with a tank of DDT and a generator that converted the liquid into a thick white vapor, shot through a cannon-like nozzle for a distance of ten meters or more.

As children, we were running after those vehicles, and the happy one was the one who succeeded in reaching the throat of the crater and completely disappearing into the white cloud that was behind it. This irritated the others and prompted them to run faster, and as we ran faster it increased our heartbeats, and increased our need for oxygen.

Almost two decades later, the United States banned the use of this substance due to its harmful effects, and we later learned that it is composed of toxic substances used to exterminate insects, and I do not know how our small lungs resisted the harmful health effects of inhaling this substance in such relatively large quantities?

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'Stay hydrated in hot weather'

MoH issues guidelines for pilgrims

KUWAIT CITY, June 11. (KUNA): The Kuwaiti Ministry of Health issued Saturday guidelines for pilgrims of the upcoming Hajj season (1444 AH-2023 AD).

In its guidelines, the ministry said that pilgrims must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19, meningitis, bacterial pneumonia and seasonal influenza at least 10 days before heading for Hajj and urged pilgrims to carry their vaccination certificates during their trip.

It called on pilgrims, who suffer from chronic diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, etc, to consult their doctors before traveling and take with them a sufficient amount of their medicines and detailed and up-to-date reports of their health condition including information about their health problems, medicines and their prescribed doses.

It advised pilgrims to don face masks, use tissues when coughing or sneezing, wash their hands with soap, water, and disinfectants during their spiritual journey to prevent respiratory infection.

Pilgrims are also asked to avoid touching their eyes, mouths, or noses with their hands, and avoid direct contact with those who show symptoms of illness.

The ministry encouraged pilgrims to drink large quantities of water, liquids, and juices and to eat water-rich foods such as fruits and vegetables in order to avoid dehydration as well as avoid direct exposure to the sun, heat, and crowding.

It called on the pilgrims to adhere to the precautionary measures and instructions issued by the relevant Saudi authorities to preserve their health and safety.

Reception planned: The Berlin municipality will organize a special reception for the Kuwaiti delegation participating in 16th World Summer Special Olympics Games to be held in Berlin and scheduled for June 17-25.

Neukolln borough member for the local council of sports affairs, Karen Corte, told KUNA, the municipality will receive the Kuwaiti delegation consisting of 57 athletes with special needs and administrators at the municipality headquarters.

In addition, a prepared program is given to discover Berlin city tourist attractions and sport activities before the launch of Special Olympics.

The official indicated that she will be with the mayor of Neukolln borough to receive

Envoy visits KU

Cooperation sought

KUWAIT CITY, June 11: Acting Director of Kuwait University Dr Fahd Al-Dubais recently met with Ambassador of the Republic of Turkiye to Kuwait Tuba Nur Sonmez to discuss cooperation in the academic and cultural fields and the study of Arabic Language at the University Director Office in Sabah Al-Salem University City, reports Al-Anba daily.

Al-Dubais warmly welcomed the Turkish ambassador to Sabah Al-Salem University City. He affirmed the extension of bridges of cooperation with local and foreign sectors, depth of academic and cultural relations between the two countries, and the readiness of Kuwait University to receive students from the Republic of Turkiye, especially those who intend to study Arabic at the Institute of Languages.

He said the university currently caters to a number of Turkish students in scientific and humanities disciplines.

On the other hand, Sonmez praised the university administration for facilitating procedures in discussing prospects for cooperation in the scientific and academic fields and openness to international cultures.

She said the Turkish are keen on studying Arabic and to increase the number of seats in the Institute of Languages at Kuwait University as Arabic is the language of the Holy Quran.

She hopes for a stronger cooperation that reflects the distinguished relations between the two countries.

the Kuwaiti delegation before the start of the program, which will continue throughout the day.

Kuwait team of 57 athletes, includes 12 male and 13 female players with special needs, as well as five players who do not have these needs to participate in unified sports.

diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'Setting up health system focusing on 'patients safety' vital to avoid errors'

"YES, this is a global fact, and it is found in the best health systems, and no one with scientific knowledge can deny it. Health institutions differentiate between them in the way they deal with medical errors, and not by denying them and practicing lack of transparency," columnist **Dr Hisham Kalender** wrote for *Al-Jarida* daily.

"I am here not calling for avoiding health institutions, but rather I am their first supporter and a warrior for those who encroach on it, but I aim to develop the health system.

"According to one scientific study, nearly 444,000 people die every year due to errors that occur in hospitals that can be avoided by establishing a health system that focuses on patient safety.



Dr Al-Kalender

"Patient safety activities include avoiding errors and reducing the possibility of making them through planning that enhances communication and reduces injury rates, reduces errors, and if they occur, there are mechanisms in place to limit the damage that may result.

"I will mention principles and tips that, if implemented by health organizations, will contribute to achieving this goal: First, a safety management system must be established. Caregivers should formulate guidelines that define the performance of the occupational safety and health management system.

"To encourage compliance with safety protocols, it is important that this system includes officials and all managers and employees in appropriate decision-making processes and regular reviews of institutional performance.

"It is also important to build a rapid response system through strategies, tools and rapid response teams that aim to enhance the performance and patient safety.

"A culture of safety must be disseminated by ensuring that employees and employers know and understand their roles in organizational safety, as well as training every new employee on safety policies.

"Moreover, every medical organization must clearly define safety policies and procedures and develop a plan to ensure compliance with them.

"Hospital officials must also constantly monitor and evaluate how employees follow established policies.

"Maintaining and developing a safety compliance plan contributes to organizations promoting safe treatment environments. In addition, the practice of patient-centered care, and all health care facilities must be centered and focused on the patient because this helps to enhance the quality and safety of health services.

"Empowering patients and educating them in their recovery plans is important for them to receive safer treatment.

"Caregivers must be empowered to be able to ask the right questions and notice potential problems.

"Today's health practitioners must realize that educated patients can help reduce medical errors. Last but not least, safety policies must be integrated into hospital design, as in the past, traditional hospital design focused on operational efficiency rather than patient safety.

"Therefore, it is time to pay attention to patient safety and make it a priority, and this requires planning, commitment, and work to maintain a safe hospital environment transforming local hospitals into hospitals that are friendly to the principles of patient safety through the implementation of safety programs and standards."

Also:

"At the outset, I congratulate the Kuwaiti people on their democratic wedding, and I ask God Almighty to make the people of Kuwait harness it and make decisions that will prosper in this good country. "On this occasion, I would like to share with you the sound educational approach that instills the important basics that raise children to know how to make decisions," columnist **Nada Mudhaf** wrote for *Al-Qabas* daily.

"To raise your son and teach him the skill of making the right decisions, you can follow these steps:

- **Enhancing self-confidence:** Help your son build his self-confidence and respect his personal abilities. Encourage him to try new things and achieve small successes, which will boost his confidence in his ability to make decisions.
- **Providing incentives and information:** Provide your son with the information and knowledge necessary to make the right decisions. Help him understand the potential consequences of each choice and evaluate situations accordingly. Offer him incentives and rewards when he makes the right decision.
- **Teaching critical thinking:** Teach your son critical thinking skills and evaluate things from different angles. Ask open-ended questions that motivate him to think logically and analyze the options available.
- **Encouraging participation in decision-making:** Encourage your son to participate in making decisions related to his daily life. Give him a chance to choose between specific options and take respon-

sibility for the results.

• **Accept mistakes and negative experiences:** You must have an understanding to accept mistakes and negative experiences, as part of the learning and decision-making process. Help your son analyze mistakes and draw lessons from them, rather than criticize or get emotional.

• **Providing support and guidance:** Be supportive of your son and provide him with guidance when he encounters difficulties in making decisions."



"In deliberation, there is safety. In haste, there is remorse. Whoever deliberates gets what he wished for. It is customary that judgments are made only after a thorough study, research and deliberation. It is not possible for anyone to make a judgment that is not based on reality and evidence, so we must slow down and deliberate on issues," columnist **Misha'al Al-Saeid** wrote for *Al-Anba* daily.

"Some time ago, Minister of Education and Higher Education Dr Hamad Al-Adwani issued a decision to stop the medical field scholarships in Egypt and Jordan. This is within the framework of the Ministry of Higher Education's endeavor to control the quality and advancement of education and ensure the validity and safety of certificates. This decision is in the interest of education and we have waited for it for so long.

"Like any other important decision, it drew mixed reactions from politicians, academicians and Twitter users. They objected to this decision, asserting this is the right of everyone and it is subject to discussion. Nevertheless, important questions are raised: Does anyone imagine that such a decision was issued without study, research and scrutiny? Does the minister of education not have the justifications and reasons for issuing this decision?"

"Commenting on the criticism of this decision, newly elected MP Hamad Al-Olayan said: 'As a specialist in the education file and after examining and researching, not rushing, and searching for the full truth and the public interest, I see that the decision is in the interest of the quality education.'

"This is a successful beginning for this young representative. We appeal to him, as every person has the right to object to any decision, that he must take note of all aspects of the decision.

"The truth is that the former minister, Adel Al-Subaih, pointed out this matter in more than one statement. He said these testimonies are not reliable and the people of Makkah know better about its paths, so I hope that we do not predict events and quickly make judgments."



"Congratulations to the newly elected members of the National Assembly. We congratulate them for their victory in the 'Nation 23' election. We hope they will extend a hand of cooperation to the next government and avoid aggravation for years," columnist **Yousif Hajji** wrote for *Annahar* daily.

"We call on the nation's representatives to cooperate with each other first and to put their personal differences outside the dome of Abdullah Al-Salem. They should coordinate their efforts in the election of committees, where they will select members whose specializations and expertise are related to the tasks of committees. They must coordinate among themselves first and then extend a hand of cooperation to the next government.

"I also wish that the representatives will not raise the ceiling of populist demands. They should demand for what can be achieved and accomplished by the government. I hope there will be coordination between the Assembly and the government, and that there will be sessions, discussions and meetings before putting forward any demand, so the government's position is known. In this manner, they will find solutions that satisfy both parties and benefit the citizens.

"We do not want to return to square one, which leads to a clash and lack of cooperation between the two authorities. This may disrupt work in the interest of the country and the people, as it happened in the past.

"We need to strengthen the relationship between the two authorities and build a new phase with the theme: 'Cooperation, Work and Achievement'. The country needs this today, as well as the people who have been suffering for years due to the lack of improvement of public services and even their standard of living.

"In my view and that of the other people of Kuwait, the names that won the trust of the people and were given mandate by the people are trustworthy. This is evident in the number of votes they got in the recent election. No one should doubt the love and loyalty for Kuwait and its citizens of all those who won the trust of the people, and even those who were not lucky in the recent election. Everyone wants to serve and provide anything for the homeland and the citizens - whether inside or outside the Assembly.

"Serving Kuwait is not limited to the representatives of the nation. Whoever wants to serve the country and its people can do so in any location."

— **Compiled by Mai Elsoukry**



Students are checked if they are carrying any electronics to help them cheat.



The exams in progress.



KUNA photos

43,000 students go for final exams

By Faisal Al-Khamily

Final exams of the second semester of the scholastic year (2022-2023) for 43,000 high school students kicked off in Kuwait on Sunday, amid a hopeful and

ambitious atmosphere.

The Ministry of Education has taken all necessary measures for the final examinations for 26,576 students of the scientific discipline and 17,314 students of the literary one. (KUNA)

New network seized

Mol gets tough on exam cheats

KUWAIT CITY, June 11: After an exclusive revelation about monitoring the activities of the "cheating groups", which were on standby after increasing the "subscription" fees to obtain questions, as well as the answers, for the 12th grade exams that started today on Sunday, the Ministry of Interior managed to arrest another network of three people accused of promoting the leaking of exams, reports Aljarida daily.

In a press statement issued recently, the Ministry of Interior explained that the criminal investigations officers were able to seize the network after following up what it published on social media in terms of advertising and promoting the creation of groups on WhatsApp through which the exam papers are published.

The culprits were divided into two groups, each of which receives sums of money from the participating students. Accordingly they were arrested. When confronted with the results of the investigations, they admitted to what was attributed to them. They were referred to the concerned authorities where necessary measures will be taken.

Culprits

According to informed sources, the three culprits - two Bedoun residents and one Saudi national - charge each student KD 50 in exchange for providing them with answers to the exams via WhatsApp. The names of the 250 students were obtained from the group, and will be referred for investigations to reveal the circumstances of the leak, especially since the detectives found bank transfers via links to the culprits. The detectives also obtained details from the culprits about how the exams were leaked.

The sources revealed the existence of a secret group that includes teachers, supervisors and mentors in the Ministry of Education, and deals with caution with certain people to facilitate leakage of exam papers, including exam papers for the 12th graders, as well as for the ninth, tenth and eleventh graders.

They explained that the culprits admitted during the investigations that they had "another offer" related to

providing students with a hearing device, the price of which ranges between KD 30 and KD 100. Through this device, he is fed with the answers. This constitutes an alternative option for students in the event that their phones are seized or prevented from entering the examination hall. Exam questions are solved by private teachers who photograph them and send them to the "group".

The defendants also admitted that they had worked in "cheating groups" two years ago, but they were the "callers", adding that they developed their work, became independent, and established their own "group".

Affirmed

Meanwhile, educational sources affirmed that instructions were issued by the Minister of Education and Higher Education Dr. Hamad Al-Adwani to raise the level of coordination with the Ministry of Interior regarding "cheating groups", especially since these groups have begun to adopt precautionary measures to avoid being caught.

They are now setting the seating of the students who wish to be part of these groups due to their fear of the presence of "ambushes" whereby security forces impersonate students to apprehend the culprits.

These groups had information from the Ministry of Education about the students' names and their seating numbers, and resorted to cooperating with teachers, whose services were terminated and left the country, to solve the questions and send answers to the participating students.

The Ministry of Education expressed appreciation for the efforts of the Ministry of Interior, which resulted in seizing the network that promoted and facilitated the leaking of high school exam papers.

It affirmed that this new blow to the leakage and cheating gangs is the result of cooperation between the two ministries to eliminate the negative phenomena that accompany the exams.

On Friday, the official spokesman of the Ministry of Education Ahmed Al-Wahida stated that seizing the network confirms the seriousness of the various state agencies and their cooperation to eradicate the phenomenon, and access to fair tests that give every student his right to achieve its objectives, in coordination and cooperation with the Ministry of Interior and relevant state institutions. Al-Wahida affirmed that the Ministry of Education will spare no effort to prevent any matter that may affect the conduct of the exams and their proper organization.

Appointment must for visit

KUWAIT CITY, June 11: The Security Media Department at the Ministry of Interior has announced that everyone must take an appointment for fingerprint biometrics through the Mat-ta platform or the ministry's website for visitors, reports *Al-Jarida* daily.

The department stressed that the biometric centers will not cater to anyone who has no appointment, while reiterating that this is not a prerequisite for traveling as travelers can do the biometrics upon their return to the country. Meanwhile, Kuwait Trip Generation is the approved and applicable guide for the design of roads and bridges in the country; as it is derived from the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), reports *Al-Rai* daily quoting an official source from Kuwait Municipality.

Nepalese running biggest liquor den

2 women among bootleggers arrested

KUWAIT CITY, June 11: Personnel from the Ahmadi Security Directorate raided a local wine factory in Umm Al-Hayman and arrested four Nepalese, including two women who have admitted to bootlegging charges, reports *Al-Anba* daily.

Following the raid the security sources described the booze

manufacturing den as one of the biggest in recent times.

According to a security source, this happened when the Ahmadi Security Directorate patrol spotted a man carrying a plastic bag and after he was stopped police found in the bag two bottles of alcohol.

During interrogation, he admit-

ted to trafficking in booze and led police to the place where he lived with other compatriots. When the house was raided with a backup force, three others were arrested.

In the house police found 190 barrels of raw material and about 492 bottles of liquor ready for sale.



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Conditions set for Kuwaiti doctors to work in private medical facility

'Days and times should not conflict with duties of his govt job'

KUWAIT CITY, June 11: The Minister of Health, Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadi, has issued a list of requirements which allow Kuwaiti medical specialist practitioners working in the government medical sector to work in their private clinics or private health facility outside official working hours, reports Al-Rai daily.



Dr Al-Awadi

According to the Ministry of Health the Kuwaiti doctor should have the title of a specialist or above, and should not occupy any supervisory position or work as head of any department and not combine his government job with work outside official working hours.

The decision allows the authorized physician to work outside the official working hours on days and times that do not conflict with the duties of his government job and the duties he is assigned to. It also allows him to work

in hospitals, medical centers, private clinics, laboratories or any other health facility in the private medical sector.

Combine
The decision also allows the Kuwaiti doctor to combine work in his private clinic and one of the other private health facilities, or combine work outside official working hours in more than one private health facility.

Meanwhile, the Al-Jarida daily said the Minister of Health, Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadi has issued a decision to approve the amended general requirements for licenses public and private sector medical professionals.

The Ministerial Resolution No. 220 of 2023 states that the applications for issuing, renewing, transferring and canceling a license to practice the profession in the government and private sectors, must be accompanied by the required documents, and should be submitted to the Health Licensing Department, and added the license renewal application must be submitted at least sixty days before the expiry of its period, failure to do so the applicant will have to pay twice the original fee stipulated in the ministerial decision regulating licensing fees for each application submitted thereafter.

The decision states that it is not permissible to grant or renew a license to practice medicine, dentistry, and related professions for workers in the private sector for those over 65 years of age, except after conducting medical examinations determined by the ministry to verify that all the required medical fitness conditions are met.

He pointed out that the duration of licenses to practice the profession in the government sector, which are granted to practitioners of the medical profession and allied professions, is valid until the end of his services in the ministry, pointing out that it is permissible to convert the license issued to doctors to practice medicine in the government sector after the end of their services to the private sector, provided that the prescribed fee is collected for this, and the eligibility body in which the work will be practiced is determined, with the exception of doctors whose services are terminated due to dismissal from service or medical disability.

The decision stated that a visiting doctor may not be authorized to practice the profession in more than one private health facility in a single visit.

HH Amir condolences Pakistani president over flood victims

KUWAIT CITY, June 11, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Sunday a cable to Pakistani President Arif Alvi expressing his sincere condolences over the victims of the floods in the northwestern province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

His Highness the Amir expressed condolences to the victims' families, wishing speedy recovery for those injured.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-

Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable to President Arif Alvi expressing his sincere condolences over the victims of the floods in the northwestern province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

His Highness the Crown Prince expressed condolences to the victims' families, wishing speedy recovery for those injured.

Also, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a cable to President Arif Alvi expressing his sincere condolences over the victims of the floods.

HH Crown Prince receives Sheikh Talal

KUWAIT CITY, June 11, (KUNA): His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received First Deputy Prime Minister,

Minister of Interior and Acting Minister of Defense Sheikh Talal Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at Bayan Palace on Sunday.



Information minister discusses tasks of the NCCAL with the council officials.

Meetings held with NCCAL officials

Info minister examines plans to overhaul cultural facilities

KUWAIT CITY, June 11, (KUNA): Information Minister, Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Chairperson of the National Council of Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi has examined various tasks of the council and its buildings that need renovation.

Al-Mutairi has held meetings with the NCCAL officials, reviewing the council's strategy for the 2023-2028 period. A session grouped the minister with the NCCAL acting secretary general Dr. Mohammad Al-Jassar, where they examined a preliminary report about tasks set in the strategy, in addition to condition of the council's buildings.

There are plans to maintain and renovate affiliate sites, museums and theatres, in addition to the old Al-Mubarakiya School, prospected to be totally overhauled to turn into a museum depicting teaching history in

Kuwait. One of the topics that was discussed was upgrading other facilities such as Sabah Al-Ahmad Cultural Center and expanding it to incorporate a museum, a gallery, a library, centers for conventions and children, a green spot and an outdoor theater.

Moreover, the minister discussed with the NCCAL officials a blueprint to face-lift Abdullah Mubarak Al-Kabeer Palace (Mishref Palace) and Sheikh Abdullah Al-Jaber Palace (formerly Sheikh Khez'el diwan) that was the first national museum in the Arabian Gulf. It had been designated to be listed among world's top heritage sites.

Furthermore, the discussions touched on reopening public libraries and partnership with the private sector to invest some NCCAL buildings for simulating the cultural movement in the country.

Oh leadership:

Continued from Page 1

the state, and the events that the caliphate witnessed at the time. Getting out of such a situation was possible only by imposing the prestige of the state without provoking strife in it.

Today, with the change of the political scene in a group of countries in the Gulf region and the Arab world, as well as the revolution of media and social communication, the weakness in confronting governments, and harming the symbols and leaders of countries, the local and external conditions are intertwined, and countries are facing risks on two fierce lines - external and internal - as a result of dependence on the advisors and the personal tendencies of the officials who are terrified of losing their interests due to which they opt for opinions that do not commensurate with the interest of the state.

Over the past 100 years, the leaders of some countries in the region have been able to work to fortify them, despite many internal and external threats, due to the national zeal that was raging at that time. In light of the struggle between the superpowers, it was imperative for them to face the dangers with sophistication, firmness and confrontation. For this reason, they were able to build countries, some of which today have become great powers economically, politically and developmentally, including the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

On the other hand, what some leaders consolidated from the pillars of a strong state at that time was wasted by relying on advisors and not addressing local conflicts and sectarian and tribal blocs, until they were almost lost through weakness in confronting transient unrest, and not benefiting from past lessons. There are many examples in this regard.

There is no doubt that the prestige of the state happens only by imposing the decision from a man of decision. Without it, it opens its doors to risks both internally and externally, as is the case in Lebanon, Iraq, Yemen, Libya, and other countries where the leadership has lost the compass in the right direction.

Saudis announce

Continued from Page 1

The event is held under the auspices of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman, and is scheduled to discuss many topics, including investment and financing through the Belt and Road Initiative, the role of mega projects in reimagining future cities, innovative ways to produce clean energy, renewable energy, and reduce carbon emissions.

The 10th edition of the Arab-China Business Conference and the eighth in-

vestment seminar will kick off in Riyadh Sunday, with the participation of 23 countries, including Kuwait.

The two-day conference titled "Cooperation for Prosperity" is the largest Arab-China gathering for business and investment with participation of more than 2,000 participants of government representatives, CEOs, investors and entrepreneurs.

It comes under the auspices of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman, and scheduled to discuss many topics, including investment and financing through the Belt and Road Initiative, the role of mega projects in reimagining future cities, innovative ways to produce clean energy, renewable energy, and reduce carbon emissions.

The conference also deals with the role of tourism and entertainment in diversifying the economy, food security and agriculture as a key to unlock development capabilities. Trade exchange between the Arab countries and China reached about 1.6 trillion Saudi Riyals in 2022, at growth of 31 percent compared to 2021.

Tunisia push

Continued from Page 1

ahead of Sunday's meetings. The European Commission said talks would center on making progress on an EU-Tunisia agreement focused on the economy, energy and migration.

Saied has said that addressing his country's problems requires not only improved security but also "tools to eliminate misery, poverty and deprivation."

The Fitch ratings agency further downgraded Tunisia's default rating from CCC+ to CCC- on Friday, meaning the country is inching closer to potentially defaulting on its debt. The agency cited the government's failure to pursue the reforms needed to free up the IMF funds.

Tunisia's budget deficit was aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic and fallout from Russia's war in Ukraine, and the IMF aid was stalled amid political tensions and Saied resistance to the required reforms. Saied disbanded parliament and had the constitution rewritten to give more power to the presidency, and has overseen a crackdown on opposition figures and independent media.

Saied said Tunisia is struggling to cope with migrants from other African countries who settle in Tunisia or transit through, and called for international aid to fight migrant smuggling networks that "consider these immigrants as merchandise thrown into the sea or the sands of the desert."

During his visit to the Sfax camp Saturday, the president described African migrants as "victims of a global system that treats them not as human beings, but as mere numbers, and it is unacceptable for us to play the policeman for other countries. The solution must be collective ... (and) this situation that Tunisia is going through is abnormal, and we must put an end to this inhuman situation."

30,593 plots said ready for delivery to 'citizens'

KUWAIT CITY, June 11: The Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) announced 30,593 plots of land have been readied for delivery to citizens, within the South Abdullah Al-Mubarak and Khaitan projects, in addition to the N1, 2, 3, 4 - N12 suburbs in the context of the housing distributions of 'Al-Mutlaa City', reports Al-Qabas daily.

The PAHW stated that according to the directives of the Minister of Electricity and Water, Minister of State for Housing Affairs Mutaq Al-Otaibi, the volume of housing plots ready for actual delivery to citizens has been increased within 3 existing projects, while 26,758 citizens were issued 'To Whom It May Concern' certificates within the aforementioned projects during May, and that to complete the procedures for obtaining building permits, in coordination and cooperation with the Municipality and the Kuwait Credit Bank.

Excellent bonus: The 2022 excellent job performance bonus for eligible employees at the Ministry of Justice was deposited in their accounts on Thursday, reports Al-Anba daily quoting sources.

Sources affirmed that the bonus was disbursed upon approval of the list of beneficiaries.

"Mujezat Al-Shifa" affirms its continuation in supporting the environment and preserving it from pollution

Mujezat Al-Shifa Company announced its constant endeavor to use all practices that support the environment in order to ensure a safe environmental future and reduce the harmful impact on it in the various stages of manufacturing. For her knowledge of the results of research that reveal the great impact of the environment on life in general.



Mujezat Al-Shifa director and beekeeping expert, Muhammad Qasim Al-Majdadi, said: More than 95% of our honey packages have been gradually changed from plastic to glass.

He concluded: Bees play a major role in promoting the greening of the environment, cleaning it and supporting the quality and expansion of agriculture. Hence, as a company interested in caring for the production of bee wealth, we feel the social responsibility that requires us to support the safety of the environment, which is friendly to bees.

June Room Promotion

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

Promo period from 1st - 21st June 2023

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Kingdom sets sight on Vision 2030

Saudi woos foreigners with 'Visiting Investor' e-business visa

KUWAIT CITY, June 11: Saudi Arabia has announced the launch of 'a Visiting Investor' e-business visit visa for the benefit of investors who look for available investment opportunities, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Through this facility the investor can obtain a visit visa easily and quickly without the need to visit the Saudi embassy or consulate overseas saying the service comes as part of the Saudi government's efforts to brighten the investment climate and stimulate foreign investments and reflects the commitment of the Kingdom to develop and improve the business environment.

Foreign investors will benefit from this service and will contribute to achieving the goals of Saudi Vision 2030 to make the Kingdom a leading investment power with attractive competitiveness.

The Minister of Investment, Khalid Al-Falih, said that the launch of the service of issuing a business visit visa "visitor investor" comes within the framework of the success of cooperation and integration of efforts between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Investment. He added that the Ministry of For-

eign Affairs supports the efforts of the Ministry of Investment to facilitate the journey of the investor wishing to learn about the environment and investment opportunities in the Kingdom.

An application for a business visit visa for a visiting investor is submitted through the unified national platform for visas at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. These steps are done electronically in a simple and easy way. To obtain the service, the investor processes the visa application by filling out the required forms and submitting the necessary documents via the electronic platform. The applicant must provide all the required information.

Application

After receiving and reviewing the application, the e-Visa is issued immediately, and it is sent to the investor via the specified e-mail within a short time. The investor must check the e-mail and follow up on the notifications to receive the visa.

Saudi Arabia achieved the second position among the list of the most developed countries in the world in tourism during the first quarter of 2023, ac-



KUNA photo
KAC Board Chairmn Ali Al-Dakhan during the meeting.

According to the latest data received from the World Tourism Organization from countries, as the Kingdom received

about 7.8 million international tourists for all purposes from January to March 2023, which it represents the high-

KAC seeks to upgrade codeshare flights deal with Turkish Airlines

ISTANBUL, June 11, (KUNA): Kuwait Airways Corporation seeks to upgrade the partnership with Turkish Airlines and maximize benefit from the codeshare flights deal, KAC Board Chairmn Ali Al-Dakhan said.

"KAC aims to add new items to the deal which will serve the interests of both sides," he told reporters on Thursday.

Al-Dakhan made the comments after leading Kuwait delegation to the 79th Annual General Meeting (AGM) and World Air Trans-

port Summit of the International Air Transport Association (IATA), hosted by Pegasus Airlines in Istanbul, Turkey on June 4-6.

During the AGM, IATA drew a bright outlook for the airline industry, noting that demand on global travel recovered in last April nearly 90.5 percent of the pre-Covid levels.

The industry is forecast to return to a net profit position in 2023, at USD 9.8 billion, according to a recent IATA report.

est quarterly performance in history, achieving a growth of 64% compared to the same period in 2019.

The final data of the Public Authority for Statistics in Saudi Arabia showed that the real GDP of the Kingdom increased by 3.8% during the first quarter

of 2023, compared to the same period of 2022. The authority attributed the growth to an increase in non-oil activities by 5.4%, in addition to an increase in government services activities by 4.9%, and oil activities increased by 1.4% on an annual basis.

Balanced and wise diplomacy

Vietnamese Ambassador Thang commends Kuwait's pivotal role

KUWAIT CITY, June 11: The Vietnamese Ambassador to Kuwait Ngo Taon Thang praised the pivotal role that Kuwait plays in the region, affirming that it enjoys distinguished, balanced and wise diplomacy, and is considered one of the most important factors of stability in the region, reports Al-Qabas daily.

On the sidelines of a luncheon held in honor of a number of local media representatives to taste Vietnamese food, Ambassador Thang praised the pioneering humanitarian role that Kuwait plays in alleviating the pain of victims of disasters around the world.

He revealed that the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development has funded 18 projects in his country since 1979, each project costing from KD 5 million to KD 6 million.

Ambassador Thang described the Vietnamese-Kuwaiti relations as excellent and historical.

Cooperation

He explained that the diplomatic relations between the two friendly countries began in 1976, and lasted over a period of 47 years. They are characterized by strength and durability, and develop year after year at all levels and various fields of cooperation.

The total volume of trade exchange between the two countries amounted to USD 5.5 billion, with Vietnam importing USD 5 billion worth of Kuwaiti oil, while the Vietnamese exports to Kuwait amount to about USD 500 million.

He indicated that the next round of political dialogue between the two countries will be held in Kuwait before the end of this year, adding that the high-level mutual visits have contributed significantly to supporting



Vietnamese Ambassador to Kuwait
H. E. Ngo Taon Thang.

and strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries.

Ambassador Thang recalled the visit of the Vietnamese president to Kuwait in 1995, and the exchange of visits by the prime ministers of the two countries in 2007 and 2009. Finally in 2016, the Kuwaiti Prime Minister visited Vietnam, during which many agreements and memorandums of understanding were signed. The volume of Kuwaiti government investments in his country amounted to about USD 3 billion, while the investments of the Kuwaiti private sector amounted to about USD 200 million.

The Vietnamese ambassador praised the atmosphere of the Kuwaiti parliamentary elections that took place on Tuesday, describing them as "a democratic wedding".

He highlighted the uniqueness of the diwaniya culture, which is one of the most prominent traditions of Kuwaiti society.

Ambassador Thang revealed that the embassy is in the process of organizing a week of the Vietnamese lychee fruit, and promoting its many health benefits, starting next week at the Avenues Mall.

DGCA signs KD 6.68mn contract with Italy's Leonardo Aerospace

Deal to boost Kuwait Airport's air navigation

KUWAIT CITY, June 11, (KUNA): The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) signed a KD 6.68 million (around USD 21.4 million) deal with Italy's Leonardo Aerospace, Defense, and Security company to develop the air navigation system at Kuwait international airport via installing two advanced radar systems.

Director General of DGCA Emad Al-Juluwi and representatives from Leonardo company signed the deal.

Radar system

Speaking to KUNA on the sideline of the signing ceremony, Deputy DGCA Director for planning and projects Saad Al-Otaibi revealed that the new radar system would help improve and smooth the process of air navigation at Kuwait International Airport.

The deal includes the designing, manufacturing, importing, and operating of the new radars, he revealed, noting that training, maintenance, and the technical support services were also included in the deal.



Photo by lehab Qurtal

Ambassador of Armenia to Kuwait HE Sarmen Baghdasaryan speaking at a press conference.

Mutual trust and respect continues to grow

Armenia to fly two direct flights per week to Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, June 11: The Ambassador of Armenia to Kuwait HE Sarmen Baghdasaryan says the relations between Armenia and Kuwait, based on mutual trust and respect continues to grow at all levels.

Speaking at a press conference the Ambassador noted that the operation of direct flights by the Armenian National Carrier Fly Arna twice a week between Zvartnots International Airport and Kuwait International Airport, offering travelers a seamless travel options between the two cities is yet another example of the developing relationship between Armenia and Kuwait.

The Armenian envoy pointed out that this is evidence of the continuous development in relations between Armenia and Kuwait.

"This will contribute to strengthening and enriching existing economic and cultural relations, especially with regard to social exchange between the two peoples, and called on Kuwaitis to discover Armenia as a destination for spending holidays with their families.

The flights also coincide with the Eid al Adha holidays. We congratulate all our Kuwaiti colleagues and friends on this occasion and hope they would choose to discover Armenia as their family holiday destination.

Advantages

Armenia has many advantages to offer to holiday travelers. It is a close destination with a 2-hour flight. It has visa free regime for Kuwaitis and an e-visa (or visa upon arrival system) for foreign national residing in Kuwait.

Armenia is also a family friendly destination with activities suitable for all the members of the family, especially kids. The capital of Armenia Yerevan is also considered one of the top 20 safe and secure cities around the world.

Armenia has also turned into a destination for foodies given the sensa-

Kuwait condemns continued attacks on diplomatic mission headquarters

KUWAIT CITY, June 11, (KUNA): Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed Kuwait's condemnation of storming and vandalizing Saudi Arabia Embassy's building, the Embassy building and the residence of the Ambassador of Bahrain, Palestine's Embassy building and the residence of Palestine Ambassador, the Embassy building of China, and the residence of the Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman in the Sudanese capital Al-Khartoum.

In a statement on Thursday, the ministry stressed Kuwait's strong rejection of the continued attacks on accredited diplomats and their affiliated in Sudan.

The ministry renewed its call to the official authorities and all concerned parties in Sudan to work on providing full protection for the headquarters of diplomatic missions as soon as possible, as stipulated in the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961.



Artist Mahmoud Ashkanani during his participation in the exhibition in Hungary.

'Exhibitions stimulus for creativity'

Kuwaiti artist Ashkanani partakes in Int'l Sumpzium Exhibition in Hungary

KUWAIT CITY, June 11, (KUNA): Kuwaiti plastic artist Mahmoud Ashkanani participated Saturday, in the 31st International Sumpzium Exhibition in Hungary, with four works of art.

"My participation on behalf of Kuwait for the eighth time in a row has a great role in conveying the cultural artistic image of Kuwaiti plastic art with its distinctive character," Ashkanani said in an interview with Kuwait News Agency (KUNA).

Ashkanani pointed out that Kuwaiti artworks, especially abstract painting, are admired by art connoisseurs in the world because of the quality and workmanship of the works produced.

He said that participation in such exhibitions is a stimulus for creativity, in addition to its role in competition and contact with leading artists in this field, and its role in reviewing the distinguished Kuwaiti artistic production.

He added, "In every post, my works are acquired by those interested in art," stressing the importance of supporting the Kuwaiti art-



KUNA photo
Artist Mahmoud Ashkanani poses for a photo with one of his four works of art during the exhibition in Hungary.

ist in order to enhance the status of Kuwaiti plastic art.

The exhibition is held in the city of Kindle Mayor, southwest of the

capital, Budapest, over a period of 14 days, with the participation of 43 artists from different countries of the world.



Beach cleaning event poster.

tional tastes and variety of cuisines and fusions offered. Young people can also enjoy adventure tourism like mountain climbing, diving, surfing and skiing.

In summary, HE Ambassador Baghdasaryan believes that Kuwaitis will definitely enjoy Armenia as a country and its people, because the social values and cultures are very similar between

Arabs and Armenians. Armenia is looking forward to welcoming Kuwaitis into their country.

Fly Arna spokesperson, said, "We are delighted to introduce the new direct flights between Armenia and Kuwait and further enhance the air travel between the two cities while providing value-added services.

Kuwait advocates narrowing gender gap: official

CAIRO, June 11, (KUNA): Kuwait is seeking to narrow the gender gap in line with the UN sustainable development strategy that guarantees men-women equality, a visiting official of the Gulf state said on Thursday.

Abdulaziz Al-Mutairi, the acting social affairs undersecretary, said the State of Kuwait's keenness on women empowerment and boosting their role at various levels emanated from its belief in their significant role and status in the Kuwaiti society.

Kuwait, at the legislative level, is seeking to fill the gender gap in line with Provision 29 of the Constitution and the fifth goal of the 2030 sustainable development strategy that "guarantees for the Kuwaiti women a status equal to that of the men," he said.

Al-Mutairi, chairperson of a Ku-

Ministerial decision on official declaration of Kuwaiti Old Crafts Association released

KUWAIT CITY, June 11: Minister of Social, Women and Childhood Affairs Mona Al-Baghlly recently issued a ministerial decision on the official declaration of Kuwaiti Old Crafts Association whose activities include dis-

semination of information about old crafts, give advice to those interested in such crafts, promote these crafts, and organize events to educate the public about these crafts, reports Al-Rai daily.

waiti delegation, was addressing the second session of the Woman Development Organization.

Kuwait has enacted 13 laws and decrees to support women in diverse fields, endorsing their right for education, work and care for special needs.

Moreover, it has dedicated "full efforts" for combating domestic violence, gender cyber-crimes, he stated.

As to the ministry social affairs, he indicated that the department has sought to back the female citizens through professional training.

'Digitalization contributes to economic growth'

Kuwait Oil Co. announced on Saturday that it managed to upgrade its five-year digitalization strategy, noting that the process will contribute to reducing the operating expenses, increasing production and realizing sustainable growth.

The upgrading of the strategy will also enhance safety and security, and help manage risks in a better way, Deputy CEO for gas and innovation at KOC Bader Ahmad Al-Munaifi said in a press

release.

"The Company works relentlessly to advance innovation at all sectors, upgrade the operating systems at all facilities and build the capacity of its human resources," he noted.

Under the supervision of CEO Ahmad Jaber Al-Eidan, the company pursues the digitalization process, which will help realize the strategic goals, improve the national cadres and address the new challenges, Al-Munaifi went

on. (KUNA)

"The digitalization strategy aims to make the information technology mainstream in the quest for increased productivity and sustainable development.

"KOC will announce a roadmap for digitalization and launch a massive database during a conference on June 18," he pointed out, adding that the conference will focus on the applications of artificial intelligence and various forms of digitalization and IT. (KUNA)

gold prices stable at USD 1,960 per ounce last week

Gold prices stood at USD 1,960 an ounce by the end of last week's trading due to diverging expectations about the decisions of the US Federal Reserve (US Central Bank) as to whether it will raise or keep interest on the US currency.

Most investors and analysts in the gold markets are awaiting the next meeting of the Federal Reserve, which will be held the day after tomorrow, Tuesday, in

which it will decide its future directions regarding monetary policy, as this will directly affect the gold prices to go up or down, the Kuwaiti-based company Dar Al-Sabaek said in a report Sunday.

This upcoming meeting coincides with similar meetings of the European Central Bank and the Bank of Japan, as they are scheduled to take similar decisions about interest rates and any cessation of raising interest

rates will be immediately followed by a rise in gold price and vice versa, it added.

Head of Dar Al-Sabaek's strategic planning Adel Al-Fadhli said, according to the report, that investors were cautious in trading last week after the issuance of the International Monetary Fund report, in which it urged major central banks to continue their monetary policy and monitor inflation closely. (KUNA)

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

The Bank of Canada hiked overnight rate to 4.75%

US jobless claims reveal biggest increase in two years

The Reserve Bank of Australia and the Bank of Canada surprised the market by raising rates last week signaling that the next phase of global central banks tightening is underway. Investors will turn their focus this week toward meetings by the Federal Reserve, the European Central Bank (ECB) and the Bank of Japan (BoJ) for further clues on the path of global interest rates.

Ahead of these meetings, the US debt ceiling has been extended, and fears about the US banking sector have subsided. While global economic data has softened, inflation remains high which is expected to keep major central banks in a hawkish stance. The Fed is expected to 'skip' a rate hike in June and raise rates by 25 bps in July. Investors will be closely watching the Fed's press conference, updated forecasts and dot plot for clues about the bank's plans for future rate hikes. While the ECB is expected to hike by 25 bps in its meeting, the BoJ is expected to maintain its wait and see stance as wage growth in Japan remains stagnant despite GDP surprising to the upside.

FX markets remained range bound in a quiet week in terms of economic indicators. The Dollar index reached a high of 104.36 at the start of the week but lost its gains amid higher than expected jobless claims to close at 103.553. This week the outcome of the Fed's meeting and the upcoming US CPI data will dictate the Dollar's path going forward. The euro and pound recovered and closed the week at 1.0747 and 1.2569 respectively. The Japanese yen closed at 139.34 after testing the high of 140.45 twice during last week's session.

North America

US Jobless Claims Increase More Than Expected

Applications for US unemployment benefits jumped last week, reaching the highest level since October 2021. Initial jobless claims rose by 28K to 261K in the week ending June 3 according to the Labor Department report released on Thursday. The increase was the biggest since July 2021 and exceeded market forecasts. Meanwhile continuing claims, which include people who have received unemployment benefits for a week or more and are a good indicator of how hard it is for people to find work after losing their jobs, fell to 1.76 million in the week ended May 27, the lowest level since mid-February. The report highlights that the resilient labor market may be showing signs of cooling as US companies announced more layoffs in the first 5 months of 2023 than in all of 2022.

US Services Nearly Stagnates

Last week, the Institute for Supply Management announced its non-manufacturing PMI fell to 50.3 last

Highlights

- US jobless claims top forecasts, jumping to 261K – the highest level since October 2021.
- The US Institute for Supply Management's non-manufacturing PMI fell to 50.3 last month from 51.9 in April, indicating a nearly stagnant services sector.
- The Bank of Canada hiked its overnight rate to 4.75% after pausing in January, highlighting an uptick in inflation.
- Swiss National Bank Governor Thomas Jordan reiterated the central bank's commitment to bringing down inflation despite data revealing core inflation dropping below the 2% mark.
- Australia's central bank hiked interest rate to an 11-year high of 4.1%, and delivered a hawkish tone noting inflation is still too high at 7% y/y. Meanwhile, first quarter GDP expanded 2.3%.

month, from 51.9 in April. The above-50 level indicates growth in the services industry that accounts for more than two-thirds of the economy. Economists had forecast the non-manufacturing PMI would edge up to 52.2. The services sector benefited largely from consumers shifting away from goods during the height of the coronavirus pandemic. However, following the 500 bps worth of interest rate hikes delivered by the Federal Reserve since March 2022, consumers appear to be focusing more on basic needs. Switching to manufacturing, the ISM reported last week that its PMI was stuck below the 50 threshold for the seventh straight month, representing the longest stretch of contraction since the Great Recession.

BoC Hikes Rate to 22-Year High

The Bank of Canada hiked its overnight rate to a 22-year high of 4.75% after staying on hold since January to reassess the impact of previous hikes. The central bank hiked rates eight times since March 2022, representing the fastest tightening cycle in the bank's history. Shockingly robust consumer spending and a rebound in demand for services illustrates excess demand is more persistent than anticipated, according to a statement by the BoC.

Highlighting an uptick in inflation in April and the fact that three-month measures of core inflation remained high, the central bank said that "concerns have increased

that CPI inflation could get stuck materially above the 2% target." Annual inflation accelerated for the first time in 10 months to 4.4% in April, while first-quarter GDP rose 3.1% versus the 2.3% forecast by the BoC. Money markets are now pricing in a 65% probability of a 25 bps hike at the bank's July meeting.

Europe

Swiss Core Inflation Below 2%

Swiss National Bank Chairman Thomas Jordan reiterated his commitment to bring down inflation after data revealed annual inflation dipped to 2.2% in May. "Inflation is above our threshold for price stability," Jordan said on Thursday in Switzerland. "We have second-round effects, third-round effects, so inflation is more persistent than we initially thought." Meanwhile, a measure of underlying inflation slowed more than expected to below the central bank's target, providing comfort to officials aiming to ensure consumer prices stay under control. The core gauge, which strips out volatile elements like energy and food, fell to 1.9% in May, down from 2.2% the previous month.

So far, the SNB has lifted borrowing costs by 225 basis points in nine months, and officials have consistently voiced the need for another hike despite the country registering the lowest inflation in the developed world. In contrast, other central banks such as the Fed are reassessing their path as inflation slows globally and economies head to weaker growth. The current Swiss interest rate of 1.5% "is relatively low, and it's not a really good idea to wait and then have higher inflation later," Jordan said. The Swiss franc jumped on the Chairman's comments, ending the week 0.90% higher against the USD.

Asia Pacific

RBA Defies Expectations, Hikes by 25 bps

Australia's central bank raised interest rates to an 11-year high, while warning that further tightening might be required to ensure that inflation returns to target. Markets had been leaning towards a pause for the June policy meeting, however priced in a sizeable 40% probability of a 25 bps hike. The hawkish message that accompanied the decision sent the Aussie and bond yields spiking as markets moved to overwhelmingly price in a further rate increase next month. Ending its June policy meeting, the central bank hiked the cash rate to 4.1%, saying inflation is still too high and removed a reference that stated, "medium-term inflation expectations remain well anchored," which had been in policy statements since July of 2022. Although the RBA increased interest rates by 400 bps since last May, headline inflation was last seen at 7% in Q1 of 2023. Markets are now pricing in a 67% probability of a 25 bps hike in July.

Australia's Economy Expands 2.3% in Q1

First quarter gross domestic product expanded by 2.3% year-on-year in Australia, slightly below analyst expectations. The figure represented the weakest pace in 1-1.5 years as high prices and rising interest rates exhausted consumer spending. Data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics showed real gross domestic product rose 0.2% in the first quarter, easing from 0.5% in the previous quarter and under forecasts of 0.3%.

Kuwait

Kuwaiti Dinar

USD/KWD closed last week at 0.30725.

Rates - 11th June, 2023

Currencies	Previous Week Levels				This Week's Expected Range		3-Month Forward
	Open	Low	High	Close	Minimum	Maximum	
EUR	1.0710	1.0665	1.0786	1.0747	1.0500	1.0900	1.0806
GBP	1.2436	1.2366	1.2590	1.2569	1.2300	1.2700	1.2592
JPY	139.97	138.74	140.45	139.34	138.00	141.00	137.385
CHF	0.9080	0.8982	0.9119	0.9038	0.8800	0.9200	0.8949

'Dollarization' of North Korean economy a threat to Kim's rule

Banning use of dollar and yuan could backfire

SEOUL, South Korea, June 11, (AP): Before fleeing North Korea in 2014, Jeon Jae-hyun kept U.S. dollars as a store of value and used Chinese yuan to make everyday purchases at markets, restaurants and other places. He used the domestic currency, the won, only occasionally.

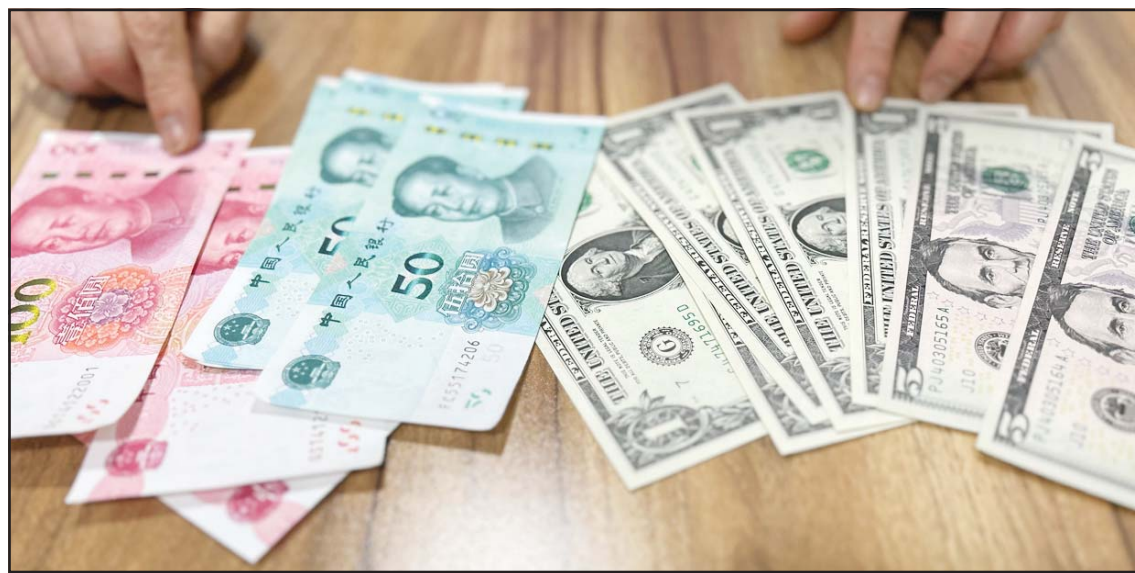
"There were not many places to use the won, and we actually had little faith in our currency," Jeon said during a recent interview in Seoul. "Even the quality of North Korean bills was awful as they often ripped when we put them in our pockets."

North Korea has tolerated the widespread use of more stable foreign currencies like U.S. dollars and Chinese yuan since a bungled revaluation of the won in 2009 triggered runaway inflation and public unrest.

The so-called "dollarization" helped ease inflation and stabilize exchange rates, enabling leader Kim Jong Un to establish a stable hold on power after he inherited that role in late 2011. But the trend poses a potential threat to Kim as it has undermined his government's control over money supply and monetary policies.

The isolation of the pandemic badly hurt the North's economy but still gave Kim a chance to solidify social controls by restricting market activities and limiting influence from capitalist, democratic South Korea. Now, observers say Kim is trying to roll back use of the dollar and yuan to tighten his grip on power as the North grapples with pandemic-related hardships, longstanding U.N. sanctions and tensions with the U.S.

"He has no other choice but to strengthen the command economy as he's been locked in confrontations with the U.S. while maintaining a border shutdown," said Lim Eul-chul, a professor at Kyungnam University's Institute for Far Eastern Studies in Seoul. "The current direc-



Paek H.O, who defected from the northeastern North Korean town of Musan in 2018, speaks in front of U.S. dollar and Chinese yuan notes during an interview in Seoul, South Korea, on May 3, 2023. North Korea has tolerated the widespread use of more stable foreign currencies like U.S. dollars and Chinese yuan since a bungled revaluation of the won in 2009 triggered runaway inflation and public unrest. Paek said she used the yuan to buy expensive goods and the won for cheap items such as sodas, vegetables and bread sold at markets. (AP)

Recession ahead? By this metric, one's already here

NEW YORK, June 11, (AP): The latest round of corporate earnings is leaving Wall Street with a confounding sense of relief and lingering anxiety.

Companies are in the midst of an "earnings recession," meaning profits have contracted for two straight quarters, starting with a 4.6% drop at the end of 2022.

Profits for S&P 500 companies shrank just over 2% last quarter, compared with forecasts of a 6.7% drop. That brought some relief to Wall Street that the quarter wasn't as bad as it could have been. But, analysts also expect more pain ahead.

Analysts polled by FactSet now expect a 6.4% contraction for profits in

the current quarter. That shows just how worried analysts are about the impact from inflation on businesses and consumers. Fears about a recession continue to weigh on the broader economy and are a big factor in corporate and independent forecasts for company profits.

"With a recession still looming, it's unlikely that earnings have hit rock bottom," said Michael Arone, chief investment strategist for State Street's SPDR Business. "But investors sure are celebrating the first quarter earnings season as if they have. This should leave investors feeling cautious, not confident."

The very thing that benefitted profit

margins as inflation started heating up is now a big weight on earnings. Many companies raised prices on goods and services following the pandemic and consumers were more than willing to pay, which led to record profit margins some companies. High prices, though, have been slow to moderate and consumers have grown more weary and cautious about spending.

The biggest losers in the first quarter included a wide range of companies that make raw materials, such as metals and chemicals. Profits fell 25% for the S&P 500's material sector as the economic slowdown cut into revenue for companies including chemical maker Dow and packaging company Sealed Air.

rency given the low level of public trust in the government's economic policies, said Choi Ji-young, an analyst at Seoul's state-funded Korea Institute for National Unification.

tion of the North's economy is controlling markets in a stronger manner so there are still limits in demands for dollars."

It's unclear what Kim would do,

since banning use of dollars and yuan could backfire by just confusing and angering the public, experts say. North Koreans are likely resisting attempts by authorities to take their foreign cur-

The Conversation

Problem still lurks, not left behind

US has a child labor problem – recalling an embarrassing past

By Beth Saunders, University of Maryland, Baltimore County

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

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At the University of Maryland, Baltimore County's Special Collections, where I am head curator, we've recently completed a major digitization and rehousing project of our collection of over 5,400 photographs made by Lewis Wickes Hine in the early 20th century.

Traveling the country with his camera, Hine captured the often oppressive working conditions of thousands of children – some as young as 3 years old.

As I've worked with this collection over the past two years, the social and political implications of Hine's photographs have been very much on my mind. The patina of these black-and-white photographs suggests a bygone era – an embarrassing past that many Americans might imagine they've left behind.

But with numerous reports of child labor violations, many involving immigrants, occurring in the U.S., along with an uptick in state legislation rolling back the legal working age, it's clear that Hine's work is as relevant today as it was a century ago.

A sociologist by training, Hine began making photographs in 1903 while working as a teacher at the progressive Ethical Culture School in New York City.

Between 1903 and 1908, he and his students photographed migrants at Ellis Island. Hine believed that the future of the U.S. rested in its identity as an immigrant nation – a position that contrasted with escalating xenophobic fears.

Based on this work, the National Child Labor Committee, which advocated for child labor laws, hired Hine to document the living and working conditions of American children.

By the late 19th century, several states had passed laws limiting the

age of child laborers and establishing maximum working hours. But at the turn of the century, the number of working kids soared – between 1890 and 1910, 18% of children ages 10 to 15 were employed.

In his work for the National Child Labor Committee, Hine journeyed to farms and mills in the industrializing South and the streets and factories of the Northeast. He used a Graflex camera with 5-by-7-inch glass plate negatives and employed flash powder for nighttime and interior shots, hauling upward of 50 pounds of equipment on his slight frame.

To gain entry into factories and other facilities, Hine sometimes disguised himself as a Bible, postcard or insurance salesman. Other times he'd wait outside to catch workers arriving for or departing from their shifts.

Along with photographic records, Hine collected his subjects' personal stories, including their ages and ethnicities. He documented their working lives, such as their typical hours and any injuries or ailments they incurred as a result of their labor.

Hine, who considered himself "an investigator with a camera," used this information to create what he termed "photo stories" – combinations of images and text that could be used on posters, in public lectures and in published reports to help the organization advance its mission.

Hine's muckraking photographs exemplify the genre of documentary photography, which relies upon the perceived truthfulness of photography to make a case for social change.

The camera serves as an eyewitness to a societal ill, a problem that needs a solution. Hine portrayed his subjects in a direct manner, typically frontally and looking straight into the camera, against the backdrop of the very factories, farmland or cities where they worked.

By capturing details of his sitters' bare feet, tattered clothes, soiled faces and hands, and diminutive stature against hulking industrial equipment, Hine made a direct statement about the poor conditions and precarity of these children's lives.

Graduates of the Professional Certification Program pass out

Institute of Banking Studies honors 19 AUB employees

KUWAIT CITY, June 11: As part of its strategy to develop and enhance the capabilities and skills of its human resources, Ahli United Bank (AUB) celebrated the graduation of 19 of its employees in a number of training programs provided by the Institute of Banking Studies (IBS) for the banking sector employees. This was part of the Professional Certification Programs for year 2021-2022. These programs are accredited by The London Institute of Banking and Finance, which is one of the leading international institutions in professional banking and finance studies.

AUB employees were honored in the graduation ceremony held by IBS at the headquarters of Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the presence of Mrs. Mariam Al-Mudhaf, HR Assistant General Manager at AUB and Mr. Alaa Mahmoud, Senior Manager - Learning & Development at AUB.

The bank's employees received various certificates for successfully completing a AUB.

Number of specialized banking courses provided by IBS in several disciplines and fields in the banking sector in general and the Islamic banking in particular in the academic year 2021-2022. The courses include Certificate in Credit Management (CCM), Advanced Certificate in Credit Management (ACCM), Certified Bank Branch Manager (CBBM), Certified Assistant Bank Branch Manager (CABBMM), Risk Management Certificate (RMC), Certi-

fied Bank Relationship Manager for High Net Worth Customers (CBRM), Certified Bank Branch Operations Manager (CBBOM) & Certified Bank Wealth Manager (CBWM).

On this occasion, Mr. Naqeeb Amin, General Manager of Human Resources at AUB congratulated all graduate employees for successfully obtaining these certificates. He emphasized that it is a significant step in their professional future. He also thanked IBS management for their vital role in enhancing the skills of national banking employees and boosting their knowledge.

Amin emphasized that human resources are the cornerstone of AUB success and continuous advancement. He further highlighted that AUB continues to invest in its human capital, especially national talents, by providing a distinctive and attractive work environment that enables competent individuals to play their part in supporting the bank's journey.

"AUB is dedicated to harnessing all resources to provide its employees with professional and practical experiences that enhance and refine their skills. This is achieved through an integrated and effective training plan. Such efforts positively impact the employee's loyalty and commitment to the bank. Additionally, the bank's success in enhancing the professional level of its employees undoubtedly reflects positively on the quality of services and products provided to its customers", Amin affirmed.



The Institute of Banking Studies honors 19 AUB employees.



The Kuwait Food and Relief Bank and KIB officials during the presentation ceremony

Kuwait Food and Relief Bank honors KIB

Kuwait International Bank (KIB) received an honor from the Kuwait Food and Relief Bank in recognition of the Bank's pioneering role and continuous efforts toward social responsibility and humanitarian work.

During a recent visit, Waleed Al-Saqabi, a representative of the Kuwait Food and Relief Bank, was received and welcomed to KIB. Al-Saqabi praised the Bank's constant keenness to organize and sponsor various types of humanitarian events and activities that benefit diverse segments of society. He pointed out that this recognition reflects KIB's advanced role in humanitarian work and its commitment to its slogan, "Bank for Life."

The visit witnessed an exchange of opinions and ideas around enhancing cooperation between KIB and the Kuwait Food and Relief Bank and the optimal means to achieve the mutual goal of sustainable development in a manner that ensures the well-being of all segments of society.

For his part, Abdullah Al Khamees, from the Marketing and Corporate Com-

munications Unit at KIB, thanked the Kuwait Food and Relief Bank team, saying: "We are honored to receive this distinguished recognition from such an active humanitarian institution. We see in it an appreciation of our constant keenness and the continuous efforts that we have been making, for years, to achieve our strategic goals through our comprehensive social responsibility program." He added: "We also extend our great thanks to the Kuwait Food and Relief Bank for this positive initiative and its beneficial and successful role in the community and humanitarian work. We will continue to extend cooperation and support for all parties and institutions that adopt community development as part of their core goals."

It is worth noting that KIB spares no effort in cooperating and strengthening its relations with institutions and entities playing an active humanitarian and social role. This comes as part of the Bank's comprehensive social responsibility program, based on its pioneering role and vision to improve the way of life for all members of society.

Car-dependent Calif seeks to follow New York's 'lead'

Bid to save public transit

SACRAMENTO, Calif., June 11, (AP): Sadaf Zahoor has bucked California's car culture by never owning one, yet she and other residents who rely on public transit worry its bleak financial outlook could soon leave them standing at empty train stations and bus stops.

The agencies running the public transit systems, particularly in San Francisco and Oakland, where Zahoor lives, have been living off billions of dollars in federal aid that will soon expire.

Ridership plummeted by as much as 94% during the COVID-19 pandemic, leaving a gaping budget deficit. Fare box revenues have rebounded a bit, but with more people working from home, some systems haven't returned to even half their previous levels.

The transit agencies have asked Democrats who control California's government to rescue them, much like Democrats in New York recently did with a \$227 billion spending plan. The request is proving to be a much tougher sell in the nation's most populous state, where majestic mountain highways and seas of suburban single-family homes have made it far more automobile-reliant than much of the Northeast.

"If there were any sort of major changes, that would definitely affect my ability to get to work," said Zahoor, 36, who figures she would have to team up with friends to buy a group car because she couldn't afford one on her own.

The California Transit Association says transit agencies will have a collective shortfall of about \$6 billion over the next five years. The state, which relies heavily on taxes paid by wealthy

people, is projected to have a \$31.5 billion budget deficit this year amid a struggling stock market and layoffs in the tech industry.

Instead of bailing out public transit agencies, Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom has proposed slashing \$2 billion from their infrastructure funding to help balance the books.

H.D. Palmer, spokesperson for the California Department of Finance, said Newsom's proposed budget cuts to numerous agencies "were necessary to address the shortfall" but the governor has pledged to restore the money if revenues rebound next year.

Bay Area Rapid Transit has warned if the state doesn't help out, it could force the agency to stop running after 9 p.m. and on weekends, while limiting regular service to just one train per hour.

Activists for transit say scaling back services is sure to only exacerbate the problem.

"It's kind of like the chicken and the egg," said Stephanie Lotshaw, acting executive director at TransitCenter, an advocacy group for public transportation systems across the U.S. "If you disinvest in it, then people won't use it. But if you invest in it, arguably more people will use it because it actually becomes a service that's usable."

The pandemic was particularly damaging to Bay Area Rapid Transit because as much as 70% of its revenue came from fares - far higher than most other transit systems, said Janice Li, president of the transit system's board of directors. Los Angeles, the nation's second-largest city, relies less on public transit than San Francisco, although voters have expressed support for it in recent years.

At the very least, Li said, California legislators should pass a stopgap measure to keep transit afloat until the 2026 election, when local voters could decide whether to pay more.

"We are not asking for the world, and we are not asking for the world indefinitely, either," Li said.

The White House has said states have flexibility to redirect some of the federal money typically used for road construction and repairs to transit operations, but many drivers call that a non-starter.

"We have the highest gas tax in the nation, and our roads are still in very poor condition," said Jon Coupal, president of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, a California group opposing tax hikes. "If we're looking at transportation generally, the money is better spent on those systems that people actually use, which in California is roads and highways."

Transit officials are making their pitch by appealing not just to regular riders but also to drivers who could face much more congested traffic if other options are gone. According to Bay Area Rapid Transit, almost twice as many people travel at rush hour under the Bay Bridge by train than over it by car.

Supporters have turned to creative marketing - selling flip flops featuring a picture of BART's service map and even staging a mock funeral for transit last weekend in Oakland.

"We're doing our best but not sure what is possible at this point," said Vinita Goyal, executive director of San Francisco Transit Riders, a non-profit advocacy group.

Legislative leaders have pledged to reject Newsom's \$2 billion in cuts and make it OK for agencies to use some of that money for operations. State Sen. Scott Wiener, a Democrat who represents San Francisco, said that's still not enough.

"In every community in California, there are people who rely on the bus, and they are not the most powerful people. They tend to be lower income. They tend to be nonwhite. They tend to be disproportionately seniors or students," Wiener said. "Why on Earth would we for a minute contemplate allowing these systems to fall apart beyond me?"

NerdWallet

Five simple ways to 'step up' your business's TikTok game

Dan Oliver, founder of Dan-O's Seasoning, was slinging his signature blends at trade shows and flea markets around the country when COVID-19 hit, shutting down his primary sales channel and forcing a hard pivot. Oliver turned to TikTok, going all-in on the video-sharing platform, and struck gold.

First, a video of him making crab cakes went viral. Daily sales increased sevenfold. A few months later, his bacon-wrapped jalapenos caught fire (figuratively), catapulting sales again.

Three years, hundreds of videos and millions of views later, Dan-O's Seasoning has expanded from an e-commerce business to a supermarket staple and overall revenue has increased nearly 10,000%.

Sponsored

Dan-O's success isn't a one-off case. Thousands of entrepreneurs have seen their businesses take off on the social video platform. After all, with TikTok you're only one viral video away from becoming the next big thing. But you have to play your cards right.

1. Start strong

"The most important part of your video is the first three to five seconds," Oliver says. Jump in, make a splash and get to the point before people start to tune out.

"Start with something that's attractive, like slapping a piece of meat," Oliver says. More than a few of Oliver's TikToks start with him dropping a monster slab of beef or pork onto the cutting board (and yes, he's slapped a brisket or two). "Make it interesting and don't waste people's time."

2. Pitch your business

Video views are literally worth nothing if you don't translate them into dollars. Sprinkle your business's value props into your videos and tell viewers where to go next, whether that's to your website, online storefront or email list.

"Social media followers are great, but you have to strategically move people to your other platforms, whether it be your email list or another high-leverage pipeline," said Elise Darma, a marketing specialist turned influencer who now coaches entrepreneurs on how to grow their social media presence, in an email.

3. Work smarter, not harder

"Batch create content if you can," Darma said. "This is the most efficient way to use your brain power."

What does that look like? Rather than drumming up ideas and shooting videos on

the fly, create an editorial calendar that outlines what you're going to post and when. Film and edit multiple videos in one session, rather than one at a time. Then, squeeze as much juice out of each video as possible.

"Repurpose one video as much as you can — across TikTok, Instagram, YouTube Shorts and Pinterest Idea Pins for maximum impact," Darma said.

4. Define your goals

Any good social media strategy should be anchored in specific goals, whether that's views, comments, clicks or some other type of engagement, says Danielle Wiley, founder and chief executive officer of Sway Group, an influencer marketing agency.

"Social media is amazing from a metrics perspective — you can get so much data — but that data is meaningless if you don't create goals," Wiley says. "If you don't know what the goal is from the beginning, you won't create the right type of content."

5. Lean in to what works

Posting anything and everything makes sense at the start; you need to throw everything at the wall and see what sticks. But when videos start gaining traction, it pays to follow that thread.

"A big thing I see is that once people see success with one video, they forget to continue their momentum by creating videos similar to the one that took off," Darma said. "You know what style and what topic resonates with your followers, so make more of that. Invest in what works."

For Dan-O's Seasoning, the thread was recipes. TikToks of Oliver making everything from sushi to deep-fried mac and cheese to parmesan potatoes to prime rib rack up hundreds of thousands of views. If one really takes off, like a recent video for pulled pork tacos, views are in the millions.

Videos of Oliver sharing his entrepreneur story or scouting out Dan-O's on store shelves did well, but didn't strike the same chord. So his team made a strategic decision: The official account for Dan-O's Seasoning would only feature recipes.

"It's definitely working. I follow all these other creators, people we're in competition with, and their accounts are kind of stagnant. Ours is not," Oliver says. "We continue to grow, anywhere from 2,000 to 10,000 followers a day." (AP)

This is for promotional purposes and does not omit any essential information related to the investment in the subject financial security

Reminder to subscribe in the share capital increase of Kuwait International Bank K.S.C.P.

Kuwait International Bank K.S.C.P. would like to remind Eligible Shareholders and Pre-emption Right Holders to subscribe in the increase of the Bank's share capital.	
Offering Shares	428,571,429 ordinary shares
Offering Price	140 fils per share (nominal value of 100 fils and issuance premium of 40 fils)
Total Value of the Offering	KD 60,000,000
Subscription Period	Commences on Tuesday 30 May, 2023 (inclusive) and ends on Tuesday 13 June, 2023 (inclusive)
Pre-emptive Rights Trading Period	Commences on Tuesday 30 May, 2023 (inclusive) and ends on Monday 5 June, 2023 (inclusive)
Eligible Subscribers	Shareholders who are recorded in the shareholder register of the Issuer as at close of Record Date (29 May 2023) and the holders of the Pre-emption Rights before the end of Pre-emption Right trading period
Entitled Shares	Eligible Shareholders will be entitled to 3,886 Issue Shares for every 10,000 existing shares held
To Subscribe	www.ipo.com.kw
For More Information	kibci@kamcoinvest.com - (965) 2233 6648 - (965) 2233 6976

Issuance Advisor & Subscription Agent

To access the prospectus and other related documents

For further details on any such risk factors, please refer to the downloadable/printable version of the Prospectus relating to the offering on the Issuer's website (www.kib.com.kw), Issuance Advisor and Subscription Agent's website (www.kamcoinvest.com), the Clearing and Depository Agent's website (www.jpo.com.kw), or Bursa Kuwait's website (www.boursakuwait.com.kw). The terms and conditions in the Prospectus and the Subscription Application Forms shall apply. You are hereby advised to seek the advice of an advisor licensed by law and which specializes in advising on the subscription prior to making a decision to subscribe. The Kuwait Capital Markets Authority or any regulatory organization in the State of Kuwait shall not bear any liability for the contents of this announcement or its accuracy, and not for any loss arising from reliance on any part of this announcement.

CyberArk Workforce Password Management delivers advanced protections

CyberArk, the global leader in Identity Security, today announced enhancements to Workforce Password Management. CyberArk's cloud-based enterprise password management solution enables organizations to securely capture, store and manage password-based applications and other secrets. New capabilities provide administrators with greater flexibility and control to reduce risk and improve security for web applications.

Unlike personal password managers, Workforce Password Management is de-

signed for business environments and provides the privacy, availability and security enterprises demand, including support for modern passwordless authentication controls and corporate directories. New features include: Application Access Controls Based on Usernames: Administrators can now prevent end users from adding sensitive and privileged accounts like "root", "admin" and "dba" to the Workforce Password Management vault. This provides administrators greater control over the types of credentials stored by end users and

can reduce the risk of highly privileged accounts being added, accessed and shared. Support for CAPTCHA-Enabled Web Apps: New enhancements allow end users to seamlessly access websites that require CAPTCHA at login and solve third party-enforced CAPTCHA challenges during the login process.

Enhanced Reporting for User-Added Applications: Out-of-the-box reports provide detailed information about all user-added applications, enabling Workforce Password Management administrators to perform pe-

riodic audits of user-added apps and enforce established IT security guidelines.

In addition, Workforce Password Management can be used in conjunction with CyberArk Secure Web Sessions to further strengthen access to sensitive applications. With the newest release, Secure Web Sessions features an additional layer of protection called Session Control. Session Control allows administrators to define notification and enforcement rules for specific text fields within business apps that are accessed with credentials stored

in Workforce Password Management. For instance, administrators can create a rule to prevent users from executing funds transfers that exceed a pre-set threshold within their corporate banking app and notify the IT security team of the attempt.

Pacific Dental, one of the leading dental support organizations in the United States, recently implemented Workforce Password Management as part of a business advancement initiative to improve access to online services and resources to its supported practices.



Top and above photos from the Festival of British Foods.

British Foods Festival at LuLu Hypermarket

KUWAIT CITY, June 11: A week-long celebration of the best of British foods is being held at all outlets of LuLu Hypermarket from 10 - 17 June. The 'LuLu British Food Week' was inaugurated on 10 June at the Al-Qurain branch of the hypermarket by British Ambassador H.E. Belinda Lewis along with top management of LuLu Hypermarket in Kuwait, and in the presence of a large gathering of shoppers and well-wishers of the brand.

Adding to the lively vibe of the inauguration was a high-energy performance by a special British band that delighted guests and shoppers alike. Another major draw was an exhibition of classic vintage cars from the UK that had many classic-car enthusiasts swooning over the gleaming vehicles.

A major attraction of the seven-day food festival, which showcases the finest food products from the United Kingdom, is the amazing offers on all UK-branded products, as well as special promotions on select items. Shoppers appear spoilt for choice with hundreds of

well-known British food brands being made available at one-off prices during the promotion period.

The festive and exciting backdrop to the LuLu British Food Week continued indoors at all LuLu outlets with UK-themed decorations, including flags, pennants, bunting and streamers, as well as large cut-outs and images of historic monuments and iconic buildings that underlined the rich tradition and heritage of the United Kingdom.

Kiosks offering free food samplings, and replicas of traditional British street-food stalls offering popular items such as fish, chips, cheese and gravy, are other singular attractions drawing shoppers in large numbers.

The LuLu British Food Week is part of the hypermarket's continued commitment to bring high-quality food products from around the world to shoppers in Kuwait, and to offer customers the widest selection of best of the world products at exceptional value through extremely competitive prices.

Recognition solidifies position

Betterworks named Best Comprehensive Solution in Talent Management category

MENLO PARK, Calif., June 11, (AP): Betterworks, the leader in modern enterprise performance management solutions has been selected as the recipient of the prestigious "Best Comprehensive Solution" in the Talent Management category by Lighthouse Research & Advisory. This recognition underscores Betterworks' commitment to providing a holistic, end-to-end performance enablement platform that drives higher productivity and better bottom-line performance for organizations.

Betterworks, the leader in modern enterprise performance management solutions has been selected as the recipient of the prestigious "Best Comprehensive Solution" in the Talent Management category by Lighthouse Research & Advisory.

"We are thrilled to receive this award from Lighthouse Research & Advisory as it highlights our dedication to creating a comprehensive solution that empowers business and HR leaders to drive positive HR transformation," said Doug Dennerline, CEO of Betterworks. "We believe that HR leaders have the power to impact employee experience and drive business results through employee engagement. When work is better for people, companies thrive."

The HR Tech Awards program aims to spotlight HR technology companies catering to employers and employees worldwide, providing valuable insights to HR technology buyers and employers regarding the top-notch solutions within the industry. As per Lighthouse Research & Advisory, the HR technology industry currently boasts over 5,000 providers. The HR Tech Awards recognized 1% of these companies.

The Talent Management category of the HR Tech Awards recognizes companies that have demonstrated exceptional expertise and innovation in delivering comprehensive solutions to enhance talent acquisition, develop-

ment, and retention strategies. Betterworks stood out among a pool of competitors by offering a groundbreaking approach that redefines performance management in the modern workplace. It was specifically highlighted as being the comprehensive solution that solves the core challenges of businesses in the enterprise market and in high-growth companies.

"Our research indicates that company growth is a 'make or break' moment for the employee experience," said Ben Eubanks, Chief Research Officer, Lighthouse Research & Advisory. "Clients using Betterworks during that critical period not only support employee performance—they also create more connected and valuable cultures to support every individual."

Since its inception in 2013, Betterworks has been at the forefront of modernizing performance management for enterprises. Traditional approaches, such as annual performance reviews, have proven to be ineffective in today's agile business environment. Betterworks recognized this need for change and developed a platform that enables more frequent employee check-ins, resulting in improved performance and morale. The platform delivers a range of outcomes, including retaining top performers, cultivating better managers, ensuring alignment between employees' work and organizational goals, generating tangible results with goals and alignment, sustaining a winning culture amid rapid growth and volatility, and developing and strengthening workforce skills and competencies.

Betterworks is focused on the unique needs of enterprise and high growth companies and supports the complex use cases of such organizations to support a dynamic workforce and workplace, comply with local and international regulations, integrate with existing and future investments, and keep data safe.

Regional 1st: Zain operation in Jordan provides mobile phone subscriptions in 'sign' language

Embracing a disability inclusive environment for all

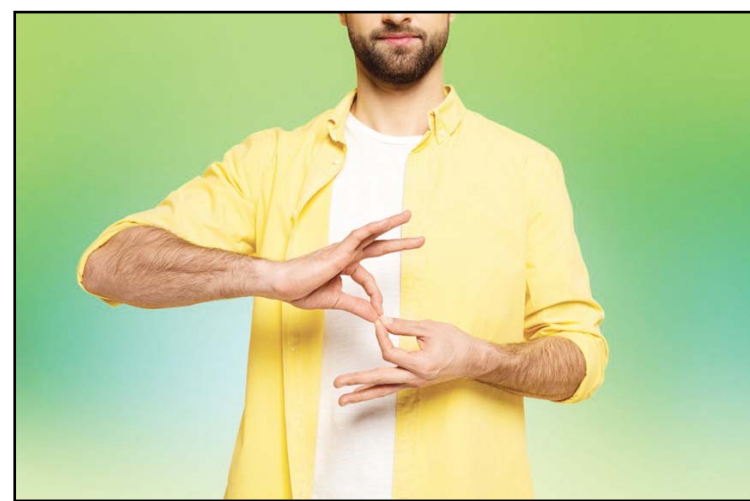
AMMAN, Jordan, June 11: Zain's operation in Jordan has made mobile phone subscriptions accessible via sign language for customers with hearing and visual impairments, in a step that is the first of its kind in the region to provide this service.

Zain customers in Jordan who may be visually impaired, blind, hearing impaired, or deaf, will be able to view contracts and understand their terms through an audio-visual video available by scanning a QR Code located in Zain showrooms across the Kingdom. In the near-future, this service will make it easier for customers to identify all the terms and conditions translated into sign language at any time.

Zain has decided to position the introduction and development of disability issues for its customers and within the workplace as a priority task that is part of its Diversification, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) vision, by creating the 'We Able' disability inclusive program to meet the needs of all segments of society and is working with organizations and partners who are experts in this field to further strengthen this new strategy. The company is also committed to adopting harnessing technology tools for persons with disabilities, thereby reducing inequalities as stated in the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals.



Sign Language Deaf Disabled People Video Conference.



Zain sign language for mobile subscriptions.

DEI initiatives under the 'WeAble' program across Zain's operations:

- Creation of a sign language digital library for four countries specific sign language, Kuwait, Jordan,

- Bahrain, and Iraq, aiming to create more sign languages to cover other Zain operations. This library provides high-quality educational materials offering employee contracts in sign language, while continually training its staff in sign language, thus facilitating their bonding and communication with fellow hearing-impaired colleagues. The library also contains video lessons provided by sign language trainers and experts, and includes a detailed explanation of the vocabulary and basic expressions in sign language.
- Training of 300 employees Groupwide on sign language
- Zain Kuwait added accessible evacuation chair for all its offices
- Zain Jordan added handrails for all ramps and added a new restroom with an automatic door and hosted an inclusive accessible excel training course
- Zain Jordan the first telco in the world with a virtual translator for the deaf on its website and social media channels, using a plugin that adds sign language using interpreting 3D smart Avatars
- In 2015, Zain Jordan launched the Basma+ line, providing complimentary minutes for video calls, as well as technical support services to the deaf and hearing impaired, responding to inquiries
- Launch of GROW program training fresh graduates with disability to prepare them for the workplace that has seen 14 graduates join Zain since the program launch
- Zain Bahrain launched a hotline for People with Disabilities to provide exclusive communication access and have made four retail stores wheelchair friendly, with more in progress.

More on Zain's Disability Inclusion vision

Zain's influential role in society means the company must maintain its pioneering outlook with respect to creating positive change in the workplace and in all other areas of its activities. The company is proud to stand as an example for other corporates to follow and the implementation of the WE ABLE initiative reflects its commitment to develop and implement a sustainable Disability Inclusion program. Zain believes it is time that the contributions that people with disabilities are able to make in our workforces and in society in general be recognized, and is pleased to have the opportunity to raise awareness in this area through its words and more importantly through its actions.

As one of the first institutions across the region launching a dedicated department for the areas of DEI and notably its 'We Able' initiative, Zain has entered partnerships with notable entities such as The Valuable 500, as well as being a signatory into the International Labor Organization (ILO) Global Business and Disability Network Charter.

Burgan Bank offers free Eideya delivery service for Haiba Cardholders and Premier and Private Banking customers

KUWAIT CITY, June 11: Burgan Bank announced today the free Eideya delivery service for Haiba cardholders, Premier and Private Banking customers offer by Burgan Bank Concierge Service. This service enables the aforementioned customers to receive new bank notes before the Eid holidays at their offices or homes at their own convenience.

To request this service, eligible customers can simply contact Burgan Bank concierge service by calling +965 22969960 to request the amount of Eideya money required. Noting that this service is available from June 12th till June 18th, 2023.



A flyer of the Burgan Bank campaign.

It is worth mentioning that the Eideya delivery service comes as part of the bank's wide range of valuable privileges and benefits that is especially designated for its Haiba cardholders, Premier and Private Banking customers.

Additionally, Burgan Bank Concierge Service stems from its commitment to supporting its customers' everyday requirements with unmatched personalized experience.

To find out more about Burgan Bank's latest promotions or any of its products and services, customers are urged to visit any of the bank's branches or contact the call center on 1804080. For more information, customers can also log onto the bank's website on www.burgan.com.

About Burgan Bank
Established in 1977, Burgan Bank is currently the third-largest bank by assets in Kuwait. From its earliest days, the Bank has significantly focused on the corporate and financial institution sectors, in addition to diversifying its offering to cater to its growing retail and private banking customer base.

Burgan Bank has majority-owned subsidiaries, collectively known as the "Burgan Bank Group", in the MENAT region. This Group is supported by one of the largest branch networks across the region and includes: Gulf Bank Algeria - AGB (Algeria), Tunis International Bank - TIB (Tunisia), and the fully owned Burgan Bank Turkey. Furthermore, Burgan Bank has a presence in the UAE through its corporate office, Burgan Financial Services Limited.

The Bank has continuously improved its performance over the years, through an expanded revenue structure, diversified funding sources, and a strong capital base. The adoption of state-of-the-art services and technology has positioned it as a trendsetter in the domestic market and within the MENA region.

KFH announces KFH Mastercard campaign winners

Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has announced the winners of the KFH Mastercard campaign for its Mastercard customers in collaboration with MasterCard Worldwide, Alshaya Group, Mabaneer (The Avenues) and Waldorf Astoria Hotel, 25 customers will receive a package to enjoy an experience in Avenues Mall. The package includes one companion, accommodation for 2 nights in Waldorf Astoria Hotel, and Al Shaya Gift card with KD 5,000 credit to be used in Al Shaya stores at Avenues.

The winners are Hassan Hassan, Yousef Failakawi, Tahani Al-Shammari, Abdulaziz Al-Rashidi, Mariam Al-Ajmi, Ahmad Rasheed, Ahmad Al-Manea, Faraj Al-Sahli, Nadiyah Al-Resheedi, Badreyah Al-Mutairi, Saad Al-Rasheedi, Mohammad Al-Qassar, Adel Al-Dhafaeri, Welfat Al-Sayer, Amani Bastaki, Mohammad Eissa, Mohammad Al-Ramadhan, Fatemah Al-Sewaidi, Fatemah Al-Suwaileh, Zuhoor omar, Zakaria Qobeid, Abdulkarim Al-Tuwajiri, Hind Al-Kandari, Haya Al-Hebeshi, Jassem Al-Mutawa.

The campaign has achieved its goals in allowing customers to enjoy the exclusive benefits offered by KFH, in addition to expanding sales, benefitting merchants, and encouraging customers to use banking cards to avoid cash-handling risks. The campaign rewards KFH Mastercard customers when using their cards inside Kuwait at the Avenues stores represented by Alshaya Group, which confirms KFH's keenness in cooperation with its business partners to boost local shopping and provide a rewarding experience.



KFH Mastercard campaign

Around 20 to 25% of women in ME suffer from polycystic ovary syndrome

Woman's health reflects positively on family, entire society: Khader

KUWAIT CITY, June 11: Consultant Obstetrics and Gynecology and Fetal Medicine, Head of Maternity Department at Farwaniya Hospital, Head of Kuwait Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Dr Amal Khader said woman health is the responsibility of all workers in the health sector, adding that this reflects on the family and entire society.



A photo from the event.

Dr Khader spoke following her participation in Organon's, a global health care company dedicated to making a world of difference for women, launch of the IN-CHARGE program in Kuwait. She said the program is in coop-

eration with Kuwait Medical Association and Kuwait Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and

aims at caring for woman health and caring for her. She said the spread of repro-

ductive health diseases confirms the need for the treatment of gaps in woman health in this region and the importance of presenting health support in her various life stages, specially that 20 to 25% of women in the Middle East suffer from polycystic ovary syndrome which a major cause of female infertility in the world, and in addition to that bleeding after giving birth is still the main contributor to mothers' death as it leads to the death of 13 thousand women in the MINA region each year.

Meanwhile Organon's MINA region and Turkey CEO Rami Qousa

lauded the developments in the health sector specially in the woman health sector in Kuwait, adding that their role as a private sector is to develop partnerships.

Qousa said the role of the private sector is to promote the role of private sector is to promote partnerships with various sectors be it government or otherwise so to achieve suitable care and awareness and educational development not only in the medical field but in the society in general.

Meanwhile, Organon's manger for Kuwait, Bahrain and Qatar Ahmad Lasheen said we celebrate the launch of the IN-CHARGE initia-

tive in cooperation with the health ministry as this initiative will supply healthcare providers with the necessary tools to improve woman's health and this initiative will last for one year.

He said we provide concerned doctors with woman health with programs, awareness and tools that help them improve woman health and this initiative goes along with Kuwait's goals, particularly in the health sector to make available equal opportunities between the health of woman and man and to reach medical services for both genders.



Sidra Kuwait Hospital officials pose with JCI certification.

'Highest int'l levels of care'

Sidra Kuwait Hospital wins JCI Accreditation

KUWAIT CITY, June 11: Sidra Kuwait Hospital announced that it has obtained the International Accreditation Certificate (JCI) from the Joint Commission International for the quality of health services provided in all hospital facilities; JCI is a private, global, non-profit and independent international committee based in the United States that grants accreditation in many aspects related to the field of healthcare through a laborious evaluation of the policies and procedures used in the practice of healthcare. The JCI is considered the largest accreditation body in the field of healthcare in the United States and a world's leader. The JCI certificates granted by this committee are an international accreditation to certify adherence to the committee's standards and best practices in the field of quality and patient safety. The hospital stated that obtaining the JCI certificate came as the result of hard work and keenness to implement the procedures and requirements of the Joint Commission International with regard to patient safety and the quality of healthcare services provided.

The hospital indicated that this outcome was achieved due to the eagerness of the medical, administrative and technical teams and their desire to reach a high and distinguished level of safe and high-quality healthcare for its patients.

Adding that they had worked over years to fulfill and apply the requirements for obtaining JCI accreditation, passed a number of preparatory steps, and received the audit committee, which carried out audit procedures, field visits and meetings with the concerned parties in the company's departments and divisions for the objective and independent assessment by international consultants and experts with extensive experience in the field of healthcare and their guidance in the key topics of patient safety and quality and how to continue to improve the processes and outcomes of sound healthcare.

Highest

On this occasion, Mr. Haitham Suleiman Al-Khaled, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Sidra Kuwait Hospital, stressed the importance of the hospital's commitment to all its staff to the highest standards of safety and quality of service provided, as obtaining JCI global accreditation represents the result of hard and tireless work from the medical and administrative teams, reflecting the endeavor and commitment of the Board of Directors and the executive management and their instructions to provide the highest levels of safety and improve the quality of service provided to patients in all fields and specializations. Adding that investing in the continued development of all our staff is one of the main pillars of our strategy, grounded in our conviction that one of

the most important features that differentiate us is the commitment of the Sidra Kuwait Hospital family to provide the best service to our customers.

For his part, Prof. Dr. Said Rateb, CEO of Sidra Kuwait Hospital, stated that he and all the work team are happy and proud of reaching this goal, which reflects the vision of Sidra Kuwait Hospital to be the family hospital in Kuwait, where our patients feel that they are treated as family members and they all feel confident in the level of service that we provide and entrust it to our family members and loved ones.

Furthermore, Dr. Said Rateb explained that this achievement is the collective result of effort, work, and keenness to develop and implement policies that achieve the highest international levels of quality, a goal that has been achieved, thank God; stressing that the hospital management will continue to carry out periodic internal reviews of all procedures to ensure the implementation of these standards in favor of the safety and quality of the service provided to our patients.

Adopts

Dr. Rateb continued that Sidra Kuwait Hospital cooperates with major international bodies in the health sector and adopts the latest and best international standards of quality, to achieve its vision of being the leading provider of high-quality integrated health services, in implementation of its strategy to build and manage a comprehensive health system that focuses on providing health services based on quality and positive interactive experience for the patient and achieving professional competence through carefully selected medical and administrative staff, a vision reflected on the ground through the health services provided. Pointing out that obtaining the JCI international accreditation achieves a set of advantages represented in enhancing the credibility and reputation of the medical institution, helping to transfer knowledge and sharing experiences between medical institutions, and exchanging opinions and medical expertise. It also helps to attract, preserve and maintain the most skilled medical and administrative staff.

Dr. Rateb concluded by confirming that obtaining the international accreditation (JCI) guarantees patients and medical care recipients access to the highest quality in providing healthcare services, according to the best professional and medical safety standards followed in the largest hospitals and medical facilities around the world. It also allows medical staff to develop their performance by benefiting from many administrative and medical procedures and standards that save time for patients and ensure that they receive a distinguished and safe medical service.

KUWAIT CITY, June 11: As part of its continuous efforts to support people with disabilities, Gulf Bank participated in the Disability Employment Forum, organized by the Youth Public Authority, in cooperation with the Human Construction Institute.

Believing in their talents, and aiming to provide equal opportunities for Kuwaiti youth, Gulf Bank recruited a group of graduates to join the Gulf Bank's family in support of the "Partners in their Employment" campaign - noting that the fourth batch of graduates reached around 74 trainees.

On this occasion, Gulf Bank's General Manager of Human Resources, Ms. Salma Al Hajjaj, said: "We are keen to annually participate in the "Partners in Their Employment" campaign, to provide training and development programs for people with disabilities."

Al-Hajjaj further indicated that Gulf Bank is one of the largest private sector entities participating in the campaign and providing job opportunities for people with disabilities annually. This is part of the bank's belief in their capabilities, and its continuous efforts to achieve sustainable development across all segments of society.

Developing

She added: "Gulf Bank's participation in the Disability Employment Forum, comes as part of a comprehensive strategy to support young Kuwaiti talents, and to continuously work on developing their potential. This is also a key part of the bank's 2025 strategy and Kuwait Vision 2023."

She continued: "During the forum, we were pleased to receive a large number of job applications from people with disabilities, who have distinguished talents and capabilities. We are keen to help them integrate into society and be part of the banking sector."

Al-Hajjaj also indicated that Gulf Bank has come a long way in achieving its human resources sustainability goals, and that it is constantly aiming to benefit from the capabilities and talents of youth, and to provide them with suitable job opportunities.

Gulf Bank's vision is to be the leading Kuwaiti Bank of the Future. The Bank is constantly engaging and empowering its employees as part of an inclusive and diversified workplace in recognition of every employee's role in delivering customer excellence and serving the community at large. With its extensive network of



Al-Hajjaj

'Provide equal opportunities for youth'

Gulf Bank supports job inclusivity by hiring people with disabilities



A group photo from the event.

Exceptional achievements recognized

Dhaman's Arab wins outstanding leadership performance award for CEOs in Middle East

KUWAIT CITY, June 11: Mr. Thamer Arab, CEO of Health Assurance Hospitals Company (Dhaman), has been awarded the CEO Today Middle East Award for 2023 in Kuwait, alongside a group of outstanding executives, in recognition of their remarkable achievements and leadership performance in managing their companies within the Middle East region.

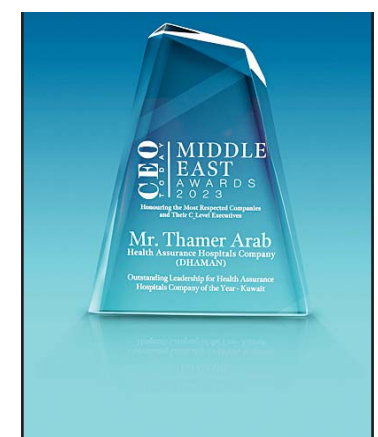
This award celebrates exceptional leadership and recognizes the achievements of executives who have shown exceptional strategic vision, entrepreneurial spirit, and transformative impact within their organizations and industries, including Mr. Thamer Arab. Since joining Dhaman as the CEO of the company in October 2021, Mr. Thamer has demonstrated outstanding performance, particularly in driving growth and supporting positive changes in the company network.

In this regard, Mr. Thamer Arab said, "I am proud and grateful to receive this award, which reflects not only my efforts but also the commitment and hard work of the executive management team colleagues and all Dhaman employees who played a pivotal role in implementing the company's strategic projects and overcoming various challenges."

Mr. Arab also highlighted the company's recent outstanding results, which were driven by our belief in the vision and importance of providing advanced and sustainable health services that will have a significant impact on the health sector in Kuwait. He added that



Thamer Arab - Dhaman CEO



CEO Award

Dhaman is a unique model for the region as the largest project within the development plans and New Kuwait Vision 2035. He stressed that Dhaman is a promising project that represents a partnership between the Government and the

private sector, established with the Government's vision to involve the private sector in its implementation on the ground, in line with the Amiri Directives.

The winners of this year's awards represent a diverse range of leaders across various sectors in the Middle East, including Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the Arab Republic of Egypt, and more. These exceptional leaders have overcome challenges and set new benchmarks for success in their respective fields.

During his 27-year career, Mr. Thamer Arab has held leadership positions and served on the boards of directors of major institutions. He has achieved tangible accomplishments in the banking, insurance, aviation, and health sectors. Mr. Arab holds a bachelor's degree in computer science from California State University and has completed numerous specialized training programs in leadership, strategy, economics, and operations.

Dhaman handles establishing an integrated healthcare system that includes health assurance programs, as well as building and operating a network of primary healthcare centers and hospitals that cover all areas in Kuwait while applying best professional practices to achieve sustainability in healthcare and investing in the infrastructure of the health sector based on highest international standards and recruiting over 7,000 highly qualified individuals in medical and administrative fields.

branches and innovative digital services, Gulf Bank is able to give its customers the choice of how and where to conduct their banking transactions, all while ensuring a simple and seamless

banking experience. Gulf Bank is committed to maintaining robust developments in sustainability at environmental, social and governance levels through diverse sustainability ini-

tiatives, strategically selected to benefit the Bank both internally and externally. Gulf Bank supports Kuwait Vision 2035 "New Kuwait" and works with various parties to achieve it.

The Conversation

No federal law requires employers to accommodate menopausal symptoms

Millions of women working during menopause, but US law isn't clear

By Naomi Cahn, University of Virginia, Bridget J. Crawford, Pace University, and Emily Gold Waldman, Pace University

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

While she was interviewing Jennifer Aniston and Adam Sandler in March 2023, Drew Barrymore suddenly exclaimed: "I'm so hot ... I think I'm having my first hot flash!"

She took off her blazer and fanned herself dramatically.

While most hot flashes aren't televised, the entertainer's experience was far from unique. Barrymore, age 48, is one of approximately 15 million US women from 45 to 60 who work full time and may experience menopausal symptoms.

Unlike Barrymore, most women are silent about their menopausal symptoms. Yet their symptoms, even when concealed from employers and co-workers, are a burden on them, their workplaces and on the overall US economy. Lost work productivity due to menopausal symptoms - measured by missed work hours, job losses and early retirement - add up to about \$1.8 billion annually, the Mayo Clinic estimates.

The three of us write and teach about employment discrimination and feminism, and two of us have written a book about menstruation. Because of our shared interests, we are currently writing a book about menopause and the law. We've observed that although Gwyneth Paltrow, Oprah Winfrey, Michelle Obama and other celebrities are speaking out about their own menopausal transitions, work accommodations are rare and employers typically don't even acknowledge this stage of life. In the lead-up to menopause, which typically begins between the ages of 45 and 55, levels of reproductive hormones change, and menstrual cycles become irregular and then eventually cease. This transition, called perimenopause, typically lasts for seven years.

Disturbances

Common symptoms of perimenopause include hot flashes, sleep disturbances, heart palpitations, excessive bleeding and irregular periods. Technically, menopause occurs after women don't have a period for an entire year, and postmenopause is the stage after that. Transgender men and nonbinary people assigned female at birth can experience menopause too.

Employees who experience menopausal symptoms are often reluctant to talk about them at all, let alone tell their bosses. They may feel stigma and shame, and they may worry that it could hurt their chances for a promotion, their co-workers will see them as less capable or that their status at work will be otherwise jeopardized. These concerns are not unfounded.

In a series of studies, researchers asked workers and college students to describe their initial impressions of potential co-workers, including "a menopausal woman." The participants described her as "less confident and less emotionally stable" than the non-menopausal women.

Employees who do speak up and seek accommodations for their menopausal symptoms, which might include dress code adjustments to deal with hot flashes, are often out of luck.

No federal law requires employers to accommodate menopausal symptoms.

Although the Americans with Disabilities Act requires employers to provide "reasonable accommodations" for workers with disabilities, U.S. courts have consistently held that menopause, by itself, is not a disability, even when its symptoms are seriously affecting someone's ability to do their job.

That's what happened to Georgia Sipple, a food product demonstrator who had a doctor's note requesting permission to break a dress code by wearing short sleeves on the job. When Crossmark, her employer, refused, Sipple felt that she had no choice but to quit. She sued the company, but the Eastern District of California federal court dismissed her case.

Sometimes, employees even get punished for their menopausal symptoms or status.

Standards

When 911 operator Alisha Coleman experienced heavy perimenopausal bleeding that seeped through onto the office carpet, she was fired for failing to "maintain high standards of personal hygiene". She sued, but the Middle District of Georgia dismissed her case, refusing to recognize her termination as a form of sex discrimination.

Instead, the judge drew a specious distinction, saying that Coleman had been fired for "being unable to control the heavy menstruation." With the help of the American Civil Liberties Union, she appealed. Later obtaining a confidential settlement.

Employees have far fewer legal protections for menopause today than for pregnancy and breastfeeding.

Congress first directly addressed pregnancy discrimination in the workplace in 1978 with the Pregnancy Discrimination Act. That law made it clear that pregnancy discrimination is a form of sex discrimination. This means that an employee who was fired because her water broke and she went into labor at work would, unlike Coleman, have a winning sex discrimination claim.

Congress also passed the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act in December 2022, which goes into effect on June 27, 2023. That law requires reasonable accommodations for pregnancy, childbirth and related medical conditions unless doing so would impose an undue hardship on employers.

Since 2010, Congress has required most employers to provide breastfeeding employees with reasonable break times to pump milk for one year after their children's births, and also to provide them with a private place that isn't a bathroom to do so. Most recently, in December 2022, the Providing Urgent Maternal Protections for Nursing Mothers Act expanded those protections.

In our view, pregnancy and breastfeeding offer a potential model for protecting workers from menopause-related discrimination and providing reasonable accommodations. Until Congress is ready to pass such legislation, there are other possibilities.

First, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the agency responsible for enforcing anti-discrimination laws, could issue "best practices" guidelines. These guidelines can be modeled on practices in the United Kingdom, where many businesses have adopted menopause policies. Climate-controlled break spaces, dress codes that incorporate short-sleeve options and breathable fabrics, dedicated menopause support and the like can all make a positive difference. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission could also issue guidance highlighting menopause-based discrimination as a form of sex or age discrimination.

Additionally, even if the commission does not act, companies can adopt these kinds of policies on their own. That is already starting to happen, as U.S. businesses like the tech company Nvidia and the drugmaker Bristol Myers Squibb begin to establish some accommodations for menopause, including help with finding treatments. New York Mayor Eric Adams has promised "more menopause-friendly workplaces," at least for city workers. To be sure, it can be risky to discuss symptoms at work, as this can

Soteria launches cancer research study leveraging Certis' predictive AI platform

Identify personalized, targeted treatment plans

Over 500K diagnosed with AR in US

egnite and JenaValve to uncover trends in care for patients with aortic regurgitation

SAN DIEGO, June 11: Soteria Precision Medicine Foundation, an organization dedicated to empowering patients, caregivers, and clinicians with the power of precision medicine, has announced a fiscal sponsorship agreement with Certis Oncology Solutions, a San Diego-based precision oncology and translational science company. The agreement will support an observational clinical research study aimed at validating the application of "mouse avatars" as a clinically relevant platform for precision oncology and evaluating the clinical utility of the patent-pending CertisAI™ platform, which uses multivariate analyses and gene expression biomarkers to predict drug response. The Project, to be funded through charitable donations, will focus initially on colorectal and other cancers that commonly carry KRAS mutations. All testing will be performed in Certis' CLIA-certified laboratory.

"Soteria was founded to help individuals access the most relevant advanced technology and treatment options, regardless of their treating medical institution, geographic location, or socioeconomic status. By sponsoring this Project for Certis, we not only advocate for what is possible now, we help create what will be possible in the future," said Julia Civardi, Soteria Chief Executive Officer. "Too many people endure a one-size-fits-all, trial-and-error approach to cancer treatment. This project underscores the power of an individual's unique form of cancer and health data to identify personalized, targeted treatment plans and employs emerging technologies that we hope will one day become mainstream medicine."

Biomarker

The genesis of this Project began last year, when the CertisAI™ platform identified biomarker patterns predictive of positive response to therapies not currently indicated for certain "untreatable" types of cancer. Certis scientists subsequently performed experiments using mouse models, which validated AI-generated predictions and compelled a deeper interrogation of public in vitro and clinical outcomes datasets. All findings point to an opportunity to repurpose existing, FDA-approved drugs to improve clinical outcomes for individuals diagnosed with certain difficult-to-treat cancers.

Soteria Precision Medicine Foundation will provide not-for-profit oversight of the Project, and work alongside Certis to secure private donations earmarked for this study. The first fundraiser is planned for June 25 at 4-7 PM at The Marine Room in La Jolla, California.

The study will leverage genomics to identify and understand protein expression signatures unique to each individual's cancer, use artificial intelligence and machine learning to predict and rank efficacious therapeutic options based upon tumor genomics, and deploy specialized imaging equipment to validate those predictions with murine-scale MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) equipment to monitor disease progression and accurately

predict therapeutic response occurring in personalized orthotopic patient-derived xenograft (O-PDX) mouse models of each individual's cancer.

ALISO VIEJO, Calif., June 11: egnite, Inc., a leading digital health company for cardiovascular care, and JenaValve Technology, Inc., a developer and manufacturer of differentiated transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR) systems has announced a strategic partnership aimed to shed light on the care paradigm and associated outcomes of patients with aortic regurgitation (AR). The partnership leverages egnite's industry-leading database to quantify prevalence and treatment patterns and has conservatively estimated there may be over 500,000 patients in the United States diagnosed with moderate or severe AR.

Duane Pinto, MD, CMO of JenaValve, further emphasized the need for broader access to therapies, stating, "By utilizing cutting-edge analytics and JenaValve's innovative transcatheter therapies, we hope to drive urgent change, provide improved treatment options, and ultimately save lives. These findings also provide valuable insights for healthcare providers and policymakers, encouraging further attention toward improving outcomes for patients suffering from AR."

Interventional cardiologist Dr. Nicholas S. Amoroso presented the first study from this partnership at TVT: The Structural Heart Summit. This novel study examined two-year treatment rates and outcomes for patients with AR utilizing over 1 million patients from 25 leading teaching and non-teaching cardiovascular programs across the United States from egnite's database.

Key findings uncovered that de-

spite high two-year mortality rates and guideline indications for treatment, patients with severe AR received low rates of specialist evaluations and treatment with aortic valve replacement. The study also demonstrated that patients diagnosed with moderate or severe AR and severe left ventricular dilation exhibited similar mortality rates, suggesting that some patients may benefit from earlier assessment by the Heart Team.

Moderate

"This is one of the first artificial intelligence-driven studies providing critical insights into care patterns for patients with moderate or greater AR in the community," stated Nicholas S. Amoroso, Assistant Professor at the Medical University of South Carolina. "The urgency for digital technologies to identify AR patients earlier and novel therapies to improve outcomes for this vulnerable patient population has never been greater."

JenaValve Technology, Inc. is a medical device company focused on the design, development, and commercialization of innovative transcatheter heart valve solutions for the treatment of patients suffering from heart valve disease.

The Company's Trilogy® Heart Valve System is a transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR) system designed to treat patients with symptomatic, severe aortic regurgitation (ssAR) and symptomatic, severe aortic stenosis (ssAS) in high surgical risk patients. The Trilogy System received CE Mark approval in May 2021, pro-

viding European physicians with the first TAVR device with true dual-diastole treatment capabilities.

JenaValve received Breakthrough Device Designation from the FDA to facilitate the review of ALIGN-AR, a pivotal trial in the US, as part of its PMA application for the Trilogy Heart Valve System for the treatment of ssAR in high surgical risk patients. If approved, the Trilogy System would become the first and only TAVR system in the US indicated for the treatment of AR.

JenaValve is headquartered in Irvine, California, with additional locations in Leeds, UK, and Munich, Germany.

JenaValve is backed by Bain Capital Life Sciences, Andara Partners (formerly Edmond de Rothschild Investment Partners), Valiance Life Sciences, Rosetta Capital, Cormorant Asset Management, Legend Capital, NeoMed Management, RMM, VI Partners, Pictet Alternative Advisors SA, Qatar Investment Authority (QIA), Innovatus Capital Partners, and Peijia Medical Limited.

egnite is a visionary digital health company committed to advancing the health of our society through innovative cardiovascular solutions. egnite uses AI-driven algorithms and big data to produce business intelligence for healthcare, elevating the role of data in critical decisions. The company partners with leading hospitals and life sciences organizations to transform care delivery for cardiovascular patients. The company is based in Aliso Viejo, Calif.

will be input into the CertisAI™ platform, which will return potential efficacious therapies, rank-ordered in terms of efficacy. Several AI-predicted therapies will then be tested in parallel, employing very specialized mouse avatars of the patient's cancer known as orthotopic patient-derived xenograft (O-PDX) models. Tumor response to treatment will be monitored using specialized murine-scale MRI equipment to assess the efficacy of each treatment option relative to CertisAI™ predictions. Study results will provide hypothesis-generating data treating oncologists may use to guide next-line therapy for individuals who have exhausted standard-of-care options - and feed the CertisAI machine learning algorithms to make the platform "smarter." Each personalized study will take approximately six months to complete.

SOTERIA Precision Medicine Foundation, a non-profit 501c3 organization, offers direct-to-patient, precision medicine navigation to support patients with cancer and clinicians. Founded by a cancer survivor and a

cancer caregiver, both genomics professionals, Julia Civardi and Amanda Skeen have led the organization to support hundreds of cancer patients globally across varying types and stages of cancer. The SOTERIA Precision Cancer Program transcends brick-and-mortar institutions and bridges the gap between rapid scientific advancements and the clinic to address health inequities and inform leading-edge care. Soteria's "high-tech, high-touch" approach combines traditional clinical data with a patient's genomic profile to generate a data-based approach to care navigation, deviating from the antiquated "one drug fits all" approach.

Certis Oncology Solutions is a life science technology company committed to realizing the promise of precision oncology. Our product is Oncology Intelligence™ - highly predictive therapeutic response data derived from advanced biological models of cancer and enhanced with AI-driven bioinformatics. Our proprietary platform can help inform personalized cancer care and accelerate the development of new cancer therapies.

though, and the millions of workers experiencing them, we believe that breaking the silence can challenge and

dispel these stereotypes - increasing the chances that they'll remain on the job for many more years. (AP)

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Cameron feels he 'walked into ambush' in Argentine lithium dispute

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina, June 11, (AP): Movie director James Cameron says he feels he "walked into an ambush" this week during a visit to Argentina in which he believes there was an attempt to use his image as an environmentalist to give a positive spin to lithium mining operations despite Indigenous opposition.

Cameron, the director of "Avatar" and "Titanic," said Friday he would now devote attention and money from his Avatar Alliance Foundation to support Indigenous communities opposing lithium operations in South America.

"Ironically, the outcome of this is that I am now aware of the problem and we will now assist through my foundation with the issue of Indigenous rights with respect to lithium extraction," Cameron told a group of journalists gathered in his hotel room in the capital of Buenos Aires Friday evening.

Cameron came to Argentina this week to speak at a sustainability conference in Buenos Aires on Friday.

"I believed that I was coming here to make a kind of motivational speech about environmental causes," Cameron said.

As part of the visit, Cameron traveled to northern Jujuy province Thursday to visit a large solar power plant with Gov. Gerardo Morales and says he was never told lithium would be part of the discussion.

After Cameron's visit, Morales wrote a message on social media thanking Cameron for the visit, writing that the province was looking to "transform the energy matrix" through projects such as the solar power plant and "lithium extraction."

The director received a letter that a group of 33 Indigenous communities from the area had written to him a few days earlier asking him

to either cancel his trip or meet with them so they could explain their long-held opposition to lithium mining projects they say affect their land rights and negatively impact the environment.

"I feel like I walked into an ambush," Cameron told journalists after meeting with local environmentalists, saying he was unaware of controversy involving lithium projects. "I feel like I was put into an optic that had meaning that I wasn't aware of."

Although Cameron says he "doesn't know the exact architecture" of how the "ambush" happened, he feels there was an effort to use his image not just because of his support for environmental causes but also because of the overarching message of "Avatar."

Conflict

"'Avatar' is the highest grossing film in history. It is about the conflict between an extraction industry and the rights of Indigenous people," Cameron said. "If you could generate an optic where I appear to be approving of lithium mining, then you have a mandate of some sort or an approval of some sort."

In their letter to Cameron, representatives of the Indigenous communities made a direct reference to "Avatar" to appeal for the director's support.

"Jujuy is Pandora, and it is under the threat of the greed of the mining industry, and we are the Na'vi," reads the letter, referring to the fictional world where "Avatar" takes place and its inhabitants who battle against colonizing miners.

Before leaving Argentina, Cameron met with Verónica Chávez, the representative of one of the Indigenous communities from Jujuy.

Argentina is the fourth-largest producer of lithium and is part of

what is known as the "lithium triangle," an area that contains a large share of the world's proven reserves of the metal and also includes neighboring Chile and Bolivia. Demand for lithium is soaring amid the transition to renewable energy around the world and the growth in electric vehicles that are powered by lithium batteries.

Also:

PITTSFIELD, Mass.: A student who said he got goosebumps the first time he played the violin in an orchestra is this year's recipient of a college scholarship given in honor of Wall Street Journal reporter **Daniel Pearl**, who was kidnapped and killed in **Pakistan** in January 2002 while investigating a story on terrorism.

Geivens Dextra, who graduated from Pittsfield High School recently, will use the \$2,000 Daniel Pearl Berkshire Scholarship to study music at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

The scholarship has been awarded annually since 2003 to a high school student from the **Berkshire Hills** region of western **Massachusetts** who plans to major in journalism or music, Pearl's passions. Pearl's journalism career began in the region.

"It's really an honor to receive this scholarship for music, a subject that meant so much to Daniel Pearl," Dextra has said.

Dextra's first formal introduction to music came in the second grade when his mother put him in the after-school music program, Kids 4 Harmony, he wrote in his scholarship essay.

Inspired by a cousin already in the program, he took up the violin and eventually got to play with Bard College's Longy's Sistema Side-By-Side Symphony Orchestra.

People

Variety



This image released by Netflix shows Golshifteh Farahani, left, and Chris Hemsworth in a scene from 'Extraction 2.' 'Extraction 2' (Netflix, streaming): Chris Hemsworth's mercenary Tyler Rake is back for another dangerous mission. (AP)

Film

Comedian plays first-time director in her directorial debut

Peretti on 'First Time Female Director'

NEW YORK, June 11, (AP): Chelsea Peretti plays a first-time director in her directorial debut: "First Time Female Director."

The film premiering at the Tribeca Film Festival takes an acutely meta premise in lampooning the tumultuous experience of an inexperienced woman brought in to direct a play at a small, local theater in Glendale, California, after its original male director is accused of misconduct.

In one scene, while Peretti's character bangs a trash can lid and shouts "Learn your blocking," a cast member grumbles, "We replaced a predator with a female disaster."

Things went far smoother for Peretti, the 45-year-old comedian and "Brooklyn Nine-Nine" star, during her first time behind the camera. "First Time Female Director," which is up for sale at Tribeca, brings together a cast of funny people, including Megan Mullally, Kate Berlant, Andy Richter and Megan Stalter, along with cameos from Amy Poehler (a producer) and Peretti's husband, Jordan Peele.

"It was like a crazy summer camp as an adult," Peretti says.

"First Time Female Director" takes a satire of small-town theater and puts it in the context of a post-#MeToo entertainment world. For Peretti, it was a way to make something unabashedly silly with a little commentary on some of the shifts she's experienced in recent years in Hollywood, she told The Associated Press in an interview.

AP: Where did the idea for this begin?

Peretti: Weirdly, it started from me as sort of challenging myself to come up with something by booking a UCB slot years ago, and just forcing myself. I wanted to do a fake excerpt from a play. And I thought it would be funny to then have like a pretentious Q&A about it with the cast, and act like we're a theater group and this is part of a real play. I went to so much theater as a young person. I was very intimately a lover of theater. But also, anything I love is also fair game to make fun of.

AP: In the upheaval of the entertainment industry in the wake of #MeToo, were there things in how Hollywood responded that struck you as funny?

Peretti: Well, 100%. I think some things have felt like they moved so fast. Most of my career there was an absolute misogynistic tone in the response to what I was doing. And then one day all of a sudden there was shock and pearl clutching that these things are happening. And I'm like: "Where were you for the last 20 years? Where were you for all my YouTube comments that I've endured?" It's been such a whirlwind that I was trying to process it in this project.

AP: A few years ago on "Conan," you joked about noticing an uptick in the audience for your stand-up special because viewers were looking for comedy from "people who aren't rapists."

Peretti: I do remember saying that. There were so many comedians that were outed for varying levels of horrific misogyny that I started really contemplating the last 20 years of my life, going: "Wow, I was trying to get a pat on the head from a lot of these people. I was being told to emulate half these people." It was a revelation and it's been so inspiring, people like Megan Stalter who are this younger generation. I was told never dress sexy when you're doing stand-up. I'm watching all these younger women break all these rules and having the time of their lives. That's the way to do it, you know? So it's been such a period of reflection. And obviously the pandemic was this pause button in which you could really reflect on, "Wow, I was on a sitcom! That's cool." And: "Whoa, my stand-up life was tumultuous in many ways."

AP: You kind of hold a funhouse mirror up that tumult in "First Time Film Director." Even what the audiences in the film cheer for is kind of a joke.

Peretti: When I started stand-up, I was told the audience is never wrong. And I have to say I disagree. I think the audience is wrong sometimes. I remember going to Carolines on Broadway and having a joke that I was really excited to work on and going up and just absolutely bombing. Now, probably that was my

fault. But then I remember a guy going up after me and doing a bit about double-sided dildos and just destroying. I was going: "I don't know if they are right." Andy Warhol was right that everyone's famous now. All these comedians have podcast empires. Everyone is preaching to their own choir in a way.

AP: Yet instead of skewering some of the male comedians you were thinking about, you mostly make fun of yourself in the film.

Peretti: (Laughs) Well, this is a recurring theme for me. Like, it's not fun satirizing Trump. It's more fun satirizing people that you know intimately and love. I would have a really hard time like writing about a businessman. Speaking of another adage, write what you know. I know self-doubt. I know failure. I know feeling like people don't like me.

AP: But I gather your experience directing went better than your character's?

Peretti: I really loved it. I often feel that, when you're being directed as a comedy actor, that directors try to keep you in line a little bit. Like, if you have a big idea, they almost want you to rein it in. When some of these actors on this movie had ideas, I was like: "Let's do it!" And so many of them were brilliant. As a rule, every comedian I know holds these strange obsessions. Heather Lawless was like: "Can I have Band-aids on my finger when I'm driving?" And Jermaine Fowler was like, "Can I roll around in a pile of cords?" And I'm like, "Yeah!" I just love saying yes to people.

AP: You seem quite game to try new things, like film directing, or making a coffee-themed concept album.

Peretti: Sometimes before doing standup, I get really anxious a lot of times, especially in new venues. And I would be backstage and I just go, "... it." I feel like you just have to have this part of you that says, "... it." I always want to be like trying new things and I always want to be growing. That's the fun of being creative to me. And that doesn't mean that all these ideas work. But I love spontaneity and following inspiration and seeing what happens.

Features

ARABIC TIMES

MONDAY, JUNE 12, 2023

WASHINGTON: The past drug use that **Prince Harry** detailed in his explosive memoir should spark the release of his immigration paperwork, a conservative American think tank argued in a Washington court as they appealed to a judge for a quicker response a records request the US government has so far deemed private.

The hearing played out, coincidentally, as the **Duke of Sussex** himself testified **London** in another lawsuit he filed against British newspapers. In Washington, U.S. District Judge **Carl Nichols** told the Heritage Foundation and the Department of Homeland Security to work on the speed of the response, and he would rule if they could not reach an agreement on their own.

Harry moved to **Southern California** with his wife **Meghan Markle** and their young family in 2020 after they left royal life and embarked on new projects, including the release of his memoir "Spare" in January.

The book's myriad revelations included an exploration of Harry's grief after the death of his mother, **Princess Diana**, disputes with his brother **William** and his past drug use. Harry said he took cocaine several times starting around age 17, in order "to feel. To be different." He also acknowledged using cannabis and psychedelic mushrooms.

The US routinely asks about drug use on its visa applications, and it has been linked to travel headaches for celebrities, including chef **Nigella Lawson**, singer **Amy Winehouse**, and model **Kate Moss**. But acknowledgement of past drug use doesn't necessarily bar people from entering or staying in the country.

With that history in mind, the conservative Heritage Foundation sent a public-information request to the Department of Homeland Security for Prince Harry's immigration records.

They argue there is "intense public interest" in whether Harry got special treatment during the application process. The politically conservative group also linked those questions to wider immigration issues in the US, including at the southern border with Mexico. "What this case is truly about is DHS," said **Samuel Dewey**, a law-

yer for the Heritage Foundation.

The request has largely been denied since the group doesn't have Prince Harry's permission to get the private information.

"A person's visa status is confidential," said **John Bardo**, an attorney for the Department of Homeland Security.

The agency's policy does allow



Harry



Meghan

the release of information about issues of public interest, but the agency argued that media coverage of how Harry's drug use connects to his visa status in the U.S. hasn't been widespread among mainstream American publications.

The questions that have been raised, meanwhile, aren't the kind of weighty queries about possible

government misdeeds that warrant the fast processing the Heritage Foundation is asking for, federal attorneys argued.

A representative for Harry did not immediately respond to an email message seeking comment.

While two of the three agencies involved have denied the request, Department of Homeland Secu-

riety headquarters hasn't formally responded and is fighting the foundation's push to act quickly. Nichols expressed frustration at being asked to decide the narrow question whether to order a fast response, but said he would rule if the two sides couldn't come to an agreement on their own within a week. (AP)

People & Places

Stage

Rewards & challenges

3 sopranos on Strauss' most 'complex opera'

SAN FRANCISCO, June 11, (AP): Part fairy tale, part psychodrama, Richard Strauss's "Die Frau Ohne Schatten" (The Woman Without a Shadow) calls for three big-voiced sopranos who can do justice to a long and difficult score.

That's one reason the opera, which premiered in 1919, is a relative rarity, though many consider it Strauss's masterpiece. Now the San Francisco Opera is presenting it for the first time in 34 years with a cast that includes three leading Wagner and Strauss singers: **Nina Stemme** as the Dyer's Wife, **Camilla Nylund** as the Empress and **Linda Watson** as the Nurse.

Another reason the work is a challenge is Hugo Hofmannsthal's libretto, which mixes fantastical events with psychological insights.

In the story, the Empress, who comes from the spirit world, must acquire a shadow (enabling her to bear children) or else her human husband will be turned to stone in three days. She and her Nurse try to entice the unhappy wife of Barak the Dyer to give up her shadow and thus remain childless in exchange for a life of luxury. But gradually, the Empress learns to appreciate humanity and changes her mind. And the Dyer's Wife pulls back from the brink of trading away her shadow. Everything ends happily for the two couples.

The day after the production opened on June 4 (performances continue through June 28), the AP sat down with the three sopranos to talk about the challenges and rewards of their roles. Here are edited excerpts from the conversation:

AP: The story is so complicated and laden with murky symbolism that even its admirers sometimes scratch their heads. What do you say when someone asks you what this opera is about?

Nylund (the Empress): It's a fairy tale for adults. Hofmannsthal and Strauss were influenced by the situation of women in their society, and especially the empresses in Europe. They had to marry and they had to bear children. That was their job. And that's still a big issue for women: Are you going to have children, are you not going to have children, how does that affect your position, your life.

Watson (the Nurse): It's very complicated. I tell people to read the synopsis five times and then just go see it. I've done this piece for 20 years and somebody came up to me last night and said, OK, we understand most of it, but how DID the Empress get a shadow? And I was like, I don't know.

Stemme (the Dyer's wife): Hofmannsthal and Strauss, they loved to leave questions like this. I mean, who is 'Die Frau'? The Empress doesn't have a shadow at the beginning, and the Dyer's Wife loses hers for a moment. Is it important? No, because I also think the opera is about relationships. And I'm intrigued by my character being based on Strauss's own wife. But to tell the story, no, nobody can really do it.

AP: How do the relationships between each married couple play out in the opera?

Watson: It's about the miscommunication that happens in any marriage, any relationship between two people in love. Their goals may be the same but they fall out for the wrong reasons.

Nylund: The Empress and the Emperor, they don't have any communication at all when the opera begins. Only at the end, when she has to save him because of her strength and the development she has gone through. She becomes a human being, she understands what is empathy, what is love.

Stemme: I think that the Dyer's Wife wants to move up through this marriage, so she wants more. She's really trying to make her husband understand that she is about to leave him if he doesn't change and start to see her. Of course she doesn't see him for his struggles and what he is either. Until she goes too far and he tries to kill her. She finally gets a reaction from Barak that she never got before and it makes her begin to understand him.

Nylund: It's really fantastic that two men have written this opera and it says so much about how a woman thinks and acts. It's really something very, very special.

AP: The vocal parts for all three of you are notoriously difficult. What challenges did you encounter when you first started to sing your roles?

Stemme: I fell in love with the character, but not exactly with the music, because this role requires a range of 2½ octaves. It took a long time to learn. It's very tricky and the tonality is complicated, just like her personality. I understand why he composed it like this, to explore the complexity of her personality and also to show that she doesn't understand herself as a person.

Watson: It's excruciating. I had sung the Dyer's Wife, and when I decided to switch I thought, ah, OK, I'll sing a mezzo role and this will be one step easier, lower. And that's a joke. Is it a mezzo role? It is, and it's not. It's very high, and very low, down to a low E-flat. If you don't have the technique, you can ruin your voice in a second. You're just going to yodel through the whole piece.

Nylund: When I first started studying my role I thought, Oh my God, what is he doing here? Because you have to start like some kind of coloratura with a really light top that goes up to high D, and then you have to also have power in your voice, so the role is very complex.

AP: What do you imagine happens to your character after the opera ends?

Watson: I think she dies. The Empress rejects her and she is sent off to live among "mankind," which she detests. It's death for her.

Nylund: I see her living happily ever after. The Emperor has finally noticed that they are equal, because of what she did for him. They can communicate on the same level now.

Stemme: Maybe not happily ever after, but Barak and his wife will start to talk, communicate. Because they have found each other as human beings.



Stemme



This image released by the San Francisco Opera shows, (from left), Linda Watson as the Nurse, Nina Stemme as the Dyer's Wife, and Camilla Nylund as the Empress in Richard Strauss' 'Die Frau Ohne Schatten.' (AP)



Singer/songwriter Caroline Rose poses for a portrait in Los Angeles on May 19, 2023, to promote her album 'The Art of Forgetting.' (AP)



Jackson



Winfrey

Variety

MOSCOW: An American musician who has lived in Russia for more than a decade has been arrested on suspicion of drug trafficking, Russian news media reported Saturday.

The reports said **Michael Travis Leake** is suspected of selling mephedrone, whose effects are similar to those of cocaine and MDMA. A Moscow court ordered him to be held for two months in pre-trial detention, the reports said.

He faces charges of production or distribution of drugs, which carry a sentence of up to 20 years in prison.

An Instagram page under the name **Travis Leake** identifies him as the singer for the band **Lovi Noch** (Seize the Night). News reports said Leake is a former paratrooper with the U.S. military and has lived in Moscow since 2010.

Russian drug laws are strict. **WNBA star Brittney Griner** was arrested in February 2022 after vape canisters containing cannabis oil were found in her luggage at a Moscow airport. She was sentenced to nine years in prison, but was released in December in an exchange for U.S.-imprisoned Russian arms dealer **Viktor Bout**.

The U.S. State Department said in an emailed statement to The Associated Press that it was aware of the reports that a U.S. citizen had recently been arrested in Moscow. It said when a U.S. citizen is detained overseas, the department "pursues consular access as soon as possible and works to provide all appropriate consular assistance."

The department said it would have no further comment due to privacy considerations. (AP)

WASHINGTON: Justice **Ketanji Brown Jackson** disclosed that she received a \$1,200 congratulatory floral display from **Oprah Winfrey** and \$6,580 in designer clothing for a magazine photo shoot in her first months as the first Black woman on the Supreme Court.

The details of gifts given to Jackson were among the reports provided by most members of the court in their annual filings, which give a partial window onto their finances. The

Music

'Art of Forgetting' is about grief and frustration

Rose proud of album's vulnerability

LOS ANGELES, June 11, (AP): During a recent performance at the Fonda Theater in Los Angeles, indie musician **Caroline Rose** disappeared from the stage and emerged moments later atop a table in the back of the room.

"We're going to do a trust fall," they told the audience, encouraging concertgoers to gather around before plunging backward into the sea of people and letting it carry her back to the stage.

The stunt was emblematic of her latest album - admittedly, their most unguarded yet - about a breakup and its aftermath. One to always hide behind humor, Rose said this level of vulnerability was new for her and that she is still processing whether it was even the right choice.

"When I'm writing the material, it feels really cathartic. And I'm like, 'Wow, I made something beautiful from this really dark time.' But performing the songs has been totally different," they said of having to recount those dark memories over and over.

But despite having some "huge moments of regret," the singer, songwriter and multi-instrumentalist tends to think it was ultimately worth it. "Because I'm fine. And, you know, hopefully, my ex is fine," they grinned sheepishly.

The thoroughgoing melancholy sound of "The Art of Forgetting," Rose's third studio album, is complemented by lyrics of grief and frustration, such as her allusion to arguments with her mom in the song, "Miami."

"Your father and I are in the last stage of our lives, so for God's sake, no more talk of how you imagine dying," she sings of her mother's grievances and counsel to be stronger.

But the breakup and her ways of dealing with it were not the only intimate aspects of the album. Woven between songs are voicemails from her

grandmother, who died shortly after the album was finished and would often call in the months before her passing, sometimes forgetting she was on the phone.

"There were like these different motifs that came up throughout the album. One of them was this theme of memory," they said. "She's losing her memory and all she wants to do is like, remember everything. And I'm just like, 'I want to forget my life ever happened.'"

Rose has always known they wanted their personal life to inform her art, though they initially struggled with how best to balance the two.

After graduating from Wellesley College with a degree in architecture, they formally began their music career in Americana, a combination of country, bluegrass and folk music. But they eventually left after struggling with how to be frank about their sexuality within the genre.

Rejection

"It was really confusing too, because I was dating a guy and I've known I was gay since I was, like, three," they recalled of how much more difficult it was to come out just a decade ago. "I would have been very alone in that world."

But Rose's departure from any genre would have perhaps been inevitable, given their rejection of what they refer to as the "McDonald's hamburger mentality."

"You develop a brand and then you sell that brand. I never really do that. All my records sound different," she said. "So long as people are cool with that and just let me kind of do my thing and express myself in whatever way comes naturally in that moment, that's really all I want. It's just freedom."

In keeping with her early days in music as a self-described itinerant

street busker, Rose maintains they are motivated more by a love for art and self-expression than by money and fame. "I'm not really out there looking to fill stadiums," they said.

That ethos frees her from a lot of what many consider to be part and parcel of the job nowadays, such as maintaining a strong social media presence or making songs that go viral on TikTok.

But their aversion to social media is not necessarily a reflection of Luddite tendencies. As both a producer and savvy instrumentalist, she knows music has and always will evolve with technology.

"Musicians are already kind of cyborgs," she said when asked if they object to recording artists using artificial intelligence in production. "Everybody tunes their vocals. There's machines all over music and there has been for decades now."

Although ostensibly not utilizing their degree - Rose said if they could do it over, they would skip college and go straight into making music - she relied heavily on her knowledge of architecture and her days as a "theater nerd" to design the set for this tour.

The set design is just one aspect of the "experimental theater" experience Rose tries to create in their performances. And although she has enjoyed the high-level production of this album's show compared to the DIY ethos of her last one, she is looking forward to this tour ending and to being "as far away" as possible from the memories she keeps reliving.

"I've always been a person with very unbridled emotions," they said of the growing pains this album has laid bare. "I've learned so much in the process of the last few years of how to handle stuff better, difficult things and letting them go."

reports were released Wednesday.

But the report that was most anticipated - that of Justice **Clarence Thomas**, who has been under scrutiny for his receipt

of undisclosed gifts from a Republican donor - was not among the filings. Thomas, along with Justice **Samuel Alito**, sought an extension for up to 90 days.



Writer/director **Chelsea Peretti** poses for a portrait to promote the film 'First Time Female Director' on Friday, June 9, in New York. (AP)

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Thomas' receipt of gifts, valued at several hundred thousand dollars, from the Republican donor **Harlan Crow** has prompted calls for ethics reform on the nation's highest court. It was not clear why either man needed more time.

Once a year the justices join other federal judges in providing a look at their finances. They are supposed to disclose paid travel, outside income, investments, significant gifts and the source of their spouses' income.

Among the reports, Justice **Sonia Sotomayor** said she received nearly \$150,000 in royalties for two children's books last year and another \$12,000 in payments for possible stage and video versions of "Just Ask! Be Different, Be Brave, Be You." The book, intended for kids age 4 to 8, introduces readers to children who face what Sotomayor, who was diagnosed with diabetes as a child, calls "life challenges." Sotomayor, the court's first Latina justice, has been paid more than \$3 million in advances and royalties for her books, including her memoir, "My Beloved World."

Less than two months after Jackson joined the court in late June, she was featured in a *Vogue* story first posted online that took note of her historic role. In one accompanying photo taken by **Annie Leibovitz**, Jackson is wearing a blue coat and dark dress by **Oscar de la Renta**. A second **Leibovitz** photo shows Jackson in a brown **Aliette** jacket. (AP)

Climate

Big and sloppy

El Nino to add heat to a warming world

NEW YORK, June 11, (AP) — An early bird El Nino has officially formed, likely to be strong, warp weather worldwide and give an already warming Earth an extra kick of natural heat, meteorologists announced.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Thursday issued an El Nino advisory, announcing the arrival of the climatic condition. It may not quite be like the others.

It formed a month or two earlier than most El Ninos do, which "gives it room to grow," and there's a 56% chance it will be considered strong and a 25% chance it reaches super-sized levels, said climate scientist **Michelle L'Heureux**, head of NOAA's El Nino/La Nina forecast office.

"If this El Nino tips into the largest class of events ... it will be the shortest recurrence time in the historical record," said Kim Cobb, a climate scientist at Brown University. Such a short gap between El Ninos leaves communities with less time to recover from damages to infrastructure, agriculture, and ecosystems like coral reefs.

Usually, an El Nino mutes hurricane activity in the Atlantic, giving relief to coastal areas in states from Texas to New England, Central America and the Caribbean, weary from recent record busy years. But this time, forecasters don't see that happening, because of record hot Atlantic temperatures that would counteract the El Nino winds that normally decapitate many storms.

Hurricanes strengthen and grow when they travel over warm seawater, and the tropical regions of the Atlantic Ocean are "exceptionally warm," said Kristopher Karnauskas, associate professor at the University of Colorado Boulder. So this year, NOAA and others are predicting a near-average Atlantic hurricane season.

In the past, a strong El Nino has led to record global warmth, like in 2016 and 1998. Scientists earlier this year had been saying next year is more likely to set a record heat, especially because El Ninos usually reach peak power in winter. But this El Nino started even earlier than usual.

Implications

"The onset of El Nino has implications for placing 2023 in the running for warmest year on record when combined with climate-warming background," said University of Georgia meteorology professor Marshall Shepherd.

An El Nino is a natural, temporary and occasional warming of part of the Pacific that shifts weather patterns across the globe, often by moving the airborne paths for storms. The world earlier this year got out of an unusually long-lasting and strong La Nina - El Nino's flip side with cooling - that exacerbated drought in the US West and augmented Atlantic hurricane season.

What this in some ways means is that some of the wild weather of the past three years - such as drought in places - will flip the opposite way.

"If you've been suffering three years of a profound drought like in South America, then a tilt toward wet might be a welcome to development," L'Heureux said. "You don't want flooding, but certainly there are portions of the world that may benefit from the onset of El Nino."

For the next few months, during the northern summer, El Nino will most be felt in the Southern Hemisphere with "minimal impacts" in North America, L'Heureux said.

El Nino strongly tilts Australia toward drier and warmer conditions with northern South America - Brazil, Colombia and Venezuela - likely to be drier and Southeast Argentina and parts of Chile likely to be wetter, she said. India and Indonesia also tend to be dry through August in El Ninos.

While traditionally El Nino means fewer hurricanes in the Atlantic, it often means more tropical cyclones in the Pacific, L'Heureux said.

El Nino hits hardest in December through February, shifting the winter storm track farther south to the equator. The entire southern third to half of the United States, including California, is likely to be wetter in El Nino. For years, California was looking for El Nino rain relief from a decades long megadrought, but this winter's seemingly endless atmospheric rivers made it no longer needed, she said.

The US Pacific Northwest and parts of the Ohio Valley can go dry and warm, L'Heureux said.

Some of the biggest effects are likely to be seen in a hotter and drier Indonesia and adjacent parts of Asia, L'Heureux said. Also look for parts of southern Africa to go dry.

On the other hand, drought-stricken countries in northeast Africa will welcome beneficial rainfall after enduring drought conditions for several years due to prolonged La Nina events, said Azhar Ehsan, associate research scientist at Columbia University.

Some economic studies have shown that La Nina causes more damages in the United States and globally than El Nino.

One 2017 study in an economic journal found El Nino has a "growth-enhancing effect" on the economies of the United States and Europe, while it was costly for Australia, Chile, Indonesia, India, Japan, New Zealand and South Africa.

But a recent study says El Nino is far more expensive globally than previously thought, putting damage estimates in the trillions of dollars. The World Bank estimated that the 1997-1998 El Nino cost governments \$45 billion.

The United States also faces hazards from El Nino despite some benefits. Ehsan noted that the increased rainfall in California, Oregon, and Washington heightens the risk of landslides and flash flooding in these areas. "While El Nino brings benefits in terms of water resource recharge, it poses certain hazards that need to be considered and managed," he added.

Also:

BONN, Germany: Environmental campaigners called recently for fossil fuel producers to contribute to a new fund intended to help poor countries cope with climate disasters.

The so-called loss and damage fund was a key achievement of last year's UN climate summit in **Egypt**. Developing nations have long demanded more financial support for the impacts from global warming, which is historically driven by pollution from rich countries.

"It is the prime responsibility for countries to fill that fund, particularly those with the greatest historic responsibility," said **Rebecca Newsom**, of the environmental group Greenpeace.

"But in order to fill that fund at scale now, we need to really ramp things up," she said. "The most obvious starting point is, of course, the fossil fuel industry, the creators of the crisis that we are now facing."

Oil, gas and coal firms have faced mounting criticism in recent years for continuing to extract fuels that, when burned, release planet-warming greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. U.N. Secretary-General **António Guterres** called earlier this year for fossil fuel companies to be held to account for the damage they caused despite knowing about the harmful effects of their products.

Negotiations on setting up the loss and damage fund are a main focus of international climate talks taking place in Bonn, Germany, this week. Some countries have pushed back against the idea of getting Big Oil to chip in from the start.

Mohamed Nasr, Egypt's lead negotiator, said there was a risk of "overloading the very delicate and, I would say, very sensitive discussion that is happening" before this fall's UN summit in **Dubai**.

While Nasr said he wasn't opposed to contributions from the fossil fuel or aviation industry, these could be difficult to implement and the main focus should be on rich nations.

But Newsom, of Greenpeace, contrasted the recent surge in oil company profits with the rising damage expected worldwide from climate change.

"It doesn't take a rocket scientist to join the dots between growing climate loss and damage around the world and exorbitant fossil fuel company profits," she said.



In this frame from video, Hamad al-Jailani, Marine Scientist at Environment Agency Abu Dhabi, shows a piece of restored coral underwater off the coast of Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, May 25, 2023. Restoration efforts are underway in the United Arab Emirates as coral reefs face threats in the Arabian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman. (AP)

Ecology

Reefs dying in warming seas

UAE uses coral nurseries to revive reefs

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates, June 11, (AP) — On a boat off the coast of an island near Abu Dhabi, marine scientist Hamad al-Jailani feels the corals, picked from the reef nursery and packed in a box of seawater, and studies them carefully, making sure they haven't lost their color.

The corals were once bleached. Now they're big, healthy and ready to be moved back to their original reefs in the hope they'll thrive once more.

"We try to grow them from very small fragments up to - now some of them have reached - the size of my fist," al-Jailani said, who's part of the Environment Agency Abu Dhabi's coral restoration program.

The nursery gives corals the ideal conditions to recover: clear waters with strong currents and the right amount of sunlight. Al-Jailani periodically checks the corals' growth, removes any potentially harmful seaweed and seagrass, and even lets the fish feed off the corals to clean them, until they're healthy enough to be relocated.

The Environment Agency Abu Dhabi, or EAD, has been rehabilitating and restoring corals since 2021, when reefs off the United Arab Emirates' coast faced their second bleaching event in just five years. EAD's project is one of many initiatives - both public and private - across the country to protect the reefs and the marine life that depend on them in a nation that has come under fire for its large-scale developments and polluting industries that cause harm to underwater ecosystems. There's been some progress, but experts remain concerned for the future of the reefs in a warming world.

Coral bleaching occurs when sea temperatures rise and sun glares flush out algae that give the corals their color, turning them white. Corals can survive bleaching events, but can't effectively support marine life, threatening the populations that depend on them.

The UAE lost up to 70% of their corals, especially around Abu Dhabi, in 2017 when water temperatures reached 37 degrees Celsius (99 degrees Fahrenheit), according to EAD. But al-Jailani said 40-50% of corals survived the second bleaching event

in 2021.

Although the bleaching events "did wipe out a good portion of our corals," he said, "it did also prove that the corals that we have are actually resilient ... these corals can actually withstand these kind of conditions."

Bleaching events are happening more frequently around the world as waters warm due to human-made climate change, caused by the burning of oil, coal and gas that emits heat-trapping gases into the atmosphere. Other coral reef systems around the world have suffered mass bleaching events, most notably Australia's Great Barrier Reef.

How to limit global warming and its effects will be discussed at length at the United Nations climate conference, which will be held in Dubai later this year.

Emissions

The UAE is one of the world's largest oil producers and has some of the highest per capita greenhouse gas emissions globally. The country has pledged to have net zero carbon emissions by 2050, which means all carbon dioxide emissions are either slashed or canceled out somehow, but the goal has been met with skepticism from analysts.

But bleaching due to warming weather is not the only threat to coral reefs around the gulf. High oil tanker traffic, fossil-fuel related activities, offshore installations, and the exploitation of marine resources are all putting marine life under intense stress, according to the UN Environment Programme, causing them to degrade.

Environmentalists have also long criticized the UAE, and Dubai in particular, for its large-scale buildings and huge coastal developments.

The building of the Palm Jebel Ali, which began more than a decade ago and has been on hold since 2008, caused an outcry among conservationists after it reportedly destroyed about 8 square kilometers (5 square miles) of reef.

"More than 90 million cubic meters (23.8 billion gallons) of sediments were dredged and dropped, more or less on top of one of the remaining reefs near Dubai," said John Henrik



Lava fountains erupt into a crater as Kilauea erupts in Hawaii on Wednesday, June 7. Hawaii tourism officials are urging tourists to be respectful when flocking to a national park on the Big Island to get a glimpse of the latest eruption of Kilauea. It's one of the world's most active volcanoes and began erupting after a three-month pause. (AP)



Thunberg

Schindler

Discovery

Thunberg vows to still protest: Swedish environmental activist **Greta Thunberg** said Friday she will no longer be able to skip classes as a way to draw attention to climate change because she is graduating from high school.

Thunberg, 20, started staging Friday protests outside the Swedish parliament building during school hours in 2018. Teenagers from around the world followed her lead, leading to an international student movement called Fridays for Future.

Because she won't be a student anymore, Thunberg noted that her future Friday activities that "technically" won't be school striking. But in a tweet, she vowed to continue protesting, saying, "The fight has only just begun."

"We are still moving in the wrong direction, where those in power are allowed to sacrifice," Thunberg wrote on Twitter. "We're rapidly approaching potential non-linear ecological and climatic tipping points beyond our control."

As a teenager Thunberg was invited to speak to political and business leaders at U.N. conferences and the annual World Economic Forum in Davos. She also was named Time magazine's youngest Person of the Year in 2019 and received several nominations for the Nobel Peace Prize.

For her final school strike outside parliament, Thunberg posed with a Swedish-language sign while wearing the cap that high school graduates typically wear in Sweden. (AP)

Philippines evacuates thousands:

Thousands of people who fled their homes in the central Philippines to escape a restive volcano have to contend with another threat that's complicating the ongoing evacuations: monsoon rains that could be unleashed by an approaching typhoon.

More than 6,000 villagers have been forced to leave rural communities within a 6-kilometer (3.7-mile) radius of Mayon volcano's crater in northeastern Albay province. Thousands more need to be moved to safety from the permanent danger zone, officials said.

Others living outside the perimeter have packed their bags and voluntarily left with their children for evacuation centers in Albay, which was placed under a state of calamity on Friday to allow more rapid disbursement of emergency funds in case a major eruption unfolds.

Authorities raised the alert level for the volcano on Thursday after superheated streams of gas, debris and rocks cascaded down its upper slope, indicating activity below the surface that could precede a hazard-

ous eruption within days or weeks.

A key tourist draw for its picturesque conical shape, the 2,462-meter (8,077-foot) Mayon is one of the country's most active volcanoes. It last erupted violently in 2018, displacing tens of thousands of villagers.

Authorities warned that Typhoon Guchol, which is approaching the Philippines from the Pacific but is projected to skirt the

archipelago, may still dump heavy rains - an unwelcome news for those living near Mayon's slopes.

"There's a typhoon and floodwaters may rush down Mayon and swamp this village. That's one of our fears," Villamor Lopez, a house painter, told The Associated Press. (AP)



Tourists ride ATV's near Mayon Volcano, hidden in clouds, in Daraga, Albay province, northeastern Philippines on Sunday, June 11. Thousands of villagers have been forced to leave rural communities within a 6-kilometer radius of Mayon volcano's crater in Albay province. (AP)

Young black bear wanders DC:

A young black bear gave residents of a quiet northeast Washington neighborhood a start Friday morning when he woke to find a furry interloper wandering backyards and sniffing around garbage cans.

Pictures of the bear and its capture touched off a frenzy on social media. It also spurred a healthy online debate as to whether to name it Franklin, for the street where he was captured, or Smokey - for both the iconic cartoon bear and as a testament to this particularly smoky week in Washington weather.

The bear was discovered roaming the Brookland neighborhood, less than 5 miles from the Capitol and White House. It prompted formation of a sort of ursine emergency task force including the Metropolitan Police Department, the local Humane Rescue Alliance, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the National Zoo.

Authorities formed a perimeter near the 1300 block of Franklin Street NE to keep curious onlookers away. When the young male bear climbed a tree, police used their sirens to discourage him from climbing down until capture crews were ready.

Undeterred by the noise, the bear came down around 10 a.m. and started wandering area yards. Humane Rescue Alliance staffers were able to tranquilize the approximately 200-pound animal and load it into a huge metal crate. The young male will now receive a medical check and be released back into the wild, "somewhere in Maryland," said **Chris Schindler**, vice president of field services for the Humane Rescue Alliance. (AP)

Zayas improves to 16-0

Lopez dominates Taylor for 140-pound title

NEW YORK, June 11, (AP): Teofimo Lopez was so unimpressive in his last fight that he was caught on camera afterward asking if he still had it.

Well, he definitely does. Lopez captured a title in a second weight class Saturday night, beating formerly unbeaten Josh Taylor by unanimous decision to win the WBO's junior welterweight belt.

Lopez, the former lightweight champion, hadn't looked sharp lately after moving up to 140 pounds. But he delivered a superb performance inside Madison Square Garden, with punches that were just quicker and stronger than the champion's.

BOXING

Lopez (19-1) won by scores of 115-113 on two cards and 117-111 on the other, and he threw power shots throughout the final round in hopes of not even getting to the scorecards.

Coming off a split decision victory last December that was followed by his questioning himself, Lopez looked like the fighter who had won multiple versions of the title at 135 pounds, highlighted by a victory over Vasiliy Lomachenko, before losing them to George Kambosos Jr. in November 2021.

The Associated Press scored it 117-111



Scotland's Josh Taylor (right), punches Teofimo Lopez during the seventh round of a welterweight title bout in New York. Lopez won the fight. (AP)

for Lopez.

Taylor (19-1), the former undisputed champion at 140, lost the only belt he still owned. He had opted not to keep the other three while attempting to stage a rematch of his split-decision victory over Jack Catterall in February 2022. It had been scheduled but then postponed, with Taylor then moving on to Lopez.

Taylor ran into a revitalized performer who had to get up from a knockdown to edge Sandor Martin last time he fought at MSG. This time, Lopez was rarely in danger, and most times he was caught answered back quickly.

The Scotland native said he hoped for a rematch, but also indicated he may move up to welterweight.

Lopez, who had been knocked down early in two of his last three fights, tried to set a quick pace by darting in close for power shots. He got caught with a couple good ones for his trouble in the first round but began having more success in the second.

Lopez landed some strong rights in the fourth, knocking Taylor backward in the final seconds of the round. The left-handed Taylor would often land something good early in a round, only for Lopez to quickly regroup and get the better of the action the remainder of it.

During a tense buildup, during which Lopez said he wanted to kill Taylor, the fighters were kept separated at their events this week, security positioned in between them so they could do nothing but yell toward each other.

Taylor vowed to make Lopez pay for his disrespectful comments once they got in the ring - and Lopez did apologize afterward - but during the fight the champion simply never found the answers.

Afterward, he should have plenty of options after showing he is still a top-level fighter.

The announced attendance was 5,151, a sellout in the Theater at Madison Square Garden which promoter Top Rank said broke the gate record for a boxing event in the venue set in Lomachenko's victory over Jose Pedraza in 2018.

In the co-feature, Puerto Rico junior middleweight Xander Zayas, fighting on the eve of the National Puerto Rican Parade, improved to 16-0 with a unanimous decision victory over Ronald Cruz (18-3-1).

D-backs win 5-0 as Tigers tumble in 8th straight loss



Milwaukee Brewers catcher Victor Caratini tags out Oakland Athletics' Jonah Bride during the second inning of a baseball game in Milwaukee. Bride tried to score on a hit by Aledmys Diaz. (AP)

Dodgers shut out Phillies

DETROIT, June 11, (AP): Nick Ahmed hit a two-run homer in the second inning, Lourdes Gurriel followed with a three-run blast in the fifth and the Arizona Diamondbacks sent the Detroit Tigers to their eighth straight loss, 5-0 on Saturday.

Ryne Nelson (3-3) threw 5 2/3 scoreless innings and gave up just four hits. After walking two straight to load the bases, Nelson was replaced by right-hander Austin Adams, who ended the sixth by getting Zack Short out on a fly to center.

Detroit's Matthew Boyd (3-5) allowed five earned runs for the second time in three starts and third time in six outings.

Rangers 8, Rays 4

In St. Petersburg, Nathan Eovaldi became the majors second nine-game winner, Corey Seager had five hits and four RBIs, and Texas beat Tampa Bay in a matchup of teams with the major leagues' top records.

Eovaldi (9-2) allowed four runs and seven hits over 6 1/3 innings, improving to 8-0 in his last 10 starts as Texas stopped a seven-game winning streak by the Rays.

Seager hit a two-run double in a three-run third off rookie Taj Bradley (4-3) and hit a two-run homer against Jalen Beeks in a three-run fourth. Bradley gave up five runs, four hits and four walks in 3 2/3 innings.

Orioles 6, Royals 1

In Baltimore, Cole Irvin earned his first victory with Baltimore, Gunnar Henderson and Adam Frazier homered and Baltimore stretched Kansas City losing streak to five.

Recalled Saturday to make his first major league start since April 13, Irvin (1-2) demonstrated much better control, walking none after issuing eight over 12 2/3 innings over his first three starts. He surrendered six hits and one run over 5 1/3 innings while striking out five.

Baltimore scored twice in the first as Brady Singer (4-5) labored through a 39-pitch inning. Anthony Santander doubled in a run with one out, then came around three batters later on Ryan O'Hearn's single.

Yankees 3, Red Sox 1

In New York, Domingo Germán wriggled out of trouble for six innings, Willie Calhoun hit a tiebreaking homer and New York beat Boston to even their three-game weekend series.

Gleyber Torres put the Yankees ahead with a fourth-inning homer off Tanner Houck (3-6). Houck allowed two runs and three hits in six innings.

Germán (4-3) allowed six hits and struck out five. Clay Holmes worked around a one-out single by Alex Verdugo in the ninth for his eighth save in 10 chances.

Dodgers 9, Phillies 0

In Philadelphia, Rookie Bobby Miller won for the third time in four starts, J.D. Martinez hit a three-run homer and Los Angeles beat Philadelphia after the ejection of Phillies manager Rob Thomson in an apparent pitch clock flap.

David Peralta homered, doubled and drove in a run for the Dod-

gers, who won for just the second time in seven games. Mookie Betts added a pair of hits and two RBIs.

Miller (3-0) allowed three hits in six innings, struck out seven and walked three, lowering his ERA to 0.78. The 24-year-old right-hander joined Kenta Maeda in 2016 as the only Dodgers pitchers since at least 1901 to pitch five or more innings and allowed one run or none in his first four appearances.

Andre Jackson finished a six-hitter for his second save.

Thomson was ejected in the sixth inning when plate umpire Roberto Ortiz apparently wouldn't reset the pitch clock after Aaron Nola (5-5) requested a new baseball. Nola was charged with six runs and seven hits in 6 1/3 innings.

Astros 6, Guardians 4

In Cleveland, Jose Abreu homered and drove in three runs, rookie J.P. France stayed around until the seventh inning and Houston's bullpen finally held off a Cleveland rally.

Abreu hit a two-run homer in the first inning off Triston McKenzie (0-1) and added an insurance run with an RBI single in the ninth as the Astros evened the series after losing in 14 innings on Friday.

Cleveland, which came back five times to win the series opener, scored one in the ninth and brought the tying run to the plate before closer Ryan Pressly struck out Will Brennan for his 12th save in 14 chances.

BASEBALL

France (2-1) walked six in 6 2/3 innings, but was helped by his infield turning three double plays. He gave up three runs and seven hits.

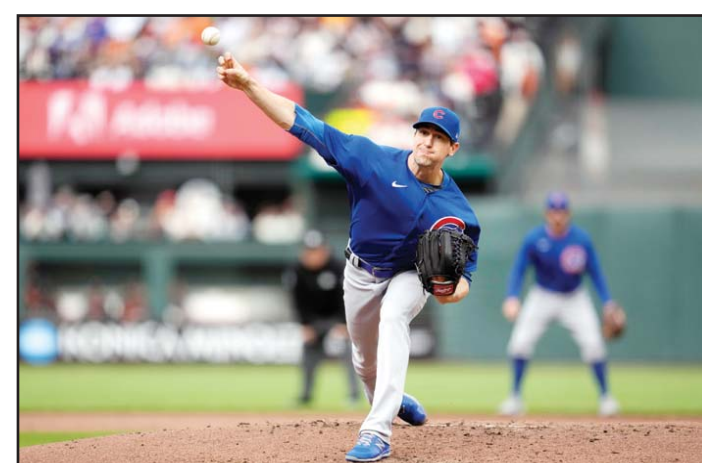
Braves 6, Nationals 4

In Atlanta, Ronald Acuña Jr. and Marcell Ozuna each hit a two-run homer in the second inning off MacKenzie Gore and Atlanta won its seventh consecutive game.

Gore (3-5) made 39 pitches in the second as Atlanta went up 5-1. Ozuna's 13th homer of the season sailed 426 feet to left and Acuña's 13th homer went 413 feet to right-center. It marked the first time in his last 11 homers that Acuña didn't reach 420 feet.

Gore was charged with four hits and five runs in five innings and hasn't won since April 26 at the New York Mets, a stretch of eight starts. The lefty has given up six homers in his last four outings.

Rookie Jared Shuster (3-2), pitching on nine days of rest, allowed eight hits and three runs in his seventh career start. The lefty was 2-0 with a 3.18 ERA over his previous three starts but was chased on consecutive singles to begin the sixth.



Chicago Cubs pitcher Kyle Hendricks works against the San Francisco Giants during the third inning of a baseball game in San Francisco. (AP)

Mariners 6, Angels 2

In Anaheim, J.P. Crawford tied a career high with four hits, Julio Rodríguez was 3 for 5 with a homer and Seattle beat Los Angeles despite Shohei Ohtani going deep for the third time in five games.

Eugenio Suárez also had three hits as the Mariners set a season high with 16 hits.

Ohtani is tied for third in the majors with 18 home runs. He has gone 12 for 28 during a seven-game hitting streak.

Gabe Speier (2-1) got the win. Patrick Sandoval (3-6) took the loss.

Marlins 5, White Sox 1

In Chicago, Jean Segura capped Miami's five-run ninth inning with a two-run double, and the Marlins won their seventh time in eight games.

Luis Arraez had two hits for the Marlins, raising his batting average to .402 in 60 games. Sandy Alcantara pitched seven innings of three-hit ball.

Arraez helped spark Miami's rally, following Garrett Cooper's pinch-hit single with another base hit against Joe Kelly (1-3). A bases-loaded error on shortstop Tim Anderson brought home one run, and Arraez scored on Jesús Sánchez's walk.

Steven Okert (3-0) got three outs for the win, working around Elvis Andrus' leadoff single in the eighth.

Twins 9, Blue Jays 4

In Toronto, Carlos Correa hit his second career grand slam, Max Kepler and Trevor Larnach also homered and Minnesota scored seven runs in the eighth inning.

Jorge López (2-2) pitched a one-hit seventh as the Twins won their second straight after a five-game skid. Twins starter Joe Ryan allowed three runs and six hits in six innings.

Adam Cimber (0-2) lost for the second straight day, giving up six runs and five hits while getting just one out. Right-hander Trevor Richards became the sixth Blue Jays pitcher to start a game this season, striking out seven over three shutout innings.

Mets 5, Pirates 1

In Pittsburgh, New York stopped a seven-game losing streak, their longest in four years, beating Pittsburgh behind Mark Canha's tiebreaking two-run double in the seventh inning and three RBIs.

Kodai Senga (6-3) allowed an unearned run and two hits in seven innings with six strikeouts and four walks. David Robertson and Adam Ottavino finished a three-hitter.

Rookie Francisco Álvarez hit his 12th homer and Brandon Nimmo had two hits and an RBI as the Mets overcame three errors.

Johan Oviedo (3-5) gave up two

runs and four hits in 6 1/3 innings as the Pirates lost for the third time in 10 games.

Athletics 2, Brewers 1, 10 innings

In Milwaukee, Oakland stretched a winning streak to four for the first time since last season, beating Milwaukee behind Aledmys Diaz's RBI single in the 10th inning.

Paul Blackburn and four relievers combined on a six-hitter for Oakland, which has a major league-high 6.40 ERA. Blackburn allowed four hits in six scoreless innings, struck out five and walked one.

Shintaro Fujinami (3-6) pitched around a walk in the ninth, and Sam Long got three straight outs in the 10th for his first save this season and the second in his big league career.

Cubs 4, Giants 0

In San Francisco, Kyle Hendricks didn't allow a hit until Mitch Haniger doubled with two outs in the eighth inning, pitching Chicago over San Francisco.

Hendricks (1-2) faced one batter over the minimum, walking Michael Conforto with one out in the second, and had retired 19 batters in a row before Haniger hit a fast-ball 378 feet off the left-field wall on the eighth pitch of the at-bat. That ended the longest no-hit bid in the major leagues this season.

Julian Merryweather retired three straight batters in the ninth, completing the one-hitter and giving the Cubs consecutive wins for the first time since May 29 and 30.

Christopher Morel homered off Jakob Junis (3-3) leading off the third. The ball bounced off the top of the brick wall and back onto the field. Unaware of the ruling, Morel raced around the bases until second base umpire and crew chief Brian O'Nora signaled home run.

Padres 3, Rockies 2

In Denver, Fernando Tatis Jr. had a go-ahead, two-run single in the sixth inning that led San Diego over Colorado and extended the Rockies' losing streak to six.

Manny Machado had three hits and made a crucial catch in the eighth inning to help ensure the Padres' third straight win. Drew Carlton (2-0) got the win despite allowing Allan Trejo's RBI grounder in the fifth that put the Rockies ahead 2-1. Josh Hader struck out two in a perfect ninth for his 15th save in 18 chances.

Colorado starter Kyle Freeland scattered six hits over five innings but was denied a win when the Padres rallied in the sixth. They loaded the bases with a single and two walks off of reliever Jake Bird (1-1) and Tatis lined a two-run single to right put San Diego in front.

Reds 8, Cardinals 4

In St. Louis, Elly De La Cruz kept up his hot start with an RBI, stolen base and impressive head-first slide at the plate, Andrew Abbott pitched shutout ball for the second straight start and Cincinnati beat St. Louis behind the two rookies.

Abbott (2-0), a 24-year-old left-hander who debuted Monday with a win over Milwaukee, allowed five hits and three walks in 5 2/3 innings and struck out four. He has pitched 11 2/3 scoreless innings and allowed six hits.

Luke Maile doubled twice with three RBIs and Spencer Steer had a sacrifice fly, two-run double and three RBIs.

Miles Mikolas (4-3) gave up five runs and seven hits in six innings.

MLB Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, June 11, (AP): Results and standings from the MLB games on Saturday.

Arizona	5	Detroit	0	Seattle	6	LA Angels	2
Miami	5	Chicago W. Sox	1	Cincinnati	8	St. Louis	4
Minnesota	9	Toronto	4	San Diego	3	Colorado	2
Baltimore	6	Kansas City	1	Atlanta	6	Washington	4
Texas	8	Tampa Bay	4	NY Mets	5	Pittsburgh	1
Oakland	2	Milwaukee	10	LA Dodgers	9	Philadelphia	0
Houston	6	Cleveland	4	Chicago Cubs	4	San Francisco	0
NY Yankees	3	Boston	1				

American League				National League					
East Division				East Division					
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB		
Tampa Bay	47	20	.701	—	Atlanta	40	24	.625	—
Baltimore	40	24	.625	5-1/2	Miami	36	29	.554	4-1/2
New York	38	28	.576	8-1/2	Philadelphia	31	33	.484	9
Toronto	36	30	.545	10-1/2	New York	31	34	.477	9-1/2
Boston	32	33	.492	14	Washington	25	39	.397	14-1/2
Central Division				Central Division					
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB		
Minnesota	33	32	.508	—	Pittsburgh	33	30	.524	—
Cleveland	30	34	.469	2-1/2	Milwaukee	34	31	.523	—
Chicago	29	37	.439	4-1/2	Cincinnati	30	35	.462	4
Detroit	26	36	.419	5-1/2	Chicago	28	36	.438	5-1/2
Kansas City	18	46	.281	14-1/2	St. Louis	27	38	.415	7
West Division				West Division					
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB		
Texas	41	22	.651	—	Arizona	39	25	.609	—
Houston	37	28	.569	5	Los Angeles	37	28	.569	2-1/2
Los Angeles	35	31	.530	7-1/2	San Francisco	32	32	.500	7
Seattle	31	32	.492	10	San Diego	31	33	.484	8
Oakland	16	50	.242	26-1/2	Colorado	26	40	.394	14

Change Name

I, SHABBIR holder of Passport No. Z4825725 do hereby change my name to SHABBIR (as given name) HITA (as surname) for all purposes. I will henceforth be known in the name SHABBIR HITA and I also undertake to carry out this name change in all my documents.

Change Name

I, ZARINA ABBAS ALI holder of Passport No. S5547730 do hereby change my name to ZARINA (as given name) HITA (as surname) for all purposes. I will henceforth be known in the name ZARINA HITA and I also undertake to carry out this name change in all my documents.

Change Name

I, ABBAS ALI holder of Passport No. P7118093 do hereby change my name to ABBAS ALI (as given name) HITA (as surname) for all purposes. I will henceforth be known in the name ABBAS ALI HITA and I also undertake to carry out this name change in all my documents.

Change Name

I, SABIRA BANU holder of Passport No. Z6929011 do hereby change my name to SABIRA (as given name) HITA (as surname) for all purposes. I will henceforth be known in the name SABIRA HITA and I also undertake to carry out this name change in all my documents.

Almirola claims surprising 'win'

SONOMA, Calif., June 11, (AP): Aric Almirola won the NASCAR Xfinity Series' inaugural race at Sonoma Raceway on Saturday night, capitalizing on a late restart and an even later mistake by Kyle Larson.

Almirola drove his Ford to the first-ever victory for RSS Racing, his first career road course victory, his fourth career Xfinity victory and his first in the series since 2017. RSS Racing has a partnership with Stewart-Haas Racing.

"It's been a really tough year on the Cup side, and to come out here and get to celebrate with my kids, that is so special," Almirola said. "So excited to share this Victory Lane here."

AUTO RACING

A.J. Allmendinger finished second ahead of Larson, who had dominated the entire Xfinity weekend until Almirola snatched the victory in the series' first race on this winding, hilly course at the base of Northern California wine country. Almirola seized the opportunities created by Jeffrey Earnhardt's crash and Larson's imprecise navigation of Sonoma's big hairpin turn, giving him space for a comfortable victory.

"I just got too greedy," said Larson, who led 53 of the 79 laps overall. "(RSS Racing) really deserves a win, but we all found a way to lose. Just bummed and mad at myself."

Larson dominated practice and qualifying for the race on the NASCAR track closest to his hometown in the Sacramento suburbs. His best practice time was more than a second faster than the rest of the field, and he comfortably won the pole Saturday.

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- Having 10 - 15 years' experience in a similar position in catering company
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- Handling day to day HR activities and escalations
- 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.

Shortlisted candidates will be called for interview after scrutiny of the CVs.



The Australian team celebrate as captain Pat Cummins holds the winners trophy during the victory ceremony for the ICC World Test Championship Final at The Oval cricket ground in London. (AP)

Australia win World Test Championship

Aussies rout India by 209 runs

LONDON, June 11, (AP): Australia earned the World Test Championship after bowling out India for 234 and winning the final by 209 runs at the Oval on Sunday.

Despite a world-record target of 444, India started the fifth and last morning with hope at 164-3 and lynchpin Virat Kohli and Ajinkya Rahane in the middle.

But Kohli was gone after half an hour and Rahane's demise started a collapse of the last five India wickets in the half-hour to scheduled lunch.

Scott Boland, playing instead of the injured Josh Hazlewood, started Australia celebrations with a two-wicket over including Kohli, and Mitchell Starc and Nathan Lyon also took two each for the first-time world test champion. Who Hazlewood will replace in the Ashes is a good dilemma for Australia.

CRICKET

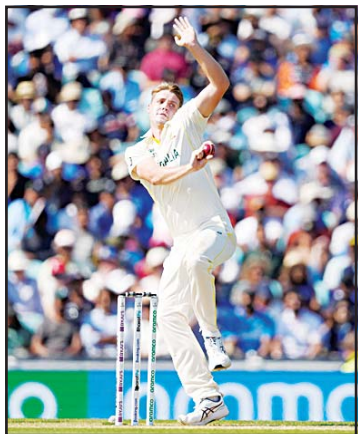
"At times we weren't our slickest but for the most part we were in control," Australia captain Pat Cummins said. "Boland was fantastic, he's now my favorite player. Everyone just did their role really well."

"(The title is) huge for this (test) format, you can ask anyone in the dressing room this is our favorite format. We grew up watching it and it's the format you get the most satisfaction (from) when you win."

India beat Australia 2-1 in their last four test series, two at home and two away, to regain the world No. 1 test ranking last month from the Australians. But at the neutral Oval, it chased the game after winning the toss and failing to exploit ideal bowling conditions and execute its plans.

India has gone 10 years without winning a men's global trophy, including the first world test final in 2021 against New Zealand in Southampton.

"Playing two finals is a good achievement for us but we would like to go a mile ahead of that as



Australia's Cameron Green bowls on the fourth day of the ICC World Test Championship Final between India and Australia at The Oval cricket ground in London. (AP)

well," India captain Rohit Sharma said.

"You can't take the credit away from what we have done in those two years to reach finals. It has been unfortunate that we haven't been able to win them but we'll fight to reach the next final."

Meanwhile, Australia has primed itself for the Ashes series starting next week in Birmingham by dominating India and bringing up to speed several players including Cummins, who hadn't played for months.

Boland and allrounder Cameron Green, who took two stunning catches, started in their first test in England, and centuries by Travis Head and Steve Smith were ominous for the Ashes.

Boland and spinner Nathan Lyon, who finished off the India second innings with 4-41, took five wickets each in the match and Cummins, despite his no balls, Starc and Green contributed mightily to bowling out India twice after they put up 469 and 270-8 declared.

Wicketkeeper Alex Carey was also key with scores of 48 and 66 not out, and seven catches.

"We came into this having different preparations but everyone was switched on," Cummins said. "We'll savor this and then turn our attention to the Ashes."

Vegas takes commanding 3-1 lead over Panthers

Golden Knights close in on 1st Stanley Cup title

SUNRISE, Fla., June 11, (AP): With no time left on the clock in Game 4 of the Stanley Cup Final, helmets, gloves, sticks and plastic rats littered the ice, the result of a fracas started in the final seconds of an emotional showdown.

For all the punches, pushes and shoves that accumulated in the melee, none of them changed the result: The Vegas Golden Knights are on the verge of winning their first Stanley Cup title.

Vegas held on to beat the Florida Panthers 3-2 on Saturday night, staving off a rally that culminated with one final shot block and a big save at the end to take a 3-1 series lead in the Cup final.

"Obviously, that was a battle till the last second," Vegas forward Nicolas Roy. "They pushed back there. We knew they would. They've been doing it all series. But it's nice to get that one, for sure."

The Golden Knights can win the NHL championship on home ice Tuesday night.

"We've played really well at home here in the playoffs, so you've got to feel pretty good going home with a 3-1 lead," defenseman Alex Pietrangolo said.

Getting to this point wasn't easy. Chandler Stephenson scored twice for the Golden Knights, and William Karlsson broke through to end his series-long goal drought to build a 3-0 lead. The Panthers scored twice - Brandon Montour on a pinball goal late in the second period, and Aleksander Barkov's first of the series early in the third - to claw back into it.

But their rally fell short and put Florida, eighth seed in the Eastern Conference and final team to qualify for the playoffs, on the brink of this improbable run coming to an end.

"We've earned the right to play our best hockey," Panthers coach Paul Maurice said. "Where we've been at our strongest is at the most critical time. I think you'll see that."

Down 2-1 in the series, Sergei Bobrovsky again almost kept the Panthers afloat, stopping 28 of the 31 shots he faced and giving up goals when teammates left him out to dry. At the other end of the ice, journeyman goaltender Adin Hill made 29 saves for his 10th win since stepping in during the mid-

dle of the second round. "It's a credit to him for being prepared when he did come in there a few series ago," Pietrangolo said. "You've got to be happy for him."

The Golden Knights need only win one more game to deliver a championship to Las Vegas in just their sixth year of existence, making good on owner Bill Foley's goal to win the Stanley Cup in that period of time. They reached the final in their inaugural season in 2017-18 before losing to Washington in five games.

ICE HOCKEY

Vegas is more talented and has certainly looked more prepared for the spotlight this time around. Stephenson - who beat them five years ago as a member of the Capitals - and Hill were

trade acquisitions, as was first-line center Jack Eichel and captain Mark Stone, who had two assists in Game 4.

A couple of original Knights players also helped them take the penultimate step to the peak of hockey's mountain-top. Jonathan Marchessault assisted on Karlsson's goal that made it 3-0, his 24th point that ties for the playoff lead in scoring.

Then the Panthers made it interesting. Montour scored by banking the puck off the right skate of Brayden McNabb and then the right skate of Shea Theodore and past Hill with 3:51 remaining in the second period and set up Barkov with a perfect pass from behind the net 3:50 into the third.

Missing leading scorer Matthew Tkachuk for several shifts, Florida kept buzzing around Hill and got a few more big stops from Bobrovsky to continue the pressure. A 17.4 sec-

ond 6-on-4 advantage when veteran Vegas defenseman Alex Pietrangolo put the puck over the glass provided a final few chances but did not yield the team's first power-play goal of the series.

It also caused a scrum that resulted in six penalties, including two unsportsmanlike penalties and two misconducts.

"I kind of felt my helmet get ripped off, and they had six guys on the ice, we had four, so get in there a bit and try and help out teammates," said Hill, who threw some punches as part of the melee. "I don't know if there's really a message to be sent. We're just getting ready for (Game 5) Tuesday."

That will be a last gasp chance for the Panthers, who will have to have to replicate their opening round comeback from down 3-1 to Boston to keep Vegas from winning it all.



Florida Panthers center Aleksander Barkov (16) defends Vegas Golden Knights center Ivan Barbashev (49) during the third period in Game 4 of the NHL hockey Stanley Cup Finals in Sunrise, Fla. (AP)

Kobayashi wrecked out of the race

Arcangelo wins Belmont Stakes

NEW YORK, June 11, (AP): Jena Antonucci turned a Triple Crown marred by thoroughbred deaths on the track and threatened by bad air quality from wildfires in Canada into a celebration for racing and women.

Arcangelo took the lead at the top of the stretch and won the Belmont Stakes on Saturday, making the 47-year-old Antonucci the first female trainer to win a Triple Crown race.

After the horse crossed the finish line, Antonucci doubled over and rested her arm and her head on the back of a chair. She kissed the horse on the nose when it returned to the area in front of the winner's circle.

HORSE RACING

"When we were walking out, I said there is not a table made for you," she said. "You make the table. You put great people around you, you work hard. Work your tail off. It will come if you do it the right way. Do it the right way."

Antonucci and Arcangelo did everything right as the 3-year-old son of Arrogate finished the 1 1/2-mile race in 2:29.23 and by 1 1/2 lengths in front

of favored Fotre, with Tapit Trice third.

"They say there's no crying in baseball. But they've never said it about horse racing," Antonucci said. "You fight for that spot and you feel you have to prove your worth. Horses don't care. They don't care who you are. They know who you are. To have a horse



Arcangelo, with jockey Javier Castellano, crosses the finish line to win the 155th running of the Belmont Stakes horse race at Belmont Park in Elmont, N.Y. (AP)

believe in you, and your team, the way this horse does ... I wish more people could be like horses."

Jockey Javier Castellano, who rode Mage to victory in the Kentucky Derby and picked up the ride on Arcangelo when the colt was not entered in the Belmont, said Arcangelo was great.

Ferrari topples Toyota in return to 24 Hours of Le Mans after 50-yr absence

LE MANS, France, June 11, (AP): Ferrari ended a 50-year absence from the 24 Hours of Le Mans by toppling mighty Toyota in the centenary running of the most iconic sports car race in the world.

Ferrari last competed at Le Mans in 1973 but returned to Circuit de la Sarthe this year as part of a new hyperclass category that features hybrid technology.

The hyperclass came from a rules convergence that both allowed competitors from the United States' sports car series, IMSA, to compete at Le Mans, and also created an enticing platform automakers viewed as an opportunity to showcase their street car technology.

Ferrari developed its program - a two-car effort that competes in the World Endurance Championship - over several years in a strategy similar to what was depicted in "Ford v Ferrari," the film that focused on the boardroom pressures and drama surrounding Ford's 1963 successful effort to end Ferrari's reign at Le Mans.

Only this time it was Ferrari trying to knock down a giant; the two-car Toyota Gazoo effort, which had entered the twice-round-the-clock race that ended Sunday on a five-year winning streak.

Toyota was dealt a blow before the race even began when race officials this week added additional weight to the dominant GR010s in a controversial "balance of performance" adjustment designed to level the playing field.

Ferrari in a pair of 499Ps pounced and swept the front row in qualifying and handled every challenge from Toyota. Its chances were aided overnight when Kamui Kobayashi was

wrecked out of the race, making it two versus one in favor of Ferrari.

The trio of Alessandro Pier Guidi, James Calado and Antonio Giovinazzi - with Ferrari Formula One driver Charles Leclerc in the garage watching - were the easy winner. The trio had a solid lead even before defending race winner Ryō Hirakawa locked the brakes on his Toyota and hit the wall with 1 hour, 44 minutes remaining.

It took roughly three minutes for repairs to the car, not enough time to help Chip Ganassi Racing, which carried the American flag at Le Mans for IMSA.

The centenary marked the first year IMSA's top class was

AUTO RACING

granted participation at Le Mans, and the new hyperclass brought Cadillac back to both IMSA and WEC with Ganassi, same for Porsche with Roger Penske in the 86-year-old's attempt to win one of the very few races missing on his list. It also brought a slew of new manufacturer interest to sports car racing, which helped draw a sold-out crowd of 300,000-plus spectators to the sprawling 8.467-mile (13.626 km) track.

The Ganassi Cadillacs were running third and fourth when Hirakawa spun - eliminating the defending champions' chances at a repeat. But it briefly created an opportunity for one or both Cadillacs to improve their finishing position.



Manchester City's Phil Foden takes a shot at goal next to Inter Milan's Lautaro Martinez during the Champions League final soccer match between Manchester City and Inter Milan at the Ataturk Olympic Stadium in Istanbul, Turkey. (AP)

Sports

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City end wait for first Champs League title



Manchester City's team captain Ilkay Gundogan lifts the trophy after winning the Champions League final soccer match between Manchester City and Inter Milan at the Ataturk Olympic Stadium in Istanbul, Turkey. (AP)

Citizens complete a rare treble

ISTANBUL, June 11, (AP): Billions of dollars have been spent and many tears shed on Manchester City's journey to the summit of European soccer.

The mission was completed in Istanbul's Ataturk Olimpiyat Stadium as the Abu Dhabi-backed club won the Champions League title for the first time and perhaps heralded the start of a new era of dominance in the competition.

"It was written in the stars. It belongs to us," said Pep Guardiola after the 1-0 win against Inter Milan, as tears flowed again from the manager, his players and a sea of blue-shirted fans.

On this occasion, the emotion was pure ecstasy.

The victory, courtesy of Rodri's 68th minute goal, has been 15 years in the making since Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan transformed City into one of the richest teams in the world overnight.

This was the final frontier for Pep Guardiola's team, which also completed a rare treble of trophies after winning the Premier League title and FA Cup this season.

The Champions League had always been a step that seemed out of reach even for a team that has spent more than \$1.5 billion on the world's best players and hired probably the greatest coach of his generation in Guardiola.

With that psychological barrier broken and the spending power to further improve a team that has already proved too good for the rest, the potential is there to win European club soccer's biggest prize on multiple occasions.

Guardiola joked about being "just 13 Champions Leagues away" from Real Madrid.

"If you sleep a little bit we will catch you," he said. "But I don't want after one Champions League to disappear, so work harder next season and be in there. There are teams that win the Champions League and after one or two seasons disappear. This is what you have to avoid. Knowing me this is not going to happen. But at the same time I have to admit it, it is a big relief for the club, for the institution, for everyone to have this trophy. Because now, finally, they don't have to ask me if we are going to win the Champions League or not."

This trophy will also strengthen the case to declare Guardiola the greatest coach ever as he collected his third

SOCCER

Champions League title and 30th major piece of silverware.

It was his second treble of trophies, having emulated that feat with Barcelona in 2009. City became just the second English club to complete a sweep of the three biggest trophies after Manchester United did it in 1999.

There were questions about whether Guardiola could ever win the Champions League again without the aid of Lionel Messi, who was the inspiration of his Barcelona team that was twice crowned champions of Europe.

Those questions have been now answered, yet for all the talk of City's superiority leading up to the game, it was won by the finest of margins through Rodri's strike.

Even after that goal, Inter had great chances to force extra time.

The best one fell to substitute Romelu Lukaku in the 89th minute but he headed straight at Ederson from about four meters (yards) out.

Nole beats Ruud in the French Open final

Djokovic wins historic 23rd Grand Slam title

PARIS, June 11, (AP): Novak Djokovic made clear for years that this was his goal. What drove him. What inspired him. The biggest titles from his sport's biggest stages were Djokovic's main aim and now he finally stands alone - ahead of Rafael Nadal, ahead of Roger Federer, ahead of every man who ever has swung a racket.

If Djokovic could wait this long to hold this record, he certainly could wait for the half-hour or so it took to straighten out his strokes in the French Open final. And so, after a bit of a shaky start in thick, humid air and under foreboding charcoal clouds Sunday, he imposed himself. The opponent at Court Philippe Chatrier, Casper Ruud, never really stood a serious chance after that.

Djokovic earned his men's-record 23rd Grand Slam singles championship, breaking a tie with Nadal and moving three in front of the retired Federer, with a 7-6 (1), 6-3, 7-5 victory over Ruud that really was not in doubt for most of its 3 hours, 13 minutes.

Djokovic, a 36-year-old from Serbia, puts this one alongside the French Open titles he earned in 2016 and 2021, making him the only man with at least three from each major event. He has won 10 trophies at the Australian Open, seven at Wimbledon and three at the U.S. Open.

Also worth noting: Djokovic is again halfway to a calendar-year Grand Slam - winning all four majors in one season - something no man has achieved since Rod Laver in 1969. Djokovic came close to pulling off that feat in 2021, when he won the Austral-



Serbia's Novak Djokovic celebrates winning the men's singles final match of the French Open tennis tournament against Norway's Casper Ruud in three sets, 7-6, (7-1), 6-3, 7-5, at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris. (AP)

ian Open, French Open and Wimbledon and made it all the way to the title match at the U.S. Open before losing to Daniil Medvedev.

Djokovic will resume that pursuit at Wimbledon, which begins on the grass of the All England Club on July 3.

He has now clutched the trophy at 11 of the last 20 Slams, a remarkable run made even more so when consid-

ering that he did not participate in two majors during that span because he did not get vaccinated against COVID-19.

TENNIS

Djokovic was deported from Australia in January 2021 before the Australian Open, and he was not allowed to fly to

the United States ahead of last year's U.S. Open under a rule that since has been lifted.

Getting to 23 not only sets the mark for men, but it also lets Djokovic equal Serena Williams, who wrapped up her career last year, for the most by anyone in the Open era, which began in 1968. Margaret Court won some of her all-time record of 24 Slam trophies in the amateur era.

At 20 days past his 36th birthday, Djokovic is the oldest singles champion at Roland Garros, considered the most grueling of the majors because of the lengthy, grinding points required by the red clay, which is slower than the grass or hard courts underfoot elsewhere.

Nadal's 22nd major arrived in Paris a year ago, two days after he turned 36. He has been sidelined since January by a hip injury and had arthroscopic surgery on June 2.

As if all of that weren't enough, Djokovic's triumph on Sunday also means he will return to No. 1 in the ATP rankings on Monday, replacing Carlos Alcaraz. Djokovic already has spent more weeks at the top spot than any player - man or woman - since the inception of computerized tennis rankings a half-century ago.

It was Djokovic who eliminated Alcaraz in the semifinals on Thursday, wearing him down over two thrilling sets until the 20-year-old Spaniard's body cramped up badly. Alcaraz continued to play, but the scores of the last two sets of the four-set match told the story: 6-1, 6-1.

Al-Tomoooh win 4 gold & 1 silver at Czech International Para Athletics

OSTRAVA, June 11, (KUNA): Athletes of Kuwait's Al-Tomoooh Sport Club won four gold medals and one silver on Saturday, the second day of the Czech International Para Athletics Championship.

They pushed their tally of medals to six gold, two silver and one bronze.

ATHLETICS

Hanin Al-Mesbah led the 100 m. and 400 m. female races of T20 category while Fahad Al-Selili claimed the title of the 100 m. male race of the same category.

Hassan Samir won the gold medal of the 1,500 m. race of T36 category while Abdullah Salmin won the silver medal of 100 m. race of T20 category.

Speaking to KUNA by phone this evening, Al-Mesbah who previously

won a third gold, voiced joy for being to the podium three times at this championship.

She noted that the three golds will give her a great encouragement ahead of the Special Olympics World Games Berlin 2023.

She dedicated the victories at the championships to the leadership and people of Kuwait, the sports authorities and Al-Tomoooh club.

On her part, Seddiqa Al-Ansari, secretary-general of Al-Tomoooh Sport Club and head of Kuwait mission to the international event, applauded the performance of the Kuwaiti athletes, which drew praise from everybody at the event.

The International Para Athletics Championships, organized by the Czech Paralympic Committee in Ostrava city, northeast of the Czech Republic, on June 8-11, gathered 150 athletes from 12 countries.



Kuwait's Al-Tomoooh Sport Club.

KUNA photo