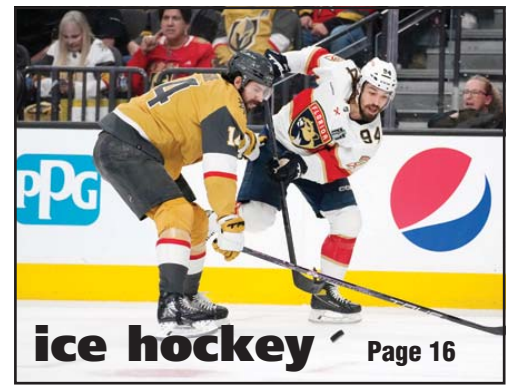




baseball Page 15



ice hockey Page 16

AMIRI DECREE ASSIGNS SHEIKH AHMAD NAWAF LEAD CABINET MPs reaffirm focus on priority bills

Legislators committed to fight corruption

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh
Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, June 14: The newly elected MPs, except Marzouq Al-Ghanim, attended the meeting held in the National Assembly building on Tuesday.

They then issued a joint statement affirming their commitment to the legislative plan to focus on the priority bills for the first year of the 17th parliamentary term, as well as the priorities for the following years that will be specified by the seven-member committee formed earlier for this purpose.

According to the statement, the priorities for the first year include political and economic bills; such as the proposed establishment of the Higher Commission for Elections, amending the Constitutional Court Law, addressing the housing issue and health insurance for housewives.

The nullified legislature approved some of the bills in the first reading; while others were approved in the first and second readings, but they were returned to the government for various reasons.

The statement pointed out that their main aim is to foil attempts to drag the legislature

into disputes and nonsensical arguments, away from the citizens' interests.

They reaffirmed their commitment to ratify laws to combat corruption and ensure sustainable development in cooperation with the government.

MP-elect Fayeze Al-Jomhour urged Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and acting Minister of Defense Sheikh Talal Khalid Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah to look into the demand of the military personnel at the National Guard to make them equal with their colleagues in the Ministry of Interior and Kuwait Army in terms of promotion.

MP-elect Hamad Al-Matar denied the rumor that he will be appointed as Minister of Education and Higher Education. He emphasized that he has no intention to be part of the next government and he is content with his parliamentary seat. He hopes the structure of the next government will match the election results.

Meanwhile, an Amiri decree was issued on Tuesday evening to appoint His Highness Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah as Prime Minister and assign him to form the new Cabinet.

Following is the text of the decree:

"After reviewing the provisions of the constitution, the Amiri Decree of November 15, 2021, delegating some of the Amir's constitutions powers to His Highness the Crown Prince; and the Amiri Decree of

Continued on Page 3



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah left Kuwait on Wednesday, heading to Italy on a private visit. His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, His Highness Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-

Amiri Diwan photo
Sabah, Deputy Chief of Kuwait National Guards (KNG) Sheikh Faisal Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior, Acting Defense Minister Sheikh Talal Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Minister of the Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, and senior state officials saw His Highness the Amir off at the airport.

Opinion

Is it years of small talk or action?

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah
Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

CHOOSING the prime minister is the absolute right of His Highness the Amir; this is something that no one disputes about. As for the ministers, they are chosen by the designated prime minister. In both cases, Kuwaitis have their say. The important aspect in this is that the results can be appraised through the Cabinet's performance and vision.

In this regard, it is necessary to take a lesson from the legacy of the successive governments, as most of their programs were either cut and pasted from their predecessors, or they were just a high-class formation without any of them leaving an imprint of achievement. Kuwait is enduring today due to these weak governments, and the parliamentarians who have been focused on the struggle over husks and secondary matters, as well as their personal interests.

In the past, ministerial programs had major slogans such as making Kuwait a global financial hub, the northern economic zone, the development of the islands, and the Silk City. At that time, it was said that it would include a financial village, an entertainment village, and a cultural village, and that it would include global trade exchange and provide job opportunities for about 250,000 people.

It was also set to enhance food security and industrial development, solve the housing problem, and deal with the Bedoun crisis, which continues to snowball, in addition, of course, to openness to the world. However, none of this was implemented.

Rather, it got lost in feasibility studies, and wasted time in proposals for laws, some of which were placed in the drawers while some others were applied in the wrong way, leading to increase in the crisis because the concern of the governments and parliaments in reality was to either work to prevent the interpellation of a minister, or avoid the dismissal of certain individual, or dispute appointments and quotas with the parliamentarians.

In this situation, many laws and proposals were neglected. Some were passed in haste to limit the freedom of the public such as the cybercrime law, which unfortunately made Kuwait more like a

Continued on Page 3

Email: ahmed@aljarallah.com

Follow me on:



ahmedaljarallah@gmail.com

Day by Day

THE thief who became famous has now implicated many middlemen whose services he used to bribe people to pass fake transactions.

This thief is now cornered and cannot escape. He tried to sell the plane which he stole, but the sale failed to fall through when it was found out that the plane was a stolen property; stolen from its owner through fraud.

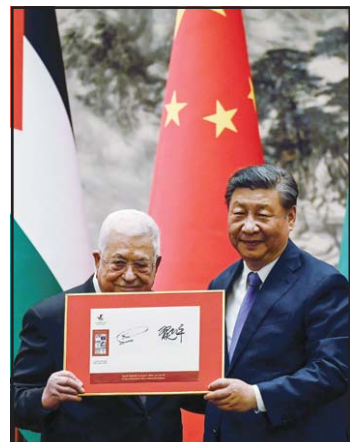
Unfortunately the company that operates the plane is involved, and is now looking for a way out of the situation.

The thief is now afraid of his own shadow. He is currently trying to change his first attorney because the latter discovered that his client is a thief.

Yet, tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

Beijing, Abbas in partnership



China's President Xi Jinping, (right), and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas attend a signing ceremony at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing Wednesday, June 14, 2023. (AP)

Friends ... partners

BEIJING, June 14, (AP): China said Wednesday that it has established a "strategic partnership" with the Palestinian Authority during a visit to Beijing by Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

The announcement marked another step in China's campaign to gain political and economic influence in the Middle East, where it is competing with the United States.

China is seeking energy resources and markets for its military and civilian exports while also promoting its version of authoritarian government as part of joint challenge with Russia to the Western-led democratic world order.

Beijing has long maintained diplomatic ties with the Palestinian Authority, and it appointed a special envoy to meet with Israeli and Palestinian officials. But its experience in the region is mainly limited to construction, manufacturing and other economic projects.

Abbas was welcomed with full military honors at the Great Hall of the People in China's capital.

"We are good friends and partners," Chinese President Xi Jinping, who is head of the ruling Communist Party, told Abbas at the start of their meeting. "We have always firmly supported the just cause of the Palestinian people to restore their legitimate national rights."

"China is willing to strengthen coordination and cooperation with the Palestinian side to promote a comprehensive, just and lasting solution to the Palestinian issue as soon as possible," he said.

Xi called the strategic partnership an "important milestone in the history of bilateral relations," but its financial details were not immediately disclosed.

Abbas said his administration was "looking forward to strengthening cooperation with China within the framework of its initiative" and securing investments.

Newswatch

NEW YORK: The State of Kuwait renewed its support to the Moroccan initiative for self-rule in the Sahara, reiterating the need to respect Moroccan sovereignty and any solution agreed upon by all parties involved in the process.

This reaffirmation came during a speech by acting Charge D'Affaires of the Kuwaiti mission to the UN headquarters in New York Faisal Al-Enizi to a special committee session on the Sahara. (KUNA)

KUWAIT CITY: Sabah Al-Ahmed Center for Giftedness and Creativity and Saudi's AANAB forum signed an agreement on launching a program on professional development for teachers in Kuwait, in cooperation with Harvard University's Graduate School of Education.

The program will provide training courses in Arabic, said the center's director general Neda Al-Dihani in a press conference on Wednesday.

Harvard's professional education department serves over 16,000 education specialists around the world, he noted. (KUNA)

ANKARA: Kuwait Embassy in Turkey called Tuesday on nationals who want to visit Turkey by land to avoid travelling via "Haber" border crossing to escape road traffic and crowdedness.

The embassy to Turkey said that the crossing is designed for trade route commodities, supplies and is not currently ready to receive tourists. (KUNA)

ANKARA: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has said that NATO should not bet on his country approving Sweden's application to join the Western military alliance before a July summit because the Nordic nation has not fully addressed its security concerns.

Sweden and Finland applied for membership together following Russia's invasion of Ukraine last year. Finland became NATO's 31st member in April after the Turkish parliament ratified its request, but Turkey has held off approving Sweden's bid. (AP)

KUALA LUMPUR: The Philippine security authorities, announced Wednesday, the killing of the leader of the so-called Islamic State organization (IS) Faharudin Pumbuya Pangalian, during an armed clash with the army and police, in the city of Marawi southern Philippines.

"A raiding team was to serve Faharudin Pumbuya Pangalian different warrants of arrest but killed him instead when he resisted and provoked a gunfight", Police Brig. Gen. Allan Nobleza, director of the Police Regional Office-Bangsamoro Autonomous Region said as quoted by Philippine Star newspaper. (KUNA)

Strong liquidity, sound capital

Moody's says banks future outlook stable

Defense capabilities boost

Kuwait, Turkey drone deal \$367m

KUWAIT CITY, June 14, (Agencies): Kuwait's Ministry of Defense (MoD) announced Tuesday signing a direct deal with Turkey to buy the Bayraktar TB2 drones worth in total USD 367 million.

In a statement, the Ministry said that the contract, signed between the two governments without any mediators, came to enhance defense capabilities of the Kuwaiti army.

The drones have high technical potential in carrying out reconnaissance and targeting missions, and supporting military operations, as well as they provide intelligence information, according to the statement.

They also have the ability to carry varied weapons, including laser-directed missiles and smart bombs, it said.

It stated this type of drones was tested, in Kuwait in July 2019, and flew 27 hours and 3 minutes without pause, amid difficult climatic conditions like high temperature, winds and sand storms, indicating that this is a record.

The Bayraktar TB2 drones are the best ones in the world in terms of several uses, as the length of a drone is 6.5m and its width is 12m, it said.

The drone can fly for 24 hours without pause, with a load of 650 kg as maximum at a speed of 130 km, it noted.

The statement indicated that the Cabinet was informed, in its session held on June 7, 2023, about the contract of the Ministry with the Turkish side on the TB2 drone.

The step was made, in accordance with the laws and regulations and by

the approval of the regulatory authorities in the country.

The contract includes preparing special facilities to those aircraft, including arming, electronic warfare equipment, and mobile ground control stations that are compatible with NATO standards, in addition to providing necessary maintenance and logistical supplies for them, it elaborated.

Moreover, the deal includes the provision of support equipment, ground tests, and developed technical updates to this system and its accessories, as well as the establishment of a simulation system with the provision of technical support for a period of 3 years, in addition to training national pilots and technicians.

Kuwait is the 28th countries across the globe, which signed such a deal, in addition to some GCC states.

Demand for the drones has surged due to their successful deployment in conflict zones such as Libya, Syria and Ukraine.

Kuwaiti Air Force operations chief brigadier, General Fahad Al-Dosari, said in a video posted on his Twitter account that the drone fleet can support the navy and coast guard, as well as monitor maritime and land borders. He said the drones can also "carry out reconnaissance and targeted missions" in addition to supporting search and rescue efforts.

Baykar and the Kuwaiti government did not say how many drones were purchased or when they would be delivered. Both could not be immediately reached for comment.



A Turkish-made Bayraktar TB2 drone is displayed during a rehearsal of a military parade dedicated to Independence Day in Kyiv, Ukraine, on Aug. 20, 2021. Kuwait reached an agreement worth \$367 million with Turkish drone giant Baykar to purchase its increasingly sought-after TB2 combat drones, the Kuwaiti army said on June 13, 2023. (AP)

KUWAIT CITY, June 14: The global credit rating agency, Moody's said Kuwaiti banks have a sound capital and strong liquidity -- the two factors that favors a stable future outlook for banks, in the midst of Kuwait expecting to record a moderate growth in the non-oil economy, reports Al-Anba daily.

The agency indicated the total assets of Kuwaiti banks is \$375.27 billion, topped by Kuwait Finance House with \$120.79 billion, followed by the National Bank of Kuwait with \$118.73 billion, the Boubayan Bank with \$25.75 billion, and Burgan Bank with \$23.41 billion, and then the Gulf Bank with \$22.38 billion, Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait with \$20.98 billion, Ahli United Bank with \$15.39 billion, Commercial Bank of Kuwait with \$14.08 billion, and finally Warba Bank with \$13.72 billion.

The agency, in the context of its report on the Kuwaiti banking sector, said: "Our expectations of a stable future outlook for the Kuwaiti banking sector reflect the continuation of expectations that the country's non-oil economy will continue to expand during the years 2023 and 2024."

The agency added that Kuwaiti banks will reap the benefits of bank credit growth estimated at about 3% this year, with the government's continued commitment to the national development plan, and spending on infrastructure and large projects will boost the demand for loans.

The agency went on to say, the quality of local loans will remain sound, despite the possibility of pockets of risk in the small business sector with high interest and bank operations in weaker economies such as Turkey and Egypt, and wide exposure to real estate and stock markets which represents weaknesses, but ample provisions and hedging of loan losses and strong capital provide a protective shield.

Meanwhile, the agency said that the profitability of Kuwaiti banks will be subject to slight pressures, but they will remain intact, drawing support from high efficiency, while Kuwaiti banks are funded through steady flows of stable deposits and the strong liquidity they provide, and Moody's considered that economic expansion, sound capital and strong liquidity One of the factors that directs its expectations with a stable future outlook.

The agency added it expects Kuwaiti real non-oil GDP to grow by 3% in 2023, and government spending will boost the non-oil economy, which is the area in which banks carry out most of their activities and businesses, and it will achieve growth of about 3% this year.

Moody's also expects new project awards in Kuwait to be strong in 2023, as this will support the government's commitment to its national

Continued on Page 3

Prayer Timings

Fajr	03:13	Asr	15:22
Sunrise ..	04:48	Maghrib ..	18:48
Zohr	11:48	Isha	20:21

Local

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

Media plays crucial role during poll process: Arab League

Kuwait keen on media coverage of national elections: official

CAIRO, June 14, (KUNA): A visiting Kuwaiti official has affirmed the State of Kuwait's keenness on media coverage of national elections noting that the information sector constitutes a prime part of democratic activities namely the polls.

The affirmation was declared by the Brigadier Jurist Ahmad Al-Hajri, the director of electoral affairs at the Kuwaiti Ministry of Interior, on sidelines of the fourth meeting of electoral administrations, currently held at the Arab League headquarters under the theme, "the media and elections."



Al-Hajri

"The media presence in the elections is necessary to emit a clear message and correct information vis a vis rumors any irregularities undermining the democratic action," said Brig. Jurist Al-Hajri, who represented Kuwait at the meeting.

In this context, he indicated at Kuwait's deep advocacy of transparency, integrity and neutrality in dealing with the nominees.

Brig. Jurist Al-Hajri shed some light in his statement on laws that penalize for offenses, namely cyber crimes laws and elections laws.

The Kuwaiti Ministry of Interior and other state departments, regularly, deploy personnel at the electoral sites in all phases of the polling process, he said.

The three-day Cairo meeting, organized by the Arab League Secretariat General in coordination with the United Nations and the UN Development Program, kicked off on Monday. It is designed to boost cooperation in the elections' realm among Arab electoral administrations.

It grouped a large number of heads and members of electoral authorities in the Arab countries, representatives of international organizations. Among the main themes of the gathering is the media role in polling.

Meanwhile, the Assistant Secretary General of the League of Arab States (LAS) Ambassador Hossam Zaki confirmed that the media is a fundamentally influential partner on the course of the election process through its various stages.

In a recorded speech before the opening session of the Fourth Forum of Arab Elections Administrations, Zaki said that the media is closely connected to the parties of the election process due to its contribution that establishes the transparency, credibility and integrity of the elections.

Media's role in elections in the age of digital technology and artificial intelligence witnessed successive changes, not all of them positive, he pointed out.

Despite the opportunities provided by modern technology to develop the voting process, give transparency and provide more information to the voters about the candidates and their programs, some experiences in recent years indicate harmful roles, he explained.

It is possible to use technology, social media and artificial intelligence applications to play these roles in a way that discredits the election process, he added.

He stressed that this must be studied in an extensive manner, in a manner that protects voting experiences in countries from these emerging problems.

The forum deals with the topic of media and elections in this session, as a continuation of a successful cooperation in the field of election affairs between the Arab League and the UN during the past decade, Zaki mentioned.

Weather

By Night:	Rather hot with light to moderate northwesterly wind with speeds of 12-38 km/h.	Abdaly	45	27	
Station	Max Exp	Min Rec			
Kuwait City	43	34	Jahra	46	33
Kuwait Airport	44	34	Salmiyah	41	33
			Ahmadi	41	36
			Nuwaisib	44	33
			Wafra	44	32

'Schengen' delay irks citizens

Kuwaitis, residents forced to change travel plans

National Day celebrated

'Russia & Kuwait have common desire to build strong relations'

KUWAIT CITY, June 14: The Russian Ambassador to Kuwait, Vladimir Zheltov, said the Russian-Kuwaiti relations have witnessed different periods over the past 6 decades of their history, pointing to the common desire between the two countries to support strong relations based on mutual respect and mutually beneficial cooperation, reports Al-Qabas daily.



Vladimir Zheltov

Speaking on the occasion of his country's National Day, in the presence of the Assistant Foreign Minister for European Affairs, Ambassador Sadeq Marafi, and a number of ambassadors and diplomats he stressed that the Kuwaiti leadership dealt and continues to deal with our country, whatever its name, with wisdom and a balanced vision.

Ambassador of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques to Kuwait, Prince Sultan bin Saad, speaking on the sidelines of the event, focused on the Hajj season calling it a great honor that God bestowed on the Kingdom to serve the pilgrims.

He pointed out that the Kingdom constantly updates its preparations for this season, and is ready to receive the pilgrims just like the pre-pandemic era. This year, he said, "We expect about 3 million pilgrims from inside and outside the Kingdom."

He said the Kingdom is fully prepared to receive the pilgrims and added, a new system has recently been developed under the name 'The Road to Makkah', according to which some Saudi employees have been sent to some airports of Islamic countries to complete the procedures for pilgrims in their countries such as entry procedures, passports and permits, pointing out that this is done by the Kingdom to facilitate the pilgrims.

He stated an agreement has been reached between the Ministry of Hajj

and Umrah and the Kuwaiti Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs regarding the number of pilgrims from Kuwait including the number of bedouin pilgrims which is estimated to be about a thousand. He added, the Kuwaiti Hajj mission after running a check on the facilities and equipment has left the Kingdom.

Prince Sultan bin Saad, affirmed that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has become a destination for tourism, investments, and various economic activities and events of interest to everyone.

In response to a question about the impact of the US State Department's report warning of Iran's danger on Saudi-Iranian relations, Ambassador Sultan bin Saad said: "The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia took the step of restoring relations with Iran after an integrated study," explaining that "countries express their views, and what matters to the kingdom is its interests in the first place and the interest of the region, and that prosperity and peace."

The Chinese ambassador to Kuwait, Zhang Jianwei, in response to a question about whether US Secretary of State Antony Blinken's tour of the Gulf region would pull the rug from under China's feet and its efforts to expand its relations with its Gulf partners said, "We welcome any visit by us or others to the region." Its objectives will be positive, as the Gulf region witnessed a breakthrough in relations and positive momentum and interest in development, security and peace, and the international community should help develop this trend.

Speaking at the same event Jian Wei added that "the Gulf countries are fully aware of the choice that serves their path towards development and peace," pointing to the distinction of Chinese-Gulf relations, and to China's mediation to restore Saudi-Iranian relations, which confirms China's endeavor with its partners in the region to achieve the aspirations of the peoples of the region for security, peace and stability.

KUWAIT CITY, June 14: Citizens and residents of Kuwait are facing a crisis in obtaining a European travel visa "Schengen", as the dates for applying for visas in some European offices and embassies are not available for months to come, in addition to the short period granted by some European embassies to those wishing to travel to it, which prompted many to change their tourism destinations during this summer, preferring to spend it in countries where travel does not require a visa, reports Al-Qabas daily.

According to experts in the travel and tourism market, the majority of visa-issuing offices for European Union countries currently do not have available appointment slots. There are a few countries that have appointments available in July, which made some apply for a Schengen visa from these countries that they did not plan to visit in the first place. In this case, they first need to enter the country that issued their visas and then travel to their intended destination, which increases the financial costs of their trip.

In light of the suffering from the long deadlines for the issuance of Schengen visas, it prompted many to search for other travel destinations such as Turkey, Dubai, Malaysia, Thailand, Egypt and London.

Some citizens suffered financial losses because they had already booked hotels and airline tickets to Europe, but were surprised when there were no dates for submitting visa applications.

In this regard, Head of the Union of Travel and Tourism Offices Muhammad Al-Mutairi revealed that, despite the high travel demand rate this summer compared to previous years, it has not reached levels before the COVID-19 pandemic so far.

He explained that the current travel rates are 20 percent lower than the travel rates in 2019, and he expects that these numbers will rise during the coming period, especially with the start of the travel season, the end of the school year, and the parliamentary elections.

The great competition in the travel and tourism services market in Kuwait has contributed greatly to maintaining reasonable rates for trip prices, which are within everyone's reach.

Destinations

The most important tourist destinations are still London, Istanbul, Dubai and Cairo. As for the new tourist destinations in eastern European countries, they are still normal and have not witnessed a high demand for them.

Al-Mutairi highlighted a change in the behavior of Kuwaiti tourists who prefer to travel alone without being restricted to traveling in groups, using modern means of communication and smart applications to go to destinations that suit their taste.

Furthermore, the CEO of Bash Travel and Tourism Company Suleiman Al-Abdullah said the current travel season is the strongest compared to the past years, especially with the very high demand from citizens to spend the summer vacation abroad.

He explained that what distinguishes the current travel season is the preference of the vast majority of travelers to book long vacations and increase the number of vacation days to escape from the pressures of work and study that they went through during the recent months.

Many Kuwaitis tend to spend their holidays in countries where travel does not require obtaining a Schengen visa, such as Turkey, Dubai, Malaysia and Thailand. Those wishing to obtain a Schengen visa suffer from the long deadlines of embassies, in addition to the short period granted by embassies for those wishing to travel there.

Regarding the prices of travel and holidays during the current season, Al-Abdullah affirmed the increase in the prices of tickets due to the great demand for spending the summer vacation abroad this year. These prices witnessed an increase at the beginning of this month ranging from KD 350 to KD 400.

He explained that the earthquake in Turkey and the unfortunate events that followed greatly affected the reservation rate to Turkey, but it is still a favorite destination for Kuwaitis during this summer as well.

Individual trips for families still dominate the season, and traveling in groups is almost non-existent since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the end of the pandemic, this type of travel is still not preferred.

The decision of the electronic travel permit for Britain is excellent, and it would make it much easier for those wishing to spend holidays in London, especially as it is one of the favorite destinations for a large segment of citizens. In view of these facilities, citizens will prefer it over other destinations.

Other Voices

Nature simulation & Al-Belaihi

By Ahmed alsarraf

It would not be strange to see a physicist standing humbly in front of a Buddha statue, or a Hindu physician worshipping a cow. This is a result of the simulation of the process of nature started so early to fill their memories since childhood which start quite empty. Later on, a man becomes identical to his simulation of nature.

Outstanding Saudi intellectual Ibrahim Al-Belaihi said simulation of nature is among the most deep-rooted customs and so, there is no space between a person and his simulation of nature.

Thus, no one realizes his own errors no matter how smart and knowledgeable he is. There are rare cases where some individuals managed to escape their simulation of nature. Brain receptors and mental activities made mankind bounded by the ideologies which come first regardless to their context or tendency.

This fact represents the most difficult dilemma facing the less advanced countries and so the people of those countries stay in much lower level compared to the people of the advanced countries.

In spite of the great available ideas and the comprehensive and accurate sciences, the constructive ignorance still controls human brain in the East and West.

The physician was saturated very early by the doctrine of Buddhism before his brain was shaped. The same thing happened to the Hindu doctor and it happens to the entire believers of the other doctrines. The simulation of nature controls the lifestyle of the believers of a doctrine

and the later becomes the glasses through which they see the world.

Close vision requires the existence of an appropriate distance, and because there is no distance between the individual and what is printed with it, he does not see the bad or defects of what is printed with it, and therefore neither the sharpness of his intelligence nor the breadth of his knowledge will benefit him. This distance is a requirement for close vision.

There is no word that is more beneficial to humanity than the word "doubt". Therefore, the majority of creeds require you to remain silent and believe without question!

Man has lived for tens of thousands of years beside rivers, and has never tried to find out where their waters come from. Or he wonders why people are infected with certain diseases, and why others do not. Why do we feel hot and then cold, get sick and die!

Why was it not possible to transfuse the blood of one person to another, or the secrets behind the effects of the Pharaohs, for example, or what lies under the oceans and mountains, etc. Lucky are those who could answer the questions. Victoria Lake could be named after a Muslim Caliphate if the explorer was a Muslim man and if it was discovered by a quarter of us, and so on!

Philosopher René Descartes said, "I doubt, therefore I am, there I think and therefore I exist." Doubt verified the existence of a man but this existence is imperfect. The idea of the imperfect brain brought the idea of the perfect existence. Nevertheless, the imperfect cannot be the source of perfection.

Descartes said, "If you want to be a sincere seeker of the truth, you need to doubt in everything even once in your lifetime."



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

'Meat, eggs, milk produced'

Kuwait's PAAAFR marks 40 years

KUWAIT CITY, June 14, (KUNA): Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) celebrated on Wednesday its 40th anniversary of establishment on June 15, 1983.

The authority was founded in order to oversee activity related to the development of agriculture in the country, in addition to the development and protection of Kuwait's fish resources.

In a statement to KUNA, PAAAFR said that it has achieved great accomplishments since it was established, as in the beginning it operated under the Ministry of Public Works, which helped in those accomplishments, and maintained supervising it for 30 years.

PAAAFR had established many public parks and developed new methods of cultivation, increasing the number to 179 of public parks in Kuwait, and established 538 roundabouts, as well as planting 462,149 trees.

The authority also supervises land and water usage for agriculture and fish resources purposes, which allows its preservation, as well as supervises fishing activities, in an organized manner that ensures the development of fish resources.

Additionally, PAAAFR works for the expansion of agriculture in the country, by finding and preparing land to be planted, prioritizing distributing them to farmers, and engaging in research, gathering data and statistics, while offering guidance in the fields of animal, plant and fish resources.

Furthermore, PAAAFR affirmed coordinating with the concerned authorities to establish an agricultural marketing company that would have service, marketing, distribution and manufacturing centers for the agricultural product, and obliges it to conclude contracts with farmers during the different agricultural seasons.

The authority stressed its keenness to localize industrial activities within agricultural holdings, as it concluded a memorandum of understanding in this regard with the Public

'Security linked'

GCC sets priorities

KUWAIT CITY, June 14: The Ministry of Interior has confirmed the implementation of the decisions of the Interior Ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states such as the need to complete the security link system, exchange information and integrate procedures between the GCC countries, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The delegation of the Traffic Violations Linking Team in the State of Kuwait was on official visit to the State of Qatar recently, during which the electronic link between the two countries was completed and inaugurated. The link is for electronic recording of traffic violations and collection of corresponding fines in the two countries.

Authority for Industry, and is working on issuing a regulation that contributes to encouraging agricultural tourism and investment.

Regarding animal production, the authority stated that it contributes to the production of meat, eggs and milk, as it aims to develop and sustain livestock in order to achieve self-sufficiency in animal protein at the national level.

On fish resources, the authority said that it has followed a strategy for the sustainable development of fish resources in Kuwait, to protect and preserve it, while working to enhance the role of fish farming projects.

PAAAFR called for more cooperation between all concerned authorities, and raising awareness on the value of green and the importance of preserving it, while highlighting the importance of the media role, to achieve the overall goals of green.

'Early detection helps in recovery'

'26,000 cancer cases in 9 years'

KUWAIT CITY, June 14: More than 26,600 new cancer cases were diagnosed over the past 9 years between 2010 and 2019, with pediatric cancer patients accounting for four percent, say health specialists.

Oncology consultant Dr. Khaled Al-Saleh speaking of the genetic changes and their relationship to cancer, indicated that genetic symptoms may be due to environmental reasons such as exposure to radiation or carcinogens such as benzene, or they may be due to genetic reasons while at the same time emphasizing that early detection of cancer helps greatly in recovery, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Dr Al-Saleh pointed out that the purpose of health awareness is to guide the family, especially the mother, to early attention to the initial symptoms, as well as how to better deal with the sick child, which studies indicated what we must do to ensure an increased response to treatment.

This came during the "Awareness and Follow-up Workshop for Children's Cancers", which was organized by the National Campaign for Cancer Awareness (CAN) with the support of the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences, at the "CAN Campaign" training center in the Palliative Care Center.

Cancer epidemiologist consultant, Dr. Amani Al-Basmi referred to the most common childhood cancers in Kuwait, explaining that out of 26,600 new cases diagnosed with cancer between 2010 and 2019, pediatric cancer cases accounted for four percent.

She pointed out that the average age of children at diagnosis is 9 years for Kuwaitis, and 8 years for non-Kuwaitis. Leukemia represented 40% of cases, and the death rate among cases was 12%.

Stem cell transplantation and hematology consultant, Dr. Sondos Al-Sharida, gave a lecture on risk factors during childhood and the role of educating mothers in early detection, indicating that 12 types of childhood cancers were diagnosed.

The CAN Chairman of the Board of Directors Dr. Khaled Al-Saleh, said the efforts of the participants and the media contribute to spreading health awareness.

Taking part in the Awareness and Follow-up Workshop included Patients Helping Fund Association, the Health Cities Administration, the Warba Medical Supplies Company and the Golden Sanabel Company.

The most prominent reasons for cancer include exposure to radiation, carcinogens and general factors.

diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'Are the reactionary forces back among us ... with a new survey?'

"A REACTIONARY is a person or entity who holds political views that yearn to return to a previous political state (the good old time) - in their view - and therefore it is in the context of the extreme left-right political spectrum, where these reactionary ideologies can reproduce themselves in the service of re-establishing the previous conditions of coexistence with corruption under the slogan of accepting the other and not exclusion," columnist Dr Abdul Rahman Al-Jeeran wrote for **Al-Rai** daily.

"The 'reactionary' is a new term in our Arab and Islamic nation, and it is appropriate for it to resort to these terms, to know its history and who was the first to use it? For what purpose was it said?"

"Reactionary" for its ambiguity that destroys understanding, which leads to confusion of perception that paves the way for every person with a passion to reach his own by using it, because it carries a meaning of corruption in its vague concept that is worthy of contemplation.

"Since our political parties and blocs crystallized in Kuwait, people lived in an intellectual, social, religious, and political struggle, and each conflict had its own character, expressions, writers, and fans, whether it was greater or less, and the motive for this conflict was from the outside, not from the inside.

"The leaders of these parties in Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Iraq and Yemen know this truth and how the socialist workers tide spread in the face of global imperialism.

"The newspapers are from the Christians of Lebanon residing in Egypt, so it became a reactionary term applied to everyone who denied the falsehood of European civilization and its moral immorality, which is associated with the military and political invasion of our country.

"Then we did not wait until we saw this term used to denote all Islamic life. Writers use it if they wanted a pun on 'Islam' to avoid being accused of defaming the state's religion stipulated in the constitution?"

"In 1943 A.D., when the communist movement began to emerge in the Middle East, it used this same term to denote the regimes that were opposing them because of their corruption and rot.

"Then this term took on many meanings, but the 'first' meaning remained, denoting 'Islam' through a pun to escape punishment or the loss of the masses sympathetic to the slogans 'Islam is the solution.'

"So this term was repeated in the official news channels in the Arab countries, and it came to people's minds through their use of it in the sense of corruption that included the life of the nation in the political, economic and educational fields, and with this ugly camouflage, the likes of these corrupt people wanted to mislead the public opinion that was originally misleading with these terms that they promoted.

"They know its truth, such as democracy and the sovereignty of the nation, and I do not know what sovereignty they are talking about, and the Zionists, who are the scum of people, tamper with the sovereignty of the nation and its most important sanctities, which is Al-Aqsa Mosque, which is one of the mosques of the prophets, and no one moves a finger!"

"Returning to the beginning, in 1952 they took off the sackcloth that the professional British spy in Egypt, Christopher Steve had put on them, and they donned a new sackcloth, which is the 'Brotherhood of Freedom' after a long training, glamorous slogans, and sparkling shouts, which they hide behind without belief and indifference to values, but rather to be able to burn and destroy the 'new Troy', which is the Arab and Islamic Egypt, just as the ancient Troy was destroyed by the Greeks? Have the forces of reaction returned among us today with a new survey?"

Also:

"The parliamentary elections did not differ from the previous ones in terms of the conflicts and disagreements surrounding them except with the sharpness of the new division and fragmentation between the parties, and I do not know if such a division and fragmentation will lead to the recovery of the electoral arena, and thus everything related to the political arena, or will it add fuel to the fire and increase its rage. It seems all possibilities are possible," columnist **Nasser Al-Abdali** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

"There are observations that can be recorded on the 2023 National Assembly elections, the first of which is that talking about rigging on a reduced level unlike the 2022 National Assembly elections, during which 11 electoral appeals were filed between questioning the entire process and questioning some individual results, and this can be inferred as only two appeals have been filed so far, one of them weaker than the other, and I believe that the reason for the silence in the voice regarding any forgery is due to the fact that the interventions of family leaders led to the government's harsh approach to any attempt at forgery.

"Secondly - the decline in the results of the so-called opposition camp in some of the main constituencies, including the second and fourth constituencies, to nearly half and the fall of some of them, after its results in the past elections reached the top in most constituencies, which could be reflected on the credibility of (the sponsor) in achieving gains to his supporters, as happened in the past years, and I believe that these results will have repercussions that could lead to a comprehensive retreat.

"Third - the continuation of the battle between the supporters of (Al-Rahi), which began in the last elections over the leadership of the so-called opposition, to the extent that one of the most important of these elements did not participate in the 2022 elections seminars at all, and the intensity of the dispute between him and (Al-Rahi) reached the point of instigating one

of his tribe's sons to participate in the 2023 Parliament elections, in order to prevent him from reaching the seat, but the calculus of the field was not as great as the calculus of al-Baydar, as it is said, and he managed to bypass the elections even if he was at the bottom of the list.

"Fourth - there was a conviction among most of the national economic actors that the next National Assembly might be important for saving what could be saved, after it became clear that the government was floundering under the weight of the conflict between components of the ruling family, and therefore those forces tried to make their differences under the ceiling because the situation requires such an understanding, and I have actually been able to achieve good results.

"The elections generated promises and threats, and the wager during the next stage is on the awareness of those concerned in managing it in accordance with the supreme national interests and giving priority to promises over an atmosphere of threat which was marked by badness or entering into an adventure that we do not need".

□ □ □

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

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

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

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

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

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

□ □ □

"Patriotism and sacrifice for the nation mean all of us must participate in the election in order to raise the status and renaissance of the country," columnist **Wasmia Al-Musalam** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

"Therefore, we have to wisely choose who represents the people in the Parliament to avoid the multiplication of mistakes, objections and the crises that hindered the path of progress and development.

"The relationship between the executive and legislative authorities must prevail in an atmosphere of positive understanding of dialogue, discussion, trust, respect and reassurance of good intentions to maintain the security and sovereignty of the State. This will also solve many problems that impede the path of development, such as the lopsided demographics issue, which had no effect in the 1960s.

"They should also combat corruption and drugs, be committed in supporting the youths and activating their role in society, ensure appropriate use of oil in petrochemical industries, encourage investment, and implement Kuwait's vision for the year 2035.

"It is necessary to limit quarrels between the two authorities, put the interest of Kuwait above anything, strengthen ties between lawmakers and ministers, ensure cooperation between them, agree on making decisions in the interest of the country and its citizens, and avoid rifts and bickering over trivial matters.

"Agreement between the two authorities accelerates the adoption of critical decisions for the sake of stability, fortification of national unity, commitment to the rule of law and respect for its principles."

□ □ □

"In a step towards improving the quality of education, Minister of Education, Higher Education and Scientific Research Dr Hamad Al-Adwani issued a ministerial decision to stop the scholarship for those pursuing medical specializations in Egypt and Jordan. This is a positive step that I consider a serious move to improve the quality of education in the country," columnist **Tariq Boursli** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

"Everyone must admit that education is in constant decline, and that the educational and academic file must be reconsidered in view of the ministerial decisions taken since the caretaker government took over. A serious step must be taken to complete the scrutiny of forged academic certificates and those suspected of being forged among the citizens and expatriates. This issue was raised in several assemblies.

"Perhaps, the health issue should be one of the priorities of the next government and the Parliament, because the life of a citizen is not subject to experiments by doctors who are not qualified, even if the graduate is a Kuwaiti. How many medical errors have occurred and claimed the lives of citizens?"

"The administrative, vocational and technical health systems must be developed through universities from which Kuwaiti graduates receive their degrees. Or we could import medical expertise that lacks professionalism, with an emphasis on finding alternatives, especially since a new batch of high school students will be graduating soon."

— Compiled by Mai Elsoukary

Embassy organizes second diwaniya

Lebanese diplomat praises Kuwaiti tourists

KUWAIT CITY, June 14: Chargé d'Affaires of the Lebanese Embassy Ahmed Arafa praised Kuwaiti tourists who continued to visit his country despite the current circumstances there, reports **Al-Qabas** daily.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the second diwaniya organized by the embassy, Arafa affirmed that many Kuwaitis visited Lebanon

this year and he expects a large number of Kuwaiti tourists this summer.

He said this is the second diwaniya that the embassy organized to gather Kuwaiti brothers and friends, as well as the Lebanese and diplomatic communities in Kuwait. He affirmed this is a good opportunity to meet everyone, as well as to present the role and activities of the

embassy.

He lauded the big presence of diplomats in the first and second diwaniyas. "This indicates that Lebanon is in the hearts of the Kuwaiti government and people. Diplomatic missions value our country, making us feel that Lebanon is not alone despite the difficult circumstances it is currently going through," he concluded.

Al-Mubarak calls on gov't to allocate budget to fight drugs

Office for Human Rights holds panel discussion

KUWAIT CITY, June 14: Ambassador Jassim Al-Mubarak who heads the National Office for Human Rights, has called on the government to allocate a budget to fight drugs and confront drug dealers at home and abroad, reports **Al-Qabas** daily.

Speaking on the sidelines of the panel discussion organized by the bureau, under the title "A healthy and safe society without addiction", with the participation of many government agencies, Al-Mubarak said the minds of drug dealers open up daily to invent strange methods to smuggle narcotic substances, and there are global drug mafias fighting countries.

Al-Mubarak added, "Praise be to God, we have not reached the level of mafias in Kuwait, and the Ministry of Interior is doing a tremendous job to confront this scourge."

Excellent

Al-Mubarak stated that the Ministry of Interior, headed by First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and Acting Minister of Defense Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled, is currently doing an excellent job, as well as the team working with him.

He went on to say, "All efforts must be combined to deal with this scourge, and there must be no scarcity or stinginess in terms of control efforts, and it must not be said that we do not have a budget, as a budget can be allocated for confrontation, even if a deduction from our food and beverages."

He explained the scourge of drugs targets society and youth, who are the real wealth of the country, and therefore the presence of the National Committee for Drug Control to address this scourge is necessary and must be composed of academics and specialists from government agencies and civil society organizations and develop a vision and executive mechanisms for confrontation and not just give recommendations to collect dust on the shelves.

Al-Mubarak called for the revival of the National Committee, considering its dissolution in 2014 for several reasons, including the lack of budget, as unacceptable.

Targeted

The Vice-President of the National Bureau for Human Rights and Chair of the Child Committee, Dr. Siham Al-Fraih, said the recent volume of drug seizures confirms that all Gulf countries are targeted by gangs promoting drugs and poisons, pointing out that this scourge is widespread throughout the world.

Dr Al-Fraih called on the Ministry of Education to intensify efforts in schools to confront the scourge of drugs and raise awareness of its danger, especially since students spend more time in schools than when they are at home, if we exclude periods of sleep and entertainment.

Dr. Al-Fraih said "we always talk about the family role, but with regard to the spread of the drug scourge, the matter has become greater than the family's capabilities, because the spread of this scourge has become dependent on very strange forms.

"In light of this situation, we must not burden the family with more responsibilities beyond their capabilities, and we, as official institutions, and in the forefront the Ministry of Education, must provide the necessary support, expertise and assistance in guiding the family and extending a helping hand at all levels."

MoSA 'deposits' social assistance

KUWAIT CITY, June 14: The Ministry of Social Affairs has deposited the social assistance for people with disabilities to their bank accounts, reports **Al-Anba** daily quoting a source from the Public Authority for Disabled Affairs.

The source pointed out that the ministry took this step for the benefit of people with disabilities who are planning to perform Hajj this year.

Meanwhile, the Civil Service Commission, after coordination with the Ministry of Health, has agreed to grant an infection allowance to Kuwaiti civilian employees of the General Administration of Ports Security (Passports of Shuwaikh Port, Doha, Northern Ahmadi, Southern Ahmadi, Shuaiba, Al-Zour, Umm Al-Maradim) who are in charge of completing entry and exit procedures and fingerprinting of travelers, reports **Al-Jarida** daily.



Dr Adarsh Swaika with Undersecretary of the Ministry of Oil Nimr Alsabah.

Indian envoy calls on Alsabah

The Indian Ambassador to Kuwait HE Dr Adarsh Swaika met with HE Nimr Fahad Alsabah, Undersecretary, Ministry of Oil of Kuwait. During the meeting both sides appreci-

ated the strong oil connect between the two countries and discussed opportunities for further strengthening bilateral collaboration in this vital sector.

Is it years

Continued from Page 1

dungeon. This law made it possible to arrest a person for a mere phrase, and sentence him to many years in prison. This is contrary to the nature of Kuwaiti culture, which is based on openness and tolerance.

Likewise, Kuwait benefitted neither from expatriates as an added value to the national economy, as is the case in the Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Bahrain, nor from its financial wealth to diversify the sources of income.

The most important thing that the successive governments and parliaments have neglected is diversifying the sources of income.

This matter is a necessity that people have been calling for for 60 years, but their calls land on deaf ears because there is a misconception about the meaning of luxury. It means securing people's requirements in order to work and produce, like in Switzerland and other Scandinavian countries, instead of teaching people to be lazy, something that is prevalent today. For example, the ration card includes items that are unimaginable. The truth is that Kuwait, when it settled on the Constitution, had ended the "sword and tolerance" mentality.

That is why it is expected today from all parliamentarians, especially after their agreement on broad lines, that the country will turn into a major workshop, the basis of which is the development of laws, and pushing towards what the people aspire to in a future that parallels, if not better than, other Gulf states.

For all of this, the question remains - Are we waiting for years of action or small talk?

MPs reaffirm

Continued from Page 1

June 7, 2023, accepting the resignation of His Highness the Prime Minister

"We have decided to: Article I: Appoint His Highness Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah as Prime Minister and assign him to nominate members of the new cabinet pending the issuance of a decree to endorse their positions.

"Article II: The Prime Minister has to implement our order and inform the National Assembly.

"The decree, which takes immediate effect upon issuance, has to be published in the official gazette.

"The Crown Prince

"Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

"Issued at Al-Seif Palace on June 13, 2023."



مغل محل
MUGHAL MAHAL

ORDER WITH US

15% Off

+2000 REWARD POINTS



Unique approach to leadership and excellence

Donna Sultan key figure in Middle East construction industry

KUWAIT CITY, June 14: Kuwaiti Donna Sultan, the President and CEO of KEO, has once again secured a place among the most influential leaders in the Middle East's construction sector, according to Construction Week Middle East's annual #Power100 list.

This notable list highlights key figures from various sectors who collectively drive the region's construction industry. Acknowledging the recognition, Donna Sultan stated, "This inclusion in the distinguished list with industry peers is indeed an honor. My congratulations to all on the list."

Known for her dedication and passion, Donna Sultan is a key figure in the construction industry, inspiring others through her unique approach to leadership and excellence.

She has held the title of CEO of KEO International Consultants for over 30 years and has been integral to the firm's expansion. She assumed the additional role of President in 2016. Under her leadership, KEO, as a group, diversified to offering full range of multi-disciplinary project and construction management, architectural, engineering, and sustainability services. Her strategic oversight saw the establishment of specialized Allied Practices; InSite, C-Quest, and Black Mule further contributing to KEO's growth. Starting from a single office, KEO's reach has extended to eight central offices and over 100 active field offices across the Middle East and Europe, employing close to 2,500 staff.

Guided by Donna's vision, KEO has earned global recognition and is associated with prestigious developments and constructed projects spanning the Middle East, North Africa, Asia, and Europe. KEO's sustained excellence has been recognized earning consistent rankings for 19 years as one of the top 20 Non-US PM/CM firms and among the top 200 International Design Firms. Notably, KEO ranked as the #1 architectural firm in the Middle East for the past three years and ranks globally in the top 10 for Master Planning, Mixed Use, Retail, Environmental and Sustainability Services.

Her career of nearly 40 years of project de-



Donna Sultan Power 100 2023

livery experience, contributions to the industry and successfully navigating KEO to being one of the leading consulting firms have been widely acknowledged.

Forbes Middle East once again listed her as one of the Most Powerful Businesswomen in 2023 and in 2022 she was named 'CEO of the Year'. In 2017, she was named both 'Construction Executive of the Year' and 'Female Leader of the Year'. She is annually recognized as one of the 'Most Powerful Women in the Middle East' and 'Most Influential Construction Leaders'.

Beyond her professional role, Donna Sultan is committed to Corporate Social Responsibility, supporting KEO's initiatives across their operational regions this includes the launching of KEO Academy. Since 2016, she has also served on the International Advisory Council of the Harvard-affiliated Mass General Hospital, now Mass General Brigham.

Donna Sultan's career is a testament to her commitment to her profession and community, marking her as a true leader in the industry.

MoCI move may negatively impact office rental sector

Ministry to exempt 54 activities from having lease contract

KUWAIT CITY, June 14: There is no doubt that the office rental sector is part of the real estate activity that is considered one of the most important pillars of the economy, as it represents a locomotive for many vital sectors. However, it seems that the decision of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to exempt 54 activities from having a lease contract will cast a shadow over the office sector occupancy rates, in the event that some businesses dispense with their rented locations and opt to work from home or remotely, reports Al-Qabas daily.

According to real estate agents, the decision will directly affect offices with areas that do not exceed 30 or 40 square meters, most of which are located outside the borders of Kuwait City. Large offices, especially those in commercial towers, will remain far from the repercussions of the decision and will generally maintain their occupancy rates.

Some others believe that it is too early to know the repercussions of the decision on the office sector.

Head of the Real Estate Association Ibra-

him Al-Awadhi affirmed that the decision of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to exempt some commercial activities from having a lease contract will directly affect the office rental market and the occupancy rates.

He explained that the office sector in Kuwait is classified into sections, including those that are located in commercial towers and have very large areas. Companies rent them and carry out their activities during official hours. These are unlikely to be affected by the decision.

The small-sized office market, whose areas are estimated at 30 or 40 square meters or less, may be affected by the decision, as they are usually opted by those wishing to establish a new activity or by the holder of a commercial license who is forced to rent a temporary headquarters to complete the licensing procedures, but cancels the lease after obtaining all necessary approvals.

Most of the small offices are located outside the borders of Kuwait City. Therefore, the offices in the Capital Governorate in general will not be affected by the decision. The greatest impact remains on the offices located in other areas such as Hawally, Salmiya, Farwaniya, Khaitan, and others, which are usually small in size.

Occupancy rates

Al-Awadhi said he expected the occupancy rates of the office sector to decline, given that the business model of some towers is built on the basis of containing small offices that depend on the needs of license holders. They must therefore reconfigure and arrange their investments in line with the decision, and search for other activities, especially for the offices located in the basements and mezzanines of the complexes scattered in the aforementioned areas, some of which are exploited for licensing and then abandoned. This applies to a large extent to activities that do not need a headquarters or labor registration, which represents a good percentage.

He said he believes there are some small shops or offices that will continue to operate as usual, since their tenants do not need large areas to carry out their commercial activities.

Al-Awadhi concluded by saying, "It is generally difficult to know the extent of the impact of the decision on the office sector now, because it is still in its early stages. We have not yet seen any reactions, either negative or positive, from the market. I believe that in the coming days, the picture will become more clear."

Furthermore, the Vice President of the Real Estate Brokers Union Imad Haidar said the ministerial resolution No. 86/2023 regarding activities of a special nature must be reviewed, especially with regard to the real estate brokerage work.

He said, "We, as the Union of Real Estate Brokers, have come a long way over the course of six years in regulating the real estate brokerage profession. We cooperated with the Anti-Money Laundering Department and the Real Estate Department at the

Ministry of Commerce and Industry to close the doors of money laundering and real estate fraud and prevent intruders into the profession and peddlers from harming the Kuwaiti real estate market.

We have also been setting up workshops and courses for the compliance monitor and a five-year archive for each real estate office that has an official headquarters. Now the decision has come to cancel official headquarters and replace it with the home address in the civil ID card.

It is known that most of the addresses in the civil ID card are incorrect. This is a well-known fact. Even the security and control procedures on homes are complex and differ from the control of shops and offices. There is no doubt that the decision will increase the number of middlemen and intruders to the profession."

Haidar explained that he is currently in the process of launching an electronic broker contract that needs a computer, printer and scanner. It is unreasonable for the broker to carry these devices from one place to another to conclude a deal, at a time when other countries boast of their real estate offices, meeting halls, presentation rooms and professional staff. The aforementioned decision encourages a return to making deals in the "Dalahwa Coffee Shop in Al-Jet Market".

Also, a real estate expert Suleiman Al-Dulajjan stated that it is too early to know the repercussions of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry's decision on the office sector regarding the exemption of 54 activities from having a lease contract.

He said, "We must know the number of people who will work at home before we see the extent of the decision's impact on the office market. Currently it is difficult to predict, and this depends on the turnout and the conditions set for that."

Meanwhile, the Director of Al-Laheeb Real Estate Company Sulaiman Al-Laheeb said the decision of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to exempt some activities from having a lease contract will have a positive impact on Kuwaiti youth and entrepreneurs who wish to start a new commercial activity.



The Guest Show poster.

TGS presents French ambassador

The Guest Show (TGS) on Radio Kuwait International is honoured to present HE Claire Le Flecher, Ambassador of France to Kuwait. Ambassador Le Flecher's professional rise is an inspiring story of empowerment.

Born into an ordinary, unprivileged background, Claire Le Flecher made her way up with the help of strong ambition and hard work. Her dream was to travel, learn about cultures and build people-to-people connections. Diplomacy, she realised, was the perfect career for her.

Ambassador Le Flecher's career is as varied as her education. She started her professional life with budget and econo-

my, then rose to be Deputy Director for Russia and Eastern Europe at the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs.

Before being posted in Kuwait, she was ambassador to Armenia. Kuwait is her first posting in the Middle East. She is looking forward to an exciting journey of learning and bringing France and Kuwait closer together.

Here in this episode, she speaks to Chaitali B. Roy about her personal journey, the friendship between the two countries, the sectors they partner in, the contribution of France to the liberation of Kuwait and the strengthening of this strong partnership.

Al-Farsi stresses need for provision of service

Call for mechanism to collect bulky waste

KUWAIT CITY, June 14: A member of the Municipal Council Eng. Alia Al-Farsi called for developing a mechanism for the removal of bulky residential waste of large quantities and sizes, reports Al-Anba daily.

Eng. Al-Farsi explained that this mechanism is necessary in view of the quantities of municipal solid waste generated from housing units and residential areas, either private or investment housing, and the way they are randomly removed, which makes it a source of environmental and visual pollution, in addition to its uncivilized appearance. Most of this waste is of large quantities or oversized such as used furniture, tables, chairs, beds and mattresses, strollers, children's toys, musical instruments, garden furniture, plastic, household electrical appliances, paper and glass, and other non-hazardous materials that are difficult to dispose of in designated containers either due to its size, quantity or type.

Due to the lack of a mechanism that regulates the disposal and removal of such waste in an organized manner from the source of its production, it leads to random removal and disposal of this waste. This causes distortion of the general appearance, obstruction of the road, and visual pollution. They eventually end up being thrown in landfills, even though they may be reusable or recyclable. This is not compatible with the desired environmental goals, which is to reduce waste dumping.

Eng. Al-Farsi requested the establishment of a special application in the municipality that allows the user to dispose of residential waste of large quantities and sizes that are difficult to dispose of in regular garbage containers.

She indicated that the registration in the



Eng. Alia Al-Farsi

6 firms vie for KIA contract

KUWAIT CITY, June 14: The Central Agency for Public Tenders has given nod for the Directorate-General of Civil Aviation to manage and improve the services sector of the new Kuwait International Airport, reports Al-Anba daily.

The six international companies vying for the contract are the TAV Turkish company, the Munich German company, the German Fraport company, Dublin Irish Company, the Incheon Korean Company and the Indian GMR Company.

application can be done electronically by entering the data of the service applicant such as name, civil ID number, mobile phone number and location, and uploading pictures of the waste after which the work cycle by the municipality will start to take the waste to the collection points.


albander
 hotel & resort

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

Terms & conditions apply

Tel: +973 17701201 - Ext. 351 | Email: reservation@albander.com | www.albander.com | @albanderhotelandresort

The Conversation

Fathers are transformative figures for kids, families and communities

Nurturing dads raise emotionally intelligent children

By Kevin Shafer
Brigham Young University

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

When my oldest son was born in July of 2008, I thought I could easily balance my career and my desire to be far more engaged at home than my father and his generation were. I was wrong.

Almost immediately, I noticed how social policies, schools and health care systems all make it difficult for dads to be highly involved and engaged at home. Contradictory expectations about work and family life abound.

As a fatherhood researcher with four kids of my own, I am convinced that fathers are transformative figures for children, families and communities.

But a man's mere presence, paycheck and willingness to punish misbehaving children is not nearly enough. Many of the benefits of fathering for children come from dads being nurturing, loving and engaged in all aspects of parenting.

When fathers are caregivers - when they provide emotional support and act affectionately toward their kids - the effects go well beyond growth, development, good health and solid grades. My research shows the benefits also include having children who value emotional intelligence, gender equality and healthy competition.

Thinking about the broad impact fathers have, I analyzed how fathering affects different social values - such as a belief in gender equality - in May 2021.

Surveying more than 2,500 American fathers 18 and older, I found that involved fathering has a long-lasting impact on the personal principles and cultural perspectives of children.

In my survey, the differences between the least nurturing and the most nurturing fathers are stark.

Surveyed fathers who reported that their own fathers were highly withdrawn tended to be hypercompetitive, emotionally stoic and unappreciative of women's contributions outside the home.

In contrast, surveyed fathers who said they had highly nurturing dads were much more likely to achieve their goals in a healthy manner, be more emotionally open and believe in equitable partnership.

Several decades ago, many fathers were unwilling or unable to provide their children with emotional support or physical care. Instead, they focused on bread-winning, children's discipline and simply being present in the home.

These traditional norms left many contemporary fathers ill-equipped for modern parenthood. Contemporary social norms set broad expectations for fathers: rule enforcement and economically supporting the family while also providing for children's physical and emotional needs.

Broad paternal involvement with kids is important because dads have unique effects on kids. Children's values, beliefs, emotional expression and social development are strongly associated with fathering. Kids are better regulated emotionally, more resilient and more open-minded when their fathers are involved in their education and socialization.

Interests

Boys, for better and worse, often mirror the habits, interests and values of their own fathers.

My colleague Scott Easton and I found that how one's father behaves is especially powerful given that cultural, social and institutional norms about fatherhood are much weaker than they are for motherhood.

For example, mothers have traditionally been known for showing children affection and providing emotional support. Social expectations for these behaviors are not well defined among fathers. As a result, dads have a much larger impact on their sons' fathering behaviors than moms have on their daughters' mothering behaviors.

Positively, this means that a sizable portion of men replicate the best attributes of their own fathers - such as being loving and affectionate. Negatively, this means bad behaviors - such as extremely harsh discipline - are sometimes repeated across generations.

However, some men compensate for their own fathers' poor or nonexistent parenting by forming their own ideas and values about parenting.

The findings from my survey build on decades of research on the benefits of positive fathering. And these advantages aren't just for children.

Mothers and other parenting partners are healthier and happier when fathers are highly engaged with their kids. Men who care for and support their kids benefit too - with improved self-image, life purpose and relationships. And communities gain increased trust and safety from the relationships built when fathers positively participate in their kids' activities, schooling and social networks.

How can American society ensure that healthy competition, emotional openness and respect for women are widespread among future generations of men and fathers? Part of the answer is by valuing loving, supportive fathering.

That means more support for fathers in workplaces, public policy and institutions. Paid family leave, flexible work arrangements and integration of fathers into prenatal and postnatal care are all effective ways to encourage fathers to be more involved.

Many fathers increased their share of child care tasks during the COVID-19 pandemic. These shifts may become permanent, ultimately changing cultural values around parenting and gender roles.

Society also needs to provide clearer messaging to fathers about what does and does not work in parenting. For example, my colleagues and I have shown that men who believe they should be nurturing parents are more involved in their children's lives. Fathers who demonstrate healthy masculine traits like assertiveness and strong goal orientation also tend to be sensitive, engaged parents.

Thus, there are many routes to transformative fathering. And this is not simply behavior for biological fathers. Fatherhood is broadly defined, and people often look to nonbiological father figures like relatives, stepfathers, foster fathers and unrelated mentors.

All men who support and care for children have a critical role to play in instilling positive social values in future generations. (AP)

The Conversation

'Increase motivation'

ChatGPT use can help pupils learn, not cheat

By Kui Xie and Eric M. Anderman
The Ohio State University

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

Since ChatGPT can engage in conversation and generate essays, computer codes, charts and graphs that closely resemble those created by humans, educators worry students may use it to cheat. A growing number of school districts across the country have decided to block access to ChatGPT on computers and networks.

As professors of educational psychology and educational technology, we've found that the main reason students cheat is their academic motivation. For example, sometimes students are just motivated to get a high grade, whereas other times they are motivated to learn all that they can about a topic.

The decision to cheat or not, therefore, often relates to how academic assignments and tests are constructed and assessed, not on the availability of technological shortcuts. When they have the opportunity to rewrite an essay or retake a test if they don't do well initially, students are less likely to cheat.

We believe teachers can use ChatGPT to increase their students' motivation for learning and actually prevent cheating. Here are three strategies for doing that.

1. Treat ChatGPT as a learning partner

Our research demonstrates that students are more likely to cheat when assignments are designed in ways that encourage them to outperform their classmates. In contrast, students are less likely to cheat when teachers assign academic tasks that prompt them to work collaboratively and to focus on mastering content instead of getting a good grade.

Treating ChatGPT as a learning partner can help teachers shift the focus among their students from competition and performance to collaboration and mastery.

For example, a science teacher can assign students to work with ChatGPT to design a hydroponic vegetable garden. In this scenario, students could engage with ChatGPT to discuss the growing requirements for vegetables, brainstorm design ideas for a hydroponic system and analyze pros and cons of the design.

These activities are designed to promote mastery of content as they focus on the processes of learning rather than just the final grade.

2. Use ChatGPT to boost confidence

Research shows that when students feel confident that they can successfully do the work assigned to them, they are less likely to cheat. And an important way to boost students' confidence is to provide them with opportunities to experience success.

ChatGPT can facilitate such experiences by offering students individualized support and breaking down complex problems into smaller challenges or tasks.

For example, suppose students are asked to attempt to design a hypothetical vehicle that can use gasoline more efficiently than a traditional car. Students who struggle with the project - and might be inclined to cheat - can use ChatGPT to break down the larger problem into smaller tasks. ChatGPT might suggest they first develop an overall concept for the vehicle before determining the size and weight of the vehicle and deciding what type of fuel will be used. Teachers could also ask students to compare the steps suggested by ChatGPT with steps that are recommended by other sources.

3. Prompt ChatGPT to give supportive feedback

It is well documented that personalized feedback supports students' positive emotions, including self-confidence.

ChatGPT can be directed to deliver feedback using positive, empathetic and encouraging language. For example, if a student completes a math problem incorrectly, instead of merely telling the student "You are wrong and the correct answer is ..." ChatGPT may initiate a conversation with the student. Here's a real response generated by ChatGPT: "Your answer is not correct, but it's completely normal to encounter occasional errors or misconceptions along the way. Don't be discouraged by this small setback; you're on the right track! I'm here to support you and answer any questions you may have. You're doing great!"

This will help students feel supported and understood while receiving feedback for improvement. Teachers can easily show students how to direct ChatGPT to provide them such feedback.

We believe that when teachers use ChatGPT and other AI chatbots thoughtfully - and also encourage students to use these tools responsibly in their schoolwork - students have an incentive to learn more and cheat less. (AP)



First-place winners for project Solar Car.



Second-place winners for project Pipeline Leak Identification Emergency Robot Swarm (PLIERS).



Third-place winners for project FORG3D - Dual 3D Printer.



CSIS winners for project Mobile Brain Computer Interface Motor Imagery.



Student choice award winners for project Smart Farm.



AUK president, Dr. Rawda Awwad, talking to a participant in the CEAS exhibition.

Over 100 students present their graduation projects

AUK CEAS holds Annual Capstone Exhibition

KUWAIT CITY, June 14: The American University of Kuwait (AUK) College of Engineering and Applied Sciences (CEAS) held its second capstone exhibition that included over a hundred students presenting their graduation projects, incorporating novel prototypes that combined their hardware and software skills. The event was open to students, alumni, parents, and industry representatives.

A total of 24 groups showcased their projects through informative posters, research papers, leaflets, and video displays. Supervised by faculty members of the College, students presented a wide range of prototypes such as Solar Cars, Hybrid Bicycles, IoT-Based PV Monitoring Systems, Smart Glasses, Portable Radiation Indicators, Surveillance Robots, and Handicapped Alerting Systems.

The event concluded with an award ceremony at the campus theater where AUK president, Dr. Rawda Awwad, congratulated the students, "I applaud you for your remarkable achievement in completing your capstone event. You have taken your capstone experience to an extraordinary level and have shown a relentless thirst for innovation and exploration. As mentors, we have been part of your growth. However, today, I humbly acknowledge that the tables have turned. You are becoming our

teachers, and our guides to the future. When that happens, we can say that we've done our job well. You will pave the way for future generations with what you know to ensure progress and constructive change."

The award ceremony also featured a keynote speech delivered by Mr. Hadi Nazari Mehrabi, Group CEO at NorthTelecom in which he motivated students to work hard, "Regardless of how talented you may be, your hard work will determine the results you get in your career and life. So, whether you choose to get a job or start your own business, make sure that you give it your all."

Milestone

Dr. Mohamed El-Abd, CEAS associate and interim dean, commented on the success of the event, "The exhibition marks a significant milestone in the academic journey of our graduating students. It represents the culmination of years of hard work, dedication, and commitment. The participation of our graduating students in this exhibition is a testament to their growth, resilience, and the depth of knowledge they have acquired over the past 4 years. All works presented in the exhibition reflect our students' passion for learning, ability to solve complex problems, and readiness to contribute meaningfully to society."

A total of three winners were announced for the

engineering category—the first-place winner was for project Solar Car, by Laila Dallol, Othman Al-Salili, Majed Al-Dhafaeri, Ahmad Aldandan, and supervised by Dr. Seyed Esmaili, and Dr. Ghulam Amjad Hussain with Eng. Fatima Baderdine acting as co-supervisor.

The second-place winner for the engineering project award was Pipeline Leak Identification Emergency Robot Swarm (PLIERS), by Reem Qasem, Fatima Matook, Ali Darviche, Ahmad Yonis, and supervised by Dr. Mounib Khanafer with Eng. Ali Rady acting as co-supervisor.

The third-place winner was FORG3D - Dual 3D Printer, by Mohammad AlHamad, Ahmad Abutaleb, Khaled Alarashed, Meshari Alrof, and supervised by Dr. Seyed Esmaili.

Mobile Brain Computer Interface Motor Imagery was the winning project award for the computer science and information systems (CSIS) category. The project was implemented by Abdulaziz Althekair, Mohammed Odeh, Mohammad Albayya, and supervised by Dr. Marwa Mostafa.

Smart Farm was the winning project award for the student choice award. The project was implemented by Ferass El-Sabaa, Ahmed Singer, Yousef AlRefaei, Fatemah Abbas, and supervised by Dr. Mounib Khanafer.

Inflationary pressures continue to ease

Wholesale prices in the United States dropped 0.3% from April to May, another sign that inflationary pressures continue to ease in the face of repeated interest rate hikes by the Federal Reserve.

The Labor Department's producer price index - which measures inflation before it reaches consumers - rose 1.1% last month from May 2022, it said Wednesday, the smallest year-over-year gain since December 2020.

On a month-to-month basis, over-

all producer prices have now dropped three of the last four months. In May, wholesale inflation was pulled down by a 13.8% drop in gasoline prices.

Excluding volatile food and energy prices, so-called core wholesale inflation was up 0.2% last from April and 2.8% from a year earlier, the mildest gain since February 2021.

Unleashed by an unexpectedly strong economic recovery from 2020's COVID-19 recession, inflation began to rise in 2021 and last year reached

levels not seen since the early 1980s. In response, the Fed has raised its benchmark interest rate 10 times in the past 15 months. At their meeting Wednesday, Fed policymakers are expected to leave the rate alone to give themselves time to assess the impact the aggressive rate hikes have had on the economy.

Inflation has been receding. Year-over-year increases in producer prices peaked at 11.7% in March 2022 and have fallen 11 straight months. (AP)



A line of Kubota compact excavators is shown in Uniontown, Pa., Friday, June 9, 2023. On Wednesday, the Labor Department releases the producer price index for May, an indicator of inflation at the wholesale level. (AP)

Market Movements

14-06-2023

	Change	Closing pts		Change	Closing pts
UAE - DFM	+0.12	3,717.07	PHILIPPINES - PSEi	-1.12	6,434.06
JAPAN - Nikkei	+1.47	33,502.42			
PAKISTAN - KSE 100	+0.00	41,536.87			
SAUDI - Tadawul	+1.04	11,533.03			
EGYPT - EGX 30	+0.04	17,873.28			

Business

Global outlook improves but uncertainties remain

China's recovery disappoints

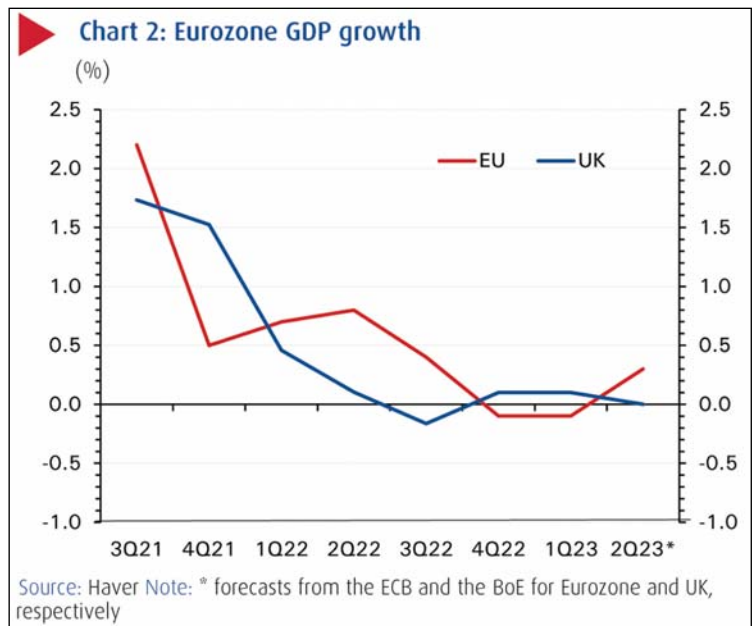
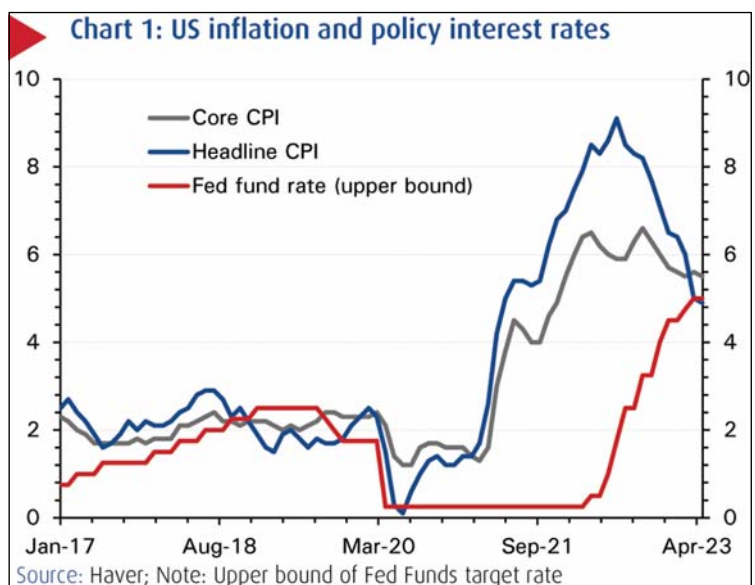
The growth outlook for most advanced economies has improved in the last few months, with chances of recession narrowing, as consumer spending has exhibited strong resilience in spite of high-interest rates and elevated inflation. (See table 1 at the end of the document.) Fallout from the recent banking crisis has dissipated, with no major deterioration seen in credit conditions following bank failures. The US debt-ceiling impasse has also been resolved with no significant repercussions except minor government spending cuts in future and some uncertainty over the impact of large 'catch up' government debt issuance. Consumer price inflation has receded sharply from record highs in key developed markets, though core inflation has proven stubborn, underpinning continued tight monetary policies. China's post-Covid economic recovery has been disappointingly uneven, influencing external balances for many countries and arguably oil prices, too.

US economic outlook cautious, may avoid recession

Recent US economic indicators have been mixed but not yet consistent with an impending recession. Additionally, the fallout from the banking crisis has seemingly stabilized with no material alterations in liquidity conditions in the country since March. The government also resolved the weeks-long debt-deal impasse with opposition lawmakers in the usual and frustratingly 'last-minute' manner that helped avert a catastrophic default by suspending the federal debt ceiling and capping non-defense discretionary spending. Meanwhile, consumer pricing pressures continue to subside, but with still-tight labor market. The Fed's job now appears more complicated, considering the Treasury's upcoming large post-debt deal bond issuance (estimated to be over \$1trn by end-2023) that should further squeeze liquidity.

Economic growth during 1Q23 was revised upwards to 1.3% q/q (annualized) from 1.1% earlier, on upgrades to private fixed investments and personal consumption, though still slowed from 2.6% in 4Q22. Meanwhile, retail sales, industrial production and personal spending in April all improved from the previous month, while growth in durable goods orders, although slowing m/m, came in sharply better than expected. The housing market, which saw steep softening in the last few quarters, seems to have stabilized, with rising new home sales, building permits and housing starts, while residential property prices rose in March for the second consecutive month by 1.5% m/m after seven straight months of decline. However, ISM PMI and University of Michigan consumer confidence indices have ebbed in recent months, underscoring an unclear economic outlook.

Employment data have largely been solid, with payrolls and new job open-



Highlights

■ Economic indicators have improved in most economies, boosting the outlook and narrowing recession risks.

■ In the US, private consumption has been resilient despite the Fed's aggressive tightening, helped by a still-strong labor market and easing inflation. But core inflation has been sticky, meaning that rate hikes may not quite be over.

■ The Eurozone slipped into a technical recession in Q1, but growth could pick up in Q2 amid solid services sector signals.

■ China's economic recovery has lost steam, with both manufacturing output and exports contracting recently.

ings increasing more than forecast, and slowing but still-decent wage growth. Still, the unemployment rate ticked up in May to a seven-month high of 3.7% from 3.4% earlier, while weekly jobless claims data are trending tentatively higher.

Meanwhile, price pressures continue to soften, with CPI inflation in May moderating to a two-year low of 4% y/y and the core rate easing to 5.3% y/y. Energy prices fell but growth in shelter prices accelerated and used car prices jumped on a monthly basis, implying an uneven outlook. A mixed bag of data makes the Fed's job even trickier. The bank could opt for a pause in rate hikes in its upcoming meeting, after raising the policy rate by 25 bps to a range of 5.0-5.25% in May - its 10th hike of the current cycle. That said, any such move may prove temporary if the labor market remains hot and/or inflation decelerates only slowly, while rate cuts could also be delayed.

Europe faring better than earlier thought

The Eurozone officially slipped into recession last quarter as revised data show GDP fell by 0.1% q/q each in 4Q22 and 1Q23. A mild winter helped escape a deeper downturn, though. There is some optimism over the outlook however, with the European Commission nudging up its forecast for 2023 growth to 1.1% from 0.9% in February. GDP is expected to rebound in Q2 as the services sector leads the recovery, evident in the latest PMI readings. The composite PMI remained in expansion mode but moderated to 52.8 in May from 54.1 in April, mainly driven by services (55.1), while manufacturing contracted even further (44.8). Headline inflation has been subsiding, while core inflation has also started to ease, suggesting the ECB may not have to raise rates aggressively over this summer.

A weakening in the German economy has been driving the slowdown in manufacturing over the past period as the country fell into recession, with output shrinking 0.3% q/q during Q1, marking the second consecutive quarter of negative growth. France, on the other hand, expanded by 0.2% on a positive contribution from net trade and a lower negative contribution from domestic demand. Italy also grew by 0.5%, mainly driven by strong growth in services (especially tourism).

As for the UK, even though it has been posting positive economic growth, it continues to lag major economies within and outside Europe. (Table 1.) The outlook will continue to be supported by government investment and spending, including energy bill support measures. CPI inflation moved down to 8.7% y/y for April from 10% in January, but the core rate worryingly rose to 6.8% versus 5.8% in January. A tight job market is supporting higher wage growth, which in turn is pushing companies to raise prices - one of the explanations for sticky core prices. The Bank of England is expected to continue raising policy rates (currently 4.5%) through the summer, and rates could peak around 5.5% by year-end.

Tourism lifts Japan's output amid weak external demand

Japan's prospects have wavered amid robust domestic consumption and improving tourism, while manufacturing has been sluggish as external demand, especially from China, remains fragile. GDP in 1Q23 surprised on the upside, with annualized growth of 2.7% q/q versus 1.9% expected. Higher private consumption (due somewhat to tourism activities) and a surge in capital expenditure drove the outperformance despite shrinking external demand. The number of foreign tourists climbed to 2mn (+7% m/m) in April - a post-pandemic high, but still a third below the pre-Covid level. The PMI services survey has been continuously rising since the beginning of this year, indicating solid local demand and sharply recovering inbound tourism activities. The manufacturing surveys also show some improvement, having moved above the no-change zone in May, a first in seven months.

Meanwhile, inflation (all items excluding fresh food) reversed course in April and increased to 3.4% from 3.1% in March. The better-than-expected economic growth in Q1 and inflation exceeding the Bank of Japan's (BoJ) 2% target have fueled speculation of a pivot in monetary policy (towards tighter policy) happening sooner than anticipated. However, wage growth - another critical gauge tracked by the BoJ that can help sustain higher inflation - has been broadly decelerating in 2023. Moreover, with falling real wages, the outlook on private consumption is moderating, which could provide additional reasons for the BoJ to maintain its ultra-loose policies. It seems unlikely that the BoJ will make a shift in its upcoming meeting later this week.

China sees disappointing and uneven recovery

China's economy started 2023 on a solid note, with GDP growing by 4.5% y/y in 1Q23, composite PMI readings soaring to record levels by March, and services activities and retail sales rebounding. However, since then, the post-Covid recovery has started losing steam, with shrinking manufacturing activities and lackluster consumption. The official manufacturing PMI sank to

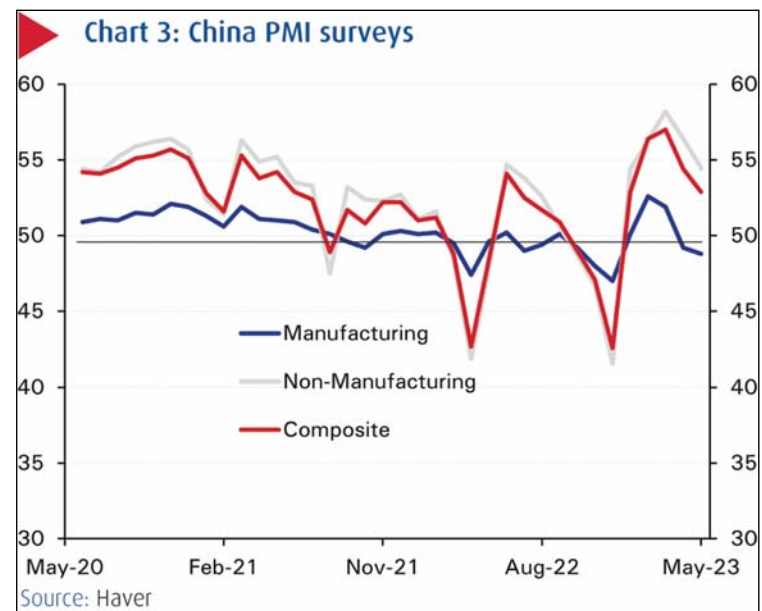
its lowest level in four months in May (48.8) amid a frail global outlook. (Chart 3.) Compounding the matter was softer domestic demand, which saw imports shrink by 4.5% y/y in May and CPI inflation ease to 0.2% y/y, with PPI remaining in deflation since October 2022. Amid weaker global demand, exports also fell 7.5% y/y in May. Youth unemployment rates soared to record levels (20.4%) in April, three months before its seasonal peak in July, in which 11.6 million new graduates are expected to enter the labor market, boding ill for employment trends.

The softening economy has reversed capital flows, and the yuan has given back some reopening-related gains against the dollar. Meanwhile, hopes of a rebound in the real estate sector remain shaky as developers' investment declined despite a pickup in residential property sales. Additional worries stem from local governments' ballooned financial liabilities, which have come under heightened stress on poor fiscal revenues following a downturn in the property market, foretelling widespread defaults. The government is apparently working on rolling out additional measures to revive the property sector, including lowering payment requirements and reducing mortgage rates. The People's Bank of China had cut the reserve requirement ratio for big banks in March by 25bps, though as signs of easing economic activity intensified thereafter, the bank also reduced rates on short-term loans this week, a usual precursor to lowering the key policy rate in its upcoming meeting.

India's GDP growth accelerates, but headwinds persist

India's GDP growth accelerated more than forecast in the final quarter of FY22/23 (fiscal ending March) to 6.1% from 4.5% in Q3. A rebound in government spending and robust growth in private investment led to a sharp rise in output. For FY22/23 overall, GDP grew by 7.2%, higher than the previously estimated 7%. The government has retained its forecast of around 6.5% growth for the current fiscal year, with risks being "evenly balanced" now. Recent indicators point towards an uneven momentum, though. The latest PMI surveys have been solid (near their record-highs), underpinning continued strong business activity. In contrast, growth in indirect tax collections has slowed, while private consumption has been muted. Moreover, the adverse impact of delayed and possibly below-optimal monsoon rains may be felt later this year, resulting in curtailed agricultural output and softer demand in the rural belt. On the brighter side, a general election next year should propel government spending higher on populist measures in the coming months, somewhat offsetting the weaker private consumption.

Consumer price inflation has been moderating, with price growth slowing to a 25-month low of 4.3% in May from 4.7% in April, as food inflation softened to 2.9% from 3.8%. However, food inflation may reverse course if grain output takes a big hit in case of a below-normal monsoon season this year. That said, the Reserve Bank of India has maintained a pause (repo rate at 6.5%) in its last two policy meetings, signaling continuation of tight monetary conditions, despite modestly lowering its inflation outlook for this year to 5.1%.



% y/y	2022	2023f	2024f
US	2.1	1.2	0.6
Eurozone	3.5	0.6	1.0
UK	4.1	-0.1	0.8
Japan	1.0	1.1	1.2
China	3.0	5.4	5.0
India*	7.2	6.0	6.4

Source: Refinitiv (third party forecasts) Note: * fiscal year ending March of the following year

Asian stocks mixed after US inflation cools

Wall St drifts higher ahead of Fed decision on rate

NEW YORK, June 14, (AP): Stocks were drifting higher Wednesday, as Wall Street waits to hear what the Federal Reserve's latest economy-moving decision will be on interest rates.

The S&P 500 was 0.3% higher in afternoon trading after riding a winning streak to its best level since April 2022. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 100 points, or 0.3%, at 34,112, as of 12:54 p.m. Eastern time, while the Nasdaq composite was 0.4% higher.

Some stocks were making sharp moves, including drops for several health insurers after UnitedHealth Group flagged how many customers were getting knee procedures and other outpatient services done. That's something that could raise costs for insurers, and UnitedHealth fell 7.1%. Humana dropped 12.2%.

Stocks of companies that make products used in hip replacements and other health procedures, meanwhile, were at the front of the market. Stryker rose 5.4%, and Edwards Lifesciences gained 5.2%.

But the majority of Wall Street was quiet, with the main event coming later in the afternoon. That's when the Federal Reserve will announce its latest move on interest rates after jacking them to their highest levels

since 2007 in hopes of getting high inflation under control.

The wide expectation on Wall Street is that the Fed will make no move, which would be the first time in more than a year where it hasn't raised rates. Inflation has come down since its peak last summer, and a report Wednesday morning showed price gains at the wholesale level eased in May to the most modest inflation from year-earlier levels since 2020.

Hikes to interest rates take a notoriously long time to take effect, and they can do so in unanticipated and damaging ways. Already, they've helped lead to three high-profile failures in the U.S. banking system, a months-long contraction in the manufacturing industry and worries about a possible recession.

But many on Wall Street don't expect this to be the end of the Fed's rate hikes. The widespread bet is that it will resume raising rates in July.

Even if it's come down, inflation is still too high for comfort. It's hurting all kinds of households, particularly those with lower incomes. It's also giving ammunition to the members of the Fed considered "hawks," or the ones more inclined to keep raising rates, while

"doves" favor a longer pause.

That's setting the stage for what Gargi Chaudhuri, head of iShares Investment Strategy Americas, calls a "hawkish skip" for the Fed this afternoon.

She said that while easing inflation data "reduces the risk that the Fed may have to keep hiking into the 6% range, the data is not enough to conclude that the Fed will ease anytime soon."

The federal funds rate is currently in a range of 5% to 5.25%, up from virtually zero early last year.

That could also be setting the stage for at least one dissent in the vote by the Fed's policy making committee this afternoon. If that were to happen, it would be the first since last June, noted Brian Jacobsen, chief economist at Annex Wealth Management.

In the bond market, the yield on the 10-year Treasury fell to 3.79% from 3.82% late Tuesday. It helps set rates for mortgages and other important loans.

The two-year Treasury yield, which moves more on expectations for the Fed, fell to 4.62% from 4.67%.

Asian stock markets were mixed Wednesday after a cooler reading on U.S. inflation buoyed hopes the Federal Reserve will postpone a possible interest rate hike.

Shanghai, Tokyo and Sydney rose while Hong Kong and Seoul declined.

The Shanghai Composite Index rose 0.2% to 3,241.57 and the Nikkei 225 in Tokyo advanced 1.5% to 33,495.29. The Hang Seng in Hong Kong lost less than 0.1% to 19,511.86.

The Kospi in South Korea was off 0.7% at 2,619.68 and Sydney's S&P-ASX 200 gained 0.3% to 7,159.90.

India's Sensex opened down 0.1% at 63,071.69. New Zealand declined while Singapore and Bangkok advanced.

Oil

In energy markets, benchmark U.S. crude rose 7 cents to \$69.49 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose \$2.30 on Tuesday to \$69.42. Brent crude, the price basis for international oil trading, added 16 cents to \$74.45 per barrel in London. It gained \$2.45 the previous session to \$74.29.

Currencies

The dollar declined to 140.12 yen from Tuesday's 140.29 yen. The euro was unchanged at \$1.0790.

The Legend is Back in Kuwait

Al Sayer unveils all new Toyota Crown 2023

Building on the legacy of one of the world's best-loved vehicles since the 1950s, Mohamed Naser Al Sayer & Sons EST Co and Toyota have launched the 16th generation Toyota Crown in Kuwait. The highly-anticipated flagship vehicle is ready to turn heads and inspire car enthusiasts with its unique combination of bold design, powerful acceleration, and premium comfort. The Crown has been built to provide an intuitive driving experience that will exceed expectations and establish a new benchmark in the premium segment throughout the region.

The launch event was attended by Masaru Shimada General Manager and Satoshi Yamaguchi Group Manager from Toyota Motor Corporation, Faisal Bader Al Sayer Chairman, Mubarak Naser Al Sayer CEO, Mohamed Naser Al Sayer Executive Board Member, Bengt Schultz COO, Martin Aherne Business Director Toyota Sales Division and Top Management Team at ALSAYER, Theo Kruger General Manager Retail Sales, Savio Alvares Deputy General Manager 'ALSAYER AL OSTOUL' Fleet Sales, Bader Faisal Al Sayer Senior Marketing Manager Toyota Sales, Hamad Al Fouzan Senior Manager Product Planning, esteemed dignitaries, distinguished partners and customers, members from Toyota Sales team, in the presence of representatives from the press and media.

The Crown first debuted in 1955 as the "Toyopet Crown," Toyota's first mass produced passenger vehicle. When the first generation was launched, Crown came to symbolize "innovation" and "pushing the limit" within Toyota. Since then, it has gained recognition in Japan as Toyota's premium sedan. It was also the first Japanese sedan to hit Middle East shores back in 1960, last being sold in the region in 2000.

Mubarak Naser Al Sayer commented "I must admit that this Crown brings back memories of my late father, may God have mercy on him when he brought the first generation of Toyopet Crown to Kuwait and how it proved its worth at that time. It has earned the admiration and trust of everyone for many years. I would like to point out that the legacy of the Crown reflects a historic success that we witnessed even in Kuwait during the 1980s, and it is not surprising that many customers still appreciate the position of Toyota Crown to this day".

According to Martin Aherne "Toyota has so far introduced fifteen different generations of Crown for Japanese as well as International markets, starting from first generation Toyopet Crown in 1955 until the fifteenth generation Toyota Crown in 2018. The re-introduction of the model in Kuwait with the new era of Crown as Toyota's flagship large sedan will strengthen Toyota's exceptional line-up of vehicles and also further elevate overall brand equity".

- Bold, breathtaking exterior that exudes luxury
- Spacious interior that guarantees premium comfort for all on board
- Available exclusively with two hybrid electric powertrains to accelerate the realization of a carbon-neutral society
- State-of-the-art safety technologies including the latest Toyota Safety Sense for greater peace of mind for drivers and passengers

- Available with two types of engines:
 - Four Cylinder Hybrid Engine 2400cc Turbo with a Combined Horsepower 343hp.
 - Four Cylinder Hybrid Engine 2500cc with a Combined Horsepower 218hp.
- Dynamic Radar Cruise Control (DRCC).
- Pre-Crash Safety System (PCS).
- Blind Spot Monitor System (BSM).
- Lane Tracing Assist (LTA).
- 4 Cameras + Panoramic View Monitor (PVM).
- Fixed Panoramic Roof.
- 21-inch Alloy Wheels.
- 12.3-inch HD Front Display (Apple Carplay & Android Auto).
- Head-up Display (HUD).



Bader Faisal Al Sayer said "We understand that many customers of different age groups who admire stylish appearance, luxurious cabins, and powerful performance have been eagerly awaiting the return of this prestigious car to the Kuwaiti market. They will be amazed by the extent of development and comprehensive advancement that the all-new Toyota Crown has undergone".

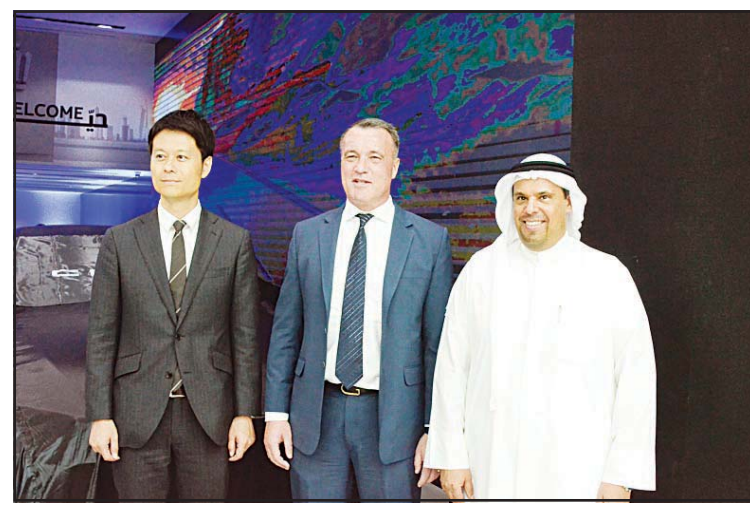
Akihiro Sarada, Chief Engineer in charge of development, said: "We are delighted to introduce the new Toyota Crown. With 'innovation,' 'challenge,' and uncompromising passion built into its DNA, this vehicle embodies our commitment to surpassing the ever-evolving expectations of our customers. With a rich history dating back to its debut in 1955, the Crown has always held a special place as Toyota's flagship model, captivating customers worldwide. Drawing inspiration from its illustrious heritage, we infused this new model with cutting-edge technology and advanced features, all while upholding the highest standards of ride comfort, safety, maneuverability, and driving performance.

We eagerly anticipate bringing this vehicle to customers across the Middle East."

Kei Fujita, Chief Representative, Middle East and Central Asia Representative Office, Toyota Motor Corporation, commented: "We are thrilled to announce the return of the legend and introduce the highly-anticipated new Toyota Crown in the Middle East. Built to deliver an intuitive driving experience, this new premium vehicle brings powerful acceleration and confident handling, along with supreme comfort for a sophisticated ride, all wrapped in a bold new design. Introducing the Crown with hybrid electric powertrains further demonstrates our wholehearted dedication to achieving carbon neutrality. We extend our gratitude to our customers in the region and beyond for continuously inspiring us as we strive to innovate and create 'ever-better cars' that surpass their expectations."

The new Toyota Crown is built around the Toyota New Global Architecture (TNGA-K) platform. This delivers excellent body rigidity and a low center of gravity, guaranteeing a more rewarding driving experience. The vehicle features a new MacPherson strut-type suspension at the front and a new multi-link suspension system at the rear, contributing to outstanding stability and handling to create exceptional ride comfort.

To achieve a more exciting driving style, the new Toyota Crown comes exclusively with a choice of two environmentally friendly powertrains. The first hybrid electric powertrain consists of a front electric motor and Toyota's first-ever 2.4-liter inline four-cylinder turbo engine, mated with direct shift six-speed automatic transmission. A rear wheel eAxle that includes a high output water-cooled electric motor is coupled with the hybrid electric system to directly transmit force to the four wheels. These ensure a thrilling throttle response and linear acceleration throughout the power band,



High-beam System (AHS).

Furthermore, the new Crown also features Toyota's first-ever Safe Exit Assist (SEA), which uses the Blind Spot Monitor (BSM) to help prevent accidents. This system detects approaching traffic or cyclists from the rear and automatically cancels door opening to avoid potential collisions. Additionally, the vehicle features eight SRS airbags, Vehicle Stability Control (VSC), Traction Control (TRC), Anti-lock Braking System (ABS), Electronic Brakeforce Distribution (EBD), Brake Assist (BA), Parking Assist Monitor (PAM), Parking Support Brake (PKSB), Drive-Start Control (DSC), Panoramic View Monitor (PVM), Rear Camera Cleaning System, and Hill-start Assist Control (HAC), among many others.

The new Crown offers a selection of seven captivating exterior hues that complement the vehicle's striking visual appeal, including Precious White Pearl, Precious Silver, Precious Metal, Massive Gray, Black, Emotional Red II, and Precious Bronze. Further personalization is made possible with the addition of several dual-tone variants Black can be combined with Precious White Pearl, Precious Silver, Precious Metal, Massive Gray, Emotional Red II, or Precious Bronze. The vehicle's interior features an equally stylish color scheme, with two options either frangible or black. The new Toyota Crown also offers a choice of three aluminum wheel designs: a 19 and 21-inch machine-finished black and a 21-inch dark premium metallic, further enhancing its luxurious appearance.

along with a combined power of 343 hp and 550.8 nm of torque.

The second hybrid electric powertrain consists of two electric motors and a 2.5-liter four-cylinder petrol engine, generating a total power of 218 hp. The hybrid-electric system, paired with an Electric Continuously Variable Transmission (e-CVT), achieves the lowest fuel efficiency, with a consumption rate of 21.6 km/l, while elevating the driving experience to new levels.

Striking a seamless connection between stylish design, exquisite luxury, and enhanced convenience and comfort, the new Crown's cabin is accentuated by a range of advanced features. These include a 12.3-inch touchscreen multimedia system with Apple CarPlay® and Android Auto™ compatibility, a 12.3-inch TFT color meter that allows users to choose from 12 patterns to suit their tastes, a color head-up display (HUD), a dual-zone automatic air conditioning system with rear AC vents, a 11-speaker JBL surround sound system, a panoramic roof, multi-adjustable power and ventilated front seats, and power reclining rear seats.

For added convenience, the new Crown is equipped with a hands-free, electrically powered trunk that can be activated using a foot-operated system when the user's hands or arms are full. Toyota Crown has passengers plugged-in when it comes to charging devices. On the driver's side, a vertical-type wireless Qi charger with enhanced space efficiency comes standard.

As with any Toyota vehicle, safety is a top priority for the new Crown. Drivers can enjoy complete peace of mind, thanks to the Toyota Safety Sense, an advanced safety and driver assistance system that includes a Pre-Collision System (PCS) with

an expanded detection range for vehicles, pedestrians, cyclists, and motorcycles, together with new features such as Automatic Emergency Brake, Emergency Steering Assist, and Acceleration Suppression at Low Speed.

The system also includes all-speed range Dynamic Radar Cruise Control (DRCC) with a multitude of features. Among these is Turn Signal Control (TSC), which enhances highway overtaking safety and smoothness by providing an initial increase in acceleration when the driver engages the turn signal. Additionally, Curve Speed Reduction (RSR) suppresses the vehicle's speed when entering a bend and offers additional acceleration upon exiting. Drivers can also benefit from Lane Tracing Alert (LTA), Lane Departure Alert (LDA), and Adaptive



Stellantis recalling over 354,000 Jeeps worldwide

Stellantis is recalling more than 354,000 Jeeps worldwide because the rear coil springs can fall off while they're being driven. The recall covers certain 2022 and 2023 Grand Cherokee and 2021 to 2023 Grand Cherokee L SUVs. The company says in documents posted Tuesday by the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration that the springs may have been installed incorrectly in production. They can detach from the vehicle while it's moving, increasing the risk of a crash and

possibly creating a hazard for other drivers. Stellantis says in the documents that it's aware of 17 warranty claims, two customer assistance reports and two field reports that may be caused by the problem. But as of May 25 it had no reports of crashes or injuries. Most of the recalled vehicles are in North America. SUVs with air suspensions are not affected. Dealers will inspect the springs and replace the assemblies if necessary. Owners are to be notified by letter starting July 28. (AP)



This Jan. 14, 2019 photo, shows a Jeep logo at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit. Stellantis is recalling more than 354,000 Jeeps worldwide, Tuesday, June 13, 2023, because the rear coil springs can fall off while they're being driven. The recall covers certain 2022 and 2023 Grand Cherokee and 2021 to 2023 Grand Cherokee L SUVs. (AP)

Investors notably inclined towards investing in relatively small plots

KIB: Relative stability in commercial sector prices during Q1

KUWAIT CITY, June 14: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) recently concluded its first quarterly report for the year 2023. The Q1 report revealed relative stability in the commercial sector's prices across Kuwait City in comparison to the surge in prices that marked the same period of the previous year; a logical outcome that reflects the current economic status quo of Kuwait's real estate market.

Commenting on the 2023 Q1 report, Eng. Ahmad Al-Yaqoub, Assistant Manager of the Real Estate Appraisal Department at KIB, explained that the increased cost of real estate financing, coupled with the cost of building materials and labor, mainly prompted a decrease in the purchasing demand and generally impacted the economic feasibility of investing in real estate, especially in high-cost properties. Furthermore, the increased profit rates on bank deposits, which are directly influenced by the increase in the Central Bank of Kuwait's (CBK) discount rate, contributed heavily to redirecting a sizable amount of funds toward secured deposits – considered by many investors to be a safe haven.

In light of these circumstances, many investors who are interested in investing in Kuwait City's commercial sector turned their attention to relatively small-scale plots and iconic locations, especially those that are situated within high-traffic zones and near public parking lots. The demand for such properties is owed to the ease of leasing their units as well as reselling them in the future.

Al-Yaqoub added that most investors have become inclined toward designing commercial towers that offer relatively small office spaces with fewer units per floor, contributing to the high rental rate derived from the privacy these units promise and the independence they give its tenant. It also serves to note that this type of unit is in growing demand by both SMEs and large-scale companies who, in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, had to shrink their staff size, leading them to search for smaller, more cost-effective workspaces to operate from. As for the existing properties, especially the older ones, owners have turned to renovating, refurbishing, and repartitioning them to match the domestic market's current demand.

The Q1 report primarily focused on the commercial sector, noting the 2022 rise in demand – especially for vacant, undeveloped pieces of land – led to a 5-7% price increase for said lands compared to 2021. The report details some of the triggers leading up to the price increase, including investors' ebbing demand for investment sector opportunities, which comes as a natural consequence of the decrease

in the occupancy rate and the rental value of the investment units.

Al-Yaqoub further noted that the per-meter-square rent rate for shops in commercial basements ranges between KD9-12/m2. Meanwhile, the ground floor storefronts cost between KD30-50/m2 to rent, and the regular shops cost between KD18-22/m2. He added that mezzanine floor shops are leased for KD13-16/m2, while administrative office floors are leased for between KD8-12/m2. These rates change according to the unit's location, space, and finishing, as well as the building's age, availability of parking spaces, the services offered, and the neighboring tenants.

The report highlights a notable increase in demand for Kuwait City's commercial and administrative sectors within the past two years. This is owed to the central presence of the majority of Kuwait's government institutions in Kuwait City, in addition to numerous big companies and financial institutions. This shines a light on Kuwait City as an administrative and commercial hub, which in turn makes it a high-value zone for big corporations and leading investors to invest in real estate. Adding to Kuwait City's real estate high value is the diversity of sectors and activities that the city offers, including those related to the commercial, investment, and industrial fields, in addition to hotels and commercial markets. This gathering of leading institutions reflects on Kuwait City's cityscape, which is marked by several architecturally iconic buildings that are inspired by Kuwait's national identity, such as Al Hamra Tower, Assima Mall, Al-Mubarakiya area, and Salhia Complex. These factors and more have turned Kuwait City into the destination capital for the top local, regional, and global investors.

Street	Construction Ratio	Average price of land space – KD/m2
Ahmed Al-Jaber	520%	9750-8750
Ahmed Al-Jaber	520% + 400%	12500-10500



Ahmad Al-Yaqoub

Fahad Al-Salem	620%	10000-9000
Fahad Al-Salem	620% + 400%	13000-10500
Jaber Al-Mubarak	520%	9000-7750
Jaber Al-Mubarak	520% + 400	11500 -9500
Mubarak Al Kabeer	620%	9250 -8250
Mubarak Al Kabeer	620% + 400%	12750-10000
Al-Shuhada / Al-Helaly	520%	9500-8000
Khalid Ibn Al-Walid	520%	9500-8500
Abdullah Al-Mubarak	520%	8000-7500

* Average land prices (one street - an area between 400-600 square meters)

Al-Yaqoub concluded his commentary by noting the foreshadowed impact of the Ministry of Commerce's latest decree, involving the discontinuation of offices designated for special activities with no employees. Such decision is expected to directly affect the revenue and occupancy of some office spaces, situated at commercial complexes, which rely on this category of tenants. In turn, this is bound to cause an incline in these properties' revenue and overall value – a situation that will crystallize in the months following the enactment of the new decision.

About KIB

Kuwait International Bank (KIB) is a bank that operates according to the Islamic Shari'ah, based in the State of Kuwait. Incorporated in 1973, and originally known as Kuwait Real Estate Bank, KIB made the transition to its current Islamic operating model in 2007. In 2018, KIB embarked on a new phase of its journey full of innovation and development. As part of its new strategic direction, the Bank focuses on offering a next-level customer experience under the slogan: "Bank for Life".

Through a network of branches spread across the State of Kuwait, KIB offers a broad range of banking products and services, as well as innovative digital banking solutions in line with international best standards. As part of its duty towards the community, the Bank also encompasses a leading social responsibility program that aims at positively impacting all members of the community through a wide range of impactful initiatives and activities.

Today, KIB has taken concrete steps in implementing its new strategic objectives. The Bank has cemented its role as a key player in the local banking industry and has continued to maintain its strong financial performance; enabling it to be globally recognized for its strong credit rating and financial position.

Burgan Bank announces 'closing' of \$800m unsecured term loan facility

Move successfully attracts global and regional partners

KUWAIT CITY, June 14: Burgan Bank announced that it has successfully closed the syndication for its global USD 800 million unsecured term loan facility. Mizuho Bank, the global bank with its headquarters in Japan, acted as sole Global Coordinator, Active Bookrunner, BMLA and Facility Agent for this transaction. Meanwhile, the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) and Mashreq Bank also served as Active Bookrunners on the deal.

The syndication, originally launched at USD 300 million in February 2023, was oversubscribed threefold, with commitments totaling USD 920 million. The facility was well received in the market, attracting strong global and regional partners. GCC lenders comprised 39% of the syndicate, while Asian and European lenders accounted for 40% and 21%, respectively.

Reacting to the conclusion of this transaction, Mr. Mohammad Najeeb Al-Zanki, Acting General Manager of Corporate Banking at Burgan Bank, said: "As a team, we are proud to have completed such a successful syndication of this scale. From the start, we were confident about the strong demand for this landmark syndication, and the threefold oversubscription was a great testament to investor confidence in the overall credit profile of Burgan Bank and the immense trust global markets have in the Kuwaiti banking system."

Meanwhile, Mr. Abdullah Abdelmajeed Marafie, Chief Treasury Officer at Burgan Bank, commented: "The closing of this syndication is of strategic importance as it contributes to the sustainable growth of Burgan, the strengthening of the Bank's balance sheet, and the enhancement of its long-term financial liquidity in line with the Basel III requirements. It also serves as a proactive step toward continuing to implement Burgan's funding strategy by augmenting diversified funding sources, all while safeguarding against unexpected fluctuations."

On his part, Mr. Yuki Mizunoe, Regional Head for Middle East, Africa, Turkey & Central Asia Caucuses at Mizuho, said: "As a strategic partner of Burgan Bank, we were pleased to witness global demand, especially from Asia, for this syndication which was increased from its initial launch due to strong investor appetite. We are honored to have supported Burgan on this deal and hope to continue building on our strategic relationships with the Bank and the Kuwaiti government."



Yuki Mizunoe receiving appreciation shield from Burgan Bank representatives.



Al-Zanki, Marafie and Burgan Bank representatives



Mohammad AlZanki



Abdulla Marafie

The Mandated Lead Arrangers included Agricultural Bank of China, Bank of Baroda, Commercial Bank of Dubai, Commerzbank, Standard Chartered and State Bank of India. The Lead Arrangers were Riyad Bank and Saudi National Bank, while the National Bank of Ras Al Khaimah, Banco Cooperativo Español and the National Bank of Umm Al Qaiwain were at the Arranger level. Dentons and Al Ruwayeh and Partners acted as legal counsel for lenders.

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. Moreover, Burgan Bank's brand has been built on a foundation of real values – trust, commitment, excellence, and progression – which serve as a reminder of the high standards to which the Bank always aspires. In fact, the Bank's core philosophy of "Driven by You" is the foundation on which its products and services are continuously developed.

The Bank obtained the ISO/IEC 27001: 2013 Information Security Management Systems certificate (ISMS) and was re-certified with the prestigious ISO 9001:2015, making it one of the few banks in the GCC and Kuwait to receive such certification for five consecutive times. The Bank also has the distinction of being the only Bank in Kuwait to have won the JP Morgan Chase Quality Recognition Award for twenty consecutive years. Moreover, in a testament to its dedication to the development of its human capital, Burgan Bank is the first bank in Kuwait to be certified as a Great Place to Work®, earning the distinct honor in 2023.

Burgan Bank is a majority-owned subsidiary of KIPCO (Kuwait Projects Company), one of the largest holding companies in the MENA region.

Burgan Bank is a majority-owned subsidiary of KIPCO (Kuwait Projects Company), one of the largest holding companies in the MENA region.

French president patronizes event

Al Mutawa delivers speech at the Vision Golfe 2023 in Paris

Speech highlights:

"The regulatory environment in Kuwait is on the brink of a major transformation, and changes in this domain will unlock unprecedented possibilities for enhancing the quality and scope of healthcare. We stand on the cusp of a dramatic shift in Kuwait's healthcare sector"

"Kuwait is burdened with high operational costs and red-tape, primarily because the public sector assumes all responsibilities. While the state possesses the material capabilities to build hospitals, it lacks effective management"

PARIS, June 14: In his speech at the 'Vision Golfe 2023' conference, the main business event between Gulf countries and France, Mr. Faisal Ali Abdulwahhab Al Mutawa, Chairman and CEO of Ali Abdulwahhab Al Mutawa Commercial Co, highlighted the importance of the trade relations between the private sectors of Kuwait and France.

The conference, held under the patronage of French President Mr. Emmanuel Macron and attended by French Minister of Economy Mr. Bruno Le Maire, served as a platform to strengthen economic ties between the two parties. The conference took place on June 13th and 14th at the Ministry of Economy and Finance in Paris

Mr. Al Mutawa said that the relationship of AAW with the French private sector is strong and based on the values of partnership, cooperation, and common interest. He stated, "Our ties to the French private sector are well-founded and built on the values of partnership, cooperation, and mutual benefit. Together, we work in partnership to aid the growth of Kuwait's healthcare sector and bring cutting-edge pharmaceutical and consumer products to the country, directly contributing to people's health and quality of life."

Speaking to a diverse audience of business leaders from France and Gulf countries, Al Mutawa said that "Despite being a relatively small country with a population of about 4.4 million, Kuwait's healthcare budget today is approximately USD 8 billion - or 6% of Kuwait's GDP of recent years,

which is double that of high-income countries. As demographics and lifestyles change, the next 25 years require a new kind of public-private partnership. A partnership that increases efficiency and lowers public expenditure, and ends bureaucracy."

Al Mutawa continued, "Today, the health care sector in Kuwait is burdened with high operational costs and red-tape primarily because the public sector assumes all responsibilities. While the state possesses the material capabilities to build hospitals, it lacks effective management. Yes, our government possesses the financial means to build large hospitals in Kuwait, but what they lack is proficient management. If we succeed today in attracting international health centers and benefiting from their experience and attracting them to Kuwait, we will certainly witness a great development in health care efficiency, budget savings, and higher quality of health services."

He concluded by saying, "The regulatory environment in Kuwait is on the brink of a major transformation, and changes in this domain will unlock unprecedented possibilities for enhancing the quality and scope of healthcare. We stand on the cusp of a dramatic shift in Kuwait's healthcare sector. As we move towards a healthier future, we look forward to strengthening our partnerships with French brands, embracing challenges, and seizing opportunities to be part of this transformation."

Vision Golfe 2023 is an annual conference that aims to enhance commercial cooperation between France and the GCC countries by showcasing France's renowned excellence and industrial expertise, its strength in key sectors, and its robust policies. Over a two-day period, the conference addressed a wide range of topics, including the best practices for establishing sustainable partnerships and exploring investment opportunities in sectors such as space, digital transformation, green industry, renewable energy, biotechnology, culture, consumer goods, cosmetics and fashion, food, transportation and logistics, and healthcare.



Faisal Ali Al Mutawa participates at the panel discussion during the Vision Golfe 2023 conference in Paris.

Bank maintains highest standards of security, reliability

ABK first bank to offer 'Swift Go' service to SME customers

KUWAIT CITY, June 14: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) continues to drive innovation in the banking sector by launching its groundbreaking 'Swift Go' service in partnership with the global enterprise, Swift. This banking solution emphasizes ABK's commitment to delivering the latest technological advancements while maintaining the highest standards of security and reliability when executing transactions. As the first bank in Kuwait to offer Swift Go to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), ABK paves the way for unprecedented convenience and speed for its customers.

Swift Go enables ABK's customers to send and receive up to \$10,000 of their personal remittances from foreign banks within mere minutes, without delay. This trailblazing service dramatically enhances the speed of financial transactions as payments must be delivered within hours. By joining the community, ABK will make it possible to clear KWD via Swift Go – adding another currency to the list of those

that are already supported. This will be done in the upcoming weeks.

Through the launch of the Swift Go service, ABK will join a rapidly growing international group of over 220 live banks in a community of 670+ financial institutions across 130 countries, all of which are driven to offer global low-value payment solutions. In addition to launching Swift Go, ABK will also embed Swift Payment pre-validation capabilities to detect errors to send to customers prior to the finalization of a transaction thus mitigating the risk of additional cost and delays.

Commitment

In light of these extensive benefits, Mohammad Al Bloushi, General Manager of Operations at ABK, said, "The introduction of the Swift Go service to SME customers highlights the Bank's commitment to supporting this vital sector and its goals of fostering entrepreneurship through the safest and most advanced services available in the market." He continued,

"This focused approach is anchored on the Bank's goal to meet customers' needs while delivering the best possible digital capabilities and services, guaranteeing an exceptional banking experience that aligns with the highest international standards."

He further added that Swift Go will dramatically reduce the costs associated with executing international transactions, while simultaneously increasing the speed and transparency of all banking transactions. He continued, "This feature offers customers the ability to easily track their transactions and check the anticipated time of deposit, ensuring total transparency and reinforcing confidence with all stakeholders."

Al Bloushi concluded, "The integration of Swift Go ensures that ABK remains one of the most technologically advanced banks and a leader in delivering innovative solutions that benefit customers at every level."

Onur Ozan, Managing Director/Regional Head - Middle East, North Africa and Turkey, Swift, commented,



A photo from the event.

"The consumer and SME segment is among the fastest growing in live Swift Go banks around the world, most notably as a new clearing bank for Kuwaiti Dinars. Their customers will be able

to experience a wide range of benefits thanks to this service, which is fast becoming the new industry standard for instant and frictionless low-value international payments."

Since its establishment in 1967, ABK has progressed to become one of the leading Kuwaiti banks in the region that is today known for offering a simpler banking experience. The Bank offers personal, corporate, and private banking of which includes a wide array of products and services. ABK also provides a broad range of local, regional, and global investment solutions and services through its subsidiary, ABK Capital. Enjoying equal stability and strength, the Bank also offers the convenience of banking across the region, servicing other markets in Egypt and the UAE.

For more information about ABK, please follow the Bank's Instagram account @abk_kuwait, visit eahl.com, contact Ahlan Ahli 1 899 899 or visit one of the Bank's branches across Kuwait.



Zain team at KU's Future Makers Forum 2023.

Firm attracts local talents

Zain sponsors Future Makers Forum of 'Kuwait University'

KUWAIT CITY, June 14: Zain sponsored the Future Makers Forum, an inspiring and transformative initiative held by Kuwait University's Deanship of Admission and Registration at Sabah Al Salem University City. The event aimed at empowering fresh graduates by providing them with knowledge and competencies to help them launch their career journey.

The forum's opening ceremony was attended by Zain Kuwait CEO Eaman Al Roudhan, Director of the Civil Service Commission Dr. Issam Al Rubaiyan, Chairwoman of Abdullah Al Salem University Dr. Moudhi Al Humoud, Acting President of Kuwait University Dr. Fahad Al Dubais Al Rashidi, Acting Dean of Admission and Registration Dr. Rawaa Aljarallah, and many executives and officials from the local public and private sectors who represented organizations that joined the forum's career fair.

Zain's support to this distinguished event came in line with its Human Resources strategy, through which it contributes to the local job market by exchanging expertise with other employers and offering adequate career opportunities to the new generation of national talents. The company is keen on offering job seekers with career opportunities that best suit their skills, competencies, and passions to increase national talent representation in the Kuwaiti private sector, especially within STEM and digital areas.

empowering Kuwait's academic outcomes and helping graduates prepare for their upcoming career journeys by offering them the most essential skills required by today's job market. The event featured over 20 local entities, spanning the most vital industries.

The forum offered many programs and workshops that opened new horizons for graduates, covering crucial sets of personal and professional skills like creating CVs, excelling in interviews, AI in today's careers, and more. Students and graduates also got to engage in open talks with employers in several panel discussions.

Zain joined the forum's career fair, where it introduced students and graduates to its leading experience in the telecom sector, as well as its internal policy and wonderful workplace environment. The company also presented the available job vacancies, provided a detailed explanation of the nature of work at various departments and divisions, and answered questions and inquiries from visitors.

Zain is always eager to participate in career fairs under the umbrella of its Human Resources strategy, which closely focuses on supporting the education sector hand in hand with various universities, colleges, and educational institutions in Kuwait from both the public and private sectors, with the aim of providing graduates with career opportunities in the private sector.

Zain is committed to playing an active role in the investment in the human capital of Kuwait. The company seeks to provide young and eager Kuwaitis with job opportunities that allow them to apply their practical skills, achieve their potential, and fully develop their capabilities.

Strategy

The Future Makers Forum is a leading and first-of-its-kind event organized by the Deanship of Admission and Registration in line with the New Kuwait 2035 Vision and Kuwait University's strategy. The forum aimed at

Excellent customer service

KFH offers customers 'Eidiyah' at branches & through KFH Go

KUWAIT CITY, June 14: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) offers customers Eidiyah (monetary gift) in all denominations: KD 1/-, KD 5/-, KD 10/- and KD 20/- at all branches all over Kuwait until the last working day preceding the Eid holiday.

KFH stresses keenness to interact with society on all occasions and festivals that always bring it closer to customers. On the coming blessed occasion, the Bank offers Eidiyah in different banknotes.

The Bank is continuing its excellent customer service strategy according to the best quality standards and competitive advantages that affirm its leadership in innovating and launching state-of-the-art banking services in tandem with the latest technological advancements in the banking industry.

For that purpose, on June 25 to 27, KFH offers Eidiyah in KD 5/-, KD 10/- and KD 20/- through KFH Go smart branches and ATMs on the occasion of Eid Al-Adha. KFH ensures this service is available to all customers across different areas and round the clock.

KFH Go branches are located in Shuwaikh KFH Auto Showroom, Air-



عياديتكم بين ايدينا

port branch, Al-Salam Co-Op, Jabriya Co-Op, Ishbiliya Co-Op, Mangaf Co-Op, Abu Fatira Co-Op, Jahra Co-Op, and Sabah Al-Ahmad Co-Op.

It is worth noting that KFH offers its service to customers 24/7 on KF-Honline, KFH.com, XTM interactive devices and KFH Airport branch.

Kuwait Finance House (KFH) is considered a pioneer in the banking phenomenon known as Islamic Finance or Shari'a Compliant Banking. KFH is the first Islamic bank established in 1977 in the State of Kuwait and today it's one of the foremost Islamic financial institutions in the world.



Mai Al-Owaish, Gulf Bank's CDO

Program aims to upskill, empower employees

Gulf Bank celebrates graduation of its 70 new Data Ambassadors

KUWAIT CITY, June 14: As part of the bank's successful digital transformation journey, and its keenness to develop and enhance the skills of its employees, Gulf Bank has concluded the second edition of its Data Ambassadors program – the first of its kind data and analytics program in Kuwait. The program aims to upskill, and empower, employees to use advanced data science, which was developed by Kuwaitis within the bank, and approved by world-famous data expert, Dr. Thomas Redman.

On this occasion, Gulf Bank's Chief Data Officer (CDO), Mai Al-Owaish, said, "We are pleased with the 70 Gulf Bank employees who graduated from the second Data Ambassadors program, increasing the total number of graduates from the first and second edition to 210. We are very proud of the various talents within the bank."

She added: "The Data Ambassadors Program is part of Gulf Bank's 2025 strategy, which aims to consolidate Gulf Bank's leading position as the Kuwaiti Bank of the Future. The program also falls in line with the national development plan, Kuwait Vision 2035, which considers the development of human talent as one of its main pillars."

Al-Owaish also indicated that Gulf Bank is keen to empower its human talent across various disciplines, in light of the pivotal role that data plays in various sectors and fields. The program aims to help employees benefit from data – providing them with the tools and knowledge to extract ideas and information efficiently, whilst maintaining data integrity and quality.

Foundation

She added: "At Gulf Bank, we firmly believe that our employees are the foundation of our success, and the secret behind our excellence. That is why we invest in them, train them and provide them with new skills to keep pace with the requirements of the job market, and the continuous changes witnessed by the banking industry."

She continued stating: "We are working to invest in integrated technological solutions to facilitate digital transformation within the bank and beyond, by spreading data culture. Gulf Bank is proud to have demonstrated a dynamic response to the digital requirements that the banking industry is witnessing both locally and globally."

Al-Owaish concluded: "We are proud to develop our in-house talents in various digital disciplines such as data science and cybersecurity, and we are excited to reap the many benefits that result from encouraging our employees to build their critical thinking abilities and learn how to use, and manage, data science."

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 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 initiatives, 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.



A photo from the event.

Al-Muzaini Exchange opens 130th branch in Kuwait

The number one money exchange company in Kuwait, Al-Muzaini Exchange Company recently opened its 130th branch in Kuwait in Fahaaheel on June 13, 2023. This opening was extremely significant and the rapid expansion reflects the company's endeavor to always be near its customers. It also reinforces the company's commitment to providing the highest quality of financial services such as money transfers, foreign currency exchange and bill payments with convenience, comfort and safety and at the most competitive prices, seven days a week.

The General Manager of Al Muzaini Exchange Company, Mr. Hugh Fernandes and the company's department managers and various senior personnel inaugurated the new branch in Fahaaheel and Mr. Fernandes stated: "We take great pride in strengthening our leading position in the local market and always place focus

in ensuring that we provide the best financial services experience to our customers in order to meet all their money transfer needs. We always want to stay true to our mission; to always be near to our customers and to add to their convenience and the opening of our 130th branch is another step in that direction."

The company always strives to make its financial services accessible to all. In addition to its strong network of branches, Al Muzaini application provides simple and safe financial solutions and is packed with plenty of valuable features such as: - Availability in all digital platforms, new customer registration, the ability to add a new beneficiary and benefits from the Western Union service and Visa Direct services that makes it possible for you to transfer anywhere, anytime.

Al Muzaini, always near you!

Bank promotes Islamic banking

AUB awarded Best Bank in Internal Shariah Audit in Kuwait for yr 2023

KUWAIT CITY, June 14: Ahli United Bank (AUB) won Best Bank in Internal Shariah Audit Award in Kuwait for the year 2023 by the renowned International Finance magazine. This recognition is based on the evaluation of important factors that distinguish the bank's Internal Shariah Audit Department. These factors include the efficiency and effectiveness of the Shariah control system, the Shariah risk assessment matrix, the Shariah audit procedures guide, as well as effective Shariah training methods. The bank also demonstrated the effective implementation of Shariah governance instructions in line with a well-structured internal Shariah audit framework, ensuring the efficiency and effectiveness of Shariah audit operations.

In addition, the bank's contribution to the promotion of Islamic banking was highlighted through the development and dissemination of Islamic financial awareness materials on its official social media channels. The bank's internal Shariah audit team exhibited the necessary knowledge and skills to excel in their duties while adopting the latest techniques and mechanisms for selecting Shariah audit samples. This directly influences the accuracy of assessment and the quality of Shariah audit results.

To select the award winners, the internal evaluation team conducts the initial level of evaluation. Subsequently, the details are referred to a reputed external evaluation agency to produce the final level report of the evaluations. The announcement of the award winners takes place on the magazine's website. The results are calculated through a scoring system that includes the points of the initial evaluation report, the evaluation by external research partners, and input from banking industry experts.



AUB awarded Best Bank in Internal Shariah Audit in Kuwait for the year 2023.

commended the efforts of the Fatwa & Sharia Supervisory Board, as well as all the employees of the Internal Shariah Audit Department at the bank, for their outstanding contributions in overseeing all transactions and monitoring the operations, products, and banking services provided by the bank. Their efforts ensure compliance with the principles of Islamic Shariah.

Al-Humaidhi emphasized that since its conversion to a Shariah compliant bank on April 01, 2010, Ahli United Bank has been committed to harnessing all its capabilities and leveraging its long-standing experience in the Kuwaiti market, which it has acquired over more than 80 years since its establishment in 1941, in providing a unique range of banking services that combine compliance with the principles of Islamic Shariah while keeping pace with the latest banking advancements and technologies.

Al-Humaidhi praised the bank clear commitment to the principles of Is-

lamic Shariah regarding all financial transactions, services, and products it provides to its customers. She also commended the bank's dedication to providing the best services and products that enrich the Islamic financial services industry.

On his part, Mr. Abdullah Tariq Al-Shuaib, Assistant General Manager – Internal Shariah Audit Department at Ahli United Bank, expressed his profound gratitude for the bank's achievement of being awarded the Best Bank in Internal Shariah Audit in Kuwait for the year 2023 by the prestigious International Finance magazine. He attributed this accolade to the bank's successful implementation of the principles and regulations of Islamic Sharia in its banking operations.

Al-Shuaib further highlighted the vital role played by the efficiency and effectiveness of the Internal Shariah Audit Department in this accomplishment. Their pivotal role in enhancing and reinforcing the efficiency and effectiveness of the bank's internal Shariah control system, through recommendations and proposals that support operational and transactional controls in line with the vision and directives of the Shariah Supervisory Board and the bank Board of Directors, has significantly contributed to the attainment of this award.



Al-Shuaib

Efforts

On this occasion, Ms. Jehad Al-Humaidhi, Chief Executive Officer and Board Member of Ahli United Bank expressed her delight at the bank receiving this prestigious award. She

Milla obtains FDA OK for generic Precedex

Milla Pharmaceuticals Inc., a subsidiary of the Alter Pharma Group, announced that it has received FDA approval for its generic version of Precedex®, Dexmedetomidine Hydrochloride Injection 4mcg/ml in 50mL and 100mL, and plans to launch in the very near future. Dexmedetomidine Hydrochloride Injection is indicated for sedation of initially intubated and mechanically ventilated patients during treatment in an intensive care setting. It should be administered by continuous infusion not to exceed 24 hours.

100mL is currently on FDA's Drug Shortages list. This latest approval of Dexmedetomidine Hydrochloride Injection will help reduce the recent supply issues for the product experienced in the U.S. This achievement marks the second "First Cycle" Approval ANDA for Milla Pharmaceuticals Inc. and the Alter Pharma Group for the U.S. market, after their first "First Cycle" Approval ANDA for Sodium Acetate Injection 2MEQ/mL in the Summer of 2021, which was also an FDA Drug Shortage listed product. This new milestone also marks the approval of our second Paragraph IV Filing and the 5th ANDA approval for the Alter Pharma Group.

"This new Alter Pharma ANDA approval, which is the 5th already over a period of less than three years, out of which 2 after a first cycle review, makes us extremely proud," commented Filip Van de Vliet, CEO of the Alter Pharma Group. "In fact, on average only between 12% and 15% of all ANDAs filed get a First Cycle Approval, meaning the FDA did not identify any shortfalls or deficiencies during the first cycle review hence no additional requests are being asked. (AP)

Lunaphore, CST to advance research on spatial biology

Lunaphore, a Swiss life sciences company developing technology to enable spatial biology in every laboratory, and Cell Signaling Technology (CST), a life science discovery technology company and leading provider of antibodies, kits, and services, today announced a partnership to enable the use of CST @ antibodies on the Lunaphore COMET™ platform, a scalable hyperplex imaging solution for fully automated spatial biology.

CST is a trusted provider of high-quality, rigorously validated antibodies for immunohistochemistry (IHC) that can detect key proteins in a variety of disease states. This partnership enables the use of over 1,700 IHC-validated antibodies from CST detected by fluorescent secondary antibodies for use on the COMET™, empowering researchers to develop antibody panels quickly and with confidence. With a comprehensive offering of primary rabbit and mouse antibodies, researchers relying on CST antibody products have the tools they need to enable fully automated hyperplex imaging at scale.

"As a scientist-led company, we understand the importance of validating antibodies in each application independently. We do not infer performance in IHC based on western blot, for example," said Katie Crosby, Sr. Director, Antibody Applications & Validation at CST. "That's why our team at CST has rigorously tested every one of our IHC-validated antibodies to ensure their specificity and sensitivity in IHC assays." The COMET™ platform is the first universal, end-to-end spatial biology solution that can assess the location and abundance of a high number of proteins on a single tissue section without the need to conjugate primary antibodies. (AP)

OrganaBio unveils NeoPAC umbilical cord tissues for medicine, cell therapy

Stevanato debuts on-body delivery system for injectable therapies

PIOMBINO DESE, Italy, June 14: Stevanato Group S.p.A. (NYSE: STVN), a leading global provider of drug containment and delivery solutions to the pharmaceutical, biotechnology and life sciences industries, has unveiled Vertiva™, the latest release of its patented On-Body Delivery System (OBDS), intended to be able to switch between basal and bolus injections and to be suitable for a wide range of subcutaneous therapies.

care and administered treatment options, which can ultimately lead to an improved patient experience," said Steven Kaufman, VP for Drug Delivery Systems at Stevanato Group. "We are excited to be offering this device to the market, as it contributes to further strengthening our integrated capabilities in the drug delivery space. By utilizing a re-usable controller, we work towards greater sustainability and see cost benefits to our customers that use Vertiva™."

Vertiva™'s unique design consists of a single-use pod with a pre-filled and pre-loaded 3mL ISO cartridge, and a multi-use controller, offering potential sustainability and affordability benefits. These two parts communicate through a patented magnetically coupled drive mechanism. The device can adapt to different delivery profiles and can enable the administration of small-molecule drugs and biologics.

Also:
SOUTH MIAMI, Fla: OrganaBio has announced the launch of NeoPAC™ placenta and umbilical cord tissues, its latest suite of products designed to accelerate the progress of regenerative medicine and cell therapy. By offering both Research Use Only (RUO) and clinical (cGMP) grade tissues, OrganaBio empowers researchers to tap into the potential of birth tissues, enabling the development of innovative therapies to address a wide range of medical conditions.

Vertiva™'s design is under development also to cover a broad range of volumes up to 10mL. In the Vertiva™ device the cartridge is preloaded and sealed into the pod during factory assembly allowing the patient to benefit from simplified treatment initiation. Administrations can be conducted more comfortably at home, and the connectivity options of Vertiva™ can be ready for digital health applications. Upon treatment, the pod and controller can be more easily separated, and the controller can be reused, thereby reducing the environmental impact of electronic components.

NeoPAC™ tissues from OrganaBio hold immense promise for mitigating or even curing various medical conditions, including hematological disorders, autoimmune diseases, tissue regeneration, neurological disorders, cancers, wound healing, GVHD, and more. With these best-in-class tissue offerings, researchers gain access to a powerful resource that has the potential to transform patient outcomes and revolutionize the field of medicine.

Totally programmable to deliver micro-precision basal doses and full-content bolus injections, Vertiva™ is intended to be suitable for a wide range of therapies, such as cardiovascular and metabolic disorders, oncology, immunology, and pain diseases. Vertiva™ platform can also accommodate different customizations, including primary packaging format for larger injection volumes, delivery duration, and user interface.

OrganaBio prioritizes delivering products of the highest quality, sourced with ethics and compliance at the forefront. Stringent protocols, which are IRB-approved, are adhered to throughout donor consent and qualification, as well as the tissue collection and processing stages. This commitment to excellence ensures that researchers receive clinically relevant materials for their scientific investigations, ultimately driving advancements in medical research and patient care.

Suggests

The Vertiva™ brand name takes its cue from the word 'versatility' and suggests that the delivery profile is flexible, as it is programmable for basal and bolus delivery. The name also evokes ease of use for patients.

"Access to a robust and reliable source of starting materials for tissue engineering, cell therapy, and immunotherapy continues to be a critical bottleneck for the regenerative medicine industry. The addition of the NeoPAC tissue line to our portfolio of birth tissue-derived cellular starting materials and peripheral blood products allows therapeutics developers more flexibility in working with OrganaBio. From donor recruitment and testing to product manufacturing and characterization, we customize each element to meet each of our customers' unique needs. The launch of the NeoPAC product line further demonstrates our commitment to moving quickly to respond to industry needs around access to high quality biological materials, and with in-house flexibility built into the product offering," said **Dr. Priya Baraniak**, Chief Business Officer of OrganaBio.

Stevanato Group will leverage the recently announced collaboration with Thermo Fisher Scientific to bring Vertiva™ to market. The platform will be offered as an integrated device and fill-and-finish solution to streamline the management of the pharmaceutical supply chain. The unparalleled combination of capabilities from two established industry providers can support pharma companies from drug development through to the final packaged product. Along with the proprietary device platform, Stevanato Group will offer its pre-sterilized EZ-fill® cartridges as drug containment solutions and assembly equipment, while Thermo Fisher will provide fill-and-finish and final assembly services.

NeoPAC tissues offered by OrganaBio are meticulously collected from healthy donors at the time of birth, from c-section and non-c-section deliveries, through its wholly owned subsidiary, GaiaGift.

Cue Health achieves groundbreaking milestone with FDA

Cue's COVID-19 molecular test detects all variants of concern with 98 pct accuracy

SAN DIEGO, CA, June 14: Cue Health (Nasdaq: HLTH), a healthcare technology company, has announced an industry breakthrough as the first company to receive De Novo authorization from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for its Cue COVID-19 Molecular Test, designed for both home and point-of-care use. This sets a new standard as the first FDA De Novo authorization for a home use COVID-19 test and the first De Novo granted for any home use respiratory test.

Antimicrobial resistance a growing public health concern

Adaptive closes on \$12m investment to fight antibiotic resistant infections

GAITHERSBURG, Md., June 14: Adaptive Phage Therapeutics (APT), a clinical-stage biotechnology company pioneering the development of phage-based therapies to combat bacterial infections, has announced that it has received a \$12 million upfront investment from funds managed by Deerfield Management and the AMR Action Fund as part of a new \$24 million total investment in a Series B1 round that is targeting \$30 million in aggregate.

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a growing public health concern, and this investment enables continuing clinical progression of APT's pipeline of phage therapies to combat AMR infections. APT's platform utilizes bacteriophages, or viruses that specifically target and kill bacteria, to create personalized treatments for patients with difficult-to-treat infections.

rectors to include Ian Hardy, PhD, MBA, Vice President of Chemistry, Manufacturing and Controls (CMC), Deerfield Discovery and Development at Deerfield Management. Dr. Hardy will serve as APT's Board Chair. With over 30 years of experience in large pharmaceutical and biotech companies, covering a broad range of development programs from discovery through commercialization, Dr. Hardy brings a wealth of expertise to the APT team.

Originally made available to consumers without a prescription through a 2021 FDA Emergency Use Authorization (EUA), Cue's COVID-19 test delivers results in just 20 minutes to connected mobile smart devices. With a demonstrated overall accuracy of 98%, the test detects all known COVID-19 variants of concern and integrates into Cue Care, the company's state-of-the-art test-to-treatment service.

"I am excited to join the Board of Directors at APT and help advance their innovative phage therapy platform," said Ian Hardy. "APT has the potential to make a significant impact in the fight against antibiotic resistance, and I look forward to working with the team to make these therapies broadly available to patients."

"We are thrilled to have the ongoing support of Deerfield and the AMR Action Fund as we work to address the urgent need for new treatments to combat antibiotic resistance," said Greg Merrill, co-Founder and CEO of APT. "This investment will allow us to advance our lead clinical programs related to musculoskeletal infections, including prosthetic joint infections and diabetic foot osteomyelitis."

Adaptive Phage Therapeutics (APT) is a clinical-stage company advancing therapies to treat multi-drug resistant infections. Traditional antibiotic approaches lose effectiveness over time due to bacteria's inherent ability to evolve resistance. APT's approach uniquely leverages an ever-growing library of systematically discovered, selected, catalogued, and curated bacteriophages (phages), which collectively provide broad coverage against many

Honored

Ayub Khattak, Chairman and CEO of Cue Health, said, "We are honored to receive this landmark De Novo authorization from the FDA, which emphasizes the reliability and accuracy of our COVID-19 Molecular Test in home and point-of-care settings. Our integrated test-to-treatment platform, coupled with the recent authorization of our mpx test and several other molecular tests under FDA review or in clinical studies, helps enable faster and better-informed healthcare decisions while making care and treatment more convenient."

This project has been funded in whole or in part with federal funds awarded by the Department of Health and Human Services; Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response; Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority.

Cue Health Inc. (Nasdaq: HLTH) is a healthcare technology company that uses diagnostic-enabled care to empower people to live their healthiest lives. The Cue Health platform offers individuals and healthcare providers convenient and personalized access to lab-quality diagnostic tests at home and at the point-of-care, as well as on-demand telehealth consultations and

treatment options for a wide range of health and wellness needs. Cue's customers include federal and state public sector agencies and the private sector, which includes healthcare providers, enterprises, and individual consumers. Cue's COVID-19 test was the first FDA-authorized molecular diagnostic test for at-home and over-the-counter use without a prescription. Cue has since received Emergency Use Authorization from the FDA for its molecular mpx test at the point of care and, to expand its test menu, the company has a number of other submissions under review by the FDA. Cue, founded in 2010, owns over 100 patents and is headquartered in San Diego.

Maximo (NASDAQ: MASI) has announced that the Rad-G® with Temperature has received FDA 510(k) clearance. Rad-G with Temperature is a rugged, versatile, handheld monitor that provides clinically proven SET® pulse oximetry, respiration rate from the pleth (RRp®), and other important parameters alongside non-contact infrared clinical thermometry. With its long-lasting rechargeable battery, robust rubber casing, light weight, and the added convenience of integrated noninvasive forehead thermometry, Rad-G with Temperature makes it easier for care teams to quickly measure vital signs using a single, compact,

portable device and make informed decisions anywhere patient assessment is needed. Rad-G with Temperature is designed for use in a variety of settings, including physicians' offices, outpatient services, urgent care facilities, wellness clinics, and in first-responder scenarios, both indoors and in the field.

Joe Kiani, Founder and CEO of Masimo, said, "With Rad-G, we set out to create an accessible, high-quality care solution that could be used in a multitude of care settings to serve the five billion people on our planet that to date have not had access to pulse oximetry, let alone SET® pulse oximetry."

MEDICAL CLASSIFIEDS

Take care of your health

To advertise in this page please call: (+965) 24813566 Ext.: 513 or E-mail: advt@arabtimesonline.com

CITY CLINIC GROUP Mahboula Khaitan Fahaeel Mirqab

Meet our Specialists

PAEDIATRIC

Dr. Nihal Mohammed
MBBS, MD
PAEDIATRICIAN
Fahaeel

Dr. JCV Reddy
MBBS, MD
PAEDIATRICIAN
Mahboula

ORTHOPEDIC

Dr. Ritesh Jaiswal
MBBS D ORTHO
DNB, Mch (ORTHO)
Khaitan

www.cityclinicqwt.com | cityclinicqwt.com FOR APPOINTMENT

WE ACCEPT ALL MAJOR INSURANCE HOME COLLECTION AVAILABLE 188 00 20

مركز شفاء الجزيرة الطبية - الفروانية
SHIFA AL JAZEERA MEDICAL CENTRE - FARAWANIYA

Our Services
PRP | Peels | Painless laser hair removal | Treatment for scars, acne scars, wrinkles, aging, | Skin tightening, stretch marks
Cellulite, fat, warts, moles, com | Mesotherapy | Crystal Peel & diamond microdermabrasion | Whitening treatment (Localized & Whole body) Dualpeel | Carboxytherapy
Dualpeel | Botox | Fillers | Hair loss treatment | Nail surgeries
Skin biopsies | Cryotherapy | Dermapen

Dr. Abdul Nazer
MBBS, MD
Dermatologist & Cosmetologist

Phone : 24 734 000
Hotline: 60 749 749

CLINIC WORKING HOURS: 7 am to 12 Midnight

Behind Maghateer Commercial Complex & Opp. Police station - Farwaniya
info@shifaaljazeera.com.kw - www.shifaaljazeera.com.kw

Beatles releasing their 'last' record, AI helped make it possible

LONDON, June 14, (AP) — Artificial intelligence has been used to extract John Lennon's voice from an old demo to create "the last Beatles record," decades after the band broke up, Paul McCartney said Tuesday.

McCartney, 80, told the BBC that the technology was used to separate the Beatles' voices from background sounds during the making of director Peter Jackson's 2021 documentary series, "The Beatles: Get Back." The "new" song is set to be released later this year, he said.

Jackson was "able to extricate John's voice from a ropey little bit of cassette and a piano," McCartney told BBC radio. "He could separate them with AI, he'd tell the machine 'That's a voice, this is a guitar, lose the guitar'."

"So when we came to make what will be the last Beatles record, it was a demo that John had that we worked on," he added. "We were able to take John's voice and get it pure through this AI so then we could mix the record as you would do. It gives you some sort of leeway."

McCartney didn't identify the name of the demo, but the BBC and others said it was likely to be an unfinished 1978 love song by Lennon called "Now and Then." The demo was included on a cassette labeled "For Paul" that McCartney had received from Lennon's widow, Yoko Ono, the BBC reported.

McCartney described AI technology as "kind of scary but exciting," adding: "We will just have to see where that leads."

The same technology enabled McCartney to "duet" virtually with Lennon, who was murdered in 1980, on "I've Got a Feeling" last year at Glastonbury Festival.

Holly Herndon, a multidisciplinary artist with a doctorate in composition from Stanford University, used nascent AI machine technology on

her last album, 2019's "Proto," and developed Holly+, an online protocol that allows the public to upload tracks to be reinterpreted and performed by a deepfake version of her voice. She theorizes that the Beatles' recording was likely created using a process called "source separation."

"Source separation has become much easier to do with machine learning. This allows you to extract a voice from a recording, isolating it so that you might accompany it with new instrumentation," she explains.

That differs from a deepfake vocal. "A deepfake is an entirely new vocal line spawned from a machine learning model trained on old vocal lines," she said. "While it does not appear to be happening in this example, it is now possible to spawn infinite new media from analyzing older material, which is a similar process, in spirit, to this song."

McCartney is set to open an exhibition later this month at the National Portrait Gallery in London featuring previously unseen photographs that he took during the early days of the Beatles at the start of "Beatlemania," when the band rose to worldwide fame.

The exhibition, titled "Eyes of the Storm," showcases more than 250 photos McCartney took with his camera between 1963 and 1964 - including portraits of Ringo Starr, George Harrison and Lennon, as well as Beatles manager Brian Epstein.

Also:

LOS ANGELES: More change is afoot at the Grammys. The Recording Academy announced Tuesday that three new categories will be added to the awards show in 2024: best pop dance recording, best African music performance, and best alternative jazz album.

In addition, two existing categories have been moved to the general

field, which means that all Grammy voters can participate in selecting the winners: producer of the year, non-classical, and songwriter of the year, non-classical, the latter of which was first introduced this year.

Previously, the general categories were made up solely of the "Big Four" awards: best new artist, as well as album, record, and song of the year. Grammy voters are eligible to vote in general categories, as well as up to ten categories across three genre fields - and are instructed only to vote in their area of expertise. The changes to those two categories reflect an evolving music industry, where songwriters and producers have become increasingly celebrated for their contributions.

The new best African music performance category will highlight "regional melodic, harmonic and rhythmic musical traditions," according to a Recording Academy press release, including genres like "Afrobeat, Afro-fusion, Afro Pop, Afrobeats, Alte, Amapiiano, Bongo Flava, Genge, Kizomba, Chimurenga, High Life, Fuji, Kwassa, Ndongolo, Mapouka, Ghanaian Drill, Afro-House, South African Hip-Hop, and Ethio Jazz."

The best pop dance recording category is defined by "up-tempo, danceable music that follows a pop arrangement" and recordings that "feature strong rhythmic beats and significant electronic-based instruments with an emphasis on the vocal performance, melody and hooks." Dance remixes do not apply.

And finally, the best alternative jazz album category will spotlight alternative jazz albums that blend genre, hybridizing jazz and other musical styles including "R&B, Hip-Hop, Classical, Contemporary Improvisation, Experimental, Pop, Rap, Electronic/Dance music, and/or Spoken Word."

Music

Variety



This image released by Strand Releasing shows Lubna Azabal, (left), and Saleh Bakri in a scene from 'The Blue Caftan' directed by Maryam Touzani. (AP)

Film

'The Blue Caftan' celebrates embroidery craft

Moroccan director tackles 'taboo love'

As Mina gets increasingly sick, her body withering away, her husband dotes on her: He washes her hair, helps her change, brings the sweetness of a fruit to her lips. But underneath the genuinely tender moments shared by this on-screen Moroccan couple simmers a longing - of a forbidden kind.

In her latest film, "The Blue Caftan," Moroccan director Maryam Touzani delicately weaves intricate, overlapping tales of love, both traditional and largely taboo for many in her country and its region as she tells the story of a woman and her secretly gay husband who together run a shop making caftans. The marriage grows more complicated when the couple hires a male apprentice.

Wading into socially sensitive subjects is not unfamiliar terrain for Touzani who has won accolades at international film festivals and, just recently, was a jury member at this year's Cannes Film Festival. "The Blue Caftan," which had been shortlisted in the international feature film category for the 95th Academy Awards, is scheduled for release Wednesday in Morocco, where gay sex is illegal.

"I'm really hoping that it would be able to trigger a debate about the LGBT community and its place ... things that we don't generally talk about because they are sensitive subjects," Touzani told The Associated Press. "For a healthy society, it's important to be able to talk about everything."

Some disagree.

In Rabat, 27-year-old Laila Sahraoui argued some topics are best left behind closed doors.

"Moroccans ... worry that their kids could imitate such ideas," she said, adding that she wouldn't watch the film. "Because of our Islam, we don't like such things in Morocco. ... It's absolutely not appropriate for our society."

But Touzani, 42, said others shared with her how important it was to portray characters like Halim, the husband.

"Morocco is a very complex country where there are very different points of view coexisting," she said. "It's about being able to just push certain boundaries and just to question certain things. ... That's what art can help us do as well, cinema especially."

Filmmaker Nabil Ayouch, Touzani's husband who co-wrote "The Blue Caftan" with her and is its main producer, said he is curious about moviegoers' reactions, but feels confident.

"There's a younger and younger audience and they want to see new type of movies, new type of cinemas in the Arab world," he said. "The more conservative audience will probably not be very pleased."

Part of art's role, Ayouch said, is to disturb, to stir debate.

While he welcomes the recognition their movies garner abroad, he said it's important for films like "The Blue Caftan" also to be experienced by audiences at home and in the Arab world.

For those having to "live their sexuality secretly," he said, "films like this one can give them some courage to face who they are more publicly."

In "The Blue Caftan," Mina, the wife, has a sense of humor and a feisty side that she uses to protect her husband, who considers her his "rock." She's an observant Muslim; viewers repeatedly watch her pray.

Tension

Halim is a man torn. He has a gentle soul and takes pride in his craft - correcting a customer on a fabric's exact shade of blue - while catering to shoppers in a changing world, with little patience for the time he takes to embroider by hand. He loves his wife, even as he slips into a cabin at a public bathhouse for secret sexual encounters with men.

Sexual tension builds up between him and the male apprentice, Youssef. As Mina's health falters, Youssef increasingly helps the couple and a love triangle of sorts ensues.

Ultimately, Touzani said, it's a movie about "love in its many forms."

That includes love for the traditional craft of caftan embroidery, with sensual scenes of fabrics and stitches.

"One of the things I wanted to show in this film is the beauty of certain traditions," she said. "There are other traditions that ... need to be questioned," she added, citing scenes when Halim challenges some burial rituals.

In one scene, Halim asks for Mina's forgiveness, tell-

ing her that all his life he has tried in vain to get rid of "this thing." She tells him she's proud to have been his wife, then rests her head on his shoulder.

Being a woman of faith didn't stop Mina from understanding her husband, Touzani said.

"We have the tendency of saying, 'Well, if you are religious, then you cannot be this or you cannot be that.' I believe that we can be many things at the same time because we are such complex beings."

Speaking in Rabat, Hanane Boarfaoui, 38, said she was against storylines about homosexuality. "This must not be watched by our children, mothers and parents," she said. "We are conservative people; we don't accept this."

Ahmed Benchemsi, a spokesperson for Human Rights Watch, said that while the number of those prosecuted for gay sex in Morocco "is relatively low" and the topic of homosexuality is less of a taboo there than what it used to be, "the law is still there and it hangs over the heads of everybody."

Online, before the Morocco release of "The Blue Caftan," some praised Touzani's work as powerful and moving; others accused her of courting the West and catering to its sensibilities over issues more relevant to Moroccans.

"I don't make cinema to please anybody," Touzani said. "I just want to be as truthful as possible to my characters and to the stories I want to tell."

Touzani's feature-film directing debut, "Adam," tells the story of two women whose lives intersect when one takes in the other, an unmarried stranger who's looking for a place to stay until she gives birth after getting pregnant. She talks about plans to give away her baby to shield him from the stigma that would otherwise mar his future.

It was inspired by Touzani's parents hosting a woman who showed up at their doorstep under similar circumstances. When Touzani was pregnant with her son, she felt "the violence" that the woman endured in having to relinquish her baby because "socially she couldn't do otherwise."

Broaching topics "unspoken of in Arab and Islamic societies" is one common thread between "Adam" and "The Blue Caftan," said film critic Cherqui Ameur.

Features

ARABIC TIMES

THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 2023

LOS ANGELES: Tory Lanez's sentencing for shooting and wounding hip-hop star Megan Thee Stallion was delayed on Tuesday.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge David Herriford accepted the defense's request to delay Lanez's sentencing, which is now scheduled for Aug 7. Prosecutors are seeking a 13 year prison sentence and Lanez faces deportation to his native Canada.

Herriford decided to give Lanez's lawyers more time to prepare their sentencing recommendation, which is due Aug 1. The judge, who will sentence Lanez, denied a motion from Lanez's defense attorneys for a new trial on May 9.

During the brief court hearing, Lanez mostly kept his head down and barely made eye contact with anyone. He wore an orange jail outfit and black cap.

Lanez was convicted in December of three felonies: assault with a semiautomatic firearm; having a loaded, unregistered firearm in a vehicle and discharging a firearm with gross negligence.

Attorneys for Lanez, whose legal name is Daystar Peterson, argued that there was insufficient evidence to convict him, and some of the evidence presented to jurors should not have been allowed.

Lanez began releasing mixtapes in 2009 and saw a steady rise in popularity, moving on to major-label albums. His last two reached the top 10 on Billboard's charts.

Megan Thee Stallion, whose legal name is Megan Pete, testified during the trial that Lanez fired a handgun at the back of her feet and shouted for her to dance as she walked away from an SUV in which they had been riding in the Hollywood Hills in the summer of 2020. She said the two had gotten into a dispute that became especially heated when she started insulting his music.

She needed surgery to remove bullet fragments from her feet. (AP)

SASKATOON, Saskatchewan: Canadian police have issued warrants for a former "Dances With Wolves" actor who is facing nine charges including sexual exploitation, sexual assault and removing a child from Canada under the age of 16.

Tsuut'ina Nation Police Service

said Tuesday in a statement that the investigation has spanned several years with one of the alleged offences dating back to 2005.

The actor has been in jail in Las Vegas since his arrest in January in southern Nevada, where he is charged with 18 felonies, including sexual assault of a minor, child abuse and kidnapping.



Megan

Lanez

Chasing Horse played the role of Sioux tribe member Smiles a Lot in Kevin Costner's 1990 Oscar-winning film.

Court documents say he was the leader of a cult-like group called "The Circle." Documents allege he used his position to gain the trust of Indigenous families and their children, and take underage wives.

The Nevada prosecution was put on pause as the actor appealed to the state's Supreme Court to dismiss the case. His lawyers have argued that his accusers wanted to have ... with him.

Chasing Horse is also facing criminal charges in Montana and British Columbia. California attorney Alexandra Kazarian,

who has been retained by Chasing Horse on previous charges, did not immediately return a message seeking comment.

The US arrest report alleges a British Columbia woman reported Chasing Horse to the RCMP, who contacted Las Vegas police, prompting the investigation that led to his arrest. (AP)

People & Places

Obit

Pulitzer Prize winner

Lauded US novelist McCarthy dies at 89

SANTA FE, N.M., June 14, (AP): **Cormac McCarthy**, the Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist who in prose both dense and brittle took readers from the southern Appalachians to the desert Southwest in such novels as "The Road," "Blood Meridian" and "All the Pretty Horses," died Tuesday. He was 89.

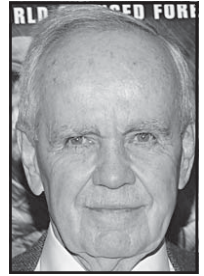
Publisher Alfred A. Knopf, a Penguin Random House imprint, announced that McCarthy died of natural causes at his home in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

"For 60 years, he demonstrated an unwavering dedication to his craft, and to exploring the infinite possibilities and power of the written word," Penguin Random House CEO Nihar Malaviya said in a statement. "Millions of readers around the world embraced his characters, his mythic themes, and the intimate emotional truths he laid bare on every page, in brilliant novels that will remain both timely and timeless, for generations to come."

McCarthy, raised in Knoxville, Tennessee, was compared to William Faulkner for his expansive, Old Testament style and rural settings. McCarthy's themes, like Faulkner's, often were bleak and violent and dramatized how the past overwhelmed the present. Across stark and forbidding landscapes and rundown border communities, he placed drifters, thieves, prostitutes and old, broken men, all unable to escape fates determined for them well before they were born. As the doomed John Grady Cole of McCarthy's celebrated "Border" trilogy would learn, dreams of a better life were only dreams, and falling in love an act of folly.

"Every man's death is a standing in for every other," McCarthy wrote in "Cities of the Plain," the trilogy's final book. "And since death comes to all there is no way to abate the fear of it except to love that man who stands for us."

McCarthy's own story was one of belated, and continuing, achievement and popularity. Little known to the public at age 60, he would become one of the country's most honored and successful writers despite rarely talking to the press.



McCarthy

Award

He broke through commercially in 1992 with "All the Pretty Horses" and over the next 15 years won the National Book Award and the Pulitzer, was a guest on Oprah Winfrey's show and saw his novel "No Country for Old Men" adapted by the Coen brothers into an Oscar-winning movie. Fans of the Coens would discover that the film's terse, absurdist dialogue, so characteristic of the brothers' work, was lifted straight from the novel.

"The Road," his stark tale of a father and son who roam a ravaged landscape, brought him his widest audience and highest acclaim. It won the 2007 Pulitzer Prize for fiction and was selected by Winfrey for her book club. In his Winfrey interview, McCarthy said that while typically he didn't know what generates the ideas for his books, he could trace "The Road" to a trip he took with his young son to El Paso, Texas, early in the decade. Standing at the window of a hotel in the middle of the night as his son slept nearby, he started to imagine what El Paso might look like 50 or 100 years in the future.

"I just had this image of these fires up on the hill ... and I thought a lot about my little boy," he said.

He told Winfrey he didn't care how many people read "The Road."

"You would like for the people that would appreciate the book to read it. But, as far as many, many people reading it, so what?" he said.

McCarthy dedicated the book to his son, John Francis, and said having a child as an older man "forces the world on you, and I think it's a good thing." The Pulitzer committee called his book "the profoundly moving story of a journey."

"It boldly imagines a future in which no hope remains, but in which the father and his son, 'each the other's world entire,' are sustained by love," the citation read in part. "Awesome in the totality of its vision, it is an unflinching meditation on the worst and the best that we are capable of: ultimate destructiveness, desperate tenacity, and the tenderness that keeps two people alive in the face of total devastation."

After "The Road," little was heard from McCarthy over the next 15 years and his career was presumed over. But in 2022, Knopf made the startling announcement that it would release a pair of connected novels he had referred to in the past: "The Passenger" and "Stella Maris," narratives about a brother and sister, mutually obsessed siblings, and the legacy of their father, a physicist who had worked on atomic technology. "Stella Maris" was notable, in part, because it centered on a female character, an acknowledged weakness of McCarthy's.

"I don't pretend to understand women," he told Winfrey.

His first novel, "The Orchard Keeper" - written in Chicago while he was working as an auto mechanic - was published by Random House in 1965. His editor was Albert Erskine, Faulkner's longtime editor.

Novels

Other novels include "Outer Dark," published in 1968; "Child of God" in 1973; and "Suttree" in 1979. The violent "Blood Meridian," about a group of bounty hunters along the Texas-Mexico border murdering Indians for their scalps, was published in 1985.

His "Border Trilogy" books were set in the Southwest along the border with Mexico: "All the Pretty Horses" (1992) - a National Book Award winner that was turned into a feature film; "The Crossing" (1994), and "Cities of the Plain" (1998).

McCarthy said he was always lucky. He recalled living in a shack in Tennessee and running out of toothpaste, then going out and finding a toothpaste sample in the mailbox.

"That's the way my life has been. Just when things were really, really bleak, something would happen," said McCarthy, who won a MacArthur Fellowship - one of the so-called "genius grants" - in 1981.

In 2009, Christie's auction house sold the Olivetti typewriter he used while writing such novels as "The Road" and "No Country for Old Men" for \$254,500. McCarthy, who bought the Olivetti for \$50 in 1958 and used it until 2009, donated it so the proceeds could be used to benefit the Santa Fe Institute, a nonprofit interdisciplinary scientific research community. He once said he didn't know any writers and preferred to hang out with scientists.

The Southwestern Writers Collection at Texas State University-San Marcos purchased his archives in 2008, including correspondence, notes, drafts, proofs of 11 novels, a draft of an unfinished novel and materials related to a play and four screenplays.



This image released by Bond Theatricals shows Naomi Rodgers as Tina Turner during a performance of the national tour of Broadway's 'Tina - The Tina Turner Musical.' The production makes its California debut this week, then continues its multi-year national journey, visiting 37 more cities across North America. There are also productions running on London's West End, as well as in Sydney, Australia and Stuttgart, Germany. (AP)

Stage

Play a posthumous celebration of rock icon

Turner musical gains extra meaning

NEW YORK, June 14, (AP): The national tour of Broadway's "Tina - The Tina Turner Musical" makes its California debut this week, arriving as a poignant, posthumous celebration following the rock music icon's death last month.

"Tina" opened in Los Angeles at the Hollywood Pantages Theatre on Wednesday, steps away from her Hollywood Walk of Fame star and where she recorded for Capitol Records. It plays there until July 9, followed by two weeks at Segerstrom Center the Arts in Costa Mesa and stops in San Diego, San Francisco and San Jose later this summer.

"We have always wanted to put audiences in the room with her and it's obviously going to have even more of a special meaning now that she is gone from us physically," says Katori Hall, co-writer of the musical.

"But her energy, her spirit, obviously has been interwoven into our creative processes. And I pray that we'll always be able to give every audience member a little piece of Tina when they come to the show."

Turner, who survived a horrifying marriage to triumph in middle age with such hits as "What's Love Got to Do With It" and "Better Be Good To Me," died last month in Küssnacht near Zurich. She was 83.

After California, the tour continues its multi-year national journey, visiting 37 more cities across North America next season. It has been touring regularly since fall 2022. There are also productions running on London's West End, as well as in Sydney, Australia, and Stuttgart, Germany.

The musical traces the highs and lows of the two-time Rock & Roll Hall of Fame inductee, including her hellish marriage scarred by domestic

violence and the rise as a beloved solo artist with songs like "Private Dancer," "River Deep, Mountain High," "The Best" and "Proud Mary."

"Tina" captured 12 Tony nominations, including an eventual best actress winning trophy for Adrienne Warren in the title role. Hall wrote the book with Frank Ketelaar and Kees Prins.

Two actors share the role of Turner on the road - Naomi Rodgers and Zurin Vilanueva, each playing four of the eight performances a week. Also co-starring are Roderick Lawrence, Roz White, Carla R. Stewart and Lael Van Keuren.

Tour organizers realized by seeing Warren as Turner on Broadway that not just one actor could play the demanding role on the road, says Hall.

"We saw how hard it is on the body - It's the physicality, it's the singing, but it's also just the emotional heft every night one has to put upon their shoulders and go through, two hours plus of the life of Tina Turner."

Hall recalls finding out that Turner had died when she woke up with messages flooding her phone. Her mind went back to the time when Turner attended "Tina" on Broadway.

"When she walked through the door, to see people get on their feet and give her a standing ovation, I was so grateful that she was able to feel that energy and feel that love on the American side of the pond before she passed," says Hall.

"I think it was just a beautiful gift that we were able to give her in that moment and to be in the room breathing with her and witnessing that love just showering down from the balcony."

Also:

NEW YORK: When Sara Bareilles signed on for a two-week, stripped

down production of "Into the Woods" off-Broadway, she had no idea the adventure would lead to Broadway and a Tony Award nomination. She also had no idea it would become a moving tribute to composer **Stephen Sondheim**.

"It's the first show that got mounted after Steve passed. And so, to be singing a Stephen Sondheim score - I think there was a lot. We were in church every night," Bareilles told The Associated Press of her turn as Baker's wife in the fractured fairy tale musical.

The nod was the third for Bareilles. She was previously nominated for best original score in 2016 for "Waitress" and "SpongeBob SquarePants" in 2018. The Grammy-winning singer-songwriter even took a turn as Jenna, the protagonist in "Waitress," but this is her first Tony nomination for performing.

"I'm shocked and I'm so grateful and I feel so lucky. I loved every minute of it. It was amazing," Bareilles said.

Bareilles found success after college, and racked up a string of hit albums, including "Little Voice," "Kaleidoscope Heart" and "The Blessed Unrest." Her hits include "Love Song" and "Brave." She already has earned a Grammy for her role in the "Into the Woods" cast album.

"Into the Woods," with songs by Sondheim, who died in late 2021, takes fables like Jack and the Beanstalk, Little Red Riding Hood, Rapunzel and Cinderella and explores their unhappy consequences. The revival had an all-star roster of talent that also included **Patina Miller**, **Montego Glover**, **Stephanie J. Block**, **Brian d'Arcy James** and **Joshua Henry**.

Bareilles identifies as a theater kid, so the nomination for a musical theater performance means a lot to her.



Emilia Clarke arrives at the premiere of "Secret Invasion," Tuesday, June 13, at El Capitan Theatre in Los Angeles. (AP)



Carlson



Baldwin

Variety

ALBUQUERQUE, NM: The weapons supervisor on the film set where **Alec Baldwin** shot and killed a cinematographer was drinking and smoking marijuana in the evenings during the filming of "Rust," prosecutors are alleging, saying she was likely hungover when she loaded a live bullet into the revolver that the actor used.

They leveled the accusations Friday in response to a motion filed last month by **Hannah Gutierrez-Reed's** attorneys that seeks to dismiss her involuntary manslaughter charge. The prosecutors accused her of having a history of reckless conduct and argued that it would be in the public interest for her to "finally be held accountable."

Jason Bowles, Gutierrez-Reed's attorney, said Tuesday that the prosecution has mishandled the case.

"The case is so weak that they now have chosen to resort to character assassination claims about Hannah," Bowles told The Associated Press. "The prosecution has abandoned the idea of doing justice and getting to the actual truth apparently."

A preliminary hearing for Gutierrez-Reed is scheduled in August. A judge is expected to decide then if there's a probable cause for Gutierrez-Reed's charge to move forward.

In the response, the prosecutors also noted that they expected to decide within the next 60 days whether to recharge Baldwin, depending on the results of an analysis of the gun and its broken shell. The items were sent to the state's independent expert for further testing.

The involuntary manslaughter charge faced by Baldwin, who also was a producer on the film, was dismissed in April, with prosecutors citing new evidence and the need for more time to investigate.

Baldwin was pointing a gun at cinematographer Halyna Hutchins during a rehearsal on the **New Mexico** film set in October 2021 when it went off, killing her and wounding the film's director, Joel Souza.

Gutierrez-Reed's attorneys had argued in their motion that the prosecution was "tainted by improper political motives" and that **Santa Fe District Attorney Mary Carmack-Altwei** and the initial special prosecutor she appointed, **Andrea Reeb**,

"both used the tragic film set accident that resulted in the death of Halyna Hutchins as an opportunity to advance their personal interests."

The defense lawyers contend that the permanent damage done to the gun by FBI testing before the defense could examine it amounted to destruction of evidence and a violation of the court's rules of discovery.

They also argued that the "selective prosecution" of Gutierrez-Reed was a violation of the equal protection clause of the **US Constitution's 14th Amendment**. (AP)

WASHINGTON: Fox News sent **Tucker Carlson** a cease-and-desist letter over his new Twitter series, Axios reported Monday, amid reports of a contract battle



Director Maryam Touzani stands for a portrait during the 76th international film festival in Cannes, southern France, on Monday, May 22, 2023. In her latest film, "The Blue Caftan," Touzani, from Morocco, delicately weaves intricate, overlapping tales of love, both traditional and largely taboo for many in her country and its region. (AP) — **Details Page 11**

between the conservative network and its former prime-time host.

Carlson was ousted from Fox in late April, less than a week after Fox agreed to pay Dominion Voting Systems nearly \$800 million to settle an explosive defamation case. The network provided no explanation for the firing, but a wave of reports on damaging text messages and other statements Carlson made during his time at Fox have since piled up.

Since leaving Fox, Carlson kicked off a "Tucker on Twitter" series - arguing that Twitter was "the only" major remaining platform that allows free speech as he denounced news media. The series, which has published two episodes so far, has appeared to escalate contract tensions between Carlson and Fox.

Fox has demanded Carlson stop posting videos to Twitter. The New York Times also reported Monday - as the network's lawyers accuse Carlson of violating his contract, which runs until early 2025 and restricts his ability to appear on other media outlets. Meanwhile, Carlson's lawyers have said the network breached the contract first.

A spokesperson for Fox News Media and attorneys representing Carlson, **Bryan Freedman** and **Harmeet Dhillon**, did not immediately return The Associated Press' requests for comments on Tuesday.

"Doubling down on the most catastrophic programming decision in the history of the cable news industry, Fox is now demanding that Tucker Carlson be silent until after the 2024 election," Dhillon said in a statement sent to Axios and the Times. "Tucker will not be silenced by anyone." (AP)

Ecology

Improved sensors

Experts equip sharks with 'smartphones'

NEW YORK, June 14, (AP) — Scientists monitoring the white shark population in the waters off Massachusetts' Cape Cod are attaching improved sensors, including cameras, to the predators to help scientists keep track of their whereabouts and to keep beachgoers informed and safe, researchers said Tuesday.

The program comes just as tourists are filling up hotels and rental properties on the Cape for the summer - and white sharks are returning in greater numbers to feed on the region's abundant seals.

Interactions between white sharks and humans are rare. But the risk is still there. There have been five in Massachusetts since 2012 - three of them classified as bites, one of which was fatal, said **Greg Skomal**, the state Division of Marine Fisheries shark expert.



Skomal

"So as a result, we've intensified our research off the Cape to study various aspects of white shark behavior," Skomal said.

For more than a decade, the fisheries division and the nonprofit Atlantic White Shark Conservancy have tagged about 300 sharks with acoustic sensors that emit a high-frequency sound to an array of receivers along the coast. Public safety officials and

lifeguards are notified when a shark swims within range of an acoustic receiver.

This year, researchers are attaching more camera sensors to the predators.

They capture more than just video. The sensors can detect a shark's depth, direction, surrounding water temperature and whether it's accelerating or slowing down. The technology allows scientists to monitor the sharks on a second-by-second basis, Skomal said.

Megan Winton, a staff scientist at the Atlantic White Shark Conservancy, calls it giving smartphones to sharks.

"They're outfitted with an incredible array of sensors that tell us about the animal's movements and their environment," she said, adding that it's "essentially just riding on the back of a white shark."

The information is downloaded to a free app available to the public to reduce encounters and promote safety.

Camera

One video captured by a camera tag clamped to a shark's dorsal fin shows the predator moving into water about 4 feet (1.2 meters) deep close to shore to go after a seal, stirring up a storm of sand from the bottom. The seal ultimately escaped.

Sharks are patient hunters.

"They slowly patrol the shoreline very methodically until they essentially have a chance to make their move," Winton said.

The technology also has provided insight into how curious sharks are. They have been seen coming to the surface to nibble a lobster buoy or check out a bird or some other piece of flotsam, she said.

Researchers also have started using drones to help spot sharks from above, a method that has been used in other parts of the world, including Australia, Skomal said.

The drawback of the sensor system is that if a shark has not been tagged, it won't be detected. But the program does its best to provide information to the public so they can make informed decisions while at the beach.

"We want them to understand these animals and their habits the way we do," Winton said.

Benito

Benito the giraffe arrived in Mexico's arid northern border city of Ciudad Juarez just last month, and already the climate appears to be a problem - and he's only had to deal with the scorching heat of summer.

The snow and freezing temperatures of winter are still to come, and animal activists are up in arms and pushing a campaign under the hashtag "Save Benito" seeking to have the animal moved somewhere more hospitable.

On a recent day, the 3-year-old male giraffe could be seen crouching with only his head under a small, circular canopy for shade. The structure did little to protect him from a pelting rain and a hail storm later.

There is also a small shed for winter, but activists say it is cruel for the city-run Central Park to keep the giraffe in a small fenced enclosure, by himself alone, with only about a half-acre to wander and few trees to nibble, in a climate he's not used to.

"We have been fighting for a month, a group of animal activists, to demand that he be taken to an animal sanctuary, a zoo, somewhere where there are appropriate facilities and qualified personnel to care for this type of animal," said **Ana Félix**, a Ciudad Juarez animal rights activist. "We are in the desert here and the climate here is extreme in winter and in summer."

Blue Hills, a sanctuary ranch in Texas that rescues animals and books private tours to help offset the cost, has offered to buy or adopt Benito.

Popularity

"We can offer him a brand new heated barn, so in the winter he doesn't stand in the snow and freeze," ranch operator **Matt Lieberman** wrote in response to The Associated Press. "We have an on staff vet that cares for our animals and we have 24 hour staff for him."

He added that the giraffe would have 320 acres to roam in. "He doesn't have any trees to browse from" at the park in Mexico, Lieberman said. "He needs trees to eat from and keep stimulated."

Benito appears to have just about finished off the only small trees within his reach at Central Park and can do little more than walk in circles.

Officials at the park reject the criticism, though the acknowledgment they can't provide more trees. They say are working to improve Benito's compound, saying his presence has been important in boosting the park's popularity among visitors, largely children. Monthly visits rose from about 140,000 before Benito arrived to 200,000.

Park visitor **Derek Reyes**, 11, had mixed feelings about Benito.

"He could be fine here," Reyes said, "but it would also be good if they could take him to a place where they belong, with a herd."

Park director **Rogelio Muñoz** said authorities are planning to build Benito a new, heated winter house by September.

The park is also building a larger sun canopy for the giraffe and dredging out garbage and fetid water from a pool that takes up much of the enclosure. Benito will have fresh water in a trough.

"The conditions, attention and care in the habitat of the park's new resident are optimal for his stay," the park wrote in a social media message.

Benito was donated by a zoo in the much more temperate climate of Sinaloa, a state on Mexico's northern Pacific coast. Himself a rescue, Benito couldn't stay with two other giraffes at the Sinaloa zoo because they were a couple, and the male could become territorial and attack the younger Benito.

The giraffe's arrival was a point of pride for Ciudad Juarez, a tough, dusty city across from El Paso, Texas, that is best known for its hundreds of maquiladora assembly factories and its endemic gang violence. El Paso has giraffes at its zoo, the thinking goes, so why can't Ciudad Juarez?



Lava flows down the slopes of Mayon volcano as seen from Daraga town, Albay province, northeastern Philippines, Tuesday, June 13. Truckloads of villagers on Tuesday fled from Philippine communities close to gently erupting Mayon volcano, traumatized by the sight of red-hot lava flowing down its crater and sporadic blasts of ash. (AP)

The Conversation

Many countries have outpaced US in life expectancy

Excess deaths growing in the US

By Patrick Heuveline
University of California, LA

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

The Research Brief is a short take about interesting academic work.

People in the US are dying at higher rates than in other similar high-income countries, and that difference is only growing. That's the key finding of a new study that I published in the journal PLOS One.

In 2021, more than 892,000 of the 3,456,000 deaths the US experienced, or about 1 in 4, were "excess deaths." In 2019, that number was 483,000 deaths, or nearly 1 in 6. That represents an 84.9% increase in excess deaths in the US between 2019 and 2021.

Excess deaths refer to the actual number of deaths that occur in a given year compared with expected deaths over that same time period based on prior years or, as in this study, in other countries.

In my study, I compared the number of US deaths with those in the five largest countries in Western Europe: England and Wales, France, Germany, Italy and Spain. Those five countries make for a good comparison because they are nearly, if not quite, as wealthy as the US and their combined population is similar in size and diversity to the US population.

I also chose those countries because they were used in an earlier study from another research team that documented a 34.5% increase in excess deaths in the US between 2000 and 2017.

The acceleration of this already alarming long-term trend in excess deaths in the US was exacerbated by the fact that the US experienced higher death rates from COVID-19 compared with similar countries. However, COVID-19 alone does not account for the recent increase in the number of excess deaths in the US relative to comparison countries.

Rising living standards and medical advances through the 20th century have made it possible for people in wealthy countries to live longer and with a better quality of life. Given that the US is the largest economic power in the world, with cutting-edge medical technology, Americans should have an advantage over other countries

in terms of life span and death rates.

But in the last 50 years, many countries around the world have outpaced the US in how fast death rates are declining, as revealed by trends in life expectancy.

Life expectancy is an average age at death, and it represents how long an average person is expected to live if current death rates remain unchanged throughout that person's lifetime. Life expectancy is based on a complex combination of death rates at different ages, but in short, when death rates decline, life expectancy increases.

Compared to about 20 other high-income countries, since around the mid-1970s the US life expectancy has been slipping from about the middle, or median, to the lowest rungs of life expectancy. So the relative stagnation in life expectancy in the US compared with other countries is directly related to the fact that death rates have also declined more slowly in the US.

The US has higher death rates than its peer countries due to a variety of causes.

Cardiovascular

Cardiovascular disease prevalence has been an important driver of life expectancy changes across the globe in recent decades. But while death rates from cardiovascular disease have continued to decline in other parts of the world, those rates have stagnated in the US.

A key reason for this trend is the rise in obesity, as research shows that obesity increases the risk of death from cardiovascular disease. High prevalence of obesity in the US also likely contributed to the relatively high death rates from COVID-19.

Another cause is that the US has disproportionately high death rates from intentional injuries in the form of homicides, in particular those caused by firearms. Moreover, it also has high death rates from unintentional injuries, in particular drug overdoses.

While these specific causes of deaths should clearly be health policy priorities today, there might be more fundamental causes to the elevated US death rates.

In the early 1990s, young people in the US between the ages of 15 and 34 were already dying at higher rates than their peers in other countries from

a combination of homicides, unintentional injuries - in large part from motor vehicle accidents - and deaths from HIV/AIDS.

Research is underway to understand the more fundamental societal causes that may explain the vulnerability of the US population to successive epidemics, from HIV/AIDS and COVID-19 to gun violence and opioid overdoses.

These include racial and economic inequalities, which combined with a weaker social security net and lack of health care access for all may help explain larger health and death disparities compared to European countries.

Also:

WASHINGTON: The US government can keep enforcing "Obamacare" requirements that health insurance plans cover preventative care - such as HIV prevention, some types of cancer screenings and other illnesses - while a legal battle over the mandates plays out, under a court agreement approved Tuesday.

The pact approved by the 5th US Circuit Court of Appeals preserves - at least for now - cost-free preventive care coverage for millions of Americans under the Affordable Care Act.

That coverage was thrown into question by a March ruling from a federal judge in Texas, who said some of the preventative care requirements under former President **Barack Obama's** 13-year-old health care law are unconstitutional.

The ruling by US District Judge **Reed O'Connor** had nationwide effects. The Biden administration had argued last week at the appeals court that the ruling should be stayed while appeals are pursued.

The agreement was filed with the court Monday. In it, the plaintiffs in the case, including a Christian dentist who opposes coverage for contraception and HIV prevention on religious grounds, agreed to a broad stay nationwide. In return, during the appeal process, the handful of plaintiffs would be allowed to provide insurance plans that don't include the preventative care. If O'Connor's ruling were reversed, they would have to provide the coverage, but they would not be penalized for having dumped the coverage during appeals.

Japan will also work together with its allies and like-minded countries to create international rules on the use of space, it added. (KUNA)

20 killer whales spotted off SF: An uncommonly large grouping of orcas for Northern California - roughly two dozen killer whales - were spotted by a whale watching tour off the coast of San Francisco last month, likely gathered together to celebrate a successful hunt for sea lions or seals.

"I screamed 'orca!'" recalled **Michael Pierson**, a Oceanic Society naturalist leading the tour, after noticing "those distinct dorsal fins poking out of the water."

"It was really, really special," Pierson said in an interview Wednesday.

The big group of whales was seen on May 7 near the Farallon Islands, about 28 miles (45 kilometers) west of San Francisco. Killer whales are more commonly found around the deep ocean canyon beneath Monterey Bay - about 75 miles south of the city - and can be spotted anywhere from the coastline to just 5 miles off shore, according to Nancy Black, a marine biologist and owner of Monterey Bay Whale Watch.

It's easier for whale-watching tours to see them in Monterey Bay because the canyon is so close to the beach, while the Farallon Islands require a miles-long boat ride from San Francisco, and the water still may not be deep enough there, Black said. (AP)



Belle the Dog, (left), Craig Clifford, DVM, co-chair of Take C.H.A.R.G.E. Scientific Advisory Board, and Tinkerbell the Dog, attend the Take C.H.A.R.G.E. Canine Cancer Registry briefing on Capitol Hill to discuss progress in canine cancer research and comparative oncology that could advance treatments and potential cures for both canine and human cancers, Thursday, June 8, in Washington. (AP)



Pierson



Kishida

Discovery

Rabid moose in western Alaska: A moose in western Alaska has tested positive for rabies in the first apparent case of a rabid moose in North America, state game officials said.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game officials began receiving reports of a moose acting aggressively toward people in the community of Teller, located about 70 miles (113 kilometers) northwest of Nome on the Bering Sea coast, on June 2.

"It was drooling and being very aggressive towards people and it was wobbly, unstable on its legs," Kimberlee Beckmen, a Fish and Game wildlife veterinarian told the Anchorage Daily News. "That was very unusual behavior."

After consulting with Beckmen, department staff members killed the moose because of its aggressive behavior and signs indicative of a rabies infection. The carcass was burned to prevent the virus from spreading to scavengers.

The Alaska State Virology Laboratory later detected the rabies virus in the moose's brain, the department said in a statement.

Last week, the department said other rabid moose had been diagnosed in South Dakota, Minnesota and Canada but corrected that on Monday to say the only known cases of rabies in moose were reported in Europe. Beckmen said the other cases in North America actually were places where moose were tested for rabies but the results were negative. (AP)

Japan adopts space security policy: The Japanese government has drawn up its first set of policy guidelines on space security as China and Russia are expanding their space programs, public broadcaster NHK reported.

The Space Security Initiative, adopted at the government's Space Development Strategy Headquarters chaired by Prime Minister **Fumio Kishida**, calls for Japan to join international efforts aimed at countering rapidly expanding threats in outer space, according to the report.

During the meeting, Kishida stressed that the human race is expanding its activities in outer space, and international competition is intensifying, instructing relevant ministers to powerfully promote the government's space policies in an effort to make Japan a leader in space.

The initiative is based on three basic policies over the next 10 years - drastically ex-

panding the use of space for national security, ensuring the safe and sustainable use of space, and creating a positive cycle of space security and space industry development, it added.

To respond to growing threats in space,

Japan aims to join the Combined Space Operations Center, which is operated by the US, Britain, Australia and Canada to monitor attempts to intercept or attack military and commercial satellites, according to the report.



In this May 22, 2019 file photo, a shark warning warns beachgoers at Lecount Hollow Beach in Wellfleet, Mass. Scientists monitoring the white shark population in the waters off Cape Cod are stepping up their game by attaching more highly sophisticated sensors that include cameras to the predators to help keep beachgoers informed and safe, researchers said Tuesday, June 13. (AP)

Dream beat short-handed Liberty

Fever dominate Mystics for first home victory of season

INDIANAPOLIS, June 14, (AP): Rookie Aliyah Boston had 23 points, 14 rebounds and six assists and the Indiana Fever beat the Washington Mystics 87-66 on Tuesday night for their first home victory of the season.

Indiana snapped a six-game losing streak against Washington - with its first double-digit victory since 2021.

Kelsey Mitchell added 19 points and NaLyssa Smith, who scored a career-high 27 points on Sunday, had eight points for Indiana. Boston was 11 of 14 from the field to become the youngest player in WNBA history with a game of 20 points, 10 rebounds and five assists while shooting 75%, according to ESPN Stats & Info.

Elena Delle Donne was the lone double-digit scorer for Washington with 17 points. The Mystics were held to 22-of-66 shooting (33%).

Dream 86, Liberty 79

In New York, Allisha Gray scored 16 points, rookie

Haley Jones had 13 points and nine rebounds in her second start and the Atlanta Dream beat the short-handed New York Liberty.

Gray was fouled far from the basket with 42.2 seconds left and made two free throws to give Atlanta an 84-79 lead. Marine Johannes had a 3-pointer rattle out for New York and Gray sealed it with two free throws

BASKETBALL

at 35.4.

AD Durr also scored 13 points for Atlanta (3-5). Nia Coffey, Rhyne Howard and Monique Billings each added 12 points. Cheyenne Parker grabbed 11 rebounds to go with six points.

Jones sank a long jumper just before the third-quarter

buzzer to tie it at 60-all. She added a three-point play early in the fourth to start a 9-0 run for a 74-63 lead.

New York (6-3) was without Sabrina Ionescu, who scored a career-high 37 points on Friday in a 106-83 victory over Atlanta.

Johannes scored a season-high 18 points for New York. Betnijah Laney added 17 points and Breanna Stewart had 12 points, 13 rebounds, six assists and four blocks. Jonquel Jones also scored 12 points and Courtney Vandersloot had 11 points, six rebounds and six assists.

Laney made a steal and raced the other way before getting fouled with 1:19 left. She made both free throws to pull New York within 80-77, but Billings answered with two free throws for a five-point lead.

Storm 83, Mercury 69

In Phoenix, Sami Whitcomb scored 18 points on six 3-pointers, Jewell Loyd added 17 points and the Seattle Storm beat the Phoenix Mercury.

It was Seattle's first victory over Phoenix since Sept. 3, 2021 after getting swept in three matchups last season.

Seattle scored 12 of the opening 15 points and cruised to a 50-36 lead at halftime. The Mercury scored just 33 points in the second half.

Phoenix stars Brittney Griner and Diana Taurasi combined for just two points. Griner had two points and two rebounds in nine first-half minutes and did not play in the second half due to a hip injury. Taurasi was held scoreless for the first time since Aug. 2, 2022.

Ivana Dojkić added 14 points and rookie Jordan Horston had 13 points and 14 rebounds for Seattle (2-6), which secured its first road victory of the season. Ezi Magbegor had nine points, six rebounds and three blocks.

Sophie Cunningham led Phoenix (2-6) with 21 points. Sug Sutton added 15 points and Michaela Onyenwere had 10 points.

WR takes contract talk in stride

Vikings get Jefferson back for minicamp

EAGAN, Minn., June 14, (AP): Justin Jefferson jogged onto the sun-soaked practice field, proceeding to jump in the air with a karate kick of his left leg as he approached his teammates.

Absent all spring on his own offseason training and business agenda, Jefferson's salient presence was a natural highlight for the Minnesota Vikings as they convened for minicamp.

out in the Miami area during the voluntary portion of Minnesota's offseason program, which had about 97% attendance on the roster. The two-day minicamp this week is mandatory, subjecting no-shows to fines.

"I had a lot of stuff going on. They didn't really force me to come back too much, so it didn't seem like I was missing too much, but they definitely wanted me back here," Jefferson said.

He said he's been busy with endorsement and marketing opportunities and casually dismissed a question from a reporter about whether his absence was related to the lack of a new contract. He also said he would return for training camp, regardless of the status of negotiations.

Davante Adams (Las Vegas), Tyreek Hill (Miami), A.J. Brown (Philadelphia), Amari Cooper (Cleveland) and Stefon Diggs (Buffalo) are the top five earners in the league in terms of maximum contract value for wide receivers. The \$140 million the Raiders committed to Adams is the largest overall figure at that position, though about \$72 million of that comes from non-guaranteed base salaries for 2025 and 2026. Hill's annual average of \$30 million on a four-year contract with the Dolphins is currently the highest.

O'Connell has maintained regular contact with Jefferson since last season ended, even asking him for input about certain formation or route suggestions in the endless strategy session that is the offseason for an NFL coach.

Clearly, O'Connell wanted Jefferson with the team the entire time, particularly considering the departure of Adam Thielen and the leadership void that created in the wide receiver group. The Vikings drafted Jordan Addison in the first round, but the USC product has been held out of the full-team practices open to reporters because of an unspecified injury.



England's Ollie Pope during net practice at Edgbaston, Birmingham, England prior to the first Ashes Test cricket match against Australia. (AP)

FOOTBALL

Jefferson, an unanimous All-Pro pick for 2022 who has two years remaining on his rookie contract, has entered the window for what will likely be an extraordinarily expensive extension with his 4,825 yards and 324 receptions that are the most in NFL history over a player's first three seasons.

The Louisiana native has been working



Baltimore Ravens wide receiver Odell Beckham Jr. runs a drill during NFL football practice in Owings Mills, Md. (AP)

Bangladesh 'reach' 362-5 on first day of one-off test vs Afghanistan

Najmul hits third century

MIRPUR, Bangladesh, June 14, (AP): Najmul Hossain hit his third century as Bangladesh dominated Afghanistan's bowlers to reach 362-5 on the opening day of their one-off test on Wednesday.

Najmul scored 146 off 175 balls, hitting 23 fours and two sixes, and added 212 runs with opener Mahmudul Hasan for the second wicket to disrupt Afghanistan's plan on a hot and humid day.

Mahmudul missed out his ton, being out on 76 after a knock that included nine fours.

At stumps, Mehidy Hasan was batting on 43 with Mushfiqur Rahim on 41, after sharing 72 runs for the sixth wicket.

"I don't think we had batted in such hot and humid condition earlier but again it's something that was not in our control. What was in our control, we tried to do it perfectly and I believe we are

in good position," Najmul said. "I enjoyed the way Mahmudul negotiated the new ball. He gave us the momentum."

Afghanistan captain Hashmatullah Shahidi chose to bowl first after winning the toss. The decision appeared to be correct before Najmul kept them at bay as Bangladesh scored above 4.5 runs per over to rack up its third highest total on day one.

Pace bowler Nijatullah Masood had Zakir Hasan caught by wicket-keeper Afsar Zazai for 1, making him the first Afghan bowler to claim a wicket in his first delivery of his debut test - and 22nd overall.

The delivery from Masood in the second over shaped across but the umpire remained unmoved. The replays revealed that the ball took the slightest

nick off the bat before going through to keeper.

Najmul counterattacked, epitomizing Bangladesh's ambition to play an aggressive brand of cricket, and it paid off.

He punished anything short and raised his fourth test fifty off 58 balls, pulling a short delivery off the left-arm wrist spinner behind backward square leg for four.

Mahmudul, playing his first test since June last year, was patient compared to his partner as he brought up his third fifty off

the ball in the right areas consistently for long enough, we created chances."

Rahmat Shah, an occasional legspinner, brought the crucial breakthrough for the side when Mahmudul cut straight to Ibrahim Zadran at slip.

The first two sessions saw Afghanistan taking just two wickets but they pulled the strings in the third session as debutant Masood (2-67) led the charge.

He successfully reviewed one to get the better of Mominul Haque, caught by the wicket-keeper for 15, and then rattled the stump of Najmul with another one that swung sharply. But to his dismay it was a no-ball.

Najmul failed to make the most of the chance and after adding just three runs, he was dismissed when he chipped straight to deep midwicket after being lured by left-arm spinner Amir Hamza.

On his captaincy debut, Liton Das was undone by the flight of left-arm wrist spinner Zahir Khan, edging it at first slip as Bangladesh slumped to 290-5 from 218-1.

CRICKET

102 balls when an overthrow gave him five runs.

Najmul frustrated the Afghan bowlers more to bring up his century off 118 balls and looked untroubled against a lackluster bowling attack.

"I don't think we bowled as well as we should have," Afghanistan coach Jonathon Trott said. "I think there's a bit in the wicket. We saw that when we got

The Ashes here once again

England's 'Bazball' approach gets ultimate test vs Aussies

LONDON, June 14, (AP): English cricket's "Bazball" revolution is about to get its ultimate test.

The Ashes - the most famous test cricket series of them all - is here once again and the five matches between England and Australia could be among the wildest since the first one was played in 1882.

Under captain Ben Stokes and coach Brendon McCullum, whose nickname is "Baz," England has gone all-out attack and won 12 of its last 17 tests. Always chasing a win - even at the risk of losing - England has not been defeated in a series over the past year. It's a remarkable turnaround in form for a national team which had won just one of its previous 17 tests before the Stokes-McCullum partnership was formed.

It has reached the stage where England's players will chase quick runs and fast wickets or adopt aggressive field placements whether they're playing a cricket minnow or the world champion.

In Australia, they are taking on just that: The newly crowned world test champion.

And the message from the Australians, who beat India

in the World Test Championship final at Lord's on Sunday? Bring it on.

"I said it initially when 'Bazball' started, that I'm intrigued to see how it goes against our bowlers," Australia batter Steve Smith said. "They've obviously done well against some other attacks but they haven't come up against us yet. It's been exciting to watch, I've enjoyed watching the way they've played and the way they've turned things around in the last 12 months, but we'll wait and see how it comes off against us."

Stokes, who has played a

Indeed, Stokes said, the Ashes is the best platform to showcase a style of play he hopes will become commonplace in cricket, for its own good.

"I really want boards across the world to get their heads around this, which they seem to be having a hard time doing," Stokes added. "Rather than fight against it, we need to embrace it. Yes, we may lose a few talented players along the way, but the best way to keep test cricket alive and at the pinnacle of the sport is to work harder to show players something that excites them and inspires them."

Starting Friday at Birmingham's Edgbaston ground, which is known for its soccer-style atmosphere, the series will likely be much closer than the last when Australia - as host - demolished England 4-0 in 2021-22.

Winning margins included nine wickets (first test, Brisbane), 275 runs (second test, Adelaide), an innings and 14 runs (third test, Melbourne) and 146 runs (fifth test, Hobart).

England drew the fourth test at Sydney thanks to its bowlers hanging on at 270-9 in the second innings but it was a grim few months

central part in some of the most memorable matches in England's cricketing history, has insisted there will be no backward step from the English just because they are playing the best test team in the world in the most storied test series in cricket.

"As captain, I'm not going to be chewing people out in press conferences or in the media for trying to play a big shot," Stokes said in a column in "The Players' Tribune."

"And behind the scenes, you're not gonna get a slap on the wrist from me or Brendon McCullum about it. The bottom line is, everybody fails at some point, so you might as well go out batting the way you want to. That won't change just because it's the Ashes."



Australia's David Warner during net practice prior to the first Ashes Test cricket match, at Edgbaston, Birmingham, England. (AP)

10th head coach in franchise history

Rajakovic thrilled to be taking over as Raptors coach

TORONTO, June 14, (AP): Darko Rajakovic has been in a good mood ever since the Toronto Raptors made him the 10th head coach in franchise history.

"The last three days I've had a smile on my face so much my jaw is starting to hurt," Rajakovic joked Tuesday at an outdoor news conference.

Rajakovic, 44, replaces Nick Nurse, who was fired on April 21 after Toronto went 41-41 and lost in the opening round of the play-in tournament.

General manager Bobby Webster said Rajakovic "didn't go in as the favorite" but when Toronto started its search, but won over the Raptors as the process evolved.

"He's really smart, he's detailed, he's structured," Webster said. "He has a really diverse set of experiences internationally, but also in the NBA. He's worked for a number of organizations and directly with a lot of, like,

high-caliber players and it just kind of all fit. He just exceeded our expectations and just really impressed us."

Rajakovic said he felt an immediate connection with Toronto's front office staff. Born and raised in Serbia, Rajakovic has been involved in coaching since his teens. He coached in Spain before coming to the United States.

Rajakovic was a head coach for two seasons in the G League (then called the NBA Development League) before joining the Oklahoma City Thunder as an assistant before the 2014-15 season. He spent the 2019-20 season as an assistant with Phoenix, then joined Memphis the following year.

At his introductory news conference, Rajakovic fielded a question in Serbian from a Serbian-language broadcaster based in Toronto. The city has a significant population of Serbian immigrants.

Rajakovic said it "means the world" to be the second Serbian-born coach in the NBA after Igor Kokosov, who led

the Suns in 2018-19.

Toronto's new hire was introduced on the four-year anniversary of the team's first and only NBA title. The Raptors beat Golden State in six games in the Finals in 2019, Nurse's first season as coach.

Raptors players Precious Achiuwa, Dalano Banton, Christian Koloko, Jeff Dowtin Jr., Ron Harper Jr. and Joe

BASKETBALL

Wieskamp were on hand for Rajakovic's introduction.

Webster confirmed Tuesday that guard Fred VanVleet has opted out of the final year of his contract and will become a free agent. "Obviously on good terms with Fred, spoke to him yesterday," Webster said. "I think that (decision) was just kind of expected, wasn't really unexpected."

Required

Marine/ Telecom Technician

for Arabian Construction company W.L.L. with basic understanding and hands on experience in various test equipment's as listed here below:

- Vessel Traffic System basic experience
- Meteorology sensor experience in installation and maintenance.
- Knowledge in CCTV IP camera.
- WLAN AP configuration, basic IP addressing.
- VHF radio programming, installation, and troubleshooting.
- UTP and Coaxial cable termination
- Basic knowledge of telecom testing equipment.
- Required years of Experience: minimum 3 years

Candidates possessing a valid driving license will be preferred

Apply on info@accwll.com

or on fax : 24834686

Yanks outlast skidding Mets in Subway Series opener

Phillies snap Diamondbacks 6-game winning streak

NEW YORK, June 14, (AP): Clay Holmes pitched out of a bases-loaded jam in the eighth inning and the New York Yankees stormed back from four runs down against Max Scherzer to beat the skidding New York Mets 7-6 in the Subway Series opener Tuesday night at Citi Field.

Giancarlo Stanton and DJ LeMahieu homered off Scherzer, and pinch-hitter Josh Donaldson drove in the tie-breaking run with a sacrifice fly in the sixth after Brandon Nimmo misplayed a ball in center field.

Before the seventh, reliever Drew Smith became the second Mets pitcher ejected this season for using an illegal foreign substance. The Mets (31-36) have lost nine of 10.

BASEBALL

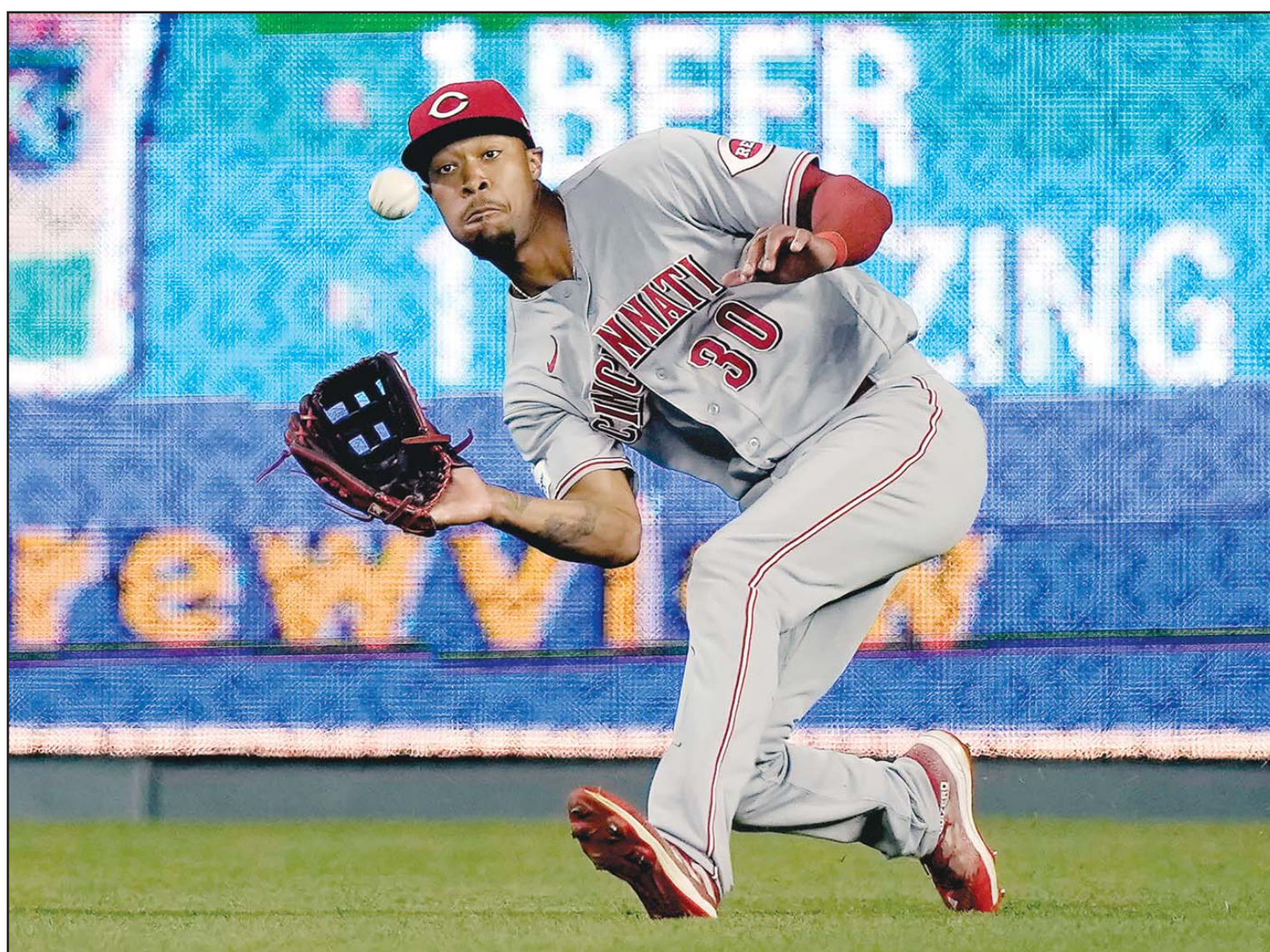
Scherzer allowed five runs and six hits in the fourth as the Mets blew a 5-1 lead. Josh Walker (0-1) gave up Billy McKinney's infield single to start the sixth and a double by Anthony Volpe that should have been caught by Nimmo.

Ron Marinaccio (3-3) pitched a scoreless inning for the win. Michael King worked a 1-2-3 ninth for his fourth save.

Athletics 2, Rays 1

In Oakland, pinch-hitter Carlos Pérez broke a tie with an RBI groundout in the eighth inning and Oakland beat major league-best Tampa Bay before a season-best crowd of 27,759.

Athletics fans swarmed the sta-



Cincinnati Reds right fielder Will Benson catches a fly ball for the out on Kansas City Royals' Edward Olivares during the seventh inning of a baseball game in Kansas City, Mo. (AP)

dium in what they called a "reverse boycott" to protest the team's planned move to Las Vegas. Fans shouted their anger at owner John Fisher, and the team responded with its season-best seventh straight victory.

Hogan Harris (2-0) pitched seven stellar innings, allowing one run on four hits with two strikeouts. Trevor May earned his third save in five chances as Oakland's bullpen recorded a save for the sixth consecutive game.

With the game tied at 1-1, Ramón Laureano singled off the Rays' Colin Poche (4-2), advanced on a sacrifice bunt, stole third and scored on the grounder by Pérez.

Phillies 15, Diamondbacks 3

In Phoenix, Zack Wheeler threw six strong innings, Kyle Schwarber led off the game with a 450-foot homer and Philadelphia beat Arizona.

The D-backs had their six-game winning streak snapped. Philadelphia has won eight of 10.

The Phillies had 20 hits and every starter had at least one, led by Bryson Stott's 3-for-5 night that included a homer and two RBIs.

Zach Davies (1-2) gave up six runs, including four earned, over three innings. Wheeler (5-4) gave up one run in six innings.

Twins 7, Brewers 5

In Minneapolis, Carlos Correa hit a two-run homer for Minnesota to cap a four-run ninth inning off Milwaukee closer Devin Williams.

Correa crushed a 1-1 changeup from Williams (3-1) into the left-field seats. Williams didn't record an out as he blew his first save in 11 attempts. Josh Winder (1-0) pitched two scoreless innings for the Twins.

The Brewers lost for the first time in 29 games when leading after eight innings and saw their losing streak stretch to five games despite a homer and season-high four RBIs by Christian Yelich.

Angels 7, Rangers 3

In Arlington, Hunter Renfroe hit a two-run homer during a three-run sixth inning and surging Los Angeles beat AL West-leading Texas.

The Angels have won three straight and eight of nine. Shohei Ohtani reached base all five times with a single, double and three walks.

Renfroe's homer helped spoil the major league debut of Owen White (0-1), who was recalled from Double-A Frisco earlier in the day. White entered with one out in the fifth inning and gave up three runs on four hits with two strikeouts and one walk.

Jimmy Herget (1-2) pitched 1 1/3 scoreless innings in relief of starter Jaime Barria, who allowed all three runs in 4 1/3 innings. Carlos Estevez recorded the final two outs, leaving runners at first and third, for his 18th save in 18 opportunities.



Chicago White Sox's Yoan Moncada (right), advanced from first on a wild pitch, while Los Angeles Dodgers second baseman Miguel Vargas catches the throw during the fourth inning of a baseball game in Los Angeles. (AP)

Orioles 11, Blue Jays 6

In Baltimore, rookie Gunnar Henderson hit his first career grand slam to power Baltimore past Toronto.

The Orioles banged out a season-high 17 hits and won their fifth straight. They climbed 18 games over .500 (42-24) for the first time since 2016, when they last reached the playoffs. Adam Frazier, Ryan O'Hearn and Aaron Hicks also homered.

Dean Kremer (7-3) gave up two runs and eight hits over six innings.

Chris Bassitt (7-5) allowed eight runs and 11 hits in three innings as the Blue Jays fell to 0-4 against Baltimore this season.

Rockies 7, Red Sox 6, 10 innings

In Boston, Randal Grichuk had a two-run double in a three-run 10th inning and Colorado held on to beat Boston.

Jurickson Profar added a sacrifice fly in the 10th.

With an automatic runner on second, Justin Garza (0-1) walked Nolan Jones to start the 10th and Grichuk lined the first pitch he saw down the left-field line.

Rafael Devers led off the bottom half against Matt Carasiti with his second two-run homer of the game and 17th homer this season. After a one-out walk, Pierce Johnson got two outs for his 12th save in 14 chances.

Daniel Bard (3-0) pitched a scoreless ninth.

Giants 11, Cardinals 3

In St. Louis, Mike Yastrzemski and Patrick Bailey homered, Michael Conforto had four hits and three RBIs, and San Francisco beat St. Louis.

Keaton Winn earned the save with four innings of relief in his major league debut.

The Giants have won five straight on the road and six of eight games overall.

San Francisco outfielder Mitch Haniger suffered a fractured right forearm after being hit by a pitch from Jack Flaherty in the third inning. Flaherty (3-5) allowed six runs on 10 hits over 4 1/3 innings.

St. Louis lost for the ninth time in the 11 games and fell to 27-41, its worst start since 1978.

San Francisco's Luke Jackson (1-0) pitched an inning of scoreless relief.

Cubs 11, Pirates 3

In Chicago, Ian Happ hit a three-run, first-inning drive for his first

MLB Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, June 14, (AP): Results and standings from the MLB games on Tuesday.

Baltimore	11	Toronto	6
NY Yankees	7	NY Mets	6
Minnesota	7	Milwaukee	5
Colorado	7	Boston 10 inn	6
Cincinnati	5	Kansas City	4
Houston	6	Washington	1
LA Angels	7	Texas	3
San Diego	6	Cleveland	3
Oakland	2	Tampa Bay	1
Seattle	9	Miami	3
LA Dodgers	5	Chicago W. Sox	1
Chicago Cubs	11	Pittsburgh	3
San Francisco	11	St. Louis	3
Philadelphia	15	Arizona	3

American League

East Division			GB
W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	48	.686	—
Baltimore	42	.636	4
New York	39	.574	8
Toronto	37	.544	10
Boston	33	.485	14

Central Division

W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	34	.507	—
Cleveland	31	.470	2-1/2
Chicago	29	.426	5-1/2
Detroit	27	.422	5-1/2
Kansas City	18	.269	16

West Division

W	L	Pct	GB
Texas	41	.621	—
Houston	38	.567	3-1/2
Los Angeles	38	.551	4-1/2
Seattle	33	.500	8
Oakland	19	.275	23-1/2

National League

East Division			GB
W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	40	.606	—
Miami	37	.544	4
Philadelphia	33	.493	7-1/2
New York	31	.463	9-1/2
Washington	26	.400	13-1/2

Central Division

W	L	Pct	GB
Pittsburgh	34	.523	—
Milwaukee	34	.507	1
Cincinnati	33	.485	2-1/2
Chicago	29	.439	5-1/2
St. Louis	27	.417	8-1/2

West Division

W	L	Pct	GB
Arizona	41	.612	—
Los Angeles	38	.567	3
San Francisco	35	.522	6
San Diego	32	.485	8-1/2
Colorado	29	.420	13

Gundogan set to become a free agent

Mbappe and Kane could be soccer's biggest transfer stories this summer

MANCHESTER, England, June 14, (AP): Kylian Mbappe's decision not to take up the option of a 12-month extension on his Paris Saint-Germain contract could spark a bidding war for the French superstar this summer.

PSG is adamant he will not be allowed to leave as a free agent when his current deal runs out at the end of next season, meaning he could be put up for sale during this transfer window if a resolution over his future is not agreed.

Real Madrid has coveted Mbappe for a number of years and in 2021 unsuccessfully launched a bid of \$190 million to take him to the Bernabeu. The Spanish giant would appear to be the likeliest destination for the World Cup-winning forward - especially at a time when it needs to find a replacement for Karim Benzema, who has joined Saudi Arabian team Al-Ittihad.

But Mbappe has this week described reports claiming he wants to move to Madrid this summer as "lies."

"I have already said that I will continue next season at PSG where I am very happy," he tweeted.

PSG will be put in a difficult position if Mbappe sticks to his current stance that he will not leave this summer and also will not sign a new contract.

The Qatari-backed French club has already seen Lionel Messi walk away as a free agent, after the Argentine great agreed to join MLS team Inter Miami, and would likely miss out on one of the biggest transfer fees in the history of soccer if Mbappe leaves for nothing as well.

Madrid is unlikely to be the only major European club interested in Mbappe, but his price tag means only a select few could afford to fund the deal.

Here's a look at other star players who could be on the move.

Harry Kane (Tottenham)

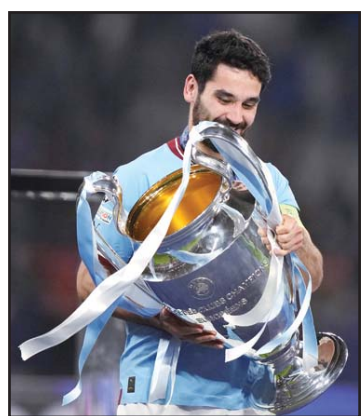
England's all-time leading goalscorer is entering the final year of his contract and continues to be linked with moves to Manchester United and Madrid.

Tottenham has resisted all previous attempts to lure its iconic striker away, but faces the risk of losing him for nothing if he refuses to extend his current deal.

Kane has never won a major trophy and turns 30 before the start of next season.

Spurs also know this summer may be the last chance to command a big fee for Kane, and reportedly value him at \$123 million.

It remains to be seen whether Madrid's reported interest cools in light of Mbappe's potential avail-



Manchester City's Ilkay Gundogan holds the trophy after the Champions League final soccer match between Manchester City and Inter Milan at the Ataturk Olympic Stadium in Istanbul, Turkey. (AP)

ability.

Ilkay Gundogan (Manchester City)

Fresh from lifting the Champions League trophy in Istanbul, City's inspirational captain is set to become a free agent, unless a new contract can be agreed soon.

Gundogan has repeatedly been linked with a move to Barcelona, but City manager Pep Guardiola has made it clear that he wants the 32-year-old midfielder to stay.

Having completed the treble - including the Premier League title and FA Cup - this season, it might be the perfect time for the German international to say farewell.

Declan Rice (West Ham)

After seeing his England midfielder partner Jude Bellingham sign for Madrid, Rice is also expected to be on the move this summer.

Arsenal appears to be leading the race for his signature, despite the midfielder also being linked with Manchester United, Chelsea and Bayern Munich.

An all-action midfielder, Rice would be a statement signing for Arsenal after the London club's Premier League title challenge collapsed in the final weeks of the season.

Victor Osimhen (Napoli)

The free-scoring forward has established himself as one of the most exciting strikers in the world and has picked up many admirers as a result.

Manchester United has been linked most heavily, given Erik ten Hag's need to bring in a top-class replacement for Cristiano Ronaldo, who left in November.

Osimhen might not be the only member of Napoli's league title-winning team who gets attention this summer - especially following the departure of inspirational coach Luciano Spalletti.

Khvicha Kvaratskhelia was outstanding last season, while defender Kim Min-jae is another player

who has been linked with United.

Josko Gvardiol (RB Leipzig)

One of the stars of the World Cup, the Croatia defender has been linked with a move to Manchester City.

However, Leipzig is expected to demand a world-record fee for a defender if it is to sell Gvardiol.

United paid £80 million (then \$97 million) for Harry Maguire in 2019, which saw it beat City to the signing of the England international.

Guardiola has already spoken of the need to build on City's Champions League success and is expected to strengthen his treble-winning team. Chelsea's Mateo Kovacic is another player City has been linked with.

Maguire, meanwhile, faces an uncertain future at United after losing his place under Ten Hag. He has been linked with a move to Tottenham.

Mason Mount (Chelsea)

Reports say United is about to make a \$63-million move for the England midfielder, who has previously been linked with Liverpool and Arsenal.

Ten Hag wants more depth in his squad, which won the League Cup and finished third in the Premier League last season.

SOCCER

While a top striker is the priority, the Dutch coach needs to strengthen elsewhere and, along with Tottenham, has also been linked with Brentford goalkeeper David Raya.

Randai Kolo Muani (Frankfurt)

The France striker impressed at the World Cup but was only in the squad as a late injury replacement before seizing his chance to shine.

He's long been seen as a target for Bayern Munich as the German champion has looked short of a center-forward since Robert Lewandowski left last year, but PSG and Manchester United have also been reported to be interested.

Kolo Muani scored 23 goals and set up 17 more in his single season with Frankfurt, which is only qualified for the Europa Conference League next season.

Moises Caicedo (Brighton)

Perhaps if Arsenal had been successful in its attempts to land Caicedo in January, it would not have fallen away so dramatically during the title run-in.

The midfielder has established himself as a stellar talent and looks certain to leave Brighton this summer.

Arsenal continues to be linked, along with Chelsea, while many more are likely to monitor his situation.



Australia's soccer team player Mathew Ryan catches the ball during a practice session at the newly-renovated Workers' Stadium one day ahead of their friendly soccer match against 2022 World Cup champions Argentina, in Beijing. (AP)

Sports

Latest sports scores at — <http://sports.arabtimesonline.com>

Golden Knights capture first Stanley Cup title



Members of the Vegas Golden Knights pose with the Stanley Cup after the Knights defeated the Florida Panthers 9-3 in Game 5 of the NHL hockey Stanley Cup Finals in Las Vegas. (AP)

Marchessault receives Conn Smythe Trophy for playoff MVP

LAS VEGAS, June 14, (AP): Golden Knights games have always been as flashy as any show on the Las Vegas Strip, the sword-fighting mascot taking the ice before what seems like a legion of players marching out through the mirrored entrance into the roar of the crowd.

If this team was ever going to win the Stanley Cup, it was going to do it with Vegas flash.

The Knights delivered just that from dazzling passes to Mark Stone's hat trick to all-out goal celebrations, capturing the young organization's first title with a 9-3 romp over the beaten up and exhausted Florida Panthers on Tuesday night.

Coach Bruce Cassidy, in a nod to the Knights' brief history, started five of the original Vegas players known as the Misfits and put the sixth on the second shift. Cassidy sounded confident the day before the game that his team would play well, and it certainly did, blowing open a one-goal game in the second period to lead 6-1. The nine goals tied the record for the most in a Cup Final.

"Vegas, you certainly know how to throw a party," NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman told the crowd. "What's going on inside this arena and outside is incredible and a testament to what a great hockey market this is."

Vegas closed out the series in five games to win the cup before a delirious franchise-record crowd of 19,058 at T-Mobile Arena that drowned out the pregame introductions of forward Jon-

ICE HOCKEY

athan Marchessault and goalie Adin Hill and cheered all the way through the final buzzer.

Marchessault, who ended the post-season with a 10-game points streak, received the Conn Smythe Trophy for playoff MVP.

"I couldn't be more proud of our team, our organization," Marchessault said. "Everybody stepped up at different times and that's why we're winners."

Stone's hat trick - with the third into an empty net with 5:54 left - was the first in a Stanley Cup Final since Colorado's Peter Forsberg in 1996, also against the Panthers.

The Knights got the rest of their scoring from Nic Hague, Alec Martinez, Reilly Smith, Michael Amadio, Ivan Barbashev and Nicolas Roy. Martinez's goal in the second period came nine years to the day after he delivered the double-overtime goal in Game 5 to give the Los Angeles Kings' the cup.

Hill came through with another strong performance with 31 saves that has quickly made him a Knights fan favorite, even earning "MVP! MVP!" chants in the third period. Jack Eichel, the eight-year pro playing in his first postseason, had three assists.

"This is what everyone dreams of,"

KTV Sports obtains rights to stream Argentina football leagues

KUWAIT CITY, June 14, (KUNA): Kuwait Television (KTV) obtained on Wednesday the rights of exclusively airing Argentina's football leagues in the Middle East with 180 matches live stream on KTV Sport.

In a statement to KUNA, Acting KTV Director Hamad Al-Daihani said that getting the rights of

streaming the matches is a huge achievement to the channel as this league is important to football enthusiasts.

Al-Daihani added that a plan is set to cover the tournaments in football analysis studios and regular reports as well as marketing plans with local media agencies.

Eichel said. "You come to an organization like this and the expectation is to win this thing. It's a special place to play."

As captain, Stone was the first to lift the cup before handing it over to the six Misfits to each get their turn skating with the trophy before handing it down the line to the rest of the team.

"Unbelievable," Stone said. "The look in my teammates' eyes when I got it, one of the craziest feelings I've ever had. I can't even describe the feelings in my stomach right now. It's everything you can imagine."

Aaron Ekblad, Sam Reinhart and Sam Bennett scored for Florida, and Sergei Bobrovsky was overwhelmed in another tough performance against Vegas - allowing eight goals on 30 shots on goal - after carrying Florida to the final. Missing from the lineup was star forward Matthew Tkachuk after playing injured in Game 4.

"It was a privilege for me to play with them and fight with them," Bobrovsky said. "It's definitely tough to lose that way and end the season that way. But we have done a fantastic job and I want to stick to that."

The Knights have set the standard of what an expansion franchise should look like, making the Cup Final in their first season and the playoffs in every year but one. Six players remain from the initial 2017-18 team that lost in five games to the Washington Capitals in

the final. Those players watched the Capitals skate with the Stanley Cup that night, and then they got the chance to do the same Tuesday to fulfill owner Bill Foley's quest to win the championship in the sixth year.

"We waited a long time for that moment to come back," Marchessault said. "We wanted to make sure we cash in this time."

By creating such a lofty standard at the outset, the Knights played with high expectations, but repeatedly fell short despite four runs to at least the NHL semifinals - until Game 5 against the Panthers.

This is Las Vegas' second pro title in nine months - the Aces claimed the WNBA championship in September - and continues the stunning growth of a sports market that was limited largely to prize fights, UNLV athletics, NASCAR and lots of golf before the Golden Knights took the city by storm. The Raiders began playing here in 2020, the Oakland Athletics appear headed to the desert, Las Vegas will host a Formula One race this year and the Super Bowl will be at Allegiant Stadium in February.

As for the Knights, their connection to Las Vegas was sealed ever since the shooting Oct. 1, 2017, that took 60 lives. They played an integral role in helping the city heal, reaching out to the community off the ice and winning

big on it. Beating Florida justified the many moves Knights management made to remake the roster over the years. Stone, Eichel and Alex Pietrangolo are the most notable players Vegas has acquired to get to this moment.

And Cassidy, hired a week after getting fired by the Boston Bruins last year, proved to be the coach to get them there.

"He came in, brought an intensity to our locker room that maybe we needed," Stone said. "He wanted to win as badly as anybody else in that locker room."

Cassidy seemingly pushing all the right buttons in helping Vegas become the Western Conference's top seed and then the NHL's champion.

"It's a great story - very, very grateful to get another opportunity," Cassidy said. "I'm just here to do my job and it worked out well."

The Knights also won with an unlikely goalie in Hill, who was injured when the playoffs began. Laurent Brossoit was the starter until going out with an injury in Game 3 of the second-round series against the Edmonton Oilers, and then Hill got his chance.

"You dream about it every day growing up as a child," Hill said. "To be here with this group of guys, in this city, in this building, is a dream come true."



Vegas Golden Knights defenseman Alex Pietrangolo (right) trips while under pressure from Florida Panthers center Carter Verhaeghe during the third period in Game 5 of the NHL hockey Stanley Cup Finals in Las Vegas. (AP)

Real complete signing of Bellingham

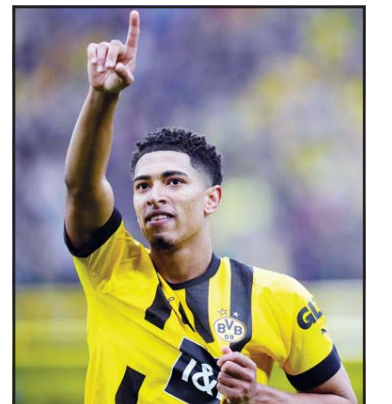
New Spain coach expects improved La Roja in Nations League Final Four

ENSCHDEDE, Netherlands, June 14, (AP): After a lackluster start to his stint as Spain coach, Luis de la Fuente arrives at the Final Four of the Nations League expecting to see an improved version of "La Roja."

De la Fuente, who replaced Luis Enrique after the World Cup in Qatar, is under pressure after Spain struggled in its first two matches under him in March. It needed two late goals in a hard-fought 3-0 win over a Norway team missing Erling Haaland to open its qualifying campaign for the 2024 European Championship, then lost 2-0 at Scotland.

"Now we should be closer to what we expect," De la Fuente said Wednesday, a day before Spain's semifinal against Italy in the Netherlands. "The team is taking steps forward, little by little. I can see it every day in training."

He said players are becoming more used to his ideas and believes the squad has the potential to win the Nations League title.



In this Saturday, April 22, 2023 file photo, Dortmund's Jude Bellingham celebrates after scoring during the German Bundesliga soccer match between Borussia Dortmund and Eintracht Frankfurt in Dortmund, Germany. (AP)

Madrid on Wednesday confirmed the signing of England midfielder **Jude Bellingham** from **Borussia Dortmund**.

At 19, Bellingham had already established himself among the most sought-after players in soccer, with **Manchester United**, **Manchester City**, **Liverpool** and **Paris Saint-Germain** among his admirers.

But he has chosen to join 14-time European champion Madrid on a six-year contract.

"Thank you everyone associated with BVB and the fans for everything over the last three years," Bellingham said in a statement on Dortmund's website. "It was an honor to wear your jersey so many times whether it was in the high or low moments."

"While I'm happy about my next destination I will never forget the journey I went on to get there."

Madrid did not confirm the transfer fee, but Dortmund said in a statement to the stock exchange last week that it could reach more than \$139 million.

The German club said the fixed fee was \$110 million, plus variables that could reach more than \$32 million over the next six seasons.

James Milner is joining **Brighton** on a free transfer after his departure from **Liverpool**.

The versatile 37-year-old midfielder signed a one-year contract Wednesday with the option for a further 12 months.

Milner will join Brighton once his contract with Liverpool expires on June 30, adding experience to **Roberto De Zerbi's** squad ahead of the club's first European campaign. Brighton will play in the Europa League next season after a sixth-place finish in the Premier League.

"He's an excellent addition for us," De Zerbi said, "and I'm sure he will help to bring us to an even higher level."

Milner, who made 61 international appearances for England from 2009-16, began his career with Leeds and has also played for **Newcastle**, **Aston Villa** and **Manchester City**.

SOCCER

"We haven't had a lot of time, but we will try to be up to the task," De la Fuente said. "I think we can achieve something important. We have a historic opportunity to win a title with two matches."

Spain reached the Nations League final in 2021 but lost to France. It is seeking its first title in more than a decade, since it won the 2012 European Championship. It was eliminated by Morocco on penalties in the round of 16 of the World Cup, with Luis Enrique still in charge, the latest in a string of disappointing results at major tournaments.

De la Fuente said he is not approaching the Final Four differently because of the pressure brought on by his poor start.

"I approach this game as if it was my last one, but because that's how I always approach any game. I've always been like that," he said. "To play a semifinal against Italy should be enough motivation for anyone. We have a chance to start making our own history." Veteran Spain defender Jordi Alba said there was no reason to doubt De la Fuente.

De la Fuente said he expects Manchester City players Rodri and Aymeric Laporte, who arrived later than his teammates after helping their club win the Champions League for the first time, to be available for the match against Italy.

"They are great professionals and will be ready," the coach said. "They will be extra motivated after what they've gone through. I'm convinced that we can count on them if needed."

The other Nations League semifinal will be played between the Netherlands and Croatia.

Describing him as one of the "biggest talents in world football" **Real**